

**MISSION  
AUSTRALIA**

# **youth survey report 2018**



**Responses from the  
Murraylands and Riverland (SA)**

## Summary

### Demographic profile of respondents

- Of the 28,286 young people who responded to the *Youth Survey 2018*, 3,767 respondents were from South Australia, 239 of whom resided in the Murraylands/Riverland region (63.9% females, 35.3% males).
- A total of 8.1% of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (compared with 4.0% of SA respondents). Similar proportions of females (7.2%) and males (8.8%) from the Murraylands/Riverland identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- A total of 4.9% of respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland stated that they were born overseas (lower than SA: 12.8%) and 7.2% reported speaking a language other than English at home (lower than SA: 18.0%).
- No respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated that they had a disability.

### Study and training

- 87.0% of respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland were studying full-time, while 5.0% reported not studying.
- The majority of the Murraylands/Riverland respondents were studying at school (95.6%). A minority reported studying at TAFE (3.5%) or at University (0.9%).
- Two thirds (66.0%) of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland reported that they were *very satisfied* (15.6%) or *satisfied* (50.4%) with their studies (compared with 71.2% from SA).
- A higher proportion of females from the Murraylands/Riverland felt *very satisfied/satisfied* with their studies (70.0% compared with 59.2% of males).
- 88.3% of respondents who were still at school planned to complete Year 12 (lower than SA: 95.9%).
- Over one in ten respondents did not intend to complete Year 12 (11.7%). A much higher proportion of males (21.1%) than females (6.7%) reported they did not plan to complete Year 12.
- *Go to university* was the most frequently reported post-school plan for young people from the Murraylands/Riverland (42.9% compared with 63.7% of SA). A higher proportion of females (46.3%) than males (35.4%) from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated they planned to *go to university* after school.
- Close to half of respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated plans to *get a job* (48.4% compared with 36.8% of SA). A greater proportion of females (51.5%) than males (43.0%) reported plans to *get a job*.
- Around one in five respondents indicated *travel/gap year* plans after finishing school (22.6% compared with 28.7% of SA). A greater proportion of females (28.7%) than males (11.4%) reported *travel/gap year* plans.
- Compared with SA, a higher proportion of the Murraylands/Riverland respondents reported plans to *go to TAFE or college* (19.8% compared with 14.8% of SA). A much higher proportion of females (25.0%) than males (11.4%) reported plans to *go to TAFE or college* after school.

- Over one in eight Murraylands/Riverland respondents planned to *get an apprenticeship* (13.8% compared with 9.1%) and fewer than one in ten planned to *join the defence or police force* (7.4% compared with 8.3% of SA).
- Almost half (48.8%) of Murraylands/Riverland respondents reported feeling *extremely/very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school (compared with 50.1% of SA).
- A higher proportion of males from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated they felt *extremely/very confident* in their ability to achieve their goals after school (55.9% compared with 43.8% of females).
- Around one in eight Murraylands/Riverland respondents indicated they felt *slightly/not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their post-school goals (12.0%); the proportion was higher for females (14.6%) than males (7.8%).

## Employment and barriers to finding work

- Over four in ten respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland reported working part-time (41.4% compared with 39.4% of SA).
- Close to four in ten young people from the Murraylands/Riverland reported that they were currently looking for work (38.4% compared with 37.8% of SA respondents).
- A higher proportion of females were in part-time employment (43.8% compared with 36.1% of males) and a higher proportion of females indicated they were looking for work (41.4% compared with 33.3% of males). Double the proportion of males were neither in paid employment nor looking for work (29.2% compared with 14.8% of females).
- Close to half (48.7%) of Murraylands/Riverland young people reported that they felt there were barriers impacting upon them finding work (compared with 40.4% of SA), with a notably higher proportion of females (53.5%) than males (40.5%) citing the presence of barriers.
- For young people from the Murraylands/Riverland, the most commonly cited barriers to finding work were *where you live* (20.3%), *transport* (18.5%) and *lack of skills/experience* (18.5%) (compared with 9.1%, 13.1% and 14.7% of SA respectively).
- Much higher proportions of females from the Murraylands/Riverland cited *lack of skills/experience* (24.6% compared with 7.3% of males), *transport* (23.2% compared with 11.0%), *lack of jobs* (21.8% compared with 11.0%), *school responsibilities* (21.1% compared with 7.3%) and *mental health* (20.4% compared with 8.5%) as barriers impacting upon them finding work.

## Barriers to moving out of home

- For young people from the Murraylands/Riverland, the three most commonly cited barriers to moving out of home were *housing costs (e.g. rent, utilities)* (63.0%), *financial stability* (55.1%) and *availability of housing* (36.1%). The proportions of the Murraylands/Riverland responses for each of these top three barriers were higher than SA (67.4%, 61.7% and 39.2% respectively).
- Much higher proportions of females from the Murraylands/Riverland cited *financial stability* (57.7% compared with 48.8% of males), *security/safety* (30.3% compared with 12.2%), and *lack of family support* (11.3% compared with 1.2%) as potential barriers to moving out of home in the future.

## Concerns – personal and national

### Issues of personal concern

Respondents were asked to indicate how personally concerned they were about a number of issues. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The figures below and the following table details the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

- The top three issues of personal concern for young people from the Murraylands/Riverland were *coping with stress*, *mental health* and *school or study problems* and (43.7%, 33.0% and 32.3%). The proportions of the Murraylands/Riverland responses for each of these top concerns were comparable to SA (45.5%, 31.1% and 33.9% respectively).
- The top issue identified by females and males living in the Murraylands/Riverland was *coping with stress*. Significantly, females' reported levels of concern around this issue were much higher than males' (57.6% compared with 20.0%).
- Much higher proportions of females reported high levels of concern about *body image*, *mental health* and *school or study problems* (44.5%, 43.6% and 41.0% compared with 5.0%, 14.8% and 16.1% of males respectively).

Issues of personal concern	Murraylands/ Riverland %	SA %	Murraylands/ Riverland females %	Murraylands/ Riverland males %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>14.8</b>
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>33.9</b>	41.0	<b>16.1</b>
Body image	30.3	30.1	<b>44.5</b>	5.0
Physical health	21.6	24.7	26.6	11.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	20.3	16.5	25.0	11.4
Family conflict	18.3	18.0	22.9	9.8
Suicide	17.0	16.4	18.1	14.6
Personal safety	15.8	19.3	18.7	10.1
Financial security	15.0	17.0	18.1	8.8
Social media	14.0	16.5	19.6	4.9
Domestic/family violence	13.9	10.5	15.0	11.3
Discrimination	13.7	11.3	15.3	8.9
LGBTIQ issues	9.9	9.4	10.8	7.4
Drugs	6.8	7.6	8.7	3.8
Alcohol	5.4	5.3	4.4	7.4
Gambling	1.7	3.3	1.4	2.5

## Most important issue in Australia today

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided was categorised and listed in order of frequency in the following table.

- Around four in ten (38.1%) respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland cited *alcohol and drugs* as a key issue in Australia (compared with 27.9% of SA respondents).
- Around one third of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland rated *mental health* (33.7% compared with 40.1% of SA) as an important national issue.
- Higher proportions of females from the Murraylands/Riverland rated *mental health* (37.4% compared with 27.0% of males), *bullying* (22.6% compared with 17.5%), *equity and discrimination* (20.9% compared with 15.9%) and *crime, safety and violence* (13.0% compared with 9.5%) as important issues in Australia.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of males indicated *alcohol and drugs* (39.7% compared with 38.3% of females) and *the economy and financial matters* (19.0% compared with 7.0%) were important national issues.

Most important issue in Australia today	Murraylands/ Riverland %	SA %	Murraylands/ Riverland females %	Murraylands/ Riverland males %
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>39.7</b>
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>
<b>Bullying</b>	<b>21.0</b>	20.0	<b>22.6</b>	17.5
Equity and discrimination	18.8	<b>24.8</b>	20.9	15.9
The economy and financial matters	11.6	11.6	7.0	<b>19.0</b>
Crime, safety and violence	11.6	12.0	13.0	9.5
The environment	11.0	7.4	10.4	11.1
Employment	10.5	11.4	9.6	12.7
Homelessness/housing	8.8	7.7	12.2	3.2
Population issues	7.7	4.7	6.1	9.5

## Sources of support

- The top three sources of help for young people living in the Murraylands/Riverland were their *friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* (80.0%, 73.2%, 61.6% respectively) (85.9%, 77.3%, 62.1% for SA). These were also the top three sources of help for females and males (79.8%, 74.0% and 60.0% compared with 79.5%, 73.4% and 65.4% respectively).

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources.

- Around one quarter of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated they used the internet to source *information about specific issues* (25.1% compared with 29.3% of SA).
- Around one in five Murraylands/Riverland respondents reported using the internet to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (19.4% compared with 17.5% of SA) or for *information about available services* (18.1% compared with 16.1%).
- Much higher proportions of females from the Murraylands/Riverland reported using the internet to source *information about specific issues* (31.0% compared with 15.9%), for *information about available services* (23.9% compared with 7.3%) and to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (23.9% compared with 9.8%).

### Family's ability to get along

- Close to half (47.5%) of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* (20.5%) or *very good* (27.0%) (compared with 28.1% and 31.9% of SA respectively).
- Yet nearly one quarter (24.2%) of respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.6%) or *poor* (11.6%), which was higher than SA (18.2%).
- A higher proportion of males from the Murraylands/Riverland rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent/very good* (51.9% compared with 45.1% of females), yet a slightly higher proportion of females rated their family's ability to get along as *fair/poor* (24.8% compared with 22.8% of males).

### How happy are young people and how do they feel about the future?

- A total of 54.7% of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland felt either *happy/very happy* about their lives as a whole (compared with 60.4% of SA respondents).
- A slightly higher proportion of males than females indicated feeling either *happy/very happy* about their lives as a whole (56.3% compared with 53.5%).
- More than one in ten young people from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated feeling *very sad/sad* with their life as a whole (12.1% compared with 10.0% of SA respondents).
- Over half (52.3%) of young people from the Murraylands/Riverland felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future (notably lower than SA: 61.8%).
- A total of 14.6% of respondents from the Murraylands/Riverland reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future (compared with 9.8% of SA).
- A higher proportion of males from the Murraylands/Riverland indicated they felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future (57.0% compared with 49.3% of females).
- A higher proportion of females than males reported feeling *negative* or *very negative* about the future (15.6% compared with 11.4%).