



national survey of young australians 2009

key and emerging issues

■ YOUNG PEOPLE

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Foreword

NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS 2009

I am delighted to write a foreword for the 2009 National Survey of Young Australians.

I well remember sharing a copy of a previous edition with a youth minister working in a large church with a highly successful youth based ministry. His feedback suggested this was probably the most helpful resource in capturing trends and issues facing young Australians, and the report assisted in giving shape to future programs.

This comprehensive report fits comfortably into all that Mission Australia seeks to do within the community. One of our goals is to assist young people to navigate through a successful youth, and this report will provide insights and information to assist many on that journey.

The human journey at any age and stage is full of complexity and challenge and I do hope this well-presented resource becomes a valuable tool in understanding and responding to the challenges facing our young people today.

Bruce Eagles

National Chaplain



Introduction

Introduction

In 2009 Mission Australia conducted its eighth annual survey of young Australians. The primary purpose of the survey, as in previous years, was to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people in Australia.

Participation

47,735 young people aged 11 to 24 participated in the survey in 2009, including 8,693 who completed the survey online.

Areas of focus

The survey was deliberately kept brief (15 questions) in order to encourage a large response from a diversity of young people. Seven questions sought respondents' views on a variety of issues such as what they value, their issues of concern, who they turn to for advice and support, what activities they are involved in, and who they admire. The remaining questions collected demographic information including age, gender, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification, state/territory location, postcode and disability status.

Methodology

The survey was distributed to a wide range of organisations, including all secondary schools and public and tertiary libraries in Australia. It was also distributed to all Mission Australia services as well as to a large network of other service providers, Commonwealth, state/territory and local government departments, youth organisations, peak bodies and corporate partners.

The questions relating to what young people value, their concerns and their sources of advice presented respondents with a list of options which they were asked to rank in order of importance. The data reported for these questions are the proportions of respondents who ranked each item first, second or third. This methodology follows that of previous years and enables comparisons with previous survey results. An online version of the survey was available, which contained an additional free text question inviting respondents to comment on their issues of concern.

This report

This report contains an executive summary as well as summaries at the national level and for each state/territory. There is also a chapter that compares responses from Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of the key data by age and gender.



Executive summary

Demographic information

Responses to the survey were received from 47,735 young people living in a range of communities in each state and territory. The largest proportion (36.6%) came from the most populous state, New South Wales. About 56% of respondents were living in a capital city and the remainder in other areas of each state and territory. The largest proportion of respondents were aged 11 to 14 (51.1%), followed by those aged 15 to 19 (46.8%) and a small number of respondents aged 20 to 24 (2.1%). As in previous years, slightly more females than males participated in the survey (52.4% compared with 47.6%). 2,301 surveys were returned by Indigenous young people, and 6,861 from those who spoke a language other than English at home. 1,109 respondents indicated they had a disability.

What young people value

As in previous years, the top two items valued by young people were *family relationships* and *friendships*. This was the case for both genders and all age groups. Nationally, about three quarters of respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and about 60% highly valued *friendships*. *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were each highly valued by about a third of respondents nationally. Young adults were much more likely than those aged 11 to 19 to highly value *financial security*. Males were more likely than females to highly value *getting a job*.

Issues of concern

The top three issues of concern for respondents nationally were *drugs*, *suicide* and *body image*, with just over a quarter of young people identifying each of them as major concerns. A complex picture emerged from responses to this question, with eight issues being of significant concern to at least one in five respondents. The online qualitative data also indicates that the nature of young people's concerns may be personal, or may relate to concern about their peers, family or the broader community. Analysis of the data by age and gender provides a more nuanced understanding of young people's issues of concern.

Drugs were the top issue of concern for 11 to 14 year olds, and this group was almost twice as likely as those aged 20 to 24 to identify it as a major concern (31.0% compared with 17.5%). This is despite the fact that rates of substance use among early adolescents are much lower than for young adults¹.

The trend for young adults to be concerned about mental health issues continued this year. The top two concerns for young adults were *depression* and *coping with stress*, with about 30% of them identifying each as an area of major concern. By comparison, about 16% of 11 to 14 year olds were concerned about these issues, as were 21% of 15 to 19 year olds.

There were considerable differences between the genders on two issues of concern – namely *alcohol* and *physical/sexual abuse*. Males were much more likely than females to identify *alcohol* as a significant concern (27.6% compared with 19.0%), while females were much more likely than males to identify *physical/sexual abuse* (27.5% compared with 17.0%).

Some issues were of concern to a substantial proportion of young people irrespective of age and gender, and these included *suicide*, *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse*.

Where young people go for advice and support

The top three sources of advice and support for young people in 2009, as they have been in previous years, were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. This was true for all age groups and both genders. Nationally, about 85% of respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice, while around three quarters indicated they turn to *parents* for advice and support. About 60% identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice. The proportion identifying the *internet* continued to grow in 2009, with 22.5% of respondents indicating it is a top source of advice and support. 86.5% of respondents indicated that they had enough information on issues of concern when they needed it.

¹ AIHW, 2008

Community participation

Sports (as a participant), *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were the three most popular activities for respondents in 2009. Nationally, participation in activities declined from 2008 levels, particularly for *arts/cultural* activities. About 64% of young people took part in *sports (as a participant)*, as did 39% in *sports (as a spectator)*. Around a quarter (23.4%) of respondents participated in *arts/cultural* activities in 2009, compared with 44.1% in 2008. There is no clear indication from the survey data to explain this decline, however participation in activities may have been influenced by the global financial crisis impacting on the spending patterns of families and young people.

Participation in *sports (as a participant)* declined with age, while the proportion taking part in *volunteer* activities increased with age. Around 40% of young adults were involved in *volunteering*. As in previous years, males were slightly more likely than females to take part in *sports* activities, and females more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural* activities.

Who young people admire

Nationally, the top two responses to this question were *family* members and *friends*, as they have been in previous years. Other popular responses included *sports teams, players and coaches, entertainers, international aid organisations* and *community agencies helping disadvantaged people*.

Some priority issues

A number of priority issues emerged from this year's survey. The qualitative responses indicate that young people clearly identify links between various issues that affect them and this provides a clear guiding principle to inform government, community and other initiatives aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of young people. Efforts to support young people must be holistic – whether this is at home, school, in the workplace or through other more formal health, community and employment services.

1. **Family:** *Family conflict* can have a deep impact on young people, and consistent concern about this issue across the age groups and genders echoes the high value most young people place on *family relationships*. Skilling up parents, other family members and friends to openly communicate with young people, including through times of family stress and change, is critical. Early intervention strategies that work to avoid conflict escalating are also important.
2. **Drugs:** The level of concern regarding *drugs* appears from the qualitative responses to reflect young people's concern about the potential negative impact of drugs on themselves, friends, family and the broader community. The degree and nature of concern about this issue expressed by 11 to 14 year olds suggests the need to review current drug education campaigns to ensure that they are evidence based and equip young people with the skills to effectively deal with the issue, and keep safe and healthy, if and when they come across drugs. Young people need to be able to apply the knowledge they learn through such programs in the specific social contexts in which they mix – providing them with information alone will not be sufficient.
3. **Mental health:** A number of issues of concern relate to mental health, such as *suicide, coping with stress* and *depression*. Young people are particularly impacted by mental health issues, with over 75% of mental illnesses beginning between 15 and 25 years of age². Early intervention, including supporting those who young people are most likely to turn to when they have a problem, namely friends, parents and other relatives and family friends, is critical. The ongoing development of integrated and youth-friendly mental health services is also required.
4. **Financial issues:** Qualitative responses indicate that young people's concerns about *financial security* may reflect the early impact of the global financial crisis, but they also indicate both the financial struggles some young people experience in the transition to adulthood as well as the personal burden they take on when their family is struggling. This is especially true for young adults, a quarter of whom indicated that *financial security* was highly valued.
5. **Personal safety:** The level of concern expressed by young people regarding *personal safety* was significant across the age and gender groups. Balancing good personal safety habits with the goal of young people's active participation in the community remains a challenge for young people themselves, their families and the wider community.

Where to from here?

Close to 48,000 young people from around the country took the time to participate in the 2009 survey. At a time when the Commonwealth Government has embarked on a national conversation with young Australians to inform the development of a National Youth Strategy, the survey provides unique insights, directly from the voices of young people, into their concerns and values.

As well as helping to inform governments, non government organisations and other institutions interested in the wellbeing of young people, these findings also provide young Australians themselves with relevant information and opportunities for action and discussion in the context of their families, educational institutions, workplaces and communities. It is also hoped that the report will act as a stimulus for discussion for those closely involved in the daily lives of young people, such as parents, carers, family members and friends.

² Hickie et al, 2004



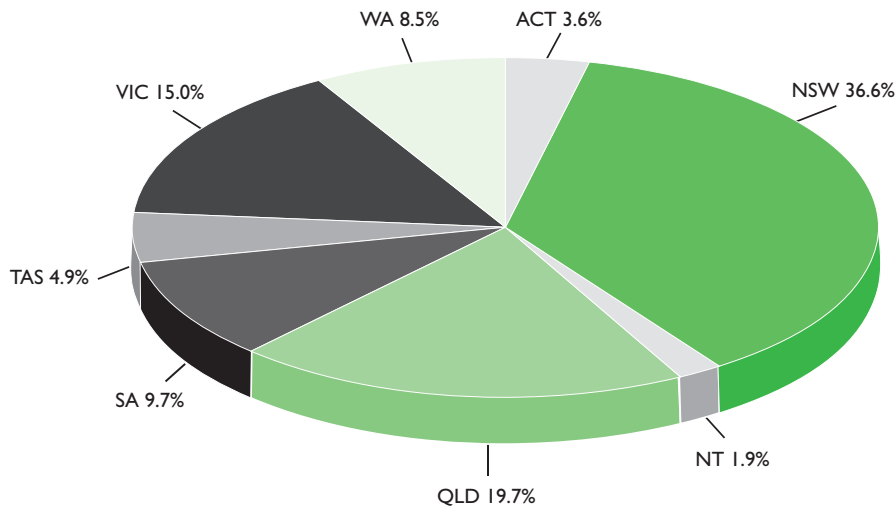
National summary

Profile of respondents

State and territory distribution

A total of 47,735 young people responded to Mission Australia's 2009 National Survey of Young Australians. Respondents came from every state and territory, including 16,414 from New South Wales, 8,827 from Queensland, 6,748 from Victoria, 4,347 from South Australia, 3,812 from Western Australia, 2,208 from Tasmania, 1,631 from the Australian Capital Territory and 839 from the Northern Territory. Around 2,900 respondents did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Figure 1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory



Age breakdown

The survey was open to young people aged between 11 and 24 years and the results have been collated into three age groups. The largest group was aged 11 to 14 years (51.1%), followed by those aged 15 to 19 (46.8%). As in previous years, the smallest group of responses came from young adults aged 20 to 24 years (2.1%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	23,859	51.1
15-19 years	21,877	46.8
20-24 years	960	2.1
Total	46,696	100.0

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Just over half of the responses (52.4%) were completed by females and 47.6% by males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

2,301 (5.0%) respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Indigenous

	Total number	% of respondents	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	2,301	5.0	4.8	4.8	7.6
Non Indigenous	44,134	95.0	95.2	95.2	92.4

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 86% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 6,861 (14.4%) who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 75 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Arabic; Vietnamese; Italian; Cantonese; Greek; Filipino/Tagalog; Korean; Mandarin; French; and Spanish.

Disability

1,109 (2.3%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order): learning disability; autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness or hearing impairment; physical disability; intellectual disability; blindness or vision impairment; and mental illness or psychiatric disability.

Where respondents were living

As in previous years, the vast majority of respondents (93.2%) lived *with family*. Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house, with a partner or alone*.

Overall, 925 respondents were living in a *boarding school or university college*, 460 were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and a further 328 respondents indicated that they were *homeless or in insecure housing*. 225 young people in *foster care* also participated.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	93.2	96.2	91.7	55.0
Boarding school or university college	2.1	1.3	3.0	1.9
Share house including with friends	1.4	0.6	1.5	20.0
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.2
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.8
Alone	0.6	0.2	0.7	9.3
Foster care	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.5
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.2	0.0	0.1	9.2
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.2

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, around 56% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of young people living outside a capital city was lowest among the 20 to 24 year age group, with just over a quarter (28.6%) not living in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	26,064	56.4	55.4	56.9	71.4
Not in capital city	20,109	43.6	44.6	43.1	28.6

Main source of income

Parents/family, as in previous surveys, were the main source of income for the majority of respondents (73.1%). Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on parents/family as they became older and found employment or were eligible for a government allowance. The main sources of income were very similar for male and female respondents.

Table 5: Main source of income

	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Parents/family	73.1	89.0	58.6	9.7	74.8	71.4
Employment	21.9	8.7	34.3	65.6	21.1	22.6
Government allowance	4.1	1.1	6.4	23.3	3.5	4.8
Other	0.5	0.6	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.6
No income	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds have been excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Three quarters (74.1%) of respondents aged 15 to 24 were *studying full time*. As might be expected, the 15 to 19 year age group were much more likely than the young adult group to be *studying full time* (75.0% compared with 48.1%). About 15% of both age groups were *studying part time*, while just over a third (35.6%) of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 10.5% of 15 to 19 year olds were *not studying*. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (78.8% compared with 69.0%) while male respondents were slightly more likely than female respondents to be *not studying* (14.2% compared with 8.8%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	74.1	75.0	48.1	78.8	69.0
Studying part time	14.5	14.5	16.3	12.4	16.8
Not studying	11.4	10.5	35.6	8.8	14.2

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. About one third (33.8%) of the young adult group were *working full time* compared with only 1.3% of the 15 to 19 year age group. About half of the younger age group, however, were *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates for males and females were similar, although females (30.6%) were slightly more likely than males (25.3%) to have *casual or temporary work*, and males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (29.0% compared with 24.9%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	Total %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.5	1.3	33.8	2.7	2.2
Working part time	22.0	22.1	19.0	21.6	22.4
Casual or temporary work	28.1	28.2	23.6	30.6	25.3
Unemployed/looking for work	26.8	27.2	17.6	24.9	29.0
Too young to work or choose not to	20.6	21.2	6.0	20.2	21.0

Detailed national results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The data from this question has been very consistent across the eight years of the survey. In 2009, as in previous years, *family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a large proportion of respondents and were clearly ranked first and second respectively. *Being independent* was ranked third in 2009, while *physical and mental health* was highly valued by a similar proportion of respondents and had been ranked third in 2008 and 2007.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 75.6% and 60.6% of respondents respectively.
- *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were each highly valued by about a third of respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %
Family relationships	75.6	75.3	76.2	72.3
Friendships (other than family)	60.6	62.3	60.3	66.8
Being independent	32.7	31.7	32.9	35.2
Physical and mental health	31.1	31.8	33.1	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	26.1	26.2	25.6	29.3
School or study satisfaction	22.0	21.0	19.5	24.9
Getting a job	18.1	16.9	15.9	20.3
Financial security	13.8	13.4	12.6	16.2
Spirituality/faith	12.8	14.0	14.5	13.9
Making a difference in the community	8.2	7.8	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	9.8	12.2
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights the similarities as well as the differences in what young people valued across the age groups. The top two items for all age groups were *family relationships* and *friendships*, with over 70% of respondents in each age group highly valuing *family relationships*. The proportion of young adults who highly valued *friendships* was considerably lower than for those aged 11 to 19 (43.1% compared to around 60%). Close to a third of respondents in all age groups highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* was ranked first by all age groups, with more than 70% of respondents in each age group indicating it was highly valued.
- Just over 60% of young people aged 11 to 19 highly valued *friendships*, compared with 43.1% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- About a third of young people in each age group highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	77.5	73.8	71.9
Friendships (other than family)	61.3	60.9	43.1
Being independent	30.2	35.2	36.0
Physical and mental health	30.6	31.7	30.4
Feeling needed and valued	25.8	26.2	32.7
School or study satisfaction	23.4	20.8	12.5
Getting a job	19.2	16.7	17.4
Financial security	12.2	15.0	26.6
Spirituality/faith	12.5	12.7	18.9
Making a difference in the community	8.5	7.5	12.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Feeling needed and valued was valued highly by close to a third of the young adult group, and around a quarter of respondents aged 11 to 19. Not surprisingly, *school or study satisfaction* was highly valued by a greater proportion of those in the 11 to 19 year age group than those aged 20 to 24. Conversely, a greater proportion of the young adult group than those aged 11 to 19 highly valued *financial security*.

- Around a third (32.7%) of young adults highly valued *feeling needed and valued*, compared with about a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds .
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by just over a fifth of young people aged 11 to 19, compared with 12.5% of those aged 20 to 24.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by 26.6% of young adults, about twice the rate of young people aged 11 to 14 (12.2%) and 15 to 19 (15.0%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 10, the top three items for both male and female respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. A significant proportion of both genders also highly valued *physical and mental health*.

- About 80% of female respondents and 70% of male respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by nearly two thirds (65.6%) of female respondents and just over half (54.7%) of male respondents.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by about a third of both male and females respondents.
- Around 30% of both genders highly valued *physical and mental health*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.9	70.6
Friendships (other than family)	65.6	54.7
Being independent	31.8	33.8
Physical and mental health	29.8	32.6
Feeling needed and valued	26.9	25.1
School or study satisfaction	22.4	21.5
Getting a job	13.0	23.9
Financial security	11.6	16.3
Spirituality/faith	12.2	13.4
Making a difference in the community	7.5	9.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

As in previous years, responses from males and females were similar on a number of items, with the main difference being the proportion of each group who valued *getting a job*. Male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to highly value this item.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by nearly a quarter (23.9%) of male respondents compared with 13.0% of female respondents.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. The list was unchanged from the one provided in 2008. There was no one 'standout' issue in 2009, with eight issues being of concern to at least one in five respondents. These were: *drugs*; *suicide*; *body image*; *family conflict*; *bullying/emotional abuse*; *alcohol*; *physical/sexual abuse*; and *personal safety*.

Table 11 shows that the top three issues of concern for young people in 2009 were *drugs*, *suicide* and *body image*, with just over a quarter of respondents being highly concerned about each of them.

- *Drugs* was the top ranked issue in 2009, with 26.8% of respondents indicating that it was a major concern.
- 26.3% of young people indicated that *suicide* was of major concern to them.
- *Body image* was the third-ranked issue of concern to young people in 2009, with just over a quarter (25.5%) indicating that it was a major concern.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %
Drugs	26.8	26.0	20.1	N/A
Suicide	26.3	24.6	23.9	28.0
Body image	25.5	26.3	32.3	28.1
Family conflict	24.1	25.9	29.3	28.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.4	22.6	22.7	27.5
Alcohol	23.0	20.9	20.5	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	22.7	22.6	21.2	27.9
Personal safety	22.2	22.9	N/A	N/A
Coping with stress	18.7	20.4	26.9	27.6
Depression	18.7	17.8	19.6	25.8
School or study problems	17.3	18.6	25.4	26.4
The environment	16.7	18.4	23.4	N/A
Self harm	13.3	13.7	14.7	21.5
Discrimination	11.7	12.6	12.9	18.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.4	12.2	9.6	13.3
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. *From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

The clustering of issues in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows that there were some substantial differences between the concerns of the different age groups on a couple of key items. *Coping with stress* and *depression* were of concern to a higher proportion of young adults than they were to respondents aged 11 to 19. Conversely, *drugs* were of greater concern to 11 to 14 year olds than 15 to 24 year olds.

- *Drugs* were a major concern to nearly one in three (31.0%) 11 to 14 year olds, almost twice the proportion of young adults (17.5%) who indicated they were of concern.
- A much higher proportion of young adults than those aged 11 to 19 indicated that they were concerned about *coping with stress* and *depression*. Both were a major concern for about 30% of young adults, close to twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (about 16%).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	31.0	22.6	17.5
Suicide	26.3	26.6	21.8
Body image	23.7	27.4	28.7
Family conflict	24.7	23.5	21.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.4	21.2	19.4
Alcohol	24.4	21.6	18.5
Physical/sexual abuse	22.7	22.8	24.4
Personal safety	23.4	21.0	21.9
Coping with stress	15.9	21.2	30.2
Depression	15.5	21.8	30.5
School or study problems	16.7	18.2	12.4
The environment	18.7	14.4	18.9
Self harm	12.5	14.4	9.9
Discrimination	10.3	13.1	13.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.9	11.9	14.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Some issues were of concern to a similar proportion of respondents across the age groups, including *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse*.

- *Family conflict*, *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse* were each of concern to between a fifth and a quarter of respondents across the age groups.

Gender differences

There were both differences and similarities in the issues of concern for males and females. For female respondents, three issues were clustered closely together as their top concerns: *physical/sexual abuse*; *body image*; and *suicide*. The top three issues of concern for male respondents were *drugs*, *alcohol* and *suicide*. Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to be concerned about *alcohol* and, to a lesser extent, *drugs*, while females were more likely than males to be concerned about *physical/sexual abuse*. A similar proportion of both groups were significantly concerned about *suicide*.

- Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to indicate that *physical/sexual abuse* was an important concern (27.5% compared with 17.0%).
- *Alcohol* was a major concern for 27.6% of male respondents compared with 19.0% of female respondents.
- 29.5% of males compared with 24.4% of females indicated that *drugs* were a major concern.
- *Body image* was a major concern for close to a quarter of male and female respondents.
- *Suicide* was a major concern for just over a quarter of both genders.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	24.4	29.5
Suicide	27.1	25.3
Body image	27.4	23.4
Family conflict	24.4	23.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.7	24.1
Alcohol	19.0	27.6
Physical/sexual abuse	27.5	17.0
Personal safety	22.8	21.6
Coping with stress	19.5	17.7
Depression	20.1	17.2
School or study problems	17.0	17.7
The environment	15.4	18.2
Self harm	14.0	12.4
Discrimination	10.9	12.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.7	13.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Almost all of the remaining items were of concern to similar proportions of male and female respondents, including *family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety*.

- *Family conflict*, *bullying/emotional abuse* and *personal safety* were each of concern to between a fifth and a quarter of male and female respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

As shown in Table 14, the sources of advice and support for young people when they have a problem have remained very consistent over time. The top three sources were very clearly *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years. The fourth-ranked item, the *internet*, has been identified as a key source of advice and support by an increasing proportion of young people over the years of the survey, from 10.1% in 2002 to 22.5% in 2009.

- *Friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were overwhelmingly the most important sources of advice for respondents in 2009, as they have been for each of the eight years of the survey.
- *Friends* were a major source of advice and support for 84.5% of respondents, and *parents* were an important source for about three quarters (73.4%) of respondents.
- Three in five (60.8%) respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- More than a fifth (22.5%) of respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %
Friends	84.5	85.1	86.0	86.4
Parents	73.4	74.1	73.6	74.2
Relative/family friend	60.8	61.0	63.3	64.0
Internet	22.5	20.3	19.1	16.8
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.5	11.1	11.6	9.3
Magazines	11.0	11.2	11.6	13.5
Teacher	11.0	11.4	10.5	9.3
School counsellor	10.8	11.5	10.8	11.6
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.9	8.5	8.6	8.6
Telephone helpline	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportions who identified *friends* as a main source of advice remained fairly consistent across the age groups. The proportions who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice and support declined somewhat with age.

- *Friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice and support for all age groups.
- Over 82% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as an important source of advice.
- Just over three quarters (77.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice, as did 69.3% of 15 to 19 year olds and 67.1% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	82.8	86.6	83.8
Parents	77.7	69.3	67.1
Relative/family friend	63.4	58.4	55.1
Internet	17.7	27.0	33.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.2	13.5	16.3
Magazines	10.5	11.6	8.4
Teacher	12.4	9.7	6.6
School counsellor	11.3	10.4	6.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.9	9.4	17.1
Telephone helpline	6.5	5.1	5.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of each group who identified the *internet* and *someone else in the community* as key sources of advice and support increased with age.

- One third (33.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds identified the *internet* as a top source of advice, compared with 17.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 27.0% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Just under one in five (17.1%) young adults compared with less than one in ten 11 to 19 year olds identified *someone else in the community* as a key source of advice and support.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice were identical for both genders in 2009, namely *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified *friends* and *relative/family friend* as key sources of advice, while similar proportions of both genders identified *parents*.

- *Friends* were identified as a top source of advice and support by 88.7% of female respondents and 79.6% of male respondents.
- Over 70% of each group identified *parents* as a top source of advice and support (75.4% of female and 71.2% of male respondents).
- Close to two thirds (65.0%) of female respondents and 55.9% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	88.7	79.6
Parents	75.4	71.2
Relative/family friend	65.0	55.9
Internet	18.1	27.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.8	16.9
Magazines	12.0	9.8
Teacher	9.7	12.5
School counsellor	10.4	11.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.7	10.3
Telephone helpline	4.9	7.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major differences by gender were in the proportions of each group who identified the *internet* and *community agencies* as key sources of advice, with males more likely than females to identify these items.

- The *internet* was an important source of advice and support for over a quarter (27.7%) of male respondents, compared with 18.1% of female respondents.
- Male respondents were nearly twice as likely as female respondents to identify *community agencies* as a key source of advice (16.9% compared with 8.8%).

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

86.5% of respondents indicated that they had enough information on issues that concerned them. This is a slight increase on the 2008 figure of 83.7%. As in previous years, and shown in Table 17, the proportion who indicated they did not have enough information was higher for respondents aged 20 to 24 (21.3%) than for those aged 11 to 19 (about 13%). The responses for males and females were similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009						2008
	All ages %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	All ages %
Enough information	86.5	87.1	86.3	78.7	86.3	86.8	83.7
Not enough information	13.5	12.9	13.7	21.3	13.7	13.2	16.3

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about, and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; depression; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self harm; stress and anxiety; environmental issues; school and study; family conflict; bullying; and global issues including terrorism, war, and politics.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. Table 18 shows that the top three activities for young people in 2009 were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities. *Youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities were again the fourth and fifth-ranked activities. Participation in all of the activities has declined since 2008, quite markedly in the case of some, such as *arts/cultural* activities.

- *Sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities were again the three most popular activities for respondents in 2009.
- Close to two thirds (64.2%) of respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*, while 39.3% indicated that they were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Just under a quarter (23.4%) of respondents were participating in *arts/cultural* activities, down from 44.1% in 2008.
- One fifth of respondents indicated that they participated in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.
- *Volunteer* activities were also undertaken by close to one in five (18.5%) young people.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	Number 2009	2009 %	2008 %	2007 %	2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	30,631	64.2	67.6	66.7*	68.2*
Sports (as a spectator)	18,751	39.3	46.5		
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	11,181	23.4	44.1	42.8	43.0
Youth groups and clubs	9,693	20.3	26.8	27.4	27.1
Religious	9,560	20.0	25.9	24.7	23.6
Volunteer	8,845	18.5	22.2	21.6	21.4
Environmental	4,665	9.8	14.3	13.2	11.0
Student Representative Council	4,515	9.5	12.4	13.1	13.6

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* had the highest levels of involvement for all three age groups, participation declined significantly with age. Conversely, as in previous years, participation in *volunteer* activities increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest for 11 to 14 year olds (70.4%), declining to 59.4% for 15 to 19 year olds and 47.1% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around a quarter of all age groups were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Over a third (36.6%) of young adults were engaged in *volunteer* activities, compared with 14.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 22.4% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	70.4	59.4	47.1
Sports (as a spectator)	38.4	41.2	35.0
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	22.5	24.7	25.5
Youth groups and clubs	19.4	21.4	25.2
Religious	20.4	19.8	21.9
Volunteer	14.6	22.4	36.6
Environmental	9.7	9.9	11.4
Student Representative Council	7.5	11.8	7.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. Participation in *religious* activities was the third most popular response for males, while for females it was *arts/cultural* activities.

- 67.9% of male respondents and 61.7% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (44.9% compared with 34.6%).
- Over a quarter (27.4%) of female respondents were involved in *arts/cultural* activities, compared with around a fifth (19.3%) of male respondents.
- About one in five male and female respondents were involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	61.7	67.9
Sports (as a spectator)	34.6	44.9
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	27.4	19.3
Youth groups and clubs	19.8	21.1
Religious	20.0	20.3
Volunteer	20.5	16.6
Environmental	9.4	10.3
Student Representative Council	9.5	9.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed and comprised about 30% of the responses given. The second most common response was *friends* (16.1%). The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	30,224	29.2
Friends	16,692	16.1
Sports teams, players and coaches	8,757	8.5
Entertainers	7,171	6.9
International aid organisations	6,168	6.0
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	4,697	4.5
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	4,026	3.9
Animal protection groups	3,530	3.4
Schools and their staff	2,503	2.4
Businesses and business people	1,946	1.9
Political organisations and figures	1,896	1.8
Environmental groups	1,850	1.8
Religious figures	1,700	1.6
Protection agencies	1,564	1.5
Youth organisations and leaders	1,468	1.4
Medical professionals and hospitals	1,233	1.2
Organisations and research supporting mental health	915	0.9
Telephone helplines	883	0.9
Historical figures	783	0.8
Myself	588	0.6
Confident/successful/hardworking people	348	0.3
Volunteers/donors	282	0.3
Community groups/organisations	198	0.2
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	198	0.2
Pets and other animals	186	0.2
Government and government departments	172	0.2
Scientists and scientific organisations	153	0.1
Sick and disabled people, people in difficult times	110	0.1
Employer/boss/manager/work colleague	108	0.1



Indigenous young people summary

Profile of respondents

The 2009 National Survey of Young Australians asked respondents whether they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. 2,301 or 5.0% of respondents indicated they identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

State and territory distribution

The highest proportion of surveys from Indigenous respondents came from New South Wales (40.4%), which also had the highest proportion of survey responses overall (36.6%). A high proportion of responses came from Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory and Queensland relative to the overall number of responses from these state/territories.

Table 1: Percentage of Indigenous respondents by state/territory

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Australian Capital Territory	2.8	3.7
New South Wales	40.4	36.4
Northern Territory	6.3	1.6
Queensland	24.8	19.4
South Australia	9.6	9.7
Tasmania	3.6	5.0
Victoria	5.8	15.6
Western Australia	6.2	8.6
Total	99.6	100.0

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Age breakdown

There were very similar response rates for Indigenous and non Indigenous young people across all three age groups. Indigenous young people aged 11 to 14 years were the largest group to participate and returned just over half (50.2%) of the surveys from Indigenous respondents. 46.6% of Indigenous respondents were aged 15 to 19, and a small number (72 or 3.2%) were aged 20 to 24. Given the relatively small number of respondents aged 20 to 24, results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 2: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of Indigenous	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
11-14 years	1,117	50.2	51.0
15-19 years	1,038	46.6	47.0
20-24 years	72	3.2	2.0

Gender breakdown

The response rates for Indigenous and non Indigenous young people by gender were quite similar: 48.0% of Indigenous respondents were female and 52.0% were male. This compares with 52.9% female and 47.1% male for non Indigenous respondents.

Where respondents were living

A majority of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were living *with family*. However, the proportion of Indigenous respondents was substantially lower than their non Indigenous counterparts (82.6% compared with 93.7%).

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %	11-14 yrs	Indigenous % 15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
With family	82.6	93.7	88.7	79.7	38.1
Juvenile justice centre/prison	4.4	0.8	2.4	5.5	14.3
Boarding school or university college	4.3	2.0	4.4	4.5	1.6
Homeless/insecure housing	2.5	0.7	1.6	3.1	7.9
Share house	2.4	1.4	1.0	3.0	15.9
Foster care	1.9	0.4	1.4	2.1	3.2
Alone	1.7	0.6	0.5	2.1	11.1
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	6.3
Other	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.6

Living in or outside a capital city

Table 4 shows the proportion of respondents who were living in or outside a capital city. A higher proportion of Indigenous respondents (55.5%) than non Indigenous respondents (42.9%) lived outside the capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Live in capital city	44.5	57.1
Not in capital city	55.5	42.9

As Table 5 shows, a higher proportion of Indigenous respondents than non Indigenous respondents in all three age groups lived outside of the capital cities.

Table 5: Geographic location of respondents, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Live in capital city	41.6	47.1	50.0	56.1	57.3	73.0
Not in capital city	58.4	52.9	50.0	43.9	42.7	27.0

Main source of income

Table 6 show that a majority of both Indigenous (66.4%) and non Indigenous (73.5%) respondents relied on *parents/family* as their main source of income. Close to a fifth of both groups indicated that *employment* was their main source of income. Indigenous respondents were somewhat more likely than non Indigenous respondents to identify *government allowance* as their main source of income.

Table 6: Main source of income

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Parents/family	66.4	73.5
Employment	19.4	22.0
Government allowance	13.2	3.6
Other	0.7	0.5
No income	0.3	0.4

Study and work

The 2009 survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. The participation of 11 to 14 year olds was excluded from this section as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Table 7 shows that 59.7% of Indigenous respondents were *studying full time*, substantially below the rate of their non Indigenous counterparts (75.0%). Conversely, Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *studying part time* (19.0% compared with 14.2%). Just over a fifth (21.3%) of Indigenous respondents were *not studying*, compared with one in ten (10.8%) non Indigenous respondents.

Table 7: Participation in education

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Studying full time	59.7	75.0
Studying part time	19.0	14.2
Not studying	21.3	10.8

Table 8 shows respondents' participation in employment. Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than non Indigenous respondents to be *working full time* (5.7% compared with 2.3%) and less likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to have *casual or temporary work* (19.3% compared with 28.6%). Indigenous respondents (34.3%) were more likely than non Indigenous respondents (26.5%) to be *unemployed/looking for work*.

Table 8: Participation in employment

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Working full time	5.7	2.3
Working part time	22.6	21.9
Casual or temporary work	19.3	28.6
Unemployed/looking for work	34.3	26.5
Too young to work or choose not to	18.1	20.6

Disability

137 (6.0%) Indigenous respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); intellectual disability; learning disability; mental illness or psychiatric disability; physical disability; autism; and deafness or hearing impairment.

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 9. The top three items were the same for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*, although the proportions who identified *friendships* and *being independent* as being highly valued varied between the groups. *Physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued* were ranked fourth and fifth respectively by both groups, and were both highly valued by at least one quarter of each group.

- About three quarters of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by just over half (50.7%) of Indigenous respondents, compared with 61.2% of non Indigenous respondents.
- Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value *being independent* (39.6% compared with 32.4%), although it was the third-ranked item for both groups.
- About a quarter (26.6%) of Indigenous respondents, and a third (31.3%) of non Indigenous respondents, indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by about a quarter of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents.

Table 9: What young people value

	Indigenous 2009 %	Non Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Family relationships	73.1	75.7	72.8	72.7
Friendships (other than family)	50.7	61.2	50.0	49.5
Being independent	39.6	32.4	38.7	38.9
Physical and mental health	26.6	31.3	25.5	26.9
Feeling needed and valued	26.4	26.0	28.1	24.8
Getting a job	25.8	17.6	24.4	26.4
School or study satisfaction	23.5	21.9	21.3	21.8
Financial security	13.7	13.8	15.2	15.6
Spirituality/faith	12.4	12.8	13.3	13.1
Making a difference in the community	10.7	8.0	10.8	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

As in previous years, one of the main differences between Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents was the proportion who highly valued *getting a job*. Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to highly value this item.

- Just over a quarter (25.8%) of Indigenous respondents highly valued *getting a job*, compared with 17.6% of non Indigenous respondents.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 10. Table 10 shows that there were a number of similarities as well as differences in the responses between Indigenous and non Indigenous young people. The top issue for Indigenous respondents was *alcohol*, and a much higher proportion of Indigenous than non Indigenous respondents indicated it was a concern. *Body image* and *drugs* were the second and third-ranked items for Indigenous respondents, and also appeared in the top three issues of concern for non Indigenous respondents. *Bullying/emotional abuse*, *suicide* and *family conflict* were all of concern to about a quarter of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents.

- *Alcohol* was identified as a major concern by close to a third (32.4%) of Indigenous respondents, compared with just over a fifth (22.5%) of non Indigenous respondents.
- *Body image* was a major concern for 29.7% of Indigenous respondents and 25.3% of non Indigenous respondents.
- About 27% of both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were concerned about *drugs* (27.5% and 26.7% respectively).
- Around a quarter of respondents from both groups identified *bullying/emotional abuse*, *suicide* and *family conflict* as issues of concern.

Table 10: Issues of concern to young people

	Indigenous 2009 %	Non Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Alcohol	32.4	22.5	31.2	31.8
Body image	29.7	25.3	31.9	34.9
Drugs	27.5	26.7	24.4	21.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.5	23.2	26.3	22.9
Suicide	24.7	26.3	23.2	21.4
Family conflict	22.9	24.1	23.4	29.3
Physical/sexual abuse	20.0	22.9	21.0	15.8
Personal safety	18.5	22.4	18.5	N/A
School or study problems	16.6	17.4	16.0	22.3
Coping with stress	15.8	18.9	17.4	19.7
Depression	15.8	18.9	14.8	15.6
The environment	14.9	16.7	18.3	25.1
Discrimination	13.9	11.5	13.1	16.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.6	11.4	15.0	14.0
Self harm	12.3	13.3	14.6	13.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 11 breaks down responses by age for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents. Indigenous respondents across the age groups were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be concerned about *alcohol*. Responses for the 11 to 14 and 15 to 19 year age groups were similar for both the Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents on most other items. However, there were substantial differences between the Indigenous and non Indigenous young adults on a number of items including *body image*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *coping with stress* and *depression*.

- Across each of the age groups, Indigenous respondents were more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to identify *alcohol* as a major concern.
- *Body image* was also identified as a concern by a higher proportion of Indigenous than non Indigenous respondents across each of the age groups, with the difference being most stark for 20 to 24 year olds (39.4% compared with 27.7%).
- Indigenous 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be concerned about *bullying/emotional abuse* (27.7% compared with 18.6%).
- Conversely, non Indigenous 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than Indigenous respondents of the same age to be concerned about *coping with stress* (30.7% compared with 24.2%) and *depression* (31.5% compared with 19.4%).

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Alcohol	32.2	31.9	35.4	23.9	21.0	17.1
Body image	27.1	31.7	39.4	23.5	27.2	27.7
Drugs	31.0	24.7	13.8	31.0	22.4	17.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.9	25.3	27.7	25.5	21.0	18.6
Suicide	25.7	23.8	26.2	26.2	26.7	21.5
Family conflict	23.2	22.9	21.2	24.7	23.6	20.9
Physical/sexual abuse	21.5	18.6	16.7	22.8	23.1	25.1
Personal safety	19.0	18.3	16.7	23.7	21.2	22.6
School or study problems	16.8	17.5	6.2	16.7	18.2	12.7
Coping with stress	14.5	16.3	24.2	16.0	21.5	30.7
Depression	14.2	17.2	19.4	15.5	22.0	31.5
The environment	16.6	12.4	21.5	18.8	14.5	18.7
Discrimination	12.0	16.4	12.1	10.2	12.9	13.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.7	12.7	7.7	10.8	11.8	14.9
Self harm	11.0	13.7	10.6	12.5	14.4	9.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top three sources of advice and support for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were identical, namely *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, as Table 12 shows, the proportions of respondents who identified each were lower than the proportions of non Indigenous respondents. More than a fifth of both groups identified the *internet* as a main source of advice. As in previous years, Indigenous respondents were more likely than non Indigenous respondents to turn to *community agencies* for advice and support.

- *Friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend* were the top three sources of advice for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents.
- *Friends* were a main source of advice and support for 79.2% of Indigenous respondents and 84.9% of non Indigenous respondents.
- Just under two thirds (62.6%) of Indigenous respondents, compared with three quarters (73.9%) of non Indigenous respondents, identified *parents* as a top source of advice.
- Close to a quarter of both groups identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support.
- *Community agencies* were a source of advice and support for nearly twice the proportion of Indigenous as non Indigenous respondents (22.2% compared with 12.0%).

Table 12: Where young people turn for advice and support

	Indigenous 2009 %	Non Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %	Indigenous 2007 %
Friends	79.2	84.9	79.3	77.9
Parents	62.6	73.9	61.5	63.3
Relative/family friend	55.2	61.1	52.3	56.7
Internet	26.0	22.3	25.1	21.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	22.2	12.0	24.1	23.1
Teacher	13.5	10.8	12.3	11.0
School counsellor	12.3	10.7	11.7	12.7
Magazines	11.8	10.9	13.3	13.6
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	11.8	8.8	12.3	11.4
Telephone helpline	8.2	5.8	10.1	9.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

81.2% of Indigenous respondents indicated that they had enough information on issues that concerned them, slightly lower than the proportion of non Indigenous respondents (86.7%).

Table 13: Access to enough information

	Indigenous 2009 %	Non Indigenous 2009 %	Indigenous 2008 %
Enough information	81.2	86.7	76.9
Not enough information	18.8	13.3	23.1

The most commonly mentioned issues that Indigenous respondents wanted more information on were (in order of frequency): sexuality and sex education; alcohol and drugs; suicide and self-harm; depression; family conflict; relationships and friendships; and school and study.

What activities are young people involved in?

Respondents were asked to select the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 14. The top three activities for both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the proportion of respondents participating in *sports (as a participant)* and *arts/cultural* activities varied between the groups. Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be involved in *youth groups and clubs* and *environmental* activities. Responses for other activities were similar between the groups.

- The most popular activity for Indigenous respondents was *sports (as a participant)*, although the proportion who participated in this activity was slightly lower for Indigenous (58.6%) than non Indigenous (65.1%) respondents.
- Similar proportions of Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (38.3% and 39.7% respectively).
- Close to a third (31.3%) of Indigenous respondents, compared with just under a quarter (23.2%) of non Indigenous respondents, were involved in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Just over a quarter (26.8%) of Indigenous respondents, and one in five (20.1%) non Indigenous respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs*.
- Indigenous respondents were slightly more likely than non Indigenous respondents to participate in *environmental* activities (14.6% compared with 9.6%).

Table 14: Activities young people were involved in

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Sports (as a participant)	58.6	65.1
Sports (as a spectator)	38.3	39.7
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	31.3	23.2
Youth groups and clubs	26.8	20.1
Religious	20.8	20.2
Volunteer	19.9	18.7
Environmental	14.6	9.6
Student Representative Council	12.3	9.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Age differences

Table 15 provides a breakdown of activities for Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents by age. There were a number of differences across the age groups between Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents, particularly for the 11 to 14 years and 20 to 24 years age groups.

- Indigenous respondents aged 11 to 14 were less likely than their non Indigenous counterparts to be involved in *sports (as a participant)* (61.4% compared with 70.9%).
- Conversely, 11 to 14 year old Indigenous respondents were more likely than 11 to 14 year old non Indigenous respondents to be involved in *arts/cultural activities and youth groups and clubs*.
- About two in five (40.3%) Indigenous young adults, compared with around a quarter of their non Indigenous counterparts, were involved in *arts/cultural activities and youth groups and clubs*.
- About 37% of both Indigenous and non Indigenous young adults were involved in *volunteer* activities.

Table 15: Activities young people are involved in, by age

	Indigenous %			Non Indigenous %		
	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	11-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs
Sports (as a participant)	61.4	58.2	36.1	70.9	59.6	48.0
Sports (as a spectator)	36.5	40.9	37.5	38.6	41.3	35.0
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	30.8	30.9	40.3	22.2	24.3	24.4
Youth groups and clubs	25.3	27.3	40.3	19.1	21.1	23.9
Religious	19.5	21.1	26.4	20.5	19.8	21.6
Volunteer	15.9	22.6	37.5	14.6	22.5	36.7
Environmental	12.7	15.8	22.2	9.5	9.5	10.5
Student Representative Council	8.1	16.1	15.3	7.5	11.6	6.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to indicate three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were most commonly listed by both Indigenous and non Indigenous respondents and comprised about 30% of responses for both groups. The second most common response for both groups was *friends*. The information provided by respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 16.

Table 16: People and organisations young people admire

	Indigenous %	Non Indigenous %
Family	32.4	28.9
Friends	19.9	15.9
Sports teams, players and coaches	9.4	8.4
Entertainers	6.5	6.9
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	3.6	4.6
Schools and their staff	2.9	2.4
International aid organisations	2.9	6.1
Businesses and business people	2.7	1.8
Youth organisations and leaders	2.2	1.4
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	2.1	4.0
Animal protection groups	1.7	3.5
Political organisations and figures	1.6	1.9
Religious figures	1.5	1.7
Environmental groups	1.2	1.8
Protection agencies	1.1	1.5
Medical professionals and hospitals	0.9	1.2
Myself	0.7	0.6
Telephone helplines	0.7	0.9
Organisations and research supporting mental health	0.4	0.9
Historical figures	0.4	0.8
Government and government departments	0.3	0.2
Employer/boss/manager/work colleague	0.2	0.1
Pets and other animals	0.2	0.2
Confident/successful/hardworking people	0.2	0.3
Volunteers/donors	0.2	0.3
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	0.1	0.2
Sick and disabled people, people in difficult times	0.1	0.1
Community groups/organisations	0.1	0.2
Scientists and scientific organisations	0.1	0.2



Australian Capital Territory summary

Profile of respondents

1,631 surveys were returned from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which was 3.6% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. This is the third time that responses from the ACT have been provided separately, as prior to 2007 they were included in a combined chapter of NSW and the ACT.

Age breakdown

The largest group of respondents from the ACT was aged 11 to 14 years (67.8%) followed by 15 to 19 years (31.4%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (13, or 0.8%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	1,079	67.8
15-19 years	500	31.4
20-24 years	13	0.8
Total	1,592	3.6% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

51.8% of respondents from the ACT were female and 48.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

59 or 3.7% of respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	59	3.7	5.0	3.3	4.7
Non Indigenous	1,534	96.3	95.0	96.7	95.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 76.4% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 385 (23.6%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 45 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): French; Chinese; Spanish; Vietnamese; Korean; Arabic; Hindi; Filipino/Tagalog; and Mandarin.

Disability

43 or 2.6% of respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness or hearing impairment; and physical disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from the ACT (94.9%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 93.2%. 17 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey as did 14 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing*. Eight young people who were at *boarding school* or *university college* and six who were in *foster care* also participated.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	94.9	93.2	96.8	92.6
Share house	1.3	1.4	0.8	2.1
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.5
Homeless/insecure housing	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.5
Alone	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.8
Boarding school or university college	0.5	2.1	0.4	0.8
Foster care	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.1	0.2	0.0	.00

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, most of the ACT respondents (96.9%) were living in the national capital, Canberra. This figure is unsurprising given the concentration of the population in the ACT. There was a much more even spread nationally of respondents living in and outside of capital cities.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,526	96.9	56.4	96.9	96.7
Not in capital city	49	3.1	43.6	3.1	3.3

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income identified by a majority of respondents from the ACT (78.1%). Just under a fifth (18.3%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income and a very small proportion (2.6%) relied on *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	78.1	73.1	87.8	58.7
Employment	18.3	21.9	9.6	36.5
Government allowance	2.6	4.1	1.5	3.9
No income	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5
Other	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Four in five (80.3%) respondents from the ACT were *studying full time*, higher than the national figure of 74.1%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time*, while males were more likely than females to be *studying part time*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	80.3	74.1	86.8	74.0
Studying part time	12.9	14.5	8.1	17.5
Not studying	6.8	11.4	5.1	8.5

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Results for the ACT were very similar to the national results across all categories. About a third (32.4%) of respondents from the ACT had *casual or temporary work* and a fifth (20.4%) were *working part time*. A very small percentage (2.1%) of ACT respondents aged 15 to 24 were *working full time*. Employment participation rates for males and females were similar, although males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (31.5% compared with 26.1%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	ACT %	National %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.1
Working part time	20.4	22.0	21.4	19.5
Casual or temporary work	32.4	28.1	31.2	33.2
Unemployed/looking for work	28.8	26.8	26.1	31.5
Too young to work or choose not to	16.4	20.6	19.2	13.7

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Responses were very similar for ACT respondents and their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. As in 2008, about 30% of respondents from the ACT highly valued *being independent*, *physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued*.

- Three quarters (74.6%) of ACT respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and nearly two thirds (63.4%) highly valued *friendships*.
- About 30% of ACT respondents indicated that they highly valued *being independent* (31.2%), *physical and mental health* (29.2%) and *feeling needed and valued* (27.5%).

Table 8: What young people value

	ACT 2009 %	National 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Family relationships	74.6	75.6	74.1	74.4
Friendships (other than family)	63.4	60.6	64.0	66.5
Being independent	31.2	32.7	29.1	34.8
Physical and mental health	29.2	31.1	32.1	34.7
Feeling needed and valued	27.5	26.1	29.3	33.1
School or study satisfaction	22.1	22.0	24.1	18.2
Getting a job	17.4	18.1	15.2	10.3
Financial security	14.1	13.8	12.8	11.9
Spirituality/faith	12.2	12.8	10.9	7.2
Making a difference in the community	9.3	8.2	8.2	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Results for ACT respondents were quite similar across the two age groups. The top three items for both groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. About 30% of both age groups highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both age groups, with 76.2% of 11 to 14 year olds and 71.4% of 15 to 19 year olds valuing them highly.
- Over 60% of both groups highly valued *friendships* (64.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 61.9% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were highly valued by 30% of both age groups.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	76.2	71.4
Friendships (other than family)	64.6	61.9
Being independent	30.7	32.1
Physical and mental health	29.2	28.7
Feeling needed and valued	25.5	31.4
School or study satisfaction	22.7	21.0
Getting a job	19.0	14.6
Financial security	13.2	15.7
Spirituality/faith	11.3	14.2
Making a difference in the community	9.6	8.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A slightly higher proportion of 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds highly valued *feeling needed and valued*. Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of 11 to 14 year olds than 15 to 19 year olds highly valued *getting a job*.

- About a third (31.4%) of the 15 to 19 year age group and a quarter (25.5%) of the 11 to 14 year age group indicated that they highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.
- *Getting a job* was highly valued by nearly a fifth (19.0%) of 11 to 14 year old respondents, compared to 14.6% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences between the genders. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *Being independent* was the third top item for both groups and highly valued by about 30% of each.

- 79.4% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 69.1% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 69.6% of female respondents and 56.1% of male respondents.
- Just under a third of male and female respondents highly valued *being independent*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.4	69.1
Friendships (other than family)	69.6	56.1
Being independent	30.6	32.0
Physical and mental health	27.4	31.3
Feeling needed and valued	28.3	26.5
School or study satisfaction	23.9	20.3
Getting a job	11.0	24.6
Financial security	10.8	17.9
Spirituality/faith	11.3	13.2
Making a difference in the community	9.3	9.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of male respondents who highly valued *getting a job* was much higher than that of female respondents. Male respondents were also more likely to highly value *financial security* than were female respondents.

- Male respondents were more than twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (24.6% compared with 11.0%).
- A higher proportion of male respondents (17.9%) than female respondents (10.8%) highly valued *financial security*.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. As shown in Table 11, the top issue of concern for ACT respondents was *family conflict*, with *body image* and *drugs* ranked equal second. *Body image* and *drugs* were also in the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from the ACT, with 10 items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue of concern for ACT respondents was *family conflict*, with 27.2% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- A quarter (25.0%) of respondents from the ACT identified *drugs* and *body image* as issues of concern.
- *Suicide* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were also identified by just under a quarter of ACT respondents as major concerns (23.9% and 23.8% respectively).

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	ACT 2009 %	National 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Family conflict	27.2	24.1	27.7	27.5
Body image	25.0	25.5	21.9	30.0
Drugs	25.0	26.8	27.9	18.8
Suicide	23.9	26.3	25.2	21.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.8	23.4	22.8	25.3
Alcohol	22.5	23.0	19.6	19.1
Coping with stress	22.4	18.7	21.2	30.9
Depression	21.5	18.7	16.9	26.6
School or study problems	21.1	17.3	19.4	22.3
Personal safety	20.5	22.2	23.1	N/A
The environment	19.1	16.7	23.0	23.1
Physical/sexual abuse	18.2	22.7	21.4	22.8
Discrimination	12.8	11.7	13.7	16.4
Self harm	11.2	13.3	13.9	11.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.8	11.4	10.7	8.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

ACT results were similar to the national results, although ACT respondents were slightly more likely than national respondents to identify *coping with stress* as an issue of concern, and slightly less likely than national respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse*.

- *Coping with stress* was of major concern to 22.4% of ACT respondents, compared with 18.7% of respondents nationally.
- 18.2% of ACT respondents identified *physical/sexual abuse* as an issue of concern, slightly less than the national figure of 22.7%.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. *Family conflict* was the top-ranked issue for both age groups, and the only issue to appear in the top three concerns of both groups. The second and third top items for the 11 to 14 year olds were *drugs* and *body image* respectively, while for the 15 to 19 year age group they were *suicide* and *depression*.

- *Family conflict* was the top issue of concern for both age groups, with just over a quarter of respondents from both groups identifying it as an issue of concern (27.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 26.2% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Body image* was also of concern to around a quarter of both groups.
- 11 to 14 year olds were slightly more likely than the older group to be concerned about *drugs* (26.4% compared with 22.6%).
- Conversely, 15 to 19 year olds (24.6%) were more likely than 11 to 14 year olds (19.6%) to identify *depression* as a top concern.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family conflict	27.7	26.2
Body image	25.7	23.6
Drugs	26.4	22.6
Suicide	23.0	25.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.7	22.2
Alcohol	23.2	21.3
Coping with stress	21.7	24.0
Depression	19.6	24.6
School or study problems	20.2	22.8
Personal safety	22.8	16.2
The environment	21.3	15.1
Physical/sexual abuse	18.3	18.4
Discrimination	11.7	15.7
Self harm	9.8	13.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.8	10.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences between the age groups included the proportion of each who were concerned about *personal safety* and *the environment*.

- 11 to 14 year olds were more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to identify *personal safety* as an issue of concern (22.8% compared with 16.2%).
- Over a fifth (21.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *the environment* as a top concern, compared with 15.1% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *family conflict*, *coping with stress*, and *the environment* were of concern to similar proportions of respondents of both genders. However, it also shows that there were some significant differences in response to this question. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *body image*, *suicide* and *physical/sexual abuse* as issues of concern. Males, on the other hand, were more likely than females to identify *drugs*, *alcohol* and *bullying/emotional abuse*.

- *Family conflict* was a top concern for over a quarter of both genders (28.2% of females and 26.2% of males), and was the top-ranked item for female respondents.
- Females were more likely than males to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern (21.2% compared with 14.8%).
- Male respondents (27.4%) were more likely than female respondents (18.3%) to be significantly concerned about *alcohol*.
- *Body image* was the second top issue for female respondents, with 26.9% identifying it as a concern compared with 22.8% of male respondents.
- Males were more likely than females to identify *drugs* (28.0% compared with 22.2%) as a top concern.
- Females were more likely than males to identify *suicide* as a top concern (26.4% compared with 20.8%).
- Just over a quarter (26.5%) of male respondents, compared with just over a fifth (21.2%) of female respondents, identified *bullying/emotional abuse* as a major concern.
- Around a fifth of respondents from both groups identified *coping with stress* and *the environment* as major issues of concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family conflict	28.2	26.2
Body image	26.9	22.8
Drugs	22.2	28.0
Suicide	26.4	20.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.2	26.5
Alcohol	18.3	27.4
Coping with stress	23.7	21.0
Depression	22.9	19.9
School or study problems	19.8	22.6
Personal safety	18.9	22.4
The environment	18.5	20.0
Physical/sexual abuse	21.2	14.8
Discrimination	14.3	10.9
Self harm	11.8	10.6
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.5	11.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for ACT respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with just over one in five respondents identifying it as a major source of advice. Results on all items for the ACT were very similar to results nationally.

- 84.0% of ACT respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 84.5%.
- *Parents* were identified as a major source of advice by about three quarters (72.9%) of respondents from the ACT.
- Three in five (60.9%) respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	ACT 2009 %	National 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Friends	84.0	84.5	85.8	90.3
Parents	72.9	73.4	76.2	76.0
Relative/family friend	60.9	60.8	62.6	60.8
Internet	21.8	22.5	18.6	24.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.9	12.5	10.2	8.8
Magazines	11.9	11.0	10.7	10.3
School counsellor	11.7	10.8	11.1	10.7
Teacher	10.5	11.0	12.6	10.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.9	8.9	6.9	6.7
Telephone helpline	6.6	5.9	5.4	4.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*.

The proportions of each group who identified *friends* as a major source were very similar, while the proportion who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* were lower for 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds. 15 to 19 year olds were more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- About 84% of respondents from both age groups identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- Three quarters (76.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds, and two thirds (66.1%) of 15 to 19 year olds, identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- *Relative/family friend* was identified as an important source of advice and support by just under two thirds (63.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with 56.2% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- 28.3% of the older group compared with 18.3% of the younger group identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friend/s	84.1	84.0
Parent/s	76.3	66.1
Relative/family friend	63.5	56.2
Internet	18.3	28.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.4	15.1
Magazines	10.8	14.3
School counsellor	11.9	11.8
Teacher	10.9	9.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.2	9.4
Telephone helpline	6.3	6.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important. Responses for all other items were very similar between the groups.

- 89.4% of females and 77.7% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of both genders.
- Just under two thirds (63.9%) of female respondents and 57.5% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	89.4	77.7
Parents	71.7	74.3
Relative/family friend	63.9	57.5
Internet	20.1	23.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.2	13.8
Magazines	12.9	10.9
School counsellor	11.5	12.1
Teacher	8.8	12.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.1	10.9
Telephone helpline	4.9	8.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

86.3% of ACT respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, very similar to the national figure of 86.5% and a slight increase on the 2008 ACT figure of 82.9%. The responses by age and gender were very similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009						2008
	ACT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %	ACT %
Enough information	86.3	86.5	86.3	87.3	86.8	85.7	82.9
Not enough information	13.7	13.5	13.7	12.7	13.2	14.3	17.1

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their respondents. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): depression; alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; bullying; suicide and self harm; environmental issues; global issues; and stress and anxiety.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for ACT respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although participation in all three has declined since 2008. These were also the top three activities nationally. About a fifth of ACT respondents also participated in *religious* activities.

- 58.4% of respondents from the ACT participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did 30.3% in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A quarter of ACT respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- One in five (19.9%) respondents participated in *religious* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	ACT 2009 %	National 2009 %	ACT 2008 %	ACT 2007 %
Sports (as a participant)	58.4	64.2	68.6	71.5*
Sports (as a spectator)	30.3	39.3	41.5	
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	25.0	23.4	47.6	53.8
Religious	19.9	20.0	22.8	17.7
Youth groups and clubs	16.9	20.3	21.3	20.4
Volunteer	13.5	18.5	19.1	29.0
Environmental	9.0	9.8	14.2	14.2
Student Representative Council	6.4	9.5	8.5	10.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that there were more similarities than differences in the range of activities undertaken by the two age groups. The top three activities for both groups were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the proportion of those participating in *sports (as a participant)* declined with age. Results for other activities were very similar by age.

- 61.3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 54.2% of 15 to 19 year olds indicated that they took part in *sports (as a participant)*.
- About a third of both age groups participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around a quarter of both age groups participated in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	61.3	54.2
Sports (as a spectator)	30.3	31.4
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	24.6	26.4
Religious	19.1	21.8
Youth groups and clubs	15.9	18.6
Volunteer	12.0	16.6
Environmental	8.9	9.2
Student Representative Council	4.9	9.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in these activities. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural* activities, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- Nearly two thirds (62.2%) of male respondents and 55.0% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- A third (34.3%) of males and a quarter (26.6%) of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females (31.0%) were much more likely than males (18.6%) to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Conversely, males were somewhat more likely than females to participate in *youth groups and clubs* (19.0% compared with 14.8%).

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	55.0	62.2
Sports (as a spectator)	26.6	34.3
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	31.0	18.6
Religious	20.8	18.9
Youth groups and clubs	14.8	19.0
Volunteer	15.4	11.5
Environmental	9.9	8.0
Student Representative Council	7.4	5.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most common response and comprised about 30% of the responses given. *Friends* and *entertainers* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	1,085	31.2
Friends	476	13.7
Entertainers	340	9.8
Sports teams, players and coaches	238	6.8
International aid organisations	179	5.2
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	163	4.7
Animal protection groups	161	4.6
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	119	3.4
Political organisations and figures	77	2.2
Businesses and business people	75	2.2
Environmental groups	70	2.0
Schools, universities and their staff	64	1.8
Medical professionals and hospitals	48	1.4
Youth organisations and leaders	44	1.3
Religious figures	37	1.1
Historical figures	36	1.0
Protection agencies	35	1.0
Telephone helplines	24	0.7
Organisations and research supporting mental health	21	0.6



New South Wales summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

16,414 surveys were returned from New South Wales (NSW), which was 36.6% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from NSW was aged 11 to 14 years (50.4%), followed by 15 to 19 years (47.2%) and 20 to 24 years (2.5%).

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	8,173	50.4
15-19 years	7,654	47.2
20-24 years	403	2.5
Total	16,230	36.6% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

51.2% of respondents from NSW were female and 48.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

850 or 5.3% of respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	850	5.3	5.0	5.6	4.8	6.5
Non Indigenous	15,293	94.7	95.0	94.4	95.2	93.5

Languages other than English spoken at home

82.4% of respondents from NSW indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 2,892 (17.6%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Arabic; Chinese; Korean; Cantonese; Italian; Spanish; Filipino/Tagalog; Vietnamese; Greek; and Mandarin.

Disability

365 respondents (2.2%) indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); intellectual disability; autism; physical disability; learning disability; deafness or hearing impairment; blindness or vision impairment; and mental illness or psychiatric disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from NSW (92.6%) were living *with family*, as they were nationally (93.2%). Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house* or *alone*.

448 young people who were at *boarding school or university college* and 159 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre* or *prison* participated in the survey. 102 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* participated, as did 77 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.6	93.2	95.8	90.8	66.1
Boarding school or university college	2.9	2.1	1.6	4.3	2.0
Share house including with friends	1.3	1.4	0.5	1.3	15.8
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.3
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.3
Alone	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.7	7.3
Foster care	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	6.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, a majority of NSW respondents (58.1%) were living in the state capital, Sydney. The proportion of young people living outside Sydney declined with age, with 42.3% of 11 to 14 year olds living outside the capital compared with 32.3% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	9,343	58.1	56.4	57.7	58.1	67.7
Not in capital city	6,728	41.9	43.6	42.3	41.9	32.3

Main source of income

As in previous years, *parents/family* were the main source of income for a large majority (75.1%) of respondents from NSW. Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*. About two thirds (69.5%) of young adults cited *employment* as their main source of income, with a further 18.0% relying on *government allowance*. The NSW data was very similar to the national data for all income sources.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	75.1	73.1	89.5	63.2	11.7
Employment	20.2	21.9	8.3	30.2	69.5
Government allowance	3.8	4.1	1.3	5.8	18.0
Other	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.8
No income	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Respondents aged 15 to 19 (73.0%) were much more likely than those aged 20 to 24 (58.4%) to be *studying full time*. Young adults were much more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be *not studying* (26.9% compared to 11.2%). Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time*. Conversely, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to be *studying part time* or *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	72.4	74.1	73.0	58.4	77.9	66.7
Studying part time	15.7	14.5	15.8	14.7	13.6	17.9
Not studying	11.9	11.4	11.2	26.9	8.6	15.3

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Just over 30% of the young adult group were *working full time*, compared with only 1.2% of the 15 to 19 year age group. Around half of the respondents from both age groups were *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Participation rates in employment for both genders were quite similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	NSW %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.5	2.5	1.2	30.2	2.7	2.1
Working part time	19.7	22.0	19.6	20.8	19.8	19.5
Casual or temporary work	27.3	28.1	27.2	29.4	29.6	24.8
Unemployed/looking for work	26.2	26.8	26.7	16.2	24.5	28.0
Too young to work or choose not to	24.4	20.6	25.3	3.3	23.3	25.5

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Responses from NSW respondents were very similar to their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. About 30% of respondents from NSW highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by 77.2% and 60.7% of NSW respondents respectively.
- About 30% of NSW respondents indicated that they highly valued *being independent* (32.3%) and *physical and mental health* (31.3%).

Table 8: What young people value

	NSW 2009 %	National 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %
Family relationships	77.2	75.6	77.0	78.7	73.6
Friendships (other than family)	60.7	60.6	62.9	61.3	68.5
Being independent	32.3	32.7	31.7	32.3	36.0
Physical and mental health	31.3	31.1	32.2	33.4	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	26.3	26.1	26.2	25.8	30.6
School or study satisfaction	21.2	22.0	20.5	19.3	23.4
Getting a job	16.7	18.1	15.7	13.5	17.9
Spirituality/faith	14.1	12.8	14.4	15.2	15.0
Financial security	13.6	13.8	12.7	11.3	14.8
Making a difference in the community	7.8	8.2	7.5	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.5	12.1
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities and differences in what NSW respondents valued across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for all three age groups, although the proportion who valued *friendships* significantly declined with age. *Being independent* was the third-ranked item for those under 20 years, whilst *physical and mental health* was the third item for the 20 to 24 year age group.

- More than 70% of respondents in each age group highly valued *family relationships*.
- Around 60% of young people under 20 highly valued *friendships*, compared with 46.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around 30% of respondents in all age groups highly valued *being independent*.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by 36.0% of 20 to 24 year olds and 29.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	78.8	75.9	72.5
Friendships (other than family)	61.7	60.7	46.5
Being independent	30.6	34.1	33.0
Physical and mental health	29.9	32.4	36.0
Feeling needed and valued	26.1	26.3	29.3
School or study satisfaction	22.1	20.7	9.9
Getting a job	18.5	14.6	16.3
Spirituality/faith	13.9	14.1	19.0
Financial security	11.6	15.0	26.1
Making a difference in the community	8.4	7.0	12.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were differences among the age groups on some items, particularly when comparing the responses of the young adult group with those of 11 to 19 year olds. Unsurprisingly, *school or study satisfaction* was valued by a higher proportion of those aged 11 to 19 compared to the 20 to 24 age group. Young adult respondents were much more likely than the younger age groups to highly value *financial security*.

- Around one in five respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *school or study satisfaction* compared with about one in ten respondents aged 20 to 24.
- Young adult respondents were much more likely than those aged under 20 years to highly value *financial security* (11.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 15.0% of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with 26.1% of 20 to 24 year olds).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items for both genders were identical, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were ranked first and second respectively by both genders, but the proportion of male respondents who valued them highly was lower than for female respondents.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 80.6% of female respondents and 73.4% of male respondents.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 65.2% of female respondents and 55.8% of male respondents.
- About one third of both genders highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	80.6	73.4
Friendships (other than family)	65.2	55.8
Being independent	31.8	32.9
Physical and mental health	30.0	32.7
Feeling needed and valued	28.0	24.4
School or study satisfaction	21.0	21.3
Getting a job	12.2	21.6
Spirituality/faith	13.9	14.5
Financial security	11.3	16.0
Making a difference in the community	7.1	8.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference between the genders was the proportion of each who highly valued *getting a job*, with a greater proportion of males than females indicating it was important (21.6% compared with 12.2%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top issue of concern for NSW respondents was *suicide*, with *drugs* and *family conflict* ranked equal second. *Suicide* and *drugs* were also in the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from NSW, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five.

- *Suicide* was the top concern for NSW respondents, with 25.8% indicating it was a major concern for them.
- *Drugs* and *family conflict* were also a major concern for around a quarter (25.4%) of NSW respondents.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	NSW 2009 %	National 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %
Suicide	25.8	26.3	24.4	22.4	29.0
Drugs	25.4	26.8	24.6	19.2	N/A
Family conflict	25.4	24.1	27.6	31.5	29.3
Body image	25.2	25.5	26.0	32.2	28.9
Personal safety	23.5	22.2	24.0	N/A	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.2	23.4	22.2	23.1	26.7
Physical/sexual abuse	22.8	22.7	23.7	20.3	27.9
Alcohol	21.8	23.0	19.7	18.5	N/A
Coping with stress	19.3	18.7	21.6	28.4	28.2
Depression	19.1	18.7	17.9	20.4	25.3
School or study problems	17.9	17.3	19.0	26.2	26.1
The environment	15.4	16.7	16.6	23.1	N/A
Self harm	13.0	13.3	13.6	14.2	21.9
Discrimination	12.3	11.7	13.1	14.2	18.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.3	11.4	12.4	8.8	12.3
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

The clustering of issues shown in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. Some issues were of concern to a similar proportion of respondents across the age groups, including *suicide*, *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse*. Other issues, such as *drugs* and *alcohol*, declined in importance with age, while the proportion of respondents identifying *coping with stress* and *depression* increased with age.

- 11 to 14 year olds were significantly more likely than 15 to 24 year olds to identify *drugs* as an issue of concern (30.2% compared with around 20%).
- The proportion of respondents identifying *alcohol* as a top concern also declined with age, from nearly a quarter (23.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds to one in six (17.0%) 20 to 24 year olds.
- 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to indicate that *depression* was a major concern (28.6% compared with 22.4% of 15 to 19 year olds and 15.6% of 11 to 14 year olds).
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for over a quarter (27.7%) of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 15.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- About a quarter of respondents in each of the age groups identified *suicide*, *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse* as issues of significant concern.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Suicide	25.6	26.2	22.5
Drugs	30.2	20.8	18.1
Family conflict	25.6	25.2	23.8
Body image	23.6	26.8	26.7
Personal safety	24.1	22.7	25.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.8	20.8	18.6
Physical/sexual abuse	23.1	22.5	25.7
Alcohol	23.7	19.9	17.0
Coping with stress	15.9	22.4	27.7
Depression	15.6	22.4	28.6
School or study problems	17.2	18.6	13.8
The environment	17.7	12.9	15.8
Self harm	12.0	14.0	9.7
Discrimination	10.7	13.8	14.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.6	12.6	15.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that there were some significant differences between the genders regarding their concerns. The top three issues for female respondents were *physical/sexual abuse*, *body image* and *suicide* respectively. For male respondents, the top issues were *drugs*, *alcohol* and *family conflict*.

- Female respondents were significantly more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as an issue of concern (28.3% compared with 16.6%).
- *Alcohol* was of particular concern to male respondents with over a quarter (25.7%) indicating it was a major concern, compared with only 18.2% of female respondents.
- Around a quarter of both genders were significantly concerned about a range of issues including *body image*, *suicide*, *family conflict*, *drugs*, *personal safety* and *bullying/emotional abuse*.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Suicide	26.7	24.9
Drugs	23.2	27.8
Family conflict	25.5	25.2
Body image	27.2	23.0
Personal safety	24.0	23.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.2	23.1
Physical/sexual abuse	28.3	16.6
Alcohol	18.2	25.7
Coping with stress	19.7	18.8
Depression	20.2	17.9
School or study problems	17.0	18.8
The environment	13.8	17.2
Self harm	13.8	12.0
Discrimination	11.2	13.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.7	14.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for NSW respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with around one in four respondents identifying it as a major source of advice. Results on all items for NSW were very similar to results nationally.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	NSW 2009 %	National 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %
Friends	84.9	84.5	86.0	86.9	86.7
Parents	74.9	73.4	75.6	75.8	74.7
Relative/family friend	62.0	60.8	62.5	64.9	64.4
Internet	22.6	22.5	19.8	18.3	16.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.6	12.5	9.6	10.5	9.5
Magazines	10.5	11.0	10.3	10.7	13.2
Teacher	10.3	11.0	11.3	10.3	9.3
School counsellor	10.0	10.8	11.3	10.2	11.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.4	9.2
Telephone helpline	5.6	5.9	5.2	5.2	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The major sources of advice and support for all three age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, although the proportions declined with age for both *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice increased with age.

- More than 80% of respondents in each age group identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- 79.2% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, as did around 70% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- Almost one third (31.2%) of those in the 20 to 24 year age group identified the *internet* as a major source of advice and support, significantly higher than the proportion of the 11 to 14 year age group (17.5%).
- 20 to 24 year olds were more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to identify *someone else in the community* as a major source of advice and support (15.2% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with around 9% of 11 to 19 year olds).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	82.9	87.0	85.3
Parents	79.2	70.8	69.9
Relative/family friend	64.4	60.0	57.9
Internet	17.5	27.3	31.2
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.9	12.2	13.0
Magazines	10.5	10.6	8.0
Teacher	11.0	9.5	6.6
School counsellor	10.5	9.5	7.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.0	9.5	15.2
Telephone helpline	6.7	4.5	4.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, but proportions varied by gender. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify all three as major sources of advice and support.

- 88.8% of female respondents and 80.5% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Around three quarters of male and female respondents identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *relative/family friend* as a key source of advice (66.7% compared with 56.8%).

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	88.8	80.5
Parents	77.0	72.6
Relative/family friend	66.7	56.8
Internet	18.0	27.7
Community agencies eg. youth worker	8.0	15.7
Magazines	11.4	9.5
Teacher	8.7	12.0
School counsellor	9.3	10.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.0	10.0
Telephone helpline	4.7	6.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were two major differences between the results for male and female respondents, with males more likely than females to identify the *internet* or *community agencies* as major sources of advice and support.

- 27.7% of male respondents compared with 18.0% of female respondents identified the *internet* as a major source of advice.
- *Community agencies* were a major source of advice for 15.7% of male respondents and 8.0% of female respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

86.5% of respondents from NSW indicated that they had enough information on issues that concerned them, which is in line with the national results. The proportion of respondents who indicated that they did not have enough information increased slightly with age (from 12.0% of 11 to 14 year olds to 18.1% of 20 to 24 year olds). Responses for males and females were very similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009							2008
	NSW %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	NSW %
Enough information	86.5	86.5	88.0	85.3	81.9	86.4	86.6	84.6
Not enough information	13.5	13.5	12.0	14.7	18.1	13.6	13.4	15.4

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. These included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; depression; school and study; stress and anxiety; bullying; environmental issues; suicide and self harm; and family conflict.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for NSW respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined substantially since 2008. These were also the top three activities nationally. About a quarter of NSW respondents also participated in *religious* activities.

- 66.3% of respondents from NSW participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did 41.6% in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around a quarter of NSW respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural* activities and *religious* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NSW 2009 %	National 2009 %	NSW 2008 %	NSW 2007 %	NSW 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	66.3	64.2	68.5	66.0*	68.8*
Sports (as a spectator)	41.6	39.3	47.3		
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	24.9	23.4	44.3	44.5	44.2
Religious	23.5	20.0	27.4	27.4	26.2
Youth groups and clubs	22.0	20.3	27.5	27.4	26.8
Volunteer	20.2	18.5	22.6	22.5	21.8
Environmental	11.0	9.8	13.6	12.9	10.7
Student Representative Council	10.2	9.5	11.8	12.6	13.7

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 highlights that involvement in *sports (as a participant)* declined with age. There was, however, a significant increase in *volunteer* activities with age.

- 70.5% of 11 to 14 year olds, 62.5% of 15 to 19 year olds and 56.8% of 20 to 24 year olds indicated that they took part in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Around 44% of 15 to 24 year olds were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, as were 39.2% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Young adults were more than twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to be involved in *volunteer* activities (38.5% compared to 15.2%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	70.5	62.5	56.8
Sports (as a spectator)	39.2	44.3	44.4
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	23.6	26.5	21.3
Religious	23.3	23.8	21.8
Youth groups and clubs	20.4	23.8	23.3
Volunteer	15.2	24.7	38.5
Environmental	10.8	11.3	9.2
Student Representative Council	7.6	13.1	7.2

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the similarities and differences by gender in the activities in which respondents from NSW participated. The top two activities for both were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents took part in each. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural* activities, while for males it was *religious* activities.

- Over two thirds (69.1%) of male respondents and 63.8% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Nearly half (47.8%) of males and over a third (35.7%) of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females (28.6%) were more likely than males (21.0%) to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around a quarter of both genders participated in *religious* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.8	69.1
Sports (as a spectator)	35.7	47.8
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	28.6	21.0
Religious	23.8	23.1
Youth groups and clubs	21.4	22.7
Volunteer	22.3	18.0
Environmental	10.4	11.7
Student Representative Council	10.1	10.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most common response and comprised about 30% of the responses given. *Friends* and *sports teams, players and coaches* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information provided by NSW respondents has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	10,513	28.8
Friends	5,668	15.6
Sports teams, players and coaches	2,946	8.1
Entertainers	2,512	6.9
International aid organisations	2,343	6.4
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	1,951	5.4
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	1,419	3.9
Animal protection groups	997	2.7
Schools and their staff	813	2.2
Religious figures	729	2.0
Environmental groups	718	2.0
Political organisations and figures	708	1.9
Businesses and business people	700	1.9
Protection agencies	569	1.6
Youth organisations and leaders	548	1.5
Medical professionals and hospitals	416	1.1
Telephone helplines	372	1.0
Organisations and research supporting mental health	291	0.8
Historical figures	278	0.8
Myself	191	0.5
Confident/successful/hardworking people	127	0.3
Volunteers/donors	115	0.3
Government and government departments	78	0.2
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	68	0.2
Pets and other animals	62	0.2
Scientists and scientific organisations	60	0.2
Community groups/organisations	59	0.2
Sick and disabled people, people in difficult times	45	0.1
Employer/boss/manager/work colleague	34	0.1



Northern Territory summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

839 surveys were returned from the Northern Territory (NT), which was 1.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from the NT was aged 15 to 19 years (51.8%) followed by those aged 11 to 14 years (45.6%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (2.7%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	375	45.6
15-19 years	426	51.8
20-24 years	22	2.7
Total	823	1.9% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

42.8% of respondents from the NT were female and 57.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

133 or 16.1% of respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	133	16.1	5.0	15.0	15.6
Non Indigenous	692	83.9	95.0	85.0	84.4

Languages other than English spoken at home

88.0% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 101 (12.0%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 28 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog; Vietnamese; Chinese; Greek; German; Kriol; and Portuguese.

Disability

26 (3.1%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): physical disability; intellectual disability and autism.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority (92.1%) of respondents from the NT were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 93.2%.

18 people who were living in *boarding school or university college* participated in the survey. 12 people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* also participated, as did eight who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and five who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	92.1	93.2	97.8	90.5
Boarding school or university college	2.3	2.1	0.8	3.7
Homeless/insecure housing	1.5	0.7	1.1	2.0
Share house including with friends	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.7
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.5
Foster care	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.7
Alone	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.5
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

Table 4 shows that 565 respondents (68.9%) lived in the capital city, Darwin. This was higher than the national rate of 56.4% for those living in a capital city.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total Number	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	565	68.9	56.4	65.9	70.4
Not in capital city	255	31.1	43.6	34.1	29.6

Main source of income

A majority of respondents from the NT identified *parents/family* as their main source of income (64.2%), although this was below the national figure of 73.1%. Just under a third (32.4%) of NT respondents relied on *employment*, compared with about a fifth (21.9%) of respondents nationally.

Table 5: Main source of income

	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	64.2	73.1	86.1	46.9
Employment	32.4	21.9	11.6	49.6
Government allowance	2.0	4.1	1.2	2.1
Other	1.1	0.5	1.2	0.8
No income	0.3	0.4	0	0.5

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Three quarters of NT respondents were *studying full time* (74.8%), similar to the national figure of 74.1%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time* (78.8% compared with 69.0%). Conversely, males were slightly more likely than females to be *studying part time* or to be *not studying*.

Table 6: Participation in education

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	74.8	74.1	76.9	78.8	69.0
Studying part time	13.0	14.5	12.8	12.4	16.8
Not studying	12.3	11.4	10.3	8.8	14.2

Table 7 shows that NT respondents had slightly higher rates of participation in employment than did their national counterparts. A small proportion (5.3%) were *working full time*, compared with the national rate of 2.5%. Just over 60% of NT respondents, compared with about half of respondents nationally, were either *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. About one in six (16.7%) respondents from the NT indicated they were *unemployed/looking for work*, which was substantially lower than the national rate of 26.8%. Employment participation rates were fairly similar for males and females, although females were slightly more likely than males to have *casual or temporary work*, while males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work*.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	NT %	National %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	5.3	2.5	3.8	2.7	2.2
Working part time	28.5	22.0	29.5	21.6	22.4
Casual or temporary work	33.1	28.1	33.8	30.6	25.3
Unemployed/looking for work	16.7	26.8	17.1	24.9	29.0
Too young to work or choose not to	16.4	20.6	15.9	20.2	21.0

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Responses were similar for NT respondents and their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*.

- Just over three quarters (77.5%) of NT respondents highly valued *family relationships* and over half (56.4%) highly valued *friendships*.
- *Being independent* was the third-ranked item for the NT and was highly valued by a third (33.8%) of respondents.
- Around a quarter of NT respondents indicated that they highly valued *physical and mental health* (28.3%) and *school or study satisfaction* (25.0%).

Table 8: What young people value

	NT 2009 %	National 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %	NT 2006 %
Family relationships	77.5	75.6	77.8	75.3	73.0
Friendships (other than family)	56.4	60.6	61.7	55.4	57.8
Being independent	33.8	32.7	30.0	36.0	40.3
Physical and mental health	28.3	31.1	26.2	32.6	N/A
School or study satisfaction	25.0	22.0	21.8	23.1	25.2
Feeling needed and valued	23.1	26.1	25.3	24.6	26.8
Getting a job	18.6	18.1	17.3	15.6	23.0
Spirituality/faith	15.3	12.8	15.7	13.2	18.2
Financial security	12.6	13.8	14.3	14.6	17.4
Making a difference in the community	9.7	8.2	8.5	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.2	9.5
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows that there were both differences and similarities between the age groups. The top two items for both groups were the same, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*. *Being independent* was the third-ranked issue for 15 to 19 year olds, while for 11 to 14 year olds it was *school or study satisfaction*. 15 to 19 year olds were slightly more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to highly value *physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued*.

- *Family relationships* was the top-ranked item for both age groups, and was highly valued by just over three quarters of each.
- More than half of both age groups highly valued *friendships*.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 28.3% of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with 22.2% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- 38.5% of the 15 to 19 age group, compared with 28.2% of the 11 to 14 year age group, highly valued *being independent*.
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just under of a third of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with about a quarter of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	77.9	77.4
Friendships (other than family)	56.0	58.3
Being independent	28.2	38.5
Physical and mental health	25.7	31.2
School or study satisfaction	28.3	22.2
Feeling needed and valued	19.7	25.1
Getting a job	24.2	14.0
Spirituality/faith	17.0	12.8
Financial security	11.4	12.6
Making a difference in the community	11.6	7.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference between the two groups was the proportion of each who highly valued *getting a job*. 11 to 14 year olds were more likely to highly value this item than were 15 to 19 year olds.

- The proportion of 11 to 14 year olds who highly valued *getting a job* was nearly twice that of 15 to 19 year olds (24.2% compared with 14.0%).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows similarities as well as differences by gender. *Family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent* were the top three items for each group. A higher proportion of females than males highly valued *family relationships*.

- 81.5% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 71.9% of males.
- 57.9% of females and 54.1% of males highly valued *friendships*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by about a third of both genders.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	81.5	71.9
Friendships (other than family)	57.9	54.1
Being independent	32.1	35.7
Physical and mental health	26.5	31.2
School or study satisfaction	27.8	21.1
Feeling needed and valued	23.6	22.6
Getting a job	13.6	26.1
Spirituality/faith	16.0	13.6
Financial security	11.8	13.9
Making a difference in the community	9.5	10.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of male respondents who highly valued *getting a job* was much higher than that of female respondents.

- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (26.1% compared to 13.6%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for NT respondents were *suicide*, *drugs* and *physical/sexual abuse*. *Suicide* and *drugs* were also in the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from the NT, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue for NT respondents was *suicide*, with 27.3% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- Over a quarter (26.8%) of respondents from the NT identified *drugs* as an issue of concern.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were also identified by close to a quarter of NT respondents as major concerns (26.0% and 25.9% respectively).

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	NT 2009 %	National 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %	NT 2006 %
Suicide	27.3	26.3	23.7	21.2	25.8
Drugs	26.8	26.8	26.5	21.1	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	26.0	22.7	24.6	20.6	27.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.9	23.4	22.3	22.3	20.3
Alcohol	23.9	23.0	21.8	22.8	N/A
Family conflict	23.3	24.1	26.1	29.8	35.6
Body image	22.3	25.5	22.7	29.1	26.7
Personal safety	20.2	22.2	23.1	N/A	N/A
The environment	19.5	16.7	19.9	26.2	N/A
Coping with stress	19.0	18.7	19.3	26.0	31.0
Depression	18.2	18.7	16.7	19.8	26.5
School or study problems	16.0	17.3	19.6	25.8	29.6
Discrimination	11.6	11.7	13.5	14.6	15.2
Self harm	11.5	13.3	13.9	13.8	22.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.6	11.4	11.7	9.8	9.9
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. The top three issues for 11 to 14 year olds were *drugs*, *alcohol* and *suicide*, while for 15 to 19 year olds they were *suicide*, *physical/sexual abuse* and *family conflict*.

- Over a quarter of 11 to 14 year olds and 15 to 19 year olds identified *suicide* as an issue of concern (28.8% and 25.9% respectively).
- *Drugs* were of concern to a third (33.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with a fifth (21.2%) of 15 to 19 year olds.
- Close to 30% of 11 to 14 year olds indicated *alcohol* was a major concern, as did just under 20% of 15 to 19 year olds.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Suicide	28.8	25.9
Drugs	33.7	21.2
Physical/sexual abuse	28.1	24.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	29.2	22.6
Alcohol	29.3	19.5
Family conflict	21.5	24.6
Body image	21.8	22.9
Personal safety	19.2	21.4
The environment	22.7	16.4
Coping with stress	15.8	22.1
Depression	10.7	23.8
School or study problems	11.6	20.2
Discrimination	7.8	14.8
Self harm	12.2	11.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.0	9.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The older group was more likely than the younger group to identify *depression*, *coping with stress*, *discrimination* and *school or study problems* as major concerns.

- Nearly a quarter (23.8%) of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with around one in ten (10.7%) 11 to 14 year olds, were significantly concerned about *depression*.
- *Coping with stress* was identified as an issue of major concern by 22.1% of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with 15.8% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- *Discrimination* was a major concern for 14.8% of 15 to 19 year olds, compared with 7.8% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- 15 to 19 year olds were almost twice as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to identify *school or study problems* as an issue of concern (20.2% compared with 11.6%).

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *drugs*, *family conflict* and *body image*, were of concern to similar proportions of female and male respondents. However, it also shows that there were some significant differences between the genders in response to this question. Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to identify *suicide* and *physical/sexual abuse* as issues of concern. Males, on the other hand, were more likely than females to identify *bullying/emotional abuse* and *alcohol*.

- *Drugs* were a major concern for over a quarter of both genders (25.8% of females and 28.6% of males).
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was the top issue for female respondents, who were much more likely than male respondents to identify it as a significant concern (31.6% compared with 17.7%).
- Females were also more likely than males to identify *suicide* as a major concern (30.6% compared with 22.5%).
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* was the top issue for male respondents, with 31.6% identifying it as a concern compared with 22.0% of female respondents.
- About a third (30.2%) of male respondents, compared with less than a fifth (19.5%) of female respondents, identified *alcohol* as a major concern.
- Between a fifth and a quarter of respondents from both groups identified *family conflict* and *body image* as major issues of concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Suicide	30.6	22.5
Drugs	25.8	28.6
Physical/sexual abuse	31.6	17.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.0	31.6
Alcohol	19.5	30.2
Family conflict	24.8	21.3
Body image	21.7	22.8
Personal safety	22.8	16.3
The environment	17.6	22.3
Coping with stress	19.1	18.7
Depression	19.5	16.4
School or study problems	17.4	13.9
Discrimination	12.6	10.1
Self harm	11.5	11.6
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.7	13.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for NT respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with just over one in five respondents identifying it as a major source of advice. Results for the NT were very similar to results nationally on all items.

- 84.8% of NT respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very close to the national figure of 84.5%.
- *Parents* were identified by about three quarters (73.8%) of respondents from the NT as a major source of advice.
- Two thirds (64.6%) of NT respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.
- The proportion of NT respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice has increased from 12.7% in 2006 to 21.7% in 2009.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	NT 2009 %	National 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %	NT 2006 %
Friends	84.8	84.5	85.2	84.0	86.8
Parents	73.8	73.4	74.0	73.8	75.2
Relative/family friend	64.6	60.8	62.3	65.3	68.5
Internet	21.7	22.5	15.4	18.3	12.7
Magazines	11.4	11.0	11.7	10.5	8.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.5	12.5	9.7	11.7	11.2
School counsellor	10.0	10.8	11.0	10.9	13.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.4	8.9	9.9	9.6	10.4
Teacher	8.3	11.0	10.9	10.7	9.7
Telephone helpline	7.0	5.9	6.8	6.3	4.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item for both groups, but for a slightly higher proportion of 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds.

- More than 80% of NT respondents in both age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were a top source of advice for 77.5% of 11 to 14 year olds and 70.6% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- About two thirds of both groups identified *relative/family friend* as a main source of advice.
- Close to a quarter (24.5%) of the 15 to 19 year age group, compared with just under a fifth (18.7%) of the 11 to 14 year age group, identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friends	82.7	87.1
Parents	77.5	70.6
Relative/family friend	66.0	63.3
Internet	18.7	24.5
Magazines	12.7	9.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	9.1	11.7
School counsellor	8.3	11.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.9	9.0
Teacher	9.3	7.7
Telephone helpline	8.5	5.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, although a higher proportion of females than males identified each.

- 88.8% of females and 79.4% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for just over three quarters (77.7%) of female respondents and two thirds (68.6%) of male respondents.
- 69.0% of female respondents and 58.3% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	88.8	79.4
Parents	77.7	68.6
Relative/family friend	69.0	58.3
Internet	15.3	30.4
Magazines	10.6	12.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.9	13.7
School counsellor	9.4	10.9
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.9	11.7
Teacher	8.3	8.2
Telephone helpline	4.6	10.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- Male respondents (30.4%) were about twice as likely as female respondents (15.3%) to identify the *internet* as a top source of advice and support.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

84.5% of NT respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, which was a slight increase on the 2008 NT figure of 81.3%. Responses by age and gender were very similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009						2008
	NT %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %	NT %
Enough information	84.5	86.5	83.8	85.9	84.9	84.0	81.3
Not enough information	15.5	13.5	16.2	14.1	15.1	16.0	18.7

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): suicide and self-harm; depression; family conflict; sexual abuse; alcohol and drugs; environmental issues; sexuality and sex education; and general health.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for NT respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *youth groups and clubs*. *Sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were also the top two activities nationally. Substantial proportions of NT respondents also participated in *arts/cultural* activities, *religious* and *volunteer* activities, although each has declined in popularity since 2008.

- Over half (58.6%) of respondents from the NT participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did about a third (32.5%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around a quarter of NT respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs* (27.3%) and *arts/cultural* activities (24.0%).
- Close to one in five respondents participated in *religious* activities or *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	NT 2009 %	National 2009 %	NT 2008 %	NT 2007 %	NT 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	58.6	64.2	69.3	63.6*	70.4*
Sports (as a spectator)	32.5	39.3	45.3		
Youth groups and clubs	27.3	20.3	28.7	27.5	35.7
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	24.0	23.4	43.0	36.0	42.7
Religious	19.8	20.0	26.5	24.4	28.4
Volunteer	18.8	18.5	27.1	23.0	25.2
Environmental	12.8	9.8	16.6	11.8	12.7
Student Representative Council	11.4	9.5	13	10.9	13.8

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups. The top two activities for both groups were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. *Youth groups and clubs* was the third-ranked activity for 11 to 14 year olds, while for 15 to 19 year olds it was *arts/cultural* activities.

- Close to two thirds (64.3%) of 11 to 14 year olds and just over a half (53.8%) of 15 to 19 year olds took part in *sports (as a participant)*.
- About a third of both age groups participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around a quarter of both groups took part in *youth groups and clubs* (25.3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 28.2% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- 15 to 19 year olds (28.4%) were much more likely than 11 to 14 year olds (17.1%) to participate in *arts/cultural* activities.
- 15 to 19 year olds were also more likely than 11 to 14 year olds to take part in *volunteer* activities (20.7% compared with 14.7%).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	64.3	53.8
Sports (as a spectator)	32.5	31.9
Youth groups and clubs	25.3	28.2
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	17.1	28.4
Religious	19.7	18.3
Volunteer	14.7	20.7
Environmental	11.7	12.2
Student Representative Council	6.7	15.0

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents took part in each. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural* activities, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- More than two thirds (69.8%) of male respondents and about a half (50.3%) of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Males (39.1%) were much more likely than females (27.6%) to take part in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Males were also more likely than females to participate in *youth groups and clubs* (30.2% compared with 24.8%).
- Females (26.9%) were much more likely than males (19.8%) to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	50.3	69.8
Sports (as a spectator)	27.6	39.1
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	26.9	19.8
Youth groups and clubs	24.8	30.2
Volunteer	19.4	17.9
Religious	18.2	21.5
Environmental	12.3	13.1
Student Representative Council	10.4	12.6

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. *Family* members were the most common response and comprised about 30% of the responses given. *Friends* and *entertainers* were the second and third most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	568	30.4
Friends	316	16.9
Entertainers	162	8.7
Sports teams, players and coaches	159	8.5
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	78	4.2
Animal protection groups	76	4.1
International aid organisations	75	4.0
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	61	3.3
Schools and their staff	39	2.1
Businesses and business people	38	2.0
Youth organisations and leaders	37	2.0
Environmental groups	33	1.8
Political organisations and figures	25	1.3
Protection agencies	25	1.3
Medical professionals and hospitals	22	1.2
Religious figures	18	1.0
Organisations and research supporting mental health	15	0.8
Historical figures	14	0.7
Telephone helplines	13	0.7
Myself	11	0.6



Queensland summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

8,827 surveys were returned from Queensland (QLD), which was 19.7% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Queensland was aged 15 to 19 years (49.3%) followed by 11 to 14 years (48.8%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (160 or 1.8%) and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	4,266	48.8
15-19 years	4,311	49.3
20-24 years	160	1.8
Total	8,737	19.7% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

48.4% of respondents from QLD were female and 51.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

523 or 6.0% of respondents from QLD identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	523	6.0	5.0	5.5	6.5	5.7
Non Indigenous	8,126	94.0	95.0	94.5	93.5	94.3

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 92.0% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 705 (8.0%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 55 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Kriol; Cantonese; Greek; Mandarin; Vietnamese; Filipino/Tagalog; German; Afrikaans; and Spanish.

Disability

167 (1.9%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness or hearing impairment; learning disability; blindness or vision impairment; physical disability; and intellectual disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from QLD (92.6%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 93.2%. 52 respondents who were living in *boarding school or university college* participated in the survey. 39 people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and 23 young people who were *homeless or in insecure housing* participated, as did 14 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.6	93.2	95.9	91.2	46.5
Boarding school or university college	1.8	2.1	1.3	2.1	4.5
Juvenile justice centre/prison	1.6	1.0	1.0	2.2	1.3
Share house including with friends	1.5	1.4	0.5	1.7	21.7
Alone	0.8	0.6	0.3	1.0	10.2
Homeless/insecure housing	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.3
Foster care	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.9
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	12.1
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, respondents from Queensland were much more likely to come from outside the capital of Brisbane, with only about one third (36.1%) residing in the capital. Nationally about 56% of respondents lived in a capital city. The proportion of respondents from Queensland living outside Brisbane varied with age, with close to two thirds (67.3%) of respondents aged 20 to 24 living in the capital compared to about a third of those aged 11 to 19.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,122	36.1	56.4	32.4	38.6	67.3
Not in capital city	5,518	63.9	43.6	67.6	61.4	32.7

Main source of income

Parents/family were identified as the main source of income by a majority of respondents from Queensland (67.4%). This is slightly less than the national figure of 73.1%. Table 5 shows that respondents became much less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	67.4	73.1	87.1	50.2	5.1
Employment	28.3	21.9	11.1	43.9	68.4
Government allowance	3.6	4.1	0.9	5.4	24.7
Other	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.9
No income	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Just over two thirds (68.4%) of respondents from Queensland were *studying full time*, compared with about three quarters (74.1%) nationally. Females were much more likely than males to be *studying full time* (73.3% compared with 63.8%), while males were more likely than females to be *studying part time* (20.1% and 14.4% respectively).

Table 6: Participation in education

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	68.4	74.1	69.2	37.7	73.3	63.8
Studying part time	17.3	14.5	17.4	14.5	14.4	20.1
Not studying	14.3	11.4	13.4	47.8	12.3	16.1

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. 3.3% of Queensland respondents were *working full time*, while over half (56.6%) were either *working part time* or in *casual or temporary work*. Just over 40% of 20 to 24 year old respondents were *working full time*, compared with 2.2% of 15 to 19 year olds. *Full time* and *part time* employment participation rates for males and females were very similar. Males were slightly more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (29.0% compared with 23.1%), while females were more likely than males to be employed in *casual or temporary work* (34.9% compared with 25.4%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	QLD %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.3	2.5	2.2	42.3	3.6	3.0
Working part time	26.6	22.0	26.9	17.3	25.7	27.6
Casual or temporary work	30.0	28.1	30.4	19.9	34.9	25.4
Unemployed/looking for work	26.1	26.8	26.3	18.6	23.1	29.0
Too young to work or choose not to	13.9	20.6	14.3	1.9	12.8	15.0

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Queensland responses were very similar to the national responses, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. More than a quarter of respondents from Queensland also highly valued *physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued*.

- Three quarters (74.5%) of Queensland respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and nearly two thirds (62.2%) highly valued *friendships*.
- Close to a third of Queensland respondents valued *being independent* (32.0%) and *physical and mental health* (30.0%)
- Significant proportions of respondents also highly valued *feeling needed and valued* (25.3%), *school or study satisfaction* (22.6%) and *getting a job* (20.2%).

Table 8: What young people value

	QLD 2009 %	National 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %
Family relationships	74.5	75.6	74.3	74.5	74.1
Friendships (other than family)	62.2	60.6	61.5	59.0	67.6
Being independent	32.0	32.7	31.8	33.6	31.1
Physical and mental health	30.0	31.1	28.8	32.9	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	25.3	26.1	26.7	25.7	31.2
School or study satisfaction	22.6	22.0	19.9	19.5	27.7
Getting a job	20.2	18.1	17.6	16.3	18.7
Financial security	14.3	13.8	13.7	14.4	16.2
Spirituality/faith	11.6	12.8	20.0	14.2	13.8
Making a difference in the community	8.4	8.2	7.2	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0	12.0
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 highlights both similarities and differences by age. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each age group, although the proportions who nominated each varied with age. 11 to 14 year olds ranked *physical and mental health* third, closely followed by *being independent* which was the third-ranked item for the 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old groups.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by all age groups, with more than 70% of each group valuing them highly.
- Over 60% of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *friendships*, compared to 40.4% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by two in five young adults (39.7%) compared with 28.8% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Between a quarter and a third of all age groups highly valued *physical and mental health* and *feeling valued and needed*.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	77.5	71.6	70.9
Friendships (other than family)	63.1	62.3	40.4
Being independent	28.8	34.8	39.7
Physical and mental health	30.6	29.7	25.7
Feeling needed and valued	25.0	25.3	34.0
School or study satisfaction	24.4	21.0	13.6
Getting a job	19.8	20.7	15.2
Financial security	11.9	15.9	29.4
Spirituality/faith	10.7	11.8	24.0
Making a difference in the community	8.8	7.9	11.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The major differences in what young people valued were in the areas of *school or study satisfaction*, *financial security* and *spirituality/faith*. The proportion of respondents who highly valued *school or study satisfaction* decreased with age, while the proportions of those who highly valued *financial security* and *spirituality/faith* increased with age.

- 29.4% of young adults highly valued *financial security*, compared to just 11.9% of 11 to 14 year olds.
- Around a quarter (24.4%) of 11 to 14 year olds highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, almost twice the proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (13.6%).
- Almost one in four (24.0%) 20 to 24 year old respondents highly valued *spirituality/faith* compared to about one in ten 11 to 19 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top three items were identical for both genders, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. A lower proportion of male than female respondents highly valued the first two items. Responses from both genders were very similar on a number of items, such as *being independent*, *feeling needed and valued* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- 79.9% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 69.0% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by just over two thirds (68.2%) of female respondents, and 56.2% of male respondents.
- Close to a third of male and female respondents highly valued *being independent*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.9	69.0
Friendships (other than family)	68.2	56.2
Being independent	31.3	32.8
Physical and mental health	27.8	32.3
Feeling needed and valued	24.6	25.9
School or study satisfaction	23.9	21.3
Getting a job	14.9	25.6
Financial security	11.5	17.1
Spirituality/faith	11.3	11.8
Making a difference in the community	7.8	9.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main differences by gender were the proportions who highly valued *getting a job* and *financial security*, with a greater proportion of males than females indicating they valued them.

- Almost a quarter (25.6%) of male respondents from Queensland compared with 14.9% of female respondents highly valued *getting a job*.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by 17.1% of males, compared with 11.5% of females.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for Queensland respondents were *drugs*, *suicide* and *body image*. These were also the top three issues nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from Queensland, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue of concern for Queensland respondents was *drugs*, with 27.8% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- Around a quarter (27.0%) of respondents from Queensland identified *suicide* as an issue of concern.
- A quarter (25.6%) of respondents also identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Alcohol*, *family conflict* and *physical/sexual abuse* were also identified by just under a quarter of Queensland respondents as major concerns.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	QLD 2009 %	National 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %
Drugs	27.8	26.8	24.3	19.5	N/A
Suicide	27.0	26.3	25.6	24.5	25.2
Body image	25.6	25.5	28.8	33.0	27.7
Alcohol	23.6	23.0	20.3	20.4	N/A
Family conflict	23.5	24.1	25.9	27.9	28.3
Physical/sexual abuse	23.0	22.7	22.5	21.8	28.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	21.9	23.4	22.0	21.4	26.4
Personal safety	21.6	22.2	23.2	N/A	N/A
Coping with stress	19.2	18.7	21.2	28.2	29.6
Depression	17.8	18.7	17.8	20.3	27.2
School or study problems	17.1	17.3	17.7	25.3	29.3
The environment	15.8	16.7	16.2	23.4	N/A
Self harm	14.7	13.3	14.4	14.3	19.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	12.0	11.4	12.8	9.7	15.1
Discrimination	11.2	11.7	11.4	12.3	18.7
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, *alcohol and other drug issues* appears as two items, *alcohol* and *drugs*.

The clustering of issues in Table 11 makes the age and gender breakdowns provided below of particular interest.

Age differences

Table 12 shows there were a number of differences in the top three issues identified by each age group. The proportion of respondents identifying *drugs* as a major concern declined significantly with age, as did concern about *alcohol* and *bullying/emotional abuse*. Conversely, the proportion of respondents identifying *coping with stress*, *depression* and *body image* as major concerns increased with age.

- *Drugs* was a major concern for nearly a third (30.8%) of 11 to 14 year olds, more than twice the proportion of 20 to 24 year olds (13.8%) who identified it as a concern.
- *Suicide* was the second-ranked issue for those aged 11 to 19 years, of whom just over a quarter indicated it was a major concern. One in five 20 to 24 year olds (22.1%) also viewed it as an issue of concern.
- Over 35% of young adults identified *coping with stress* and *depression* as major issues, compared with around 16% of 11 to 14 year olds.

- About a quarter (24.8%) of 11 to 14 year olds were concerned about *bullying/emotional abuse*, compared with 19.2% of 15 to 19 year olds and 13.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents identifying *body image* as a major concern increased from just under a quarter (23.1%) of 11 to 14 year olds to around a third (31.0%) of young adults.
- *Family conflict*, *physical/sexual abuse* and *personal safety* were each identified as issues of concern by between a fifth and a quarter of respondents across all groups.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	30.8	25.0	13.8
Suicide	26.8	27.5	22.1
Body image	23.1	27.7	31.0
Alcohol	23.6	23.8	12.4
Family conflict	24.2	22.9	23.5
Physical/sexual abuse	22.6	23.4	26.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.8	19.2	13.7
Personal safety	23.2	20.2	21.6
Coping with stress	17.3	20.4	37.4
Depression	15.0	20.1	35.1
School or study problems	16.6	17.9	14.6
The environment	18.4	13.0	15.0
Self harm	14.2	15.4	10.4
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	12.7	13.0
Discrimination	10.2	12.1	11.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *school or study problems* were of concern to similar proportions of respondents by gender. However, it also shows that there were some significant differences by gender in response to this question. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* and *body image* as issues of concern. Males, on the other hand, were more likely than females to identify *alcohol* and *drugs* as top concerns.

- Over a quarter (27.9%) of female respondents, compared with less than a fifth (17.9%) of male respondents, identified *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern.
- *Body image* was the second issue for female respondents, with 28.1% identifying it as a concern compared with 22.9% of male respondents.
- Males were more likely than females to identify *drugs* (29.8% compared with 25.7%) and *alcohol* (26.8% compared with 20.4%) as top concerns.
- Around a fifth of respondents from both groups identified *personal safety* as a major issue of concern, and almost a quarter of both groups identified *family conflict*.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	25.7	29.8
Suicide	28.5	25.6
Body image	28.1	22.9
Alcohol	20.4	26.8
Family conflict	23.7	23.4
Physical/sexual abuse	27.9	17.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.2	23.5
Personal safety	22.0	21.2
Coping with stress	20.9	17.4
Depression	19.3	16.3
School or study problems	16.6	17.7
The environment	13.9	17.7
Self harm	15.3	14.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.0	15.0
Discrimination	10.2	12.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Queensland respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with just under a quarter of respondents identifying it as a major source of advice.

- 84.8% of Queensland respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 84.5%.
- *Parents* were identified by about three quarters (73.1%) of respondents from Queensland as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (60.0%) Queensland respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	QLD 2009 %	National 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %
Friends	84.8	84.5	84.3	85.3	87.6
Parents	73.1	73.4	73.6	72.7	75.3
Relative/family friend	60.0	60.8	61.5	61.7	64.7
Internet	22.7	22.5	18.9	20.3	15.5
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.5	12.5	11.6	11.8	8.6
School counsellor	12.1	10.8	12.0	11.4	11.3
Magazines	11.3	11.0	10.6	12.7	14.0
Teacher	10.9	11.0	10.6	10.3	9.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.6	8.9	9.8	8.7	7.6
Telephone helpline	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item for all three age groups, although the proportion of respondents who identified it as a major source of advice and support increased with age.

- Over 80% of respondents from each age group identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- 77.1% of 11 to 14 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice, as did about 70% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- Over a half of all age groups identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice.
- The *internet* was identified as an important source of advice by 35.3% of young adults, nearly twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (18.2%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	82.8	86.8	85.1
Parents	77.1	69.4	70.9
Relative/family friend	62.2	58.3	56.9
Internet	18.2	26.6	35.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.1	13.8	13.2
School counsellor	13.6	10.8	5.3
Magazines	10.6	12.1	6.5
Teacher	12.2	9.7	5.3
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.2	8.5	16.3
Telephone helpline	6.2	4.9	5.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice.

- 89.9% of females and 79.7% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of both genders.
- Just under two thirds (65.0%) of female respondents, compared with 55.1% of male respondents, identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	89.9	79.7
Parents	75.0	71.2
Relative/family friend	65.0	55.1
Internet	17.3	28.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	7.7	17.4
School counsellor	12.3	11.8
Magazines	12.0	10.6
Teacher	9.7	12.1
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.8	9.4
Telephone helpline	4.8	6.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

A much higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that the *internet* and *community agencies* were key sources of advice and support.

- Over a quarter (28.0%) of male respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice, compared with 17.3% of female respondents.
- 17.4% of males identified *community agencies* as a major source of support, more than twice the proportion of females (7.7%).

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

86.6% of Queensland respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, very similar to the national figure of 86.5%. The responses by age and gender were very similar:

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009							2008
	QLD %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	QLD %
Enough information	86.6	86.5	87.0	86.4	83.1	86.5	86.6	83.7
Not enough information	13.4	13.5	13.0	13.6	16.9	13.5	13.4	16.3

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about, and a number of issues featured in their responses. These included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; depression; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self-harm; school and study; environmental issues; stress and anxiety; and family conflict.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they were involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Queensland respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined since 2008. These were also the top three activities nationally. Significant proportions of respondents also participated in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious* activities.

- Just under two thirds (62.4%) of respondents from Queensland participated in *sports (as a participant)*, and over a third (38.2%) participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- A quarter (25.3%) of Queensland respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Almost one in five respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs* (19.9%) and *religious* activities (18.2%).

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	QLD 2009 %	National 2009 %	QLD 2008 %	QLD 2007 %	QLD 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	62.4	64.2	65.3	67.1*	67.2*
Sports (as a spectator)	38.2	39.3	45.0		
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	25.3	23.4	45.6	43.2	44.8
Youth groups and clubs	19.9	20.3	31.5	26.3	25.9
Religious	18.2	20.0	31.2	23.8	23.1
Volunteer	17.7	18.5	21.7	20.1	21.9
Environmental	8.5	9.8	12.9	12.3	9.9
Student Representative Council	8.3	9.5	10.9	11.4	12.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that there were some differences between age groups in their levels of participation in different activities. Participation in *sports (as a participant)* declined significantly with age, while participation in *volunteer* activities increased with age.

- 69.0% of 11 to 14 year olds, 57.0% of 15 to 19 year olds and just 35.0% of 20 to 24 year olds indicated that they took part in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Around a quarter of all age groups participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Almost a third (31.3%) of 20 to 24 year olds, compared with less than a fifth of 11 to 19 year olds, were involved in *volunteer* activities.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	69.0	57.0	35.0
Sports (as a spectator)	37.6	39.5	27.5
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	25.7	25.0	27.5
Youth groups and clubs	19.9	19.9	21.9
Religious	18.7	17.6	22.5
Volunteer	15.2	19.7	31.3
Environmental	8.7	8.3	8.8
Student Representative Council	6.1	10.6	4.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in these activities. The third most popular activity for both groups was *arts/cultural* activities, although females were more likely than males to indicate that they participated in them. Participation rates for other activities were similar by gender:

- Over two thirds (68.3%) of male respondents and 56.2% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 44.5% of males and 31.6% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females (30.3%) were much more likely than males (20.6%) to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around one fifth of respondents from both genders participated in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	56.2	68.3
Sports (as a spectator)	31.6	44.5
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	30.3	20.6
Youth groups and clubs	19.8	19.9
Religious	16.8	19.6
Volunteer	18.5	17.0
Environmental	8.2	8.7
Student Representative Council	8.2	8.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most common response and comprised about 30% of the responses given. *Friends* and *sports teams, players and coaches* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	5,542	29.3
Friends	3,027	16.0
Sports teams, players and coaches	1,589	8.4
Entertainers	1,266	6.7
International aid organisations	1,033	5.5
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	841	4.4
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	776	4.1
Animal protection groups	667	3.5
Schools and their staff	584	3.1
Environmental groups	403	2.1
Businesses and business people	389	2.1
Protection agencies	333	1.8
Religious figures	303	1.6
Political organisations and figures	297	1.6
Youth organisations and leaders	252	1.3
Medical professionals and hospitals	248	1.3
Telephone helplines	156	0.8
Historical figures	151	0.8
Organisations and research supporting mental health	101	0.5
Myself	95	0.5
Confident/successful/hardworking people	60	0.3
Volunteers/donors	55	0.3
Community groups/organisations	40	0.2
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	37	0.2
Pets and other animals	37	0.2
Government and government departments	33	0.2
Employer/boss/manager/work colleague	32	0.2
Scientists and scientific organisations	23	0.1



South Australia summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

4,347 surveys were returned from South Australia (SA), which was 9.7% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from South Australia was aged 11 to 14 years (49.2%) followed by 15 to 19 years (47.7%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (135 or 3.1%) and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	2,114	49.2
15-19 years	2,052	47.7
20-24 years	135	3.1
Total	4,301	9.7% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

43.8% of respondents from South Australia were female and 56.2% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

203 or 4.7% of respondents from South Australia identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	203	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.5	6.1
Non Indigenous	4,092	95.3	95.0	95.3	95.5	93.9

Languages other than English spoken at home

87.5% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 544 (12.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 50 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Italian; Vietnamese; Chinese; Greek; Arabic; German; Cantonese; Filipino/Tagalog; French; Polish; and Indonesian.

Disability

163 or 3.7% of respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; autism; deafness or hearing impairment; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); and intellectual disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from South Australia (92.9%) were living *with family*, similar to the national figure of 93.2%.

48 young people who were living in *boarding school or university college* participated in the survey. 44 young people who were *homeless or in insecure housing* participated, as did 34 who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* and 28 who were in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	92.9	93.2	96.9	91.6	51.1
Share house including with friends	2.0	1.4	0.5	2.1	23.7
Boarding school or university college	1.2	2.1	0.5	1.9	0.8
Homeless/insecure housing	1.1	0.7	0.8	1.1	4.6
Alone	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.9	9.9
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.0
Foster care	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.0
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	8.4
Other	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.5

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, there was a relatively even spread of respondents living in and outside of the capital city and results for SA were similar to the national figures. Just over half (57.3%) of respondents from SA were living in the capital, Adelaide, with the remaining 42.7% living in other areas of the state. Table 4 shows that the proportion of young people living outside Adelaide declined with age and was lowest among the 20 to 24 year age group.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,447	57.3	56.4	46.6	66.7	83.7
Not in capital city	1,822	42.7	43.6	53.4	33.3	16.3

Main source of income

Parents/family were identified as the main source of income by a majority of respondents from South Australia (70.1%). A fifth (20.7%) relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a small proportion (8.1%) relied on *government allowance*.

Table 5 shows that respondents became less financially dependent on *parents/family* as they became older and found *employment* or were eligible for a *government allowance*.

Table 5: Main source of income

	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	70.1	73.1	89.3	53.6	11.1
Employment	20.7	21.9	8.5	32.2	44.4
Government allowance	8.1	4.1	1.2	13.2	41.3
No income	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.8
Other	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	2.4

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Four in five (83.3%) respondents from South Australia were *studying full time*, higher than the national figure of 74.1%. Unsurprisingly, 15 to 19 year olds were much more likely than 20 to 24 year olds to be *studying full time* (85.4% compared with 48.9%). About a third (30.8%) of young adults were *not studying*. Participation rates were similar for both genders.

Table 6: Participation in education

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	83.3	74.1	85.4	48.9	85.4	81.6
Studying part time	8.2	14.5	7.6	20.3	7.7	8.5
Not studying	8.5	11.4	7.1	30.8	6.8	9.9

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment and results for South Australia were very similar to the national results across all categories. About a quarter of the young adult group was *working full time*, compared to less than 2% of 15 to 19 year olds. However, around half of the younger group was *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Employment participation rates for males and females were similar.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	SA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	2.4	2.5	1.3	23.1	2.7	2.2
Working part time	21.4	22.0	21.6	16.9	21.5	21.2
Casual or temporary work	25.8	28.1	26.0	20.8	28.3	23.5
Unemployed/looking for work	31.4	26.8	31.7	25.4	29.8	32.8
Too young to work or choose not to	19.0	20.6	19.4	13.8	17.7	20.3

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Responses were very similar for SA respondents and their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. About a third of respondents from South Australia also highly valued *physical and mental health*.

- Close to three quarters (73.0%) of South Australian respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and over a half (55.9%) highly valued *friendships*.
- About a third of South Australian respondents indicated that they highly valued *being independent* (34.2%) and *physical and mental health* (30.4%).

Table 8: What young people value

	SA 2009 %	National 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %
Family relationships	73.0	75.6	73.6	75.1	70.9
Friendships (other than family)	55.9	60.6	62.3	60.0	65.7
Being independent	34.2	32.7	33.3	34.0	36.1
Physical and mental health	30.4	31.1	32.9	33.1	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	26.3	26.1	24.0	23.9	25.2
School or study satisfaction	22.6	22.0	19.9	18.0	26.3
Getting a job	21.5	18.1	19.8	18.7	23.2
Financial security	15.6	13.8	15.1	13.5	18.0
Spirituality/faith	11.9	12.8	10.1	13.0	11.8
Making a difference in the community	9.2	8.2	8.7	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	12.2
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Results for South Australian respondents were quite similar across the age groups. The top three items for all groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*, although the proportion who valued *friendships* declined with age.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by more than 70% of respondents in each age group.
- Over half of respondents aged 11 to 19 highly valued *friendships*, compared with around 40% of young adults.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by 31.0% of 11 to 14 year olds and 37.4% of 15 to 24 year olds.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	75.3	70.7	71.5
Friendships (other than family)	56.0	57.1	39.3
Being independent	31.0	37.4	37.4
Physical and mental health	30.2	30.6	24.8
Feeling needed and valued	26.0	26.0	36.1
School or study satisfaction	23.9	21.6	14.0
Getting a job	22.7	20.6	18.3
Financial security	14.9	15.6	27.9
Spirituality/faith	11.3	12.2	18.5
Making a difference in the community	10.1	8.0	14.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were some differences between the age groups, particularly when comparing those aged 11 to 19 with those aged 20 to 24. Young adult respondents were less likely than 11 to 19 year olds to highly value *physical and mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Conversely, they were more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to highly value *feeling needed and valued* and *financial security*.

- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by about 30% of 11 to 19 year olds, compared with just under a quarter (24.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds.

- Over one in five 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, compared with 14.0% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Over a third of young adult respondents (36.1%) compared with about a quarter (26.0%) of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.
- *Financial security* was highly valued by over a quarter (27.9%) of 20 to 24 year olds, compared with about 15% of 11 to 19 year olds.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences between the genders. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. *Being independent* was the third top item for both groups and highly valued by over 30% of each.

- 77.8% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 69.2% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by 61.2% of female respondents and 51.6% of male respondents.
- Around a third of male and female respondents highly valued *being independent*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	77.8	69.2
Friendships (other than family)	61.2	51.6
Being independent	32.1	36.0
Physical and mental health	29.8	30.8
Feeling needed and valued	27.3	25.4
School or study satisfaction	23.2	22.1
Getting a job	15.5	26.5
Financial security	14.0	16.9
Spirituality/faith	11.4	12.4
Making a difference in the community	8.2	9.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of male respondents who highly valued *getting a job* was much greater than that of female respondents.

- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (26.5% compared with 15.5%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for South Australian respondents were *drugs*, *alcohol* and *body image*. *Body image* and *drugs* were also in the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from South Australia, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue of concern for South Australian respondents was *drugs*, with 28.7% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- Just over a quarter (27.5%) of respondents from South Australia identified *alcohol* as an issue of concern.
- Close to a quarter (27.3%) of respondents also identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse* and *suicide* were also identified by a quarter of South Australian respondents as major concerns (25.7% and 25.1% respectively).

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	SA 2009 %	National 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %
Drugs	28.7	26.8	29.5	21.5	N/A
Alcohol	27.5	23.0	21.7	22.7	N/A
Body image	27.3	25.5	24.6	34.6	27.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.7	23.4	22.1	21.7	28.5
Suicide	25.1	26.3	24.2	26.4	28.7
Family conflict	22.1	24.1	24.2	26.0	27.3
Physical/sexual abuse	20.8	22.7	21.7	21.4	27.0
Personal safety	20.3	22.2	21.3	N/A	N/A
The environment	18.7	16.7	20.9	24.0	N/A
Depression	18.0	18.7	18.0	17.3	26.1
Coping with stress	17.3	18.7	20.1	25.3	26.6
School or study problems	15.6	17.3	18.3	24.0	25.6
Self harm	11.5	13.3	13.4	14.8	21.3
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	11.1	11.4	11.1	10.4	12.0
Discrimination	10.8	11.7	12.1	11.5	17.9
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. The top issue for 11 to 14 year olds was very clearly *drugs*, while for 15 to 19 year olds it was *body image* and for 20 to 24 year olds, *coping with stress*. The second and third-ranked items for both the 11 to 14 and 15 to 19 year age groups were *alcohol* and *bullying/emotional abuse* respectively. *Body image* and *the environment* were the second and third ranked items for the young adult group.

- 11 to 14 year olds were more than twice as likely as 20 to 24 year olds to identify *drugs* as a major concern (35.2% compared with 14.8%).
- *Coping with stress* was identified as a significant area of concern by a third (33.9%) of young adult respondents, compared with about one in ten (12.5%) 11 to 14 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents indicating that *alcohol* was a major concern declined with age, from 29.9% of 11 to 14 year olds to 25.2% of 15 to 19 year olds and 22.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Around a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds identified *bullying/emotional abuse* as a major concern, compared with a fifth of 20 to 24 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents identifying *body image* as a major issue increased with age, from about a quarter (24.5%) of 11 to 14 year olds to around 30% of 15 to 24 year olds.
- About 30% of young adults compared to 16.4% of 15 to 19 year olds and 20.3% of 11 to 14 year olds indicated *the environment* was a major issue.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	35.2	22.8	14.8
Alcohol	29.9	25.2	22.7
Body image	24.5	30.1	31.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	27.1	24.6	20.3
Suicide	26.6	23.8	22.5
Family conflict	22.9	21.5	15.8
Physical/sexual abuse	21.0	20.6	19.0
Personal safety	21.4	19.4	16.2
The environment	20.3	16.4	29.7
Depression	14.5	21.3	26.9
Coping with stress	12.5	21.1	33.9
School or study problems	14.1	17.2	12.4
Self harm	10.0	13.0	11.0
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.6	11.5	14.3
Discrimination	9.4	11.9	11.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences between the age groups included the proportion of each who were concerned about *family conflict* and *depression*. Substantial proportions of young people across the age groups were significantly concerned about *physical/sexual abuse* and *suicide*.

- Almost a quarter (22.9%) of 11 to 14 year olds identified *family conflict* as a top concern, compared with 15.8% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Depression* was more likely to be a major concern for the older age groups, with over a quarter (26.9%) of 20 to 24 year olds, compared with 14.5% of 11 to 14 year olds, identifying it as a major issue.
- Around a quarter of all age groups were concerned about *suicide* and one in five about *physical/sexual abuse*.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *body image*, *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *coping with stress*, were of concern to similar proportions of respondents in both groups. There were also some significant differences by gender in response to this question. Female respondents were much more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as a major issue of concern. Males, on the other hand, were much more likely than females to identify *alcohol*.

- Male respondents (32.3%) were much more likely than female respondents (21.5%) to identify *alcohol* as a major issue of concern.
- Females were more likely than males to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as an important concern (26.4% compared with 16.3%).
- *Body image* was a major concern for over a quarter of both genders and was the top-ranked item for females and the third item for males.
- 26.3% of females identified *drugs* as an issue of concern, as did 30.7% of males.
- Around a quarter of both genders identified *bullying/emotional abuse* and *suicide* as major concerns.
- About a fifth of respondents from both groups identified *family conflict* and *personal safety* as major issues of concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	26.3	30.7
Alcohol	21.5	32.3
Body image	27.7	26.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.8	25.7
Suicide	25.8	24.5
Family conflict	21.8	22.2
Physical/sexual abuse	26.4	16.3
Personal safety	20.8	19.8
The environment	16.2	20.8
Depression	20.4	16.1
Coping with stress	18.5	16.3
School or study problems	16.2	15.1
Self harm	13.4	9.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.3	11.9
Discrimination	9.4	11.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for South Australian respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item. Results for all items for South Australia were very similar to results nationally.

- 81.2% of South Australian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 84.5%.
- *Parents* were identified by over two thirds (70.6%) of respondents from South Australia as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (60.0%) South Australian respondents identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	SA 2009 %	National 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %
Friends	81.2	84.5	84.4	84.8	85.5
Parents	70.6	73.4	74.3	73.0	76.3
Relative/family friend	60.0	60.8	62.7	65.2	64.9
Internet	22.9	22.5	19.1	17.9	17.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	16.3	12.5	12.0	12.2	9.8
Teacher	12.5	11.0	10.2	8.7	9.1
School counsellor	11.2	10.8	11.3	10.2	12.0
Magazines	10.5	11.0	11.4	12.1	12.4
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	9.3	8.9	7.3	8.6	7.8
Telephone helpline	7.1	5.9	6.0	7.0	6.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportions of each group who identified *friends* as a major source of advice were similar, while the proportions who identified *parents* and *relative/family friend* declined somewhat with age.

- Close to four in five respondents from all age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- Three quarters (76.6%) of 11 to 14 year olds and just over half (56.2%) of 20 to 24 year olds identified *parents* as a major source of advice.
- About two thirds of 11 to 14 year olds identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice and support, compared to half of 20 to 24 year olds.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	78.8	83.8	79.5
Parents	76.6	65.3	56.2
Relative/family friend	63.7	56.8	50.0
Internet	17.4	27.7	33.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	14.1	18.2	24.3
Teacher	13.8	11.2	9.0
School counsellor	11.1	11.5	6.6
Magazines	9.0	12.1	10.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.1	9.8	23.0
Telephone helpline	8.2	5.8	7.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main differences were in the proportion of each group who identified the *internet* and *community agencies* as main sources of advice and support.

- A third (33.1%) of young adults identified the *internet* as a top source of advice, nearly twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (17.4%).
- The proportion of respondents who identified *community agencies* as a main source of advice and support also increased with age, from 14.1% of 11 to 14 year olds to 24.3% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of support, while females were more likely than males to indicate that *friends* or *relative/family friend* were important sources of advice. Males were more likely than females to indicate that the *internet* was a major source of advice.

- 85.5% of females and 77.7% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for about 70% of both genders.
- Just under two thirds (64.3%) of female respondents and 56.5% of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a major source of advice and support.
- Around a quarter of males (27.3%) compared with around a fifth of females (17.4%) indicated the *internet* was a main source of advice.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	85.5	77.7
Parents	72.3	69.3
Relative/family friend	64.3	56.5
Internet	17.4	27.3
Community agencies eg youth worker	12.4	19.5
Teacher	10.8	13.8
School counsellor	11.4	11.1
Magazines	12.7	8.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.2	10.2
Telephone helpline	5.8	8.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

87.2% of South Australian respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, very similar to the national figure of 86.5%. A higher percentage of 20 to 24 year olds than 11 to 19 year olds (21.5% compared with about 12%) indicated they did not have enough information. The responses by gender were very similar:

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009							2008
	SA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	SA %
Enough information	87.2	86.5	88.0	87.0	78.5	86.9	87.5	85.7
Not enough information	12.8	13.5	12.0	13.0	21.5	13.1	12.5	14.3

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; depression; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self-harm; environmental issues; bullying; stress and anxiety; and family conflict.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top two activities for South Australian respondents were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. *Youth groups and clubs* was the third most popular activity for respondents from SA., while nationally it was *arts/cultural* activities. SA respondents' participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined substantially since 2008.

- Two thirds (65.5%) of respondents from South Australia participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did two in five (41.2%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Around a fifth of South Australian respondents indicated that they participated in *youth groups and clubs*, *religious* and *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	SA 2009 %	National 2009 %	SA 2008 %	SA 2007 %	SA 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	65.5	64.2	68.3	63.8*	70.3*
Sports (as a spectator)	41.2	39.3	50.1		
Youth groups and clubs	19.2	20.3	22.3	25.8	24.8
Religious	18.3	20.0	20.3	19.8	19.9
Volunteer	18.2	18.5	19.7	21.1	19.4
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	17.6	23.4	35.4	35.2	40.1
Student Representative Council	12.6	9.5	12.3	14.9	13.9
Environmental	8.7	9.8	11.8	11.7	10.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that there were some significant differences by age. Participation in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* declined with age, although it was a major activity for all three groups. Conversely, participation in *youth groups and clubs*, *religious activities* and *volunteer activities* increased with age.

- Participation in *sports (as a participant)* declined from three quarters (76.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds to two fifths (40.0%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Participation in *sports (as a spectator)* also declined with age, from 45.8% of 11 to 14 year olds to 21.5% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Volunteer activities* were the most popular item for 20 to 24 year olds, with two in five (41.5%) indicating they participated in them. This compares with 14.7% of 11 to 14 year old respondents.
- Young adults (28.9%) were much more likely than those aged 11 to 19 (around 20%) to take part in *youth groups and clubs*.
- Young adults were also more likely than younger respondents to participate in *religious activities* (25.9% of 20 to 24 year olds compared with 19.2% of 11 to 14 year olds).

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	76.7	56.1	40.0
Sports (as a spectator)	45.8	38.2	21.5
Youth groups and clubs	17.6	20.2	28.9
Religious	19.2	16.9	25.9
Volunteer	14.7	20.4	41.5
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	16.0	19.1	20.7
Student Representative Council	13.0	12.5	10.4
Environmental	8.8	8.3	12.6

* Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. The third activity for females was *volunteer activities*, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- 70.4% of male respondents and 59.1% of female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 45.3% of males and 36.0% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Close to a fifth of both groups participated in *youth groups and clubs* and *religious activities*.
- 20.1% of females and 16.6% of males participated in *volunteer activities*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	59.1	70.4
Sports (as a spectator)	36.0	45.3
Youth groups and clubs	19.1	19.3
Religious	18.2	18.4
Volunteer	20.1	16.6
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	19.5	16.1
Student Representative Council	13.5	11.9
Environmental	7.9	9.3

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. *Family* members were the most common response and comprised about 30% of the responses given. *Friends* and *sports teams, players and coaches* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	2,847	30.1
Friends	1,659	17.6
Sports teams, players and coaches	972	10.3
Entertainers	640	6.8
International aid organisations	417	4.4
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	335	3.5
Animal protection groups	322	3.4
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	303	3.2
Schools and their staff	220	2.3
Protection agencies	192	2.0
Businesses and business people	166	1.8
Political organisations and figures	150	1.6
Medical professionals and hospitals	123	1.3
Environmental groups	120	1.3
Youth organisations and leaders	119	1.3
Religious figures	91	1.0
Organisations and research supporting mental health	76	0.8
Myself	67	0.7
Telephone helplines	59	0.6
Historical figures	56	0.6
Community groups/organisations	39	0.4
Confident/successful/hardworking people	32	0.3
Volunteers/donors	26	0.3



Tasmania summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

2,208 surveys were returned from Tasmania, which was 4.9% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Tasmania was aged 15 to 19 years (56.5%) followed by those aged 11 to 14 years (42.7%). Only a very small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (19 or 0.9%) and therefore results for this group have been omitted from the age-specific tables in this chapter.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	932	42.7
15-19 years	1,233	56.5
20-24 years	19	0.9
Total	2,184	4.9% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

58.1% of respondents from Tasmania were female and 41.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

75 or 3.5% of respondents from Tasmania identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Indigenous	75	3.5	5.0	3.1	3.4
Non Indigenous	2,086	96.5	95.0	96.9	96.6

Languages other than English spoken at home

Around 93.8% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 137 (6.2%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 35 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Japanese; German; Chinese; Korean; Italian; French; and Cantonese.

Disability

31 (1.4%) respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); deafness or hearing impairment; and physical disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Tasmania (93.2%) were living with family, the same as the national figure.

74 people who were living in boarding school or university college participated in the survey. 16 people in a juvenile justice centre or prison also participated, as did 11 young people who were homeless or in insecure housing, and six who were in foster care.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
With family	93.2	93.2	96.1	91.9
Boarding school or university college	3.5	2.1	2.3	4.5
Share house including with friends	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.2
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.8	1.0	0.3	1.1
Homeless/insecure housing	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.7
Alone	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.2
Foster care	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, the majority of Tasmanian respondents (69.8%) were living in the capital, Hobart, with around 30% living in other areas of the state. Responses were similar for both age groups.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Live in capital city	1,519	69.8	56.4	70.9	69.6
Not in capital city	656	30.2	43.6	29.1	30.4

Main source of income

Parents/family were identified as the main source of income by a majority (75.5%) of respondents from Tasmania. Reliance on employment or government allowance as the main source of income increased with age.

Table 5: Main source of income

	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Parents/family	75.5	73.1	90.7	64.8
Employment	20.6	21.9	7.8	29.7
Government allowance	3.2	4.1	0.6	5.1
No income	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.3
Other	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Four in five (84.0%) respondents from Tasmania were *studying full time*, above the national figure of 74.1%. Females were more likely than males to be *studying full time* (89.5% compared with 76.0%), while males were more likely than females to be *studying part time* (13.5% compared with 5.2%) or *not studying* (10.5% compared with 5.3%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	84.0	74.1	89.5	76.0
Studying part time	8.6	14.5	5.2	13.5
Not studying	7.4	11.4	5.3	10.5

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment, with almost half of Tasmanian respondents either in *casual or temporary work* or *working part time*. A small proportion of Tasmanian respondents (1.3%) were *working full time*. Employment participation rates for males and females were similar, although females were more likely than males to have *casual or temporary work* (36.2% compared with 25.4%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	TAS %	National %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.3	2.5	1.7	0.8
Working part time	15.6	22.0	14.3	17.4
Casual or temporary work	31.8	28.1	36.2	25.4
Unemployed/looking for work	27.3	26.8	26.1	29.1
Too young to work or choose not to	24.0	20.6	21.7	27.3

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. The top three items for Tasmanian respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*. Nationally, the third-ranked item was *being independent*.

- Almost three quarters (72.3%) of Tasmanian respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and two thirds (65.3%) highly valued *friendships*.
- Over a third (37.0%) of respondents from Tasmania highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* (33.6%) and *feeling needed and valued* (25.2%) were also highly valued by a substantial proportion of Tasmanian respondents.

Table 8: What young people value

	TAS 2009 %	National 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %
Family relationships	72.3	75.6	73.4	73.5	67.7
Friendships (other than family)	65.3	60.6	62.8	61.4	64.3
Physical and mental health	37.0	31.1	33.3	34.6	N/A
Being independent	33.6	32.7	35.6	32.6	39.5
Feeling needed and valued	25.2	26.1	27.2	26.2	27.8
School or study satisfaction	21.4	22.0	19.3	18.7	21.5
Getting a job	16.4	18.1	19.7	17.8	31.5
Financial security	14.7	13.8	13.5	13.8	16.8
Spirituality/faith	7.8	12.8	9.2	11.7	8.9
Making a difference in the community	7.2	8.2	7.0	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8	12.1
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Results for Tasmanian respondents were similar across the age groups. The top three items for both groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by both age groups, with just over 70% of each group valuing them highly.
- Around two thirds of both groups highly valued *friendships* (67.4% of 11 to 14 year olds and 63.8% of 15 to 19 year olds).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by about 37% of both age groups.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Family relationships	73.8	71.0
Friendships (other than family)	67.4	63.8
Physical and mental health	37.2	37.1
Being independent	30.8	35.5
Feeling needed and valued	25.6	24.7
School or study satisfaction	22.8	20.8
Getting a job	18.1	15.4
Financial security	11.9	16.7
Spirituality/faith	7.4	8.0
Making a difference in the community	6.4	7.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Significant proportions of both groups highly valued *being independent* and *feeling needed and valued*.

- Over 30% of both groups highly valued *being independent*.
- Around a quarter of both groups highly valued *feeling needed and valued*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences by gender. *Family relationships*, *friendships* and *physical and mental health* were the top three items for each group, but the proportions varied by gender. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by a higher proportion of females than males, while a higher proportion of males than females highly valued *physical and mental health*. *Being independent* was highly valued by about a third of both groups, and *feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by about a quarter of both groups.

- Over three quarters (77.7%) of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did around two thirds (64.6%) of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by just over two thirds (69.7%) of female respondents and around three in five (59.1%) male respondents.
- Male respondents (41.8%) were more likely than female respondents (33.8%) to highly value *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by about a third of both female and male respondents.
- *Feeling needed and valued* was highly valued by about a quarter of both groups.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	77.7	64.6
Friendships (other than family)	69.7	59.1
Physical and mental health	33.8	41.8
Being independent	32.8	34.8
Feeling needed and valued	25.2	25.3
School or study satisfaction	22.9	19.1
Getting a job	12.1	22.7
Financial security	12.7	17.5
Spirituality/faith	6.9	9.1
Making a difference in the community	6.5	8.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The proportion of male respondents who highly valued *getting a job* was much higher than that of female respondents. Male respondents were also slightly more likely than female respondents to highly value *financial security*.

- Male respondents were much more likely than female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (22.7% compared with 12.1%).
- A higher proportion of male respondents (17.5%) than female respondents (12.7%) highly valued *financial security*.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for Tasmanian respondents were *physical/sexual abuse*, *suicide* and *drugs*. *Suicide* and *drugs* were also in the top three issues identified nationally. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from Tasmania, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five.

- The top issue of concern for Tasmanian respondents was *physical/sexual abuse*, with 27.1% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- *Suicide* (25.9%) and *drugs* (25.5%) were the second and third-ranked issues of concern respectively for respondents from Tasmania.
- *Body image* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were also identified by about a quarter of Tasmanian respondents as major concerns.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	TAS 2009 %	National 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %
Physical/sexual abuse	27.1	22.7	27.4	23.2	25.9
Suicide	25.9	26.3	25.9	27.6	26.1
Drugs	25.5	26.8	26.3	21.5	N/A
Body image	25.0	25.5	27.1	32.4	27.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.2	23.4	24.2	24.2	31.9
Family conflict	22.0	24.1	22.7	26.1	22.7
Depression	20.5	18.7	20.7	22.9	27.6
Personal safety	20.1	22.2	19.2	N/A	N/A
The environment	19.7	16.7	18.4	20.1	N/A
Alcohol	19.3	23.0	20.8	20.7	N/A
Coping with stress	18.2	18.7	17.1	24.4	24.4
School or study problems	16.5	17.3	15.3	23.1	19.9
Discrimination	14.1	11.7	11.8	12.2	23.1
Self harm	13.9	13.3	14.4	16.7	23.9
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.7	11.4	11.1	8.0	17.2
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the issues of concern by age. *Physical/sexual abuse* was the only issue to appear in the top three concerns of both groups. *Drugs* were a concern to a much higher proportion of respondents aged 11 to 14 than those aged 15 to 19. *Depression* was a concern for a higher proportion of 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds. Similar proportions of both groups indicated a range of issues including *suicide* and *body image* were of significant concern.

- *Drugs* were of concern to a much higher proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (31.6%) than those aged 15 to 19 (21.0%).
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was identified as a major concern by just over a quarter of both 11 to 14 year olds (26.5%) and 15 to 19 year olds (27.7%).
- *Suicide* was also a concern for around a quarter of both groups (24.9% of 11 to 14 year olds and 26.9% of 15 to 19 years) and was the second-ranked issue for those aged 15 to 19.
- Around a quarter (22.6%) of 15 to 19 year olds and a fifth (17.4%) of 11 to 14 year olds were concerned about *depression*.
- A similar proportion of respondents from both groups were concerned about *body image* (24.3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 25.1% of 15 to 19 year olds).

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Physical/sexual abuse	26.5	27.7
Suicide	24.9	26.9
Drugs	31.6	21.0
Body image	24.3	25.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	26.2	22.7
Family conflict	24.0	20.7
Depression	17.4	22.6
Personal safety	22.1	19.0
The environment	20.3	18.9
Alcohol	19.7	18.7
Coping with stress	15.7	19.8
School or study problems	15.5	17.6
Discrimination	11.8	15.9
Self harm	12.7	15.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.6	9.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *suicide* and *bullying/emotional abuse* were of concern to similar proportions of respondents. However, there were also some differences by gender. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* and *body image* as issues of concern. Males, on the other hand, were more likely than females to identify *drugs* and *alcohol*.

- One in three female respondents (32.0%) identified *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern, compared with one in five male respondents (20.0%).
- *Body image* was a concern for a quarter of female (27.6%) and a fifth of male (21.3%) respondents.
- Males were more likely than females to identify *drugs* (29.1% compared to 23.0%) and *alcohol* (22.5% compared to 17.2%) as issues of concern.
- *Suicide* was a major concern for around a quarter of both genders (26.6% of females and 24.9% of males).
- Almost a quarter of both genders also identified *bullying/emotional abuse* as a major issue (23.9% of females and 24.6% of males).

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Physical/sexual abuse	32.0	20.0
Suicide	26.6	24.9
Drugs	23.0	29.1
Body image	27.6	21.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.9	24.6
Family conflict	21.4	22.8
Depression	21.0	19.9
Personal safety	19.8	20.6
The environment	18.7	20.9
Alcohol	17.2	22.5
Coping with stress	18.3	18.0
School or study problems	16.6	16.3
Discrimination	13.3	15.1
Self harm	14.0	13.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	7.9	12.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Tasmanian respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with just over one in five respondents identifying it as a major source of advice. Results on all items for Tasmania were very similar to results nationally.

- 87.3% of Tasmanian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were identified by about three quarters (74.8%) of respondents from Tasmania as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (59.8%) Tasmanian respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	TAS 2009 %	National 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %
Friends	87.3	84.5	85.9	86.6	83.8
Parents	74.8	73.4	73.6	71.7	70.0
Relative/family friend	59.8	60.8	60.2	61.6	61.4
Internet	22.8	22.5	19.1	19.4	22.1
Magazines	12.2	11.0	12.3	13.9	13.8
Teacher	11.1	11.0	10.6	10.6	9.2
School counsellor	10.6	10.8	11.9	10.7	13.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.0	12.5	10.9	12.7	14.6
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.3	8.9	8.7	7.3	7.9
Telephone helpline	4.8	5.9	6.4	5.8	5.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*.

The proportions of each group who identified *friends* as a major source were very similar. The proportion who identified *relative/family friend* was slightly lower for 15 to 19 year olds than 11 to 14 year olds. The older group was more likely than those aged 11 to 14 years to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- Over 86% of respondents from both age groups identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were identified as a major source of advice by around three quarters of both age groups.
- *Relative/family friend* was identified by 62.7% of 11 to 14 year olds and 57.3% of 15 to 19 year olds.
- 26.8% of the older group compared with 17.6% of the younger group identified the *internet* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Friends	86.3	88.4
Parents	78.5	72.0
Relative/family friend	62.7	57.3
Internet	17.6	26.8
Magazines	12.2	12.4
Teacher	14.5	8.5
School counsellor	11.9	9.7
Community agencies eg youth worker	6.9	12.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	5.9	9.5
Telephone helpline	4.4	5.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. Similar proportions of both groups identified *parents* as a major source of advice and support, while females were more likely than males to identify *friends* or *relative/family friend*. A higher proportion of males than females indicated the *internet* was a major source of advice.

- 91.0% of females and 82.1% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for around three quarters of both genders.
- Around two thirds (63.3%) of female respondents and just over half (54.7%) of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a main source of advice and support.
- Males were much more likely than females to identify the *internet* (28.4% compared to 18.8%) as a source of advice.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	91.0	82.1
Parents	75.6	73.7
Relative/family friend	63.3	54.7
Internet	18.8	28.4
Magazines	13.3	10.6
Teacher	10.3	12.1
School counsellor	9.6	12.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	6.9	14.7
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.4	9.5
Telephone helpline	4.1	5.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

89.0% of Tasmanian respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, an increase on the 2008 figure of 81.7%. The responses by age and gender were very similar.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009						2008
	TAS %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	Female %	Male %	TAS %
Enough information	89.0	86.5	88.4	89.8	88.4	89.9	81.7
Not enough information	11.0	13.5	11.6	10.3	11.6	10.1	18.3

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about. A number of issues featured in their responses, which included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; environmental issues; stress and anxiety; depression; sexuality and sex education; bullying; school and study; and suicide and self-harm.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Tasmanian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined since 2008. These were also the top three activities nationally. About a fifth of Tasmanian respondents also participated in *volunteer* activities.

- 74.0% of respondents from Tasmania participated in *sports (as a participant)*, higher than the national figure of 64.2%.
- *Sports (as a spectator)* was the second most popular activity among Tasmanian respondents, with 44.4% participating.
- A third (31.0%) of Tasmanian respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- One in five (21.9%) Tasmanian respondents participated in *volunteer* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	TAS 2009 %	National 2009 %	TAS 2008 %	TAS 2007 %	TAS 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	74.0	64.2	69.9	71.5*	61.4*
Sports (as a spectator)	44.4	39.3	46.1		
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	31.0	23.4	44.3	46.0	38.4
Volunteer	21.9	18.5	20.0	21.3	22.3
Youth groups and clubs	18.3	20.3	24.6	29.1	28.1
Environmental	12.4	9.8	13.0	11.5	12.2
Religious	11.0	20.0	15.0	19.0	13.8
Student Representative Council	9.2	9.5	10.6	13.9	13.9

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Results for Tasmania were similar to those nationally on most other items, with the exception of *religious* activities.

- Tasmanian respondents (11.0%) were much less likely than respondents nationally (20.0%) to take part in *religious* activities.

Age differences

Table 19 shows the differences and similarities by age. The top three activities for both groups were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the proportion of those participating in the *sports* activities varied with age.

- Four in five (81.2%) 11 to 14 year olds and just over two thirds (69.3%) of 15 to 19 year olds indicated that they took part in *sports (as a participant)*.
- *Sports (as a spectator)* was the second most popular activity for both age groups, with 41.0% of 11 to 14 year olds and 46.8% of 15 to 19 year olds participating.
- Around a third of both age groups participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- A quarter (25.2%) of 15 to 19 year olds participated in *volunteer* activities, compared with 17.1% of 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	81.2	69.3
Sports (as a spectator)	41.0	46.8
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	31.0	31.2
Volunteer	17.1	25.2
Youth groups and clubs	18.6	17.9
Environmental	12.6	11.7
Religious	12.3	10.1
Student Representative Council	5.4	12.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top three activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *arts/cultural* activities, although the proportions varied by gender.

- Over 70% of both genders participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Half (50.4%) of males and two fifths (40.1%) of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females (38.0%) were much more likely than males (21.3%) to indicate that they took part in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	71.9	77.1
Sports (as a spectator)	40.1	50.4
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	38.0	21.3
Volunteer	25.2	17.3
Youth groups and clubs	16.5	20.8
Environmental	12.9	11.6
Religious	11.5	10.3
Student Representative Council	9.4	9.1

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

There were also differences in the proportions of each gender who participated in *volunteer* activities and *youth groups and clubs*.

- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to participate in *volunteer* activities (25.2% compared to 17.3%).
- Males were somewhat more likely than females to participate in *youth groups and clubs* (20.8% compared with 16.5%).

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. *Family* members were the most common response and comprised 22.3% of the responses given. *Friends* and *sports teams, players and coaches* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	1,151	22.3
Friends	753	14.6
Sports teams, players and coaches	463	9.0
International aid organisations	435	8.4
Entertainers	398	7.7
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	309	6.0
Animal protection groups	300	5.8
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	215	4.2
Political organisations and figures	166	3.2
Environmental groups	129	2.5
Businesses and business people	106	2.0
Organisations and research supporting mental health	101	2.0
Schools and their staff	94	1.8
Medical professionals and hospitals	73	1.4
Youth organisations and leaders	68	1.3
Religious figures	55	1.1
Historical figures	42	0.8
Protection agencies	39	0.8
Confident/successful/hardworking people	35	0.7
Volunteers/donors	17	0.3
Telephone helplines	16	0.3
Community groups/organisations	14	0.3
Myself	13	0.3
Sick and disabled people, people in difficult times	11	0.2
Pets and other animals	10	0.2
Scientists and scientific organisations	10	0.2



Victoria summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

6,748 surveys were returned from Victoria, which was 15.0% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from the Victoria was aged 11 to 14 years (56.3%) followed by 15 to 19 years (42.4%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (87, or 1.3%), and results for this group should be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	3,766	56.3
15-19 years	2,837	42.4
20-24 years	87	1.3
Total	6,690	15.0% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

59.9% of respondents from Victoria were female and 40.1% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

123 or 1.8% of respondents from Victoria identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	123	1.8	5.0	1.6	2.1	4.6
Non Indigenous	6,540	98.2	95.0	98.4	97.9	95.4

Languages other than English spoken at home

83.5% of respondents indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 1,111 (16.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 70 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Chinese; Greek; Cantonese; Vietnamese; Italian; Mandarin; Filipino/Tagalog; Arabic; and French.

Disability

151 or 2.2% of respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; autism; deafness or hearing impairment; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); and physical disability.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Victoria (95.8%) were living *with family*, slightly above the national figure of 93.2%.

62 young people who were living in *boarding school or university college* participated in the survey. 38 young people who were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison* also participated, as did 29 young people who were in foster care and 26 who were *homeless or in insecure housing*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	95.8	93.2	97.6	94.8	55.3
Share house including with friends	1.2	1.4	0.5	1.4	22.4
Boarding school or university college	1.0	2.1	0.5	1.5	2.4
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.8	1.2
Foster care	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0
Homeless/insecure housing	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.0
Alone	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	8.2
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	10.6
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0

Living in or outside a capital city

As shown in Table 4, a majority of Victorian respondents (54.5%) were living in the state capital, Melbourne, although the proportion varied with age. Over two thirds (69.0%) of those aged 20 to 24 were living in the capital, compared with 59.6% of 11 to 14 year olds and 47.3% of 15 to 19 year olds. A significant proportion (45.5%) of responses came from areas outside of Melbourne.

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	3,610	54.5	56.4	59.6	47.3	69.0
Not in capital city	3,015	45.5	43.6	40.4	52.7	31.0

Main source of income

Parents/family were identified as the main source of income by a majority (77.5%) of respondents from Victoria. 17.5% of Victorian respondents relied on *employment* as their main source of income, and a small proportion (3.9%) relied on *government allowance*. These figures are comparable to the national results. Reliance on *employment* or *government allowance* as the main source of income increased with age.

Table 5: Main source of income

	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	77.5	73.1	91.5	60.7	16.3
Employment	17.5	21.9	6.0	31.7	54.7
Government allowance	3.9	4.1	1.0	7.0	26.7
Other	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.1	2.3
No income	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Four in five (80.0%) respondents from Victoria were *studying full time*, slightly higher than the national figure of 74.1%. Females were much more likely than males to be *studying full time* (84.8% compared with 72.8%), while males were more likely than females to be *studying part time* (15.2% compared with 9.3%). Around a quarter of the young adult group was *not studying*, compared with around one third of this group nationally.

Table 6: Participation in education

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	80.0	74.1	80.8	52.9	84.8	72.8
Studying part time	11.7	14.5	11.4	19.5	9.3	15.2
Not studying	8.3	11.4	7.8	27.6	6.0	12.0

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. Just over a quarter (26.1%) of respondents from Victoria had *casual or temporary work* and a further quarter (23.3%) were *working part time*. A small proportion (1.2%) were *working full time*. Unsurprisingly, 20 to 24 year olds were much more likely than 15 to 19 year olds to be *working full time* (25.3% compared with 0.4%), although they did so at lower rates than their national counterparts (33.8%). Employment participation rates for males and females were similar, although males were more likely than females to be *unemployed/looking for work* (32.2% compared with 26.1%).

Table 7: Participation in employment

	VIC %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	1.2	2.5	0.4	25.3	1.4	0.9
Working part time	23.3	22.0	23.3	26.4	22.7	24.2
Casual or temporary work	26.1	28.1	26.4	18.4	26.9	24.8
Unemployed/looking for work	28.5	26.8	28.8	17.2	26.1	32.2
Too young to work or choose not to	20.9	20.6	21.1	12.6	22.9	17.8

Detailed results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. Responses were very similar for Victorian respondents and their national counterparts, with the top three items for both being *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*. *Physical and mental health* and *feeling needed and valued* were the fourth and fifth-ranked items respectively, and were each highly valued by about 30% of respondents from Victoria.

- Three quarters (76.0%) of Victorian respondents highly valued *family relationships*, and three in five (60.7%) highly valued *friendships*.
- Around 30% of Victorian respondents indicated that they highly valued *being independent* (32.3%), *physical and mental health* (31.8%) and *feeling needed and valued* (28.6%).

Table 8: What young people value

	VIC 2009 %	National 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %
Family relationships	76.0	75.6	75.9	75.7	70.0
Friendships (other than family)	60.7	60.6	64.3	61.9	66.0
Being independent	32.3	32.7	30.8	32.9	38.1
Physical and mental health	31.8	31.1	33.8	32.0	N/A
Feeling needed and valued	28.6	26.1	26.5	26.6	31.0
School or study satisfaction	21.6	22.0	22.7	20.6	24.7
Getting a job	16.9	18.1	14.7	16.1	20.4
Financial security	12.9	13.8	12.7	12.5	15.8
Spirituality/faith	11.4	12.8	10.6	12.8	10.5
Making a difference in the community	8.2	8.2	7.6	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.2	13.2
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three items for all three age groups were the same, namely *family relationships*, *friendships* and *being independent*, with the proportion valuing *friendships* varying by age. Around 30% of all age groups highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were clearly ranked first by all age groups, and were highly valued by more than 70% of respondents in each group.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by close to three fifths of 11 to 19 year olds, and just over two fifths (43.7%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Being independent* and *physical and mental health* were each highly valued by around 30% of each age group.

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	77.6	73.9	72.4
Friendships (other than family)	59.5	62.8	43.7
Being independent	30.7	34.3	34.5
Physical and mental health	30.7	33.5	28.7
Feeling needed and valued	28.4	28.8	32.6
School or study satisfaction	23.8	18.8	16.1
Getting a job	18.3	14.7	19.5
Financial security	12.2	13.8	22.1
Spirituality/faith	11.7	11.0	14.0
Making a difference in the community	7.9	8.3	16.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference by age was in the proportion of respondents who highly valued *financial security*.

- Young adult respondents (22.1%) were much more likely than 11 to 19 year old respondents (around 13%) to highly value *financial security*.

Gender differences

Table 10 shows the similarities as well as the differences by gender. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, but both were valued by a higher proportion of female than male respondents. The third-ranked item for female respondents was *physical and mental health*, while for males it was *being independent*.

- 79.8% of females highly valued *family relationships*, as did 70.0% of males.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by about two thirds (65.4%) of female respondents and just over half (53.3%) of male respondents.
- About a third of male and female respondents highly valued *being independent* and *physical and mental health*.

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	79.8	70.0
Friendships (other than family)	65.4	53.3
Being independent	30.9	34.4
Physical and mental health	31.8	32.0
Feeling needed and valued	29.4	27.1
School or study satisfaction	21.7	21.5
Getting a job	11.7	25.1
Financial security	11.6	15.0
Spirituality/faith	10.2	13.4
Making a difference in the community	7.9	8.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

The main difference by gender was in the proportion of respondents who highly valued *getting a job*.

- *Getting a job* was highly valued by a quarter (25.1%) of males, more than twice the proportion of females (11.7%).

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list set out in Table 11. The top three issues of concern for Victorian respondents were *suicide*, *drugs* and *body image*. These were also the top three concerns nationally, although the rankings were slightly different. There were a range of issues that were of major concern to respondents from Victoria, with eight items being of concern to at least one in five. The results for Victoria were very similar to the national results.

- The top issue for Victorian respondents was *suicide*, with 28.2% of respondents identifying it as a major concern.
- Just over a quarter (26.6%) of respondents from Victoria identified *drugs* as an issue of concern.
- A quarter (25.1%) of respondents identified *body image* as a major concern.
- *Bullying/emotional abuse*, *family conflict*, *personal safety* and *physical/sexual abuse* were also identified by just under a quarter of Victorian respondents as major concerns.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	VIC 2009 %	National 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %
Suicide	28.2	26.3	24.8	24.9	28.9
Drugs	26.6	26.8	26.2	20.8	N/A
Body image	25.1	25.5	26.0	31.8	27.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	24.5	23.4	22.9	23.0	30.2
Family conflict	23.0	24.1	25.3	29.7	27.9
Personal safety	22.9	22.2	22.7	N/A	N/A
Physical/sexual abuse	22.8	22.7	21.3	21.0	26.7
Alcohol	22.1	23.0	20.3	21.0	N/A
Depression	19.3	18.7	18.3	18.8	26.8
Coping with stress	17.8	18.7	20.5	26.2	26.4
The environment	17.7	16.7	19.2	23.0	N/A
School or study problems	16.3	17.3	19.1	24.7	25.0
Self harm	13.8	13.3	13.2	15.2	20.6
Discrimination	11.0	11.7	12.8	12.3	18.7
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.0	11.4	11.1	10.0	13.8
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.1

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the similarities and differences between the age groups on issues of concern. Some issues, such as *body image* and *alcohol*, were of concern to similar proportions of respondents across the age groups. Responses to other issues, such as *drugs*, *family conflict*, *personal safety*, *depression* and *coping with stress*, varied by age.

- Around one in four respondents from all three age groups indicated *suicide* was a major concern.
- Close to a quarter of respondents in all age groups identified *body image* as a top concern. It was the second-ranked issue for 15 to 19 year olds and the third-ranked issue for 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Drugs* were the major issue for 11 to 14 year olds, with 30.0% identifying it as a top issue. This compares with around 20% of respondents aged 15 to 24.
- Concern about *family conflict* and *personal safety* declined somewhat with age, from about one in four 11 to 14 year olds to one in six 20 to 24 year olds.
- One in three young adults and one in four 15 to 19 year olds were significantly concerned about *depression*.
- At least one in five respondents from all age groups indicated *bullying/emotional abuse* and *physical/sexual abuse* were major concerns.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Suicide	27.1	29.7	24.4
Drugs	30.0	22.1	19.8
Body image	23.7	27.2	26.7
Bullying/emotional abuse	25.9	22.7	27.9
Family conflict	24.5	21.2	15.1
Personal safety	24.5	21.1	16.3
Physical/sexual abuse	22.4	23.3	24.4
Alcohol	23.5	20.3	19.8
Depression	15.0	24.6	32.6
Coping with stress	16.2	19.8	24.4
The environment	18.6	16.4	22.1
School or study problems	16.8	15.8	9.3
Self harm	13.1	14.7	12.8
Discrimination	9.5	12.9	12.8
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	9.8	10.2	11.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that some issues, such as *suicide*, *bullying/emotional abuse*, *family conflict* and *personal safety* were of concern to similar proportions of males and females. However, it also shows that there were some significant differences by gender in response to this question. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to identify *physical/sexual abuse* and *body image* as issues of concern. Males, conversely, were more likely than females to identify *drugs* and *alcohol* as major concerns.

- *Suicide* was a major concern for over a quarter of both genders (28.7% of females and 27.4% of males), and was the top-ranked item for female respondents and the third-ranked item for male respondents.
- *Body image* was the second-ranked concern for female respondents, with over a quarter (27.1%) of females identifying it as a major concern compared with a fifth (22.0%) of males.
- *Physical/sexual abuse* was a major concern for one in four females (26.6%) compared with one in six males (17.0%).
- Males were much more likely than females to express concern about *drugs* (32.6% compared to 22.8%) and *alcohol* (30.5% compared to 16.8%).
- Around a quarter of female (23.7%) and male (25.8%) respondents identified *bullying/emotional abuse* as a top issue of concern.
- *Family conflict* and *personal safety* were a concern to over a fifth of respondents in both groups.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Suicide	28.7	27.4
Drugs	22.8	32.6
Body image	27.1	22.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	23.7	25.8
Family conflict	23.7	21.8
Personal safety	23.6	22.0
Physical/sexual abuse	26.6	17.0
Alcohol	16.8	30.5
Depression	21.2	16.5
Coping with stress	19.1	15.8
The environment	17.4	18.0
School or study problems	15.9	16.9
Self harm	14.5	12.5
Discrimination	11.3	10.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.8	11.9

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

Table 14 shows that the top three sources of advice and support for Victorian respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, as they have been in previous years and were nationally. The *internet* was the fourth-ranked item, with just over one in five respondents identifying it as a major source of advice. Victorian results were very similar to national results on all items.

- 84.8% of Victorian respondents identified *friends* as a top source of advice and support, very similar to the national figure of 84.5%.
- *Parents* were identified by about three quarters (73.7%) of respondents from Victoria as a major source of advice.
- Three in five (60.2%) Victorian respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	VIC 2009 %	National 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %
Friends	84.8	84.5	85.5	87.1	86.9
Parents	73.7	73.4	74.7	73.1	71.1
Relative/family friend	60.2	60.8	60.2	64.3	62.4
Internet	21.5	22.5	21.2	19.2	18.2
Teacher	12.3	11.0	12.8	12.2	9.9
Community agencies eg youth worker	11.7	12.5	9.8	10.6	11.6
School counsellor	11.5	10.8	11.7	10.6	11.2
Magazines	10.9	11.0	11.4	10.0	14.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.5	8.9	7.5	8.2	8.2
Telephone helpline	5.9	5.9	5.4	5.3	6.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The top three sources of advice and support for all age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportion of each group who identified *friends* as a major source was similar across the age groups, while the proportion identifying *parents* or *relative/family friend* declined with age. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who identified the *internet* as a major source of advice increased with age.

- Over 80% of respondents from each age group identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support.
- The proportion of respondents identifying *parents* as a key source of advice declined with age, from over three quarters (77.7%) of 11 to 14 year olds to just under two thirds (62.1%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- The proportion of respondents who identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice also declined with age, from just under two thirds (63.4%) of 11 to 14 year olds to less than half (43.7%) of the young adult group.
- 20 to 24 year olds were about twice as likely as those aged 11 to 14 to identify the *internet* as a main source of advice and support (36.0% compared with 17.3%).

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	82.9	87.4	81.6
Parents	77.7	68.8	62.1
Relative/family friend	63.4	56.3	43.7
Internet	17.3	26.8	36.0
Teacher	14.7	9.4	7.0
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.8	12.5	21.4
School counsellor	11.1	12.0	11.6
Magazines	9.8	12.3	10.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.5	9.4	20.7
Telephone helpline	6.0	5.9	4.7

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Other differences between the age groups included the proportion who identified *community agencies* or *someone else in the community* as important sources of advice.

- *Community agencies* were identified by a higher proportion of young adults (21.4%) than 11 to 19 year olds (around one in 10) as important sources of advice.
- The proportion of respondents who identified *someone else in the community* also increased with age, from 7.5% of 11 to 14 year olds to 20.7% of 20 to 24 year olds.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. However, a higher proportion of female than male respondents identified each as an important source of advice and support.

- 88.2% of females and 79.4% of males identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- *Parents* were an important source of advice for over 70% of both groups.
- Close to two thirds (62.8%) of female respondents and just over a half (56.0%) of male respondents identified *relative/family friend* as a top source of advice and support.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	88.2	79.4
Parents	75.0	71.7
Relative/family friend	62.8	56.0
Internet	18.3	26.7
Teacher	11.8	13.1
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.8	16.5
School counsellor	11.3	11.8
Magazines	12.0	9.0
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.0	11.0
Telephone helpline	5.3	6.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Males were more likely than females to identify the *internet* or *community agencies* as a major source of advice.

- Just over a quarter of male respondents (26.7%) compared with just under a fifth (18.3%) of female respondents identified the *internet* as a key source of advice.
- Male respondents were almost twice as likely as female respondents to identify *community agencies* as an important source of advice and support (16.5% compared with 8.8%).

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

86.9% of Victorian respondents indicated that there was enough information available to them on issues of concern, very similar to the national figure of 86.5%. Young adults were more likely than 11 to 19 year olds to report that not enough information was available to them (28.7% compared with about 13%). Responses were similar for both genders.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009							2008
	VIC %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	VIC %
Enough information	86.9	86.5	87.1	87.0	71.3	86.2	87.9	85.3
Not enough information	13.1	13.5	12.9	13.0	28.7	13.8	12.1	14.7

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. These included (in order of most frequently mentioned): depression; alcohol and drugs; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self-harm; stress and anxiety; environmental issues; family conflict; bullying; and body image.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify what activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The top three activities for Victorian respondents were *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)*, and *arts/cultural* activities, although participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined substantially since 2008. These were also the top three activities nationally.

- Two thirds (66.6%) of respondents from Victoria participated in *sports (as a participant)*, as did two fifths (39.7%) in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- One fifth (20.0%) of Victorian respondents indicated that they participated in *arts/cultural* activities.

Table 18: Activities young people are involved in

	VIC 2009 %	National 2009 %	VIC 2008 %	VIC 2007 %	VIC 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	66.6	64.2	69.6	64.8*	70.4*
Sports (as a spectator)	39.7	39.3	48.4		
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	20.0	23.4	45.8	39.8	39.8
Religious	17.9	20.0	22.3	22.8	19.7
Youth groups and clubs	17.7	20.3	22.2	25.6	24.4
Volunteer	16.5	18.5	22.4	19.8	18.9
Environmental	8.5	9.8	13.8	13.1	8.7
Student Representative Council	8.4	9.5	12.2	13.1	12.0

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2008.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that while *sports (as a participant)* was in the top three activities for all age groups, participation declined markedly with age. Conversely, participation in *volunteer* activities and *youth groups and clubs* increased with age.

- Involvement in *sports (as a participant)* was highest among 11 to 14 year olds (71.3%), declining to just over a third (34.5%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Close to two in five 11 to 19 year olds were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with just over a quarter (28.7%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Participation in *arts/cultural* activities increased with age, from about a fifth of 11 to 19 year olds to just over a quarter (28.7%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Participation in *volunteer* activities also increased with age, with young adults about four times as likely as 11 to 14 year olds to indicate that they were involved (43.7% compared with 11.8%).
- A third (32.2%) of young adults were involved in *youth groups and clubs*, compared with less than a fifth of 11 to 19 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	71.3	61.4	34.5
Sports (as a spectator)	38.4	42.1	28.7
Arts/cultural e.g. drama, music, dance	18.8	21.2	28.7
Religious	19.1	16.1	14.9
Youth groups and clubs	16.7	18.5	32.2
Volunteer	11.8	21.9	43.7
Environmental	8.2	8.7	9.2
Student Representative Council	7.3	10.0	3.4

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

Table 20 shows the differences as well as the similarities by gender. The top two activities for both genders were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, although a higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they took part in each. The third top activity for females was *arts/cultural* activities, while for males it was *religious* activities.

- Around two thirds of male (67.7%) and female (65.8%) respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- 44.5% of males and 36.5% of females participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- Females were more likely than males to take part in *arts/cultural* activities (22.7% compared to 15.9%) and *volunteer* activities (18.8% compared to 12.8%).
- Just under a fifth of male (18.4%) and female (17.4%) respondents took part in *religious* activities, and it was the third top activity for males.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	65.8	67.7
Sports (as a spectator)	36.5	44.5
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	22.7	15.9
Religious	17.4	18.4
Youth groups and clubs	17.5	18.0
Volunteer	18.8	12.8
Environmental	8.1	8.9
Student Representative Council	8.7	7.9

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to list three people or organisations they admired. As in 2007 and 2008, *family members* were the most common response and comprised 31.0% of the responses given. *Friends* and *sports teams, players and coaches* were the second and third-most common responses respectively. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	4,639	31.0
Friends	2,499	16.7
Sports teams, players and coaches	1,348	9.0
International aid organisations	974	6.5
Entertainers	906	6.0
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	545	3.6
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	530	3.5
Animal protection groups	453	3.0
Schools and their staff	361	2.4
Political organisations and figures	272	1.8
Organisations and research supporting mental health	244	1.6
Businesses and business people	209	1.4
Protection agencies	205	1.4
Youth organisations and leaders	200	1.3
Environmental groups	190	1.3
Religious figures	184	1.2
Medical professionals and hospitals	181	1.2
Telephone helplines	148	1.0
Historical figures	130	0.9
Myself	94	0.6
Confident/successful/hardworking people	43	0.3
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	32	0.2
Volunteers/donors	32	0.2
Pets and other animals	23	0.2
Community groups/organisations	20	0.1



Western Australia summary

Profile of respondents

Age breakdown

3,812 surveys were returned from Western Australia (WA), which was 8.5% of the total number of respondents who indicated which state/territory they came from. The largest group of respondents from Western Australia was aged 11 to 14 years (54.9%), followed by 15 to 19 years (42.9%). Only a small number of respondents were aged 20 to 24 years (83 or 2.2%) and results for this group should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 1: Age profile of respondents

Age in years	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
11-14 years	2,067	54.9
15-19 years	1,618	42.9
20-24 years	83	2.2
Total	3,768	8.5% of national total

Note: Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions. The data is for those who responded.

Gender breakdown

Nearly two thirds (63.4%) of the surveys from Western Australia were completed by females and one third (36.6%) by males.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

131 (3.4%) respondents from Western Australia identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Indigenous	131	3.4	5.0	3.6	3.0	2.4
Non Indigenous	3,608	94.6	95.0	96.4	97.0	97.6

Languages other than English spoken at home

85.5% of respondents from Western Australia indicated that English was the only language they spoke at home. The 553 (14.5%) respondents who spoke a language other than English at home spoke over 55 languages between them. The most frequently spoken were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese; Afrikaans; Italian; Filipino/Tagalog; Chinese; Arabic; French; and Spanish.

Disability

83 (2.2%) respondents indicated they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): learning disability; Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD); blindness or vision impairment; autism; physical disability; and deafness or hearing impairment.

Where respondents were living

The vast majority of respondents from Western Australia were living *with family* (94.1%), as they were nationally (93.2%). Table 3 shows that with increasing age a higher proportion of respondents lived independently in a *share house, alone* or *with a partner*.

55 respondents from WA were living in a *boarding school or university college*, and 19 were in a *juvenile justice centre or prison*. Surveys were also received from 21 young people who were *homeless* or in *insecure housing* and 10 who were living in *foster care*.

Table 3: Where respondents were living

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
With family	94.1	93.2	95.6	95.1	39.0
Boarding school or university college	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.1	0.0
Share house including with friends	1.5	1.4	0.8	1.0	26.8
Alone	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	8.5
Homeless/insecure housing	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.2
With partner/husband/wife including with own children	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	20.7
Juvenile justice centre/prison	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.0
Foster care	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.0
Other	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	3.7

Living in or outside a capital city

As Table 4 shows, WA respondents were much more likely to be living in the capital Perth than in other areas of the state. Just under three quarters (71.8%) of respondents were living in the capital, compared with 56.4% of their national counterparts. Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to be living in Perth (about 80% of 15 to 24 year olds compared with 63.9% of 11 to 14 year olds).

Table 4: Geographic location of respondents

	Total number	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Live in capital city	2,681	71.8	56.4	63.9	81.2	81.9
Not in capital city	1,054	28.2	43.6	36.1	18.8	18.1

Main source of income

Parents/family were the main source of income for a large majority (74.6%) of respondents from WA, which is very similar to the national figure of 73.1%. Reliance on *employment* and, to a lesser extent, *government allowance*, increased with age.

Table 5: Main source of income

	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Parents/family	74.6	73.1	88.1	61.2	3.7
Employment	22.5	21.9	9.8	35.0	88.9
Government allowance	2.0	4.1	1.0	3.1	7.4
Other	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0
No income	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.0

Study and work

The survey included questions about the study and employment status of respondents. Results for 11 to 14 year olds were excluded from this section, as the compulsory age for secondary education in Australia is around 16 years of age.

Just under three quarters (71.2%) of respondents from WA were *studying full time*, similar to the national figure of 74.1%. Not surprisingly, respondents aged 15 to 19 were more likely than those aged 20 to 24 to be *studying full time* (73.4% compared with 23.2%). Over half (58.5%) of the young adult group were *not studying*, compared with one in ten 15 to 19 year olds (11.6%). Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to be *studying full time* (75.3% compared with 65.0%).

Table 6: Participation in education

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Studying full time	71.2	74.1	73.4	23.2	75.3	65.0
Studying part time	15.1	14.5	15.0	18.3	13.7	17.3
Not studying	13.6	11.4	11.6	58.5	11.1	17.7

Table 7 shows respondents' participation in employment. WA and national responses were similar across all items. About three in five (61.0%) young adults were *working full time*, compared with less than 1% (0.9%) of 15 to 19 year olds. About half (50.6%) of the 15 to 19 year age group were, however, either *working part time* or had *casual or temporary work*. Nearly a quarter of 15 to 19 year olds indicated they were *unemployed/looking for work*, compared with fewer than one in ten 20 to 24 year olds (24.7% and 7.3% respectively). The responses by gender were similar across all items.

Table 7: Participation in employment

	WA %	National %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %
Working full time	3.5	2.5	0.9	61.0	3.6	3.3
Working part time	20.0	22.0	20.3	13.4	20.3	19.8
Casual or temporary work	29.7	28.1	30.3	17.1	31.2	27.5
Unemployed/looking for work	23.9	26.8	24.7	7.3	22.5	26.3
Too young to work or choose not to	22.8	20.6	23.8	1.2	22.3	23.1

Detailed national results

What do young people value?

Young people were asked to rank what they value from the list of options set out in Table 8. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for WA respondents as they were nationally. The third-ranked item for respondents from WA was *physical and mental health*, followed closely by *being independent*. The results for WA were very similar to the national results.

- *Family relationships* and *friendships* were highly valued by about three quarters (76.7%) and two thirds (62.3%) of WA respondents respectively.
- Close to a third (32.6%) of respondents from WA highly valued *physical and mental health*.
- *Being independent* was also highly valued by about a third of WA respondents (31.6%).

Table 8: What young people value

	WA 2009 %	National 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %
Family relationships	76.7	75.6	77.4	77.0	74.1
Friendships (other than family)	62.3	60.6	64.4	61.8	68.0
Physical and mental health	32.6	31.1	32.7	36.1	N/A
Being independent	31.6	32.7	29.2	29.5	32.7
School or study satisfaction	23.2	22.0	20.2	18.2	23.8
Feeling needed and valued	22.4	26.1	22.9	22.6	27.4
Getting a job	16.5	18.1	15.7	14.5	20.2
Spirituality/faith	15.5	12.8	18.4	19.7	16.4
Financial security	12.5	13.8	12.6	11.1	17.1
Making a difference in the community	7.5	8.2	7.3	N/A	N/A
Peer acceptance	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6	11.7
Environmental issues	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.0

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

Table 9 shows the similarities as well as differences in what WA respondents valued across the age groups. *Family relationships* and *friendships* were the top two items for each group, although the proportions who valued them highly varied by age. *Physical and mental health* was the third-ranked item for 11 to 14 year olds, while for 15 to 19 year olds it was *being independent* and for 20 to 24 year olds it was *feeling needed and valued*.

- *Family relationships* was the top item for all three age groups, and was highly valued by around 70% or more of respondents from each group.
- Respondents aged 11 to 19 years were more likely than the young adult group to highly value *friendships* (about 63% compared with 46.3%).
- *Physical and mental health* was highly valued by just over a third (34.4%) of 11 to 14 year olds, compared with just over a quarter (26.8%) of 20 to 24 year olds.
- *Being independent* was highly valued by between a quarter and third of all age groups.
- Young adults were much more likely than those aged 11 to 19 to highly value *feeling needed and valued* (37.0% compared with about 22%).

Table 9: What young people value, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Family relationships	77.8	75.6	69.5
Friendships (other than family)	62.8	62.5	46.3
Physical and mental health	34.4	31.0	26.8
Being independent	28.3	35.7	31.7
School or study satisfaction	24.4	22.5	8.6
Feeling needed and valued	21.6	22.6	37.0
Getting a job	17.2	15.3	19.5
Spirituality/faith	14.8	16.3	17.5
Financial security	11.6	12.7	29.3
Making a difference in the community	8.1	6.3	13.4

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

There were other differences across the age groups, particularly when comparing those aged 20 to 24 with those aged 11 to 19. The proportion of respondents who highly valued *school or study satisfaction* and *financial security* varied with age.

- Close to a quarter of 11 to 19 year olds highly valued *school or study satisfaction*, compared with less than one in ten (8.6%) young adults.
- Young adults were much more likely than those aged 11 to 19 to highly value *financial security* (29.3% compared with about 12%).

Gender differences

Table 10 shows that the top two items for both genders were the same, namely *family relationships* and *friendships*, although the proportion of males who valued them highly was lower than the proportion of females. The third-ranked item for females was *being independent*, while for males it was *physical and mental health*.

- Around 80% of females and 70% of males highly valued *family relationships*.
- *Friendships* were highly valued by about two thirds (67.1%) of female respondents and just over half (53.7%) of male respondents.
- About a third of both groups indicated that they highly valued *being independent*.
- Males were somewhat more likely than females to highly value *physical and mental health* (36.0% compared with 30.7%).

Table 10: What young people value, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Family relationships	80.6	69.5
Friendships (other than family)	67.1	53.7
Physical and mental health	30.7	36.0
Being independent	31.5	31.8
School or study satisfaction	22.7	24.0
Feeling needed and valued	23.7	20.1
Getting a job	12.1	24.5
Spirituality/faith	14.9	16.6
Financial security	10.5	16.2
Making a difference in the community	6.9	8.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Males were much more likely than females to indicate that they highly valued *getting a job* and, to a lesser extent, *financial security*.

- Male respondents were twice as likely as female respondents to highly value *getting a job* (24.5% compared with 12.1%).
- Males (16.2%) were also more likely than females (10.5%) to highly value *financial security*.

What issues are of concern to young people?

Young people were asked to rank the issues that concerned them from the list of options set out in Table 11. The top three issues for respondents from WA were *drugs*, *suicide* and *family conflict*. Nationally, *drugs* and *suicide* were also in the top three, along with *body image* which was the fifth-ranked item for WA respondents. Table 11 shows that a range of items were of concern to WA respondents, with eight items being of major concern to a fifth or more of respondents.

- *Drugs* were the top issue of concern for respondents from WA, with 30.3% identifying them as a major concern.
- *Suicide* (26.8%) and *family conflict* (25.3%) were the second and third-ranked items respectively for WA respondents.
- Close to a quarter of WA respondents also identified *physical/sexual abuse*, *body image* and *personal safety* as top issues of concern.

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

	WA 2009 %	National 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %
Drugs	30.3	26.8	27.3	20.7	N/A
Suicide	26.8	26.3	23.8	24.8	29.9
Family conflict	25.3	24.1	27.4	31.2	29.6
Physical/sexual abuse	24.6	22.7	23.3	23.3	31.1
Body image	24.5	25.5	25.1	28.9	25.5
Personal safety	22.8	22.2	24.6	N/A	N/A
Alcohol	21.6	23.0	19.7	19.2	N/A
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.4	23.4	18.8	21.1	27.7
School or study problems	18.6	17.3	19.0	27.4	26.6
Depression	17.8	18.7	15.9	17.5	23.6
Coping with stress	17.3	18.7	18.5	26.0	25.6
The environment	16.1	16.7	19.3	24.9	N/A
Self harm	14.1	13.3	13.7	15.3	23.2
Discrimination	10.9	11.7	12.3	11.7	18.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.3	11.4	13.7	10.0	13.3
Alcohol and other drug issues*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents. * From 2007, alcohol and other drug issues appears as two items, alcohol and drugs.

Age differences

Table 12 shows the differences and similarities in responses across the age groups. While the proportion of respondents identifying items such as *physical/sexual abuse*, *body image* and *personal safety* were reasonably similar across the age groups, there were substantial differences by age in response to other items such as *drugs*, *suicide*, *depression* and *coping with stress*.

- *Drugs* was the top issue of concern for 11 to 14 year olds, with just over a third (34.5%) identifying it as a major concern compared with around a quarter of respondents aged 15 to 19, and a fifth of those aged 20 to 24.
- *Suicide* was of concern to over a quarter of respondents aged 11 to 19, compared with less than a fifth (17.3%) of the young adult group.
- 20 to 24 year old respondents were much more likely than 11 to 19 year olds (around a third compared with less than 20%) to identify *depression* and *coping with stress* as major concerns.
- *Physical/sexual abuse*, *body image* and *personal safety* were each of concern to at least one in five WA respondents across the age groups.

Table 12: Issues of concern to young people, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Drugs	34.5	25.5	22.2
Suicide	27.8	26.2	17.3
Family conflict	24.3	26.5	19.8
Physical/sexual abuse	25.0	23.9	28.4
Body image	22.6	27.1	23.8
Personal safety	23.5	21.6	27.2
Alcohol	23.2	20.0	13.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	22.7	17.7	18.5
School or study problems	17.3	20.8	7.5
Depression	15.2	19.9	34.6
Coping with stress	14.5	19.8	35.8
The environment	17.7	14.2	18.5
Self harm	13.4	15.2	8.6
Discrimination	9.5	12.7	11.1
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	10.1	10.6	12.3

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

Table 13 shows that there were a number of similarities as well as differences by gender on issues of concern. *Drugs* was the top item for both genders, with around 30% of both groups identifying it as a major issue. The second and third-ranked items for female respondents were *physical/sexual abuse* and *body image*, while for males they were *suicide* and *alcohol*.

- The top issue for both genders was *drugs*, with 29.0% of females and 32.6% of males identifying it as a major concern.
- Females (27.9%) were much more likely than males (18.6%) to identify *physical/sexual abuse* as a major concern.
- Male respondents (26.0%) were more likely than female respondents (19.2%) to consider *alcohol* an important issue of concern.
- *Suicide* and *family conflict* were both of concern to around a quarter of male and female respondents.
- A quarter of females and a fifth of males identified *body image* as a major concern.

Table 13: Issues of concern to young people, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Drugs	29.0	32.6
Suicide	26.2	28.1
Family conflict	25.8	24.2
Physical/sexual abuse	27.9	18.6
Body image	26.8	20.3
Personal safety	23.5	21.1
Alcohol	19.2	26.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.8	19.5
School or study problems	19.3	17.3
Depression	18.1	17.3
Coping with stress	17.4	17.3
The environment	15.3	17.8
Self harm	14.1	14.1
Discrimination	9.5	13.5
Sexuality (relationships, health, identity)	8.8	13.2

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Where do young people turn for advice and support when they have a personal problem?

The top three sources of advice and concern for WA respondents were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. About a fifth of respondents identified the *internet* as an important source of advice. Results for WA were very similar to the national results on all items.

- 86.1% of WA respondents identified *friends* as an important source of advice and support.
- Three quarters (75.4%) of respondents from WA identified *parents* as an important source of advice, while nearly two thirds (63.3%) identified *relative/family friend*.
- The *internet* was an important source of advice for one in five (20.4%) WA respondents.

Table 14: Where young people turn for advice and support

	WA 2009 %	National 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %
Friends	86.1	84.5	87.2	86.8	87.9
Parents	75.4	73.4	76.6	76.7	75.0
Relative/family friend	63.3	60.8	64.0	65.2	65.7
Internet	20.4	22.5	19.7	15.9	17.6
Magazines	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.7	13.6
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.8	12.5	9.6	10.0	8.2
Teacher	9.8	11.0	8.7	8.4	8.2
School counsellor	9.3	10.8	9.3	10.8	9.8
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	8.5	8.9	7.7	8.6	8.9
Telephone helpline	5.8	5.9	5.6	6.0	5.5

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Age differences

The three major sources of advice and support for young people across the age groups were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*. The proportions of respondents who identified *friends* and *parents* as a major source of advice were very similar across the age groups, while the proportions identifying *relative/family friend* varied somewhat with age. The proportions of respondents identifying the *internet* as a main source of advice increased significantly with age.

- Around 85% of all three age groups identified *friends* as a major source of advice and support.
- *Parents* were a main source of advice for around three quarters of each age group.
- Close to two thirds of respondents aged 11 to 19 identified *relative/family friend* as an important source of advice, compared with just over half of the young adult group.
- The *internet* was a top source of advice and support for two in five (41.5%) young adults, more than twice the proportion of 11 to 14 year olds (16.6%) who indicated it was a main source of advice.

Table 15: Where young people turn for advice and support, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Friends	85.1	87.5	85.4
Parents	78.4	72.2	72.0
Relative/family friend	64.6	62.5	54.3
Internet	16.6	23.7	41.5
Magazines	11.2	10.9	7.4
Community agencies eg youth worker	10.2	11.3	12.3
Teacher	10.7	9.3	3.7
School counsellor	10.3	8.4	2.5
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	7.6	8.9	13.6
Telephone helpline	6.2	5.1	7.6

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Gender differences

The top three sources of advice and support for both genders were *friends*, *parents* and *relative/family friend*, although a higher proportion of females than males identified each of them as important.

- 90.2% of female respondents and 78.7% of male respondents identified *friends* as a major source of advice.
- Over 70% of both genders identified *parents* as an important source of advice (77.4% of females and 71.7% of males).
- *Relative/family friend* was a top source of advice for two thirds (66.4%) of female respondents and 57.6% of male respondents.

Table 16: Where young people turn for advice and support, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Friends	90.2	78.7
Parents	77.4	71.7
Relative/family friend	66.4	57.6
Internet	17.3	26.2
Magazines	11.8	9.9
Community agencies eg youth worker	8.6	15.1
Teacher	8.3	12.6
School counsellor	8.8	10.2
Someone else in your community eg doctor, church minister	6.7	11.8
Telephone helpline	4.7	7.8

Note: Data is aggregated and includes items ranked one, two or three by respondents.

Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to identify the *internet* as a major source of advice.

- Just over a quarter (26.2%) of male respondents, compared with 17.3% of female respondents, identified the *internet* as an important source of advice and support.

Is there enough information on issues that concern young people?

85.3% of WA respondents indicated that they had enough information available to them on issues of concern. Young adults (25.6%) were more likely than those aged 11 to 19 (about 14%) to indicate that they did not have enough information.

Responses were similar for male and female respondents.

Table 17: Access to enough information

	2009							2008
	WA %	National %	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %	Female %	Male %	WA %
Enough information	85.3	86.5	85.4	85.9	74.4	84.1	87.4	82.7
Not enough information	14.7	13.5	14.6	14.1	25.6	15.9	12.6	17.3

The survey asked what respondents would like more information about and a number of issues featured in their responses. They included (in order of most frequently mentioned): alcohol and drugs; depression; suicide and self-harm; sexuality and sex education; relationships and friendships; environmental issues; family conflict; and stress and anxiety.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities they are involved in from the list set out in Table 18. The two most popular activities for WA respondents were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, as they were nationally. The third-ranked item for WA was *religious* activities, while nationally it was *arts/cultural* activities. About a fifth of WA respondents participated in *youth groups and clubs*, *arts/cultural* activities and *volunteer* activities. Participation in *arts/cultural* activities has declined substantially since 2008.

- Nearly two thirds (61.6%) of WA respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)*, and just over a third (37.1%) were involved in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- More than a fifth (22.0%) of respondents from WA participated in *religious* activities.
- *Youth groups and clubs*, *arts/cultural* activities and *volunteer* activities were also undertaken by about one in five young people from WA.

Table 18: Activities young people were involved in

	WA 2009 %	National 2009 %	WA 2008 %	WA 2007 %	WA 2006 %
Sports (as a participant)	61.6	64.2	67.6	71.4*	64.8*
Sports (as a spectator)	37.1	39.3	44.6		
Religious	22.0	20.0	30.8	27.9	25.0
Youth groups and clubs	21.9	20.3	31.1	32.1	30.5
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	21.5	23.4	45.2	44.6	43.0
Volunteer	19.4	18.5	21.4	21.8	21.7
Student Representative Council	8.8	9.5	12.0	13.5	14.0
Environmental	8.6	9.8	13.5	13.4	12.0

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed. *Appeared as the single item *sports* prior to 2007.

Age differences

Table 19 shows that the most popular activity for each of the age groups was *sports (as a participant)*. *Sports (as a spectator)* was the second most popular activity for 11 to 19 year olds, and the third most popular for 20 to 24 year olds. Rates of participation in *arts/cultural* activities and *volunteer* activities increased with age and were highest among the young adult group.

- Participation in *sports (as a participant)* declined with age from 70.1% of 11 to 14 year olds to around half of 15 to 24 year olds.
- Around 37% of 11 to 19 year old respondents participated in *sports (as a spectator)*, compared with 28.9% of 20 to 24 year olds.
- Just over a third (34.9%) of young adults, compared with around one in five 11 to 19 year olds, participated in *arts/cultural* activities.
- Around a quarter of 15 to 24 year olds took part in *volunteer* activities, as did around one in six (15.9%) 11 to 14 year olds.

Table 19: Activities young people were involved in, by age

	11-14 yrs %	15-19 yrs %	20-24 yrs %
Sports (as a participant)	70.1	51.7	48.2
Sports (as a spectator)	36.9	37.9	28.9
Religious	20.5	24.3	15.7
Youth groups and clubs	21.8	22.4	15.7
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	20.4	22.2	34.9
Volunteer	15.9	23.7	25.3
Student Representative Council	7.5	10.8	3.6
Environmental	8.7	8.3	9.6

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

Gender differences

The two most popular activities for male and female respondents from WA were *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*. The third-ranked activity for females was *arts/cultural* activities, while for males it was *youth groups and clubs*.

- Just over 60% of male and female respondents participated in *sports (as a participant)*.
- Around a third (35.1%) of females and two in five (40.6%) males participated in *sports (as a spectator)*.
- About a quarter (25.7%) of female respondents from WA took part in *arts/cultural* activities, compared with 14.3% of male respondents.
- Male respondents (24.0%) were slightly more likely than female respondents (20.7%) to participate in *youth groups and clubs*.

Table 20: Activities young people were involved in, by gender

	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	62.1	60.7
Sports (as a spectator)	35.1	40.6
Religious	23.6	19.3
Youth groups and clubs	20.7	24.0
Arts/cultural eg drama, music, dance	25.7	14.3
Volunteer	22.2	14.6
Student Representative Council	9.4	7.7
Environmental	8.0	9.5

Note: Data is a tally of all activities listed.

What three people or organisations do young people admire?

Respondents were asked to name three people or organisations they admired. As in previous years, *family* members were the most commonly listed and comprised around 30% of WA responses. The second most common response was *friends*. The information respondents provided has been categorised and listed in order of frequency in Table 21.

Table 21: People and organisations young people admire

	Total number	Percentage
Family	2,464	29.5
Friends	1,356	16.2
Sports teams, players and coaches	631	7.6
Entertainers	557	6.7
International aid organisations	498	6.0
Animal protection groups	429	5.1
Community agencies helping disadvantaged people	389	4.7
Organisations and research supporting seriously ill people	328	3.9
Religious figures	214	2.6
Schools and their staff	199	2.4
Businesses and business people	133	1.6
Youth organisations and leaders	130	1.6
Environmental groups	124	1.5
Protection agencies	104	1.2
Political organisations and figures	102	1.2
Medical professionals and hospitals	84	1.0
Telephone helplines	58	0.7
Organisations and research supporting mental health	52	0.6
Myself	47	0.6
Historical figures	42	0.5
Confident/successful/hardworking people	24	0.3
Dance/music/ballet teachers outside school	22	0.3

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- Infoxchange Australia
- Inspire Foundation – www.inspire.org.au, www.reachout.com, www.actnow.com.au
- Intercontinental Hotels Group
- Johnson & Johnson Medical
- Jorj Clothing
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Macquarie Group Foundation
- Middle Years of Schooling Association Inc.
- National Children's & Youth Law Centre
- Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies
- Office of Youth Affairs, Department of Health and Families, Northern Territory Government
- Slippry Sirkus inc (www.slipprysirkus.org)
- The Frank Team
- The Rotary Club of North Hobart
- Uniting Care Moreland Hall
- 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 of Queensland
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT)
- Youth Off The Streets
- youthcentral (www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au) – the Victorian Government's website for young people

About Mission Australia

Mission Australia is an empowering and compassionate community services organisation that, for the past 150 years, has been helping to transform the lives of Australians in need.

Our staff, supporters and Board are committed to eliminating disadvantage and creating a fairer Australia. We believe everyone should have the chance to enjoy a full and active life, irrespective of their personal challenges or circumstances. That's why we stand up and advocate for the most disadvantaged people in Australia.

Through our programs and services, we combat homelessness, assist families and children to develop a safe, nurturing environment, support disadvantaged young people and help unemployed people find permanent work.

We recognise the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the original owners and custodians of this country.

Thank you

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