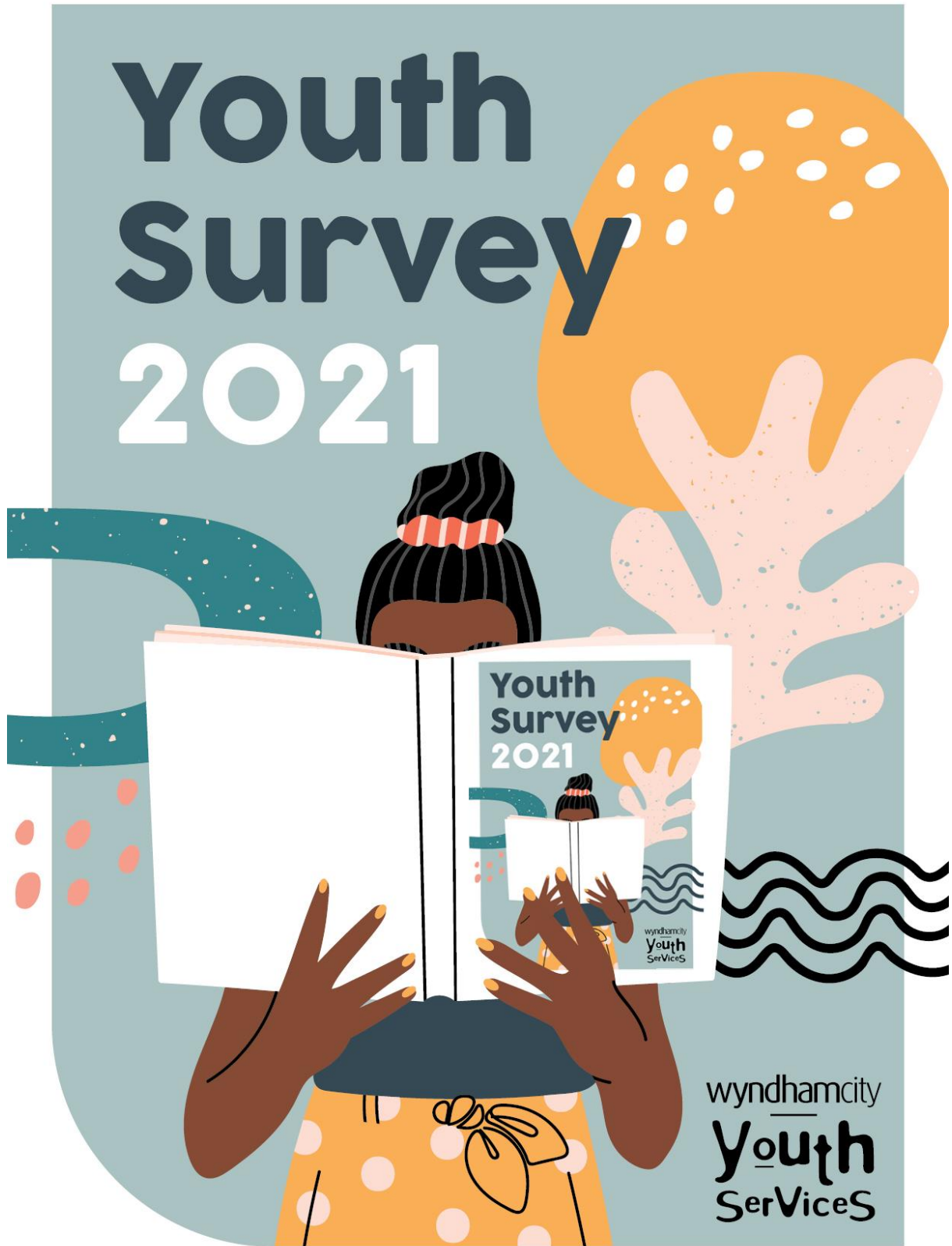


Youth Survey 2021



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Youth
SerViceS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document summarises results from the 2021 Wyndham Youth Survey which was open to people between the age of 12-25 years who either lived, worked or socialised in Wyndham.

While the survey does not fully represent all young people in Wyndham, it tells a story of the general sentiment of young people in Wyndham across six key areas of inquiry.

A summary of key points based on the 590 responses is as follows:

Key demographics

- Out of the 590 total respondents, 70% were in the 12-17 age group and 30% in the 18-25 age group.
- Almost double the number of respondents identified as female, 59.3%, compared to male, 31.5%, and 2.4% identified as transgender.
- More than half of respondents, 57.3%, identified their sexual preference as heterosexual, 11.4% bisexual, and 5.1% pansexual.
- A total of 4.2% (23) identified an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Status.
- For the 28.3% of people who were born overseas, the top 3 countries of birth were India, New Zealand and the Philippines
- 34% of respondents speak a language other than English, the top 3 languages were Hindi, Arabic and Tagalog.
- While there was use across all social media platforms, Instagram, TikTok and Snapshot were the most prevalent platforms.

Bullying

- A quarter of all respondents have experienced bullying in the previous year (24%). In the 12-17 age group, 28% had experienced bullying compared to 16% in the 18-25 age group.
- School was the most likely place for bullying to occur (71.5% of occurrences).
- When asked what helped with the bullying 20.4% of all respondents felt talking to friends helped the most, followed by 19.1% who indicated distracting oneself with other activities.

Mental Health and feeling valued

- Young people indicate their average mental health to be neutral, with a score of 3.0 out of 5.0.
- The 18-25 age group were more likely to report a lower mental health self-rating for the past 12 months; 15% selected the lowest rating, compared to 12% of respondents aged 12-17.
- A substantial amount of responses to the question about what would improve mental health, orbited around resolving impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. These included social interaction needs; the ability to do interest activities again; along with self-care and receiving support from others (general support from peers, family of professional support).
- Strong themes were also not necessarily related to COVID-19 impacts, such as the need for basic necessities (employment, transport, a safe place), general support, and affordable and available health services.
- Almost three quarters (74.7%) indicate that a friend is a key port of call when it comes to support, followed by parents (65.8%).

- The overwhelming consensus about what would make respondents feel like their opinion is valued was to be *actively listened to, acknowledged and taken seriously*.

Work and study

- The vast majority of respondents were either studying full time (72%) or part time (10%).
- 31.0% were in paid work and 60.5% were not working or volunteering. Of those not working or volunteering, 19.7% were looking to do so and 40.8% were not. A total of 8% of young people in the survey were fully disengaged i.e. neither studying nor working.
- The main impact on study and work were issues relating to mental health & wellbeing (36%).
- The Top issue at their place of study the *School or study environment*, including wanting to return to onsite learning, and more student support. This was closely followed by the issue of *Discrimination and Inequality*, with bullying prevention was the most prominent issue, followed by issues of sexuality and gender discrimination.
- When asked what one thing they would change about their place of study, the strongest response was about having *positive social environments*, with inclusivity and acceptance, strong leadership and space for talking about mental health.

Young people's concerns:

- The topic that caused the most concern was *Stress*, followed by *Mental Health*. The top issues were expanded upon in an open comment question where it was clear stress was specifically related to school and workload stress, and COVID-19 was identified as the biggest concern.
- When asked how the biggest concerns can be helped, the most significant response was additional *Support* e.g. more mental health support; more support from schools in relation to bullying and school work; and support to gain employment.
- *Youth Health* was the predominant theme for top issues in Wyndham today – mostly referring to mental health and drugs and alcohol. The second issue was *Crime, safety and violence*.

The neighbourhood

- Young people overwhelmingly feel safe in their neighbourhood, 67.9% of respondents indicated they do feel safe, 20.2% were unsure and 11.8% did not feel safe.
- *Crime in the area, Gangs* and *The people in my neighbourhood*, were the three reasons respondents feel unsafe.
- The overwhelming response to what could make respondents feel safer was *Improved lighting* across a range of community locations, and greater *surveillance* (cameras and increased police presence).
- Two overarching themes were threaded throughout the questions where a comment response was an option 1) the mental health impacts of COVID-19 lockdown; and 2) The experience of, and need to address Gender, LGBTIQ and racism discrimination, and bullying.

DATA

DATA CLEANING

Between late April and early June 2021, the Youth Survey 2021 attracted a total of 795 responses from people between 12 and 25 years. After data cleaning processes 205 responses were removed, leaving a sample of 590.

More than 117 people did not provide any response after the initial qualifying question and 88 people only answered the demographic questions. For the remaining sample of 590, completed surveys refers to all those who provided most of the demographic information in addition to answering most or all of the preceding questions.

DATA NOTES

For key questions only results are presented in age group 12-17 and 18-25 to acknowledge the differences in these two life stages.

In addition, where it was meaningful some results were benchmarked from the 2020 survey. As a general rule comparison between the two years should be done with caution because the demographic composition of the two samples are different and the samples cannot be compared.

The qualitative questions were analysed with manual coding in QSR Nvivo. Each theme is given a percentage to demonstrate the prevalence of themes, but with qualitative analysis there is less reliance on numbers to express the importance of a theme.

For the qualitative response questions, this report provides the number of comments that were made for each question, followed by the amount of codes. The codes refer to when a comment was attributed against a theme. The number of comments and codes are different for two reasons:

- Some comments could be coded under more than one theme, which results in more codes than total responses.
- Some comments could not be coded or themed, due to misunderstanding the question or not providing enough context.

CONTENTS

- Executive summary 1
- Data 4
 - Data cleaning 4
 - Data notes 4
- Demographics..... 7
 - Age..... 7
 - Gender and sexual preference 7
 - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status 8
 - Country of birth 8
 - Language spoken 8
- Place of residence 9
- Social media 10
- Mental health, support and feeling valued..... 11
 - Mental health rating in the last 12 months..... 11
 - What would improve your mental health? 11
 - Who would you go to if you needed support or help with a problem?..... 12
 - What would make you feel like your opinion is valued? 13
- Bullying 14
 - Experiencing bullying..... 14
 - What helped you with the bullying? 14
- Living in Wyndham - Live, work, study, socialise 15
 - Study status 15
 - Work/volunteer status 16
 - Impacts on ability to work or study..... 16
 - Top 3 issues at the place of study 17
 - What would you change about your place of study?..... 18
- Concerns..... 19
 - In the past 3 months how concerned have you been about the following topics? 19
 - How could your biggest concern be HELPED?..... 22
 - What are the top 3 issues in Wyndham today 23
- Safety in NEIGHBORHOOD 24
 - What makes you feel unsafe in your neighbourhood..... 24
 - what could make you feel safer in your neighbourhood 25
- Youth services 26

Knowledge of youth services offered.....	26
Appendix.....	27
Table 1: Gender of respondents.....	7
Table 2: Top ten Countries of birth	8
Table 3: Top 10 Languages by count, comparison between 2020 and 2021 survey respondents	9
Table 4: What would improve your mental health (open comment)	12
Table 5: What would make you feel your opinion is valued (open comment, 256 codes).....	13
Table 6: Barriers impacting work and study.....	16
Table 7: Top issues at place of study (open comment).....	18
Table 8: What would you change at place of study	19
Table 9: Biggest concern in the last 3 months (open comment)	21
Table 10: How can your biggest concern be helped (open comment)	23
Table 11: Top issues in wyndham today (open comment)	24
Table 12: What makes you feel unsafe in your neighbourhood (open comment).....	25
Table 13: What could make you feel safer in your neighbourhood (open comment).....	25
Table 14: Suburb of residence for 'other' location.....	27
Figure 1: Age of respondents	7
Figure 2: Overseas born	8
Figure 3: Social medial use, 2020 and 2021	10
Figure 4: Social media use by age group	10
Figure 5: Mental health self-rating, 2021.....	11
Figure 6: Mental health self-rating by age group, 2021.....	11
Figure 7: Who would you go to for support or help	13
Figure 8: People experiencing bullying 2021	14
Figure 9: Locations where people were bullied most, 2021	14
Figure 10: Strategies to cope with bullying, 2021	15
Figure 11: Study status for age groups, 2021.....	15
Figure 12: Type of educational institution, 2021	16
Figure 13: Work and volunteer status, comparison between age groups.....	16
Figure 14: Barriers impacting work & study, comparison between age groups	17
Figure 15: How concerned about the following topics over the past 3 months.....	20
Figure 16: Mind map - biggest concern over the last three months.....	22
Figure 17: Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood.....	24
Figure 18: Knowledge about Wyndham Youth Services offerings	26

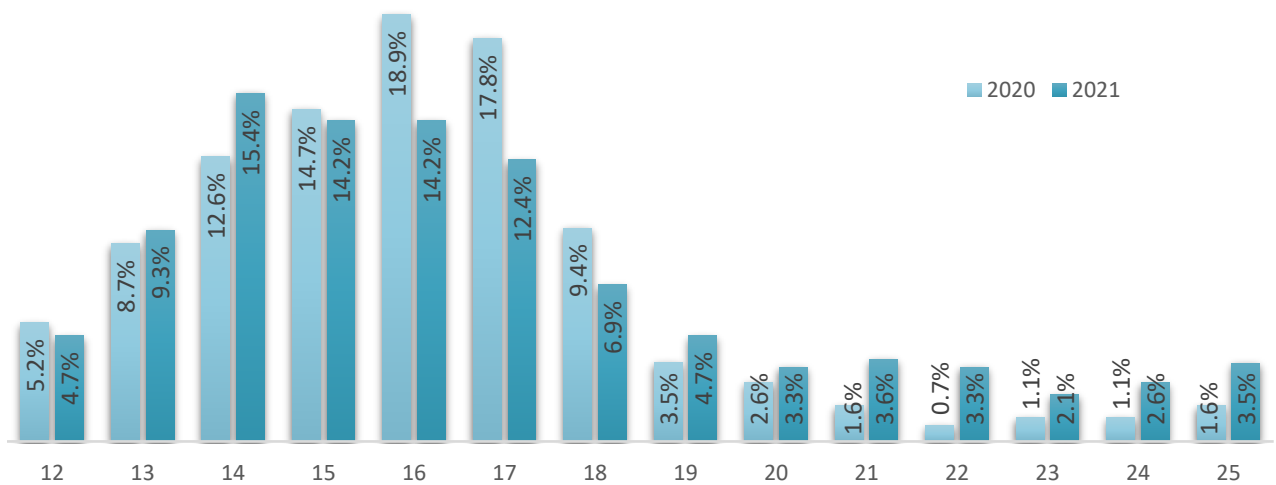
DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE

In 2021 most respondents were under 18 years old, with 70% in the 12-17 age group and 30% in the older 18-25 age group.

The figure below shows a shift in the age cohorts between 2020 and 2021. The 2021 survey captures more respondents between 19 to 25 years of age while 2020 saw more respondents aged between 15 to 18 years.

FIGURE 1: AGE OF RESPONDENTS



GENDER AND SEXUAL PREFERENCE

More than half of respondents (59.3%) identified as female, 31.5% male and 2.4% transgender. The gender for the remaining 6.8% of respondents is shown in the table below.

For sexual preference, more than half of respondents, 57.3%, identified their sexual preference as heterosexual, 11.4% bisexual, and 5.1% pansexual.

TABLE 1: GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

Gender	%	Sexual preference	%
Gender non-conforming/non binary	3.6%	Bisexual	11.4%
Transgender	2.4%	Pansexual	5.1%
Gender questioning	0.8%	Lesbian	4.4%
Gender fluid	0.7%	No Response	4.2%
Gender neutral	0.3%	Gay	1.9%
Demigirl	0.2%	Asexual	1.5%
Bigender	0.2%	None of the above	1.0%
Prefer not to say	0.8%	Questioning	0.5%
Female	59.3%	Heterosexual	57.3%
Male	31.5%	Prefer not to say	12.7%
Total	100.0%	Total	100%

ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STATUS

A total of 4.2% (23) identified an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Status; 3.8% (22) respondents identify as Aboriginal, 0.2% (1) as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 0.2% (1) Torres Strait Islander.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

The 2021 Youth Survey saw 28.3% of people who were born overseas. Whereas in 2020 the proportion was higher with 32.1% born overseas.

FIGURE 2: OVERSEAS BORN



Those born overseas represented 49 separate counties, the following table outlines the top 10. India and New Zealand have been consistently high in both surveys, interestingly only one respondent in 2021 identified as being born in China (compared to 13 in 2020).

TABLE 2: TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

2020	Count	2021	Count
India	48	India	41
New Zealand	29	New Zealand	22
China	13	Philippines	17
England	9	England	9
Philippines	8	Thailand	9
Sri Lanka	8	Singapore	7
Singapore	6	USA	5
South Africa	5	Congo DR	4
Egypt	4	Malaysia	3
Pakistan	4	Pakistan	3
USA	4	South Africa	3

LANGUAGE SPOKEN

In 2021, 34% of respondents speak a language other than English, while 66% do not (196 people and 394 respectively). The most common languages among the 196 respondents are in the figure below.

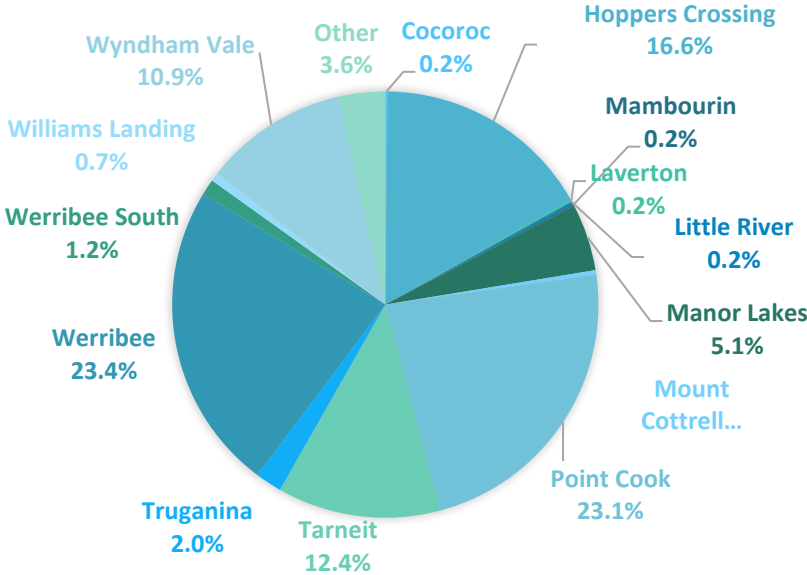
The total number of languages reflects the linguistic diversity across Wyndham. Of the respondents who speak language other than English, 209 and speak another language, 34 speak two additional languages and 12 speak three additional languages. The following table provides a comparison between the 2020 and 2021 surveys for the number of languages spoken.

TABLE 3: TOP 10 LANGUAGES BY COUNT, COMPARISON BETWEEN 2020 AND 2021 SURVEY RESPONDENTS

2020	Count	2021	Count
Hindi	44	Hindi	26
Chinese	17	Arabic	17
Gujarati	13	Tagalog	11
Urdu	13	Gujarati	9
Arabic	12	Tamil	9
Punjabi	12	Chinese	8
Telugu	10	Karen	8
German	9	French	7
Tagalog	9	Indonesian	7
Vietnamese	9	Italian	7
Russian	8	Urdu	7
Tamil	8	Vietnamese	7
Total Languages	70		66

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

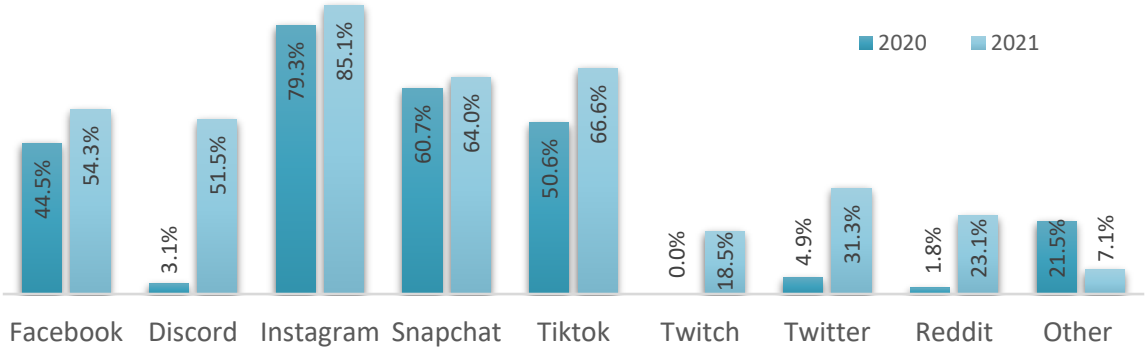
Almost all respondents lived in a Wyndham suburb, with only 3.6% (21) living outside of Wyndham. Three quarters of respondents lived in Werribee (23.4%), Point Cook (23.1%), Hoppers Crossing (16.6%) and Tarneit (12.4%). Please see Appendix for residences outside of Wyndham. The total respondents to this question in 2020 was 569, in 2021 it was 580.



SOCIAL MEDIA

While there was use across all social media platforms, Instagram, Tik Tok and Snapshot were the most prevalent platforms. More than eight out of ten young people use Instagram and more than six out of ten use TikTok. There was an increase of Discord users to 51.5% in 2021, compared to 3.1% in 2020. The total respondents to this question in 2020 was 488, in 2021 it 464.

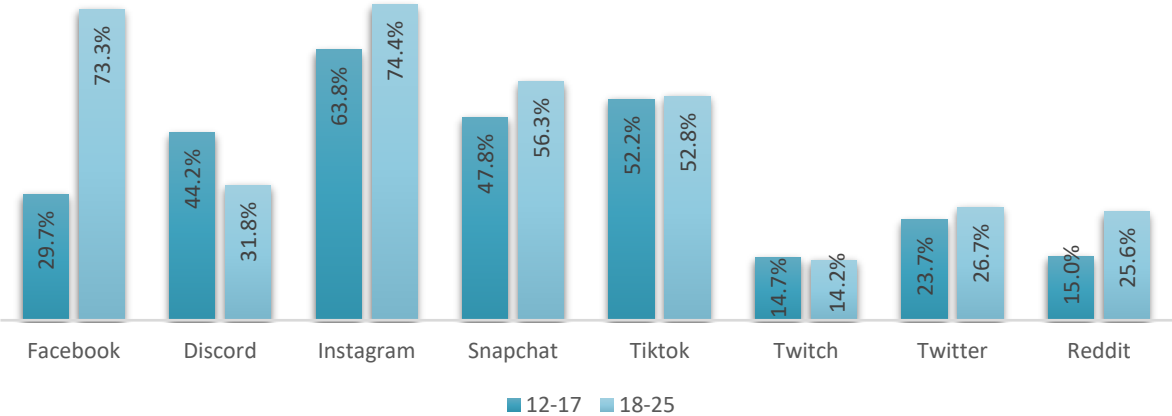
FIGURE 3: SOCIAL MEDIAL USE, 2020 AND 2021



The difference between social media use and age group is demonstrated in Figure 4 below. The older age group, 18-25, were more likely to be using all social media platforms, with a higher percentage using each platform compared to the younger age group except for Discord and Twitch.

For both age groups the most prevalent social media platform was Instagram (74.4% of respondents compared to 63.8%). The largest difference between the two cohorts was the use of Facebook, with 18-25 years olds more likely to use this platform (73% compared to 29%).

FIGURE 4: SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY AGE GROUP

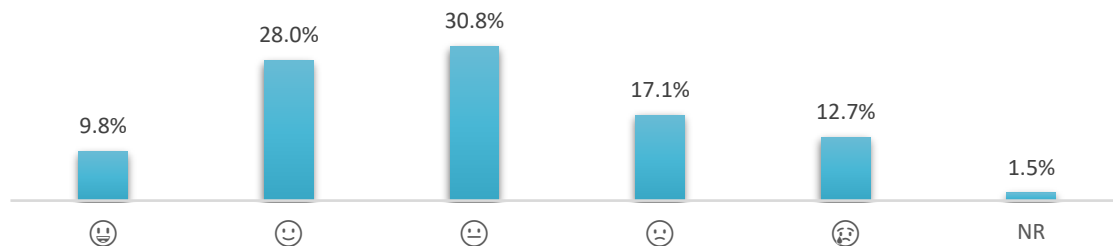


MENTAL HEALTH, SUPPORT AND FEELING VALUED

MENTAL HEALTH RATING IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Measured on a scale of one to five using emojis, young people indicate their average wellbeing to be neutral with a score of 3.0. Almost three in ten respondents selected the second highest rating for their mental health (28.0%) and almost one in ten selected the highest rating (9.8%). Equally, almost three in ten respondents selected the two lowest mental health ratings (17.1% and 12.7%).

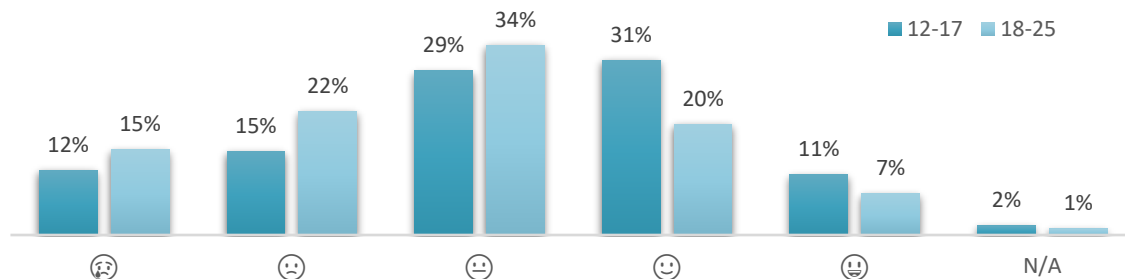
FIGURE 5: MENTAL HEALTH SELF-RATING, 2021



Total = 590

There were differences in the mental health self-rating for each age group. The 18-25 age group were more likely to report a lower mental health self-rating for the past 12 months, with 15% selecting the lowest rating, compared to 12% of respondents aged 12-17 (Figure 6). Correspondingly, 7% selected the highest mental health self-rating, compared to 11% of those aged 12-17.

FIGURE 6: MENTAL HEALTH SELF-RATING BY AGE GROUP, 2021



Total = 590 (414 in the 12-17 age group and 176 in 18-25)

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

A total of 516 respondents provided comments to this question resulting in 12 main themes. Many of the responses to what would improve mental health orbited around impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. The top theme was *fulfilling social needs and belonging*, where respondents indicated they wanted to see their friends and family. This premise is also supported by the themes *less lockdowns and COVID-19 restrictions* and *ability to do interest activities*. Interest activities centred around going outdoors and a smaller amount of responses stated resuming interest activities such as sport and music.

The second main theme to improve mental health was *self-care and support*, with the main sub theme ‘therapy or talking to a support person’ followed and connected to the ‘mental health care’ subtheme. Respondents were aware of a need to address their mental health by talking to someone

(mainly a professional, but also a support person); or indicated the need to continue with their existing mental health support measures. The strong trend of comments relating to care and support was connected to a strong theme of respondents indicating a *need for affordable and available health services*.

TABLE 4: WHAT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	%
Social and belonging	24.1%
Better relationships	
Feeling accepted	
More social interactions with friends and family	
Self-care and support	19.0%
General support	
Less stress	
Mental health care	
Mindfulness practices	
Physical self-care	
Self-motivation	
Therapy or talking to a support person	
Less Lockdowns and COVID restrictions	15.0%
Able to do interest activities	12.4%
Addressing school or tertiary issues	8.3%
Finishing VCE	
Going back to onsite learning	
More support from place of study	
Affordable & available health services	6.6%
I don't know	5.9%
Nothing	2.5%
Basic necessities	4.4%
A safe place	
Employment	
Financial security or assistance	
Transport	
Material goods	1.3%
Something to look forward to, hope for the future	0.9%
Transitioning	0.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

527 codes main themes, 294 codes sub themes

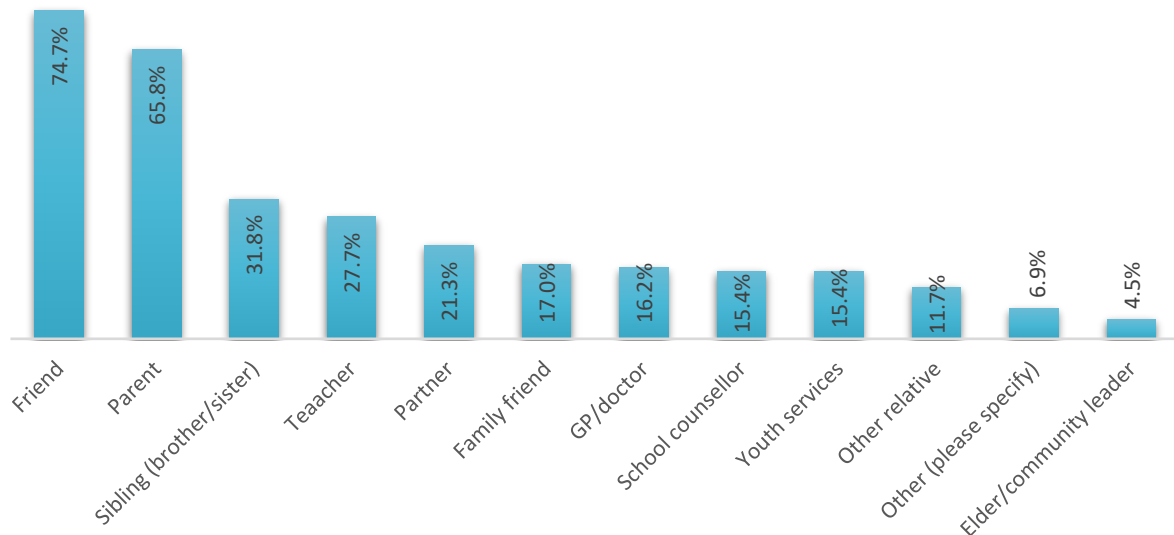
WHO WOULD YOU GO TO IF YOU NEEDED SUPPORT OR HELP WITH A PROBLEM?

Out of the 494 people who responded to this question, almost three quarters (74.7%) indicate that a friend is a key port of call when it comes to support. This is followed by parents (65.8%).

Every other person who may be able to support young people was indicated by at most one third of respondents. Siblings (31.8%) are more likely supports than teachers (27.7%). Noting the earlier stated caution with comparing 2020 and 2021 results, there were some differences between the two years that may be the result of COVID-19 lockdown impacts. Such as, a smaller percentage of respondents indicating they would go to teachers for support, potentially reflecting a reduced opportunity for incidental communications with teachers during online learning. Other notable differences was the increased indication of GP/doctors as support options, from 8.9% in 2020 to

16.2% in 2021; and an increase for youth services, from 11.4% in 2020 to 15.4% in 2021. The total respondents to this question in 2020 was 519, in 2021 it 494.

FIGURE 7: WHO WOULD YOU GO TO FOR SUPPORT OR HELP



WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR OPINION IS VALUED?

The overwhelming consensus about what would make respondents feel like their opinion is valued was to be *actively listened to and taken seriously*. The two sub-themes for this were for respondents to have their ‘point of view acknowledged even if their opinions were different’ to the other person/people; and to be listened to ‘without judgement’.

The respondents indicated two way open conversation was the key to feeling their opinion is valued. The second most mentioned idea after being listened to actively, was to have *ideas and opinions responded to or enacted upon* – the idea being that if their opinions were enacted upon it would show their opinion is valued.

Connected to this is the sub theme *to be consulted in decision making*, whether at school, at home, or in the community and *a platform for further opportunities to be heard*. It was also important to some respondents that they could have conversations and be listened to without been dismissed because of their age, compared to adults or older persons. There was also reasonable mention of respondents wanting to learn how to voice their opinion.

TABLE 5: WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL YOUR OPINION IS VALUED (OPEN COMMENT, 256 CODES)

Themes	% of codes
When actively listened to and taken seriously	65.6%
<i>Point of view is acknowledged even if different to others</i>	
<i>Listened to without judgement</i>	
When my ideas and opinions are responded to or enacted upon	18.4%
Conversations approached equally regardless of age	4.3%
Learning to voice my opinion	3.5%
To be consulted in decision making	3.5%
Feeling supported	2.9%
Opportunities to be heard - a platform	1.2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

BULLYING

EXPERIENCING BULLYING

Bullying is a key determinant impacting health and wellbeing. A quarter of all respondents have experienced bullying in the previous year. For those aged 12-17 years, 28% had experienced bullying compared to 16% of 18-25 year olds.

FIGURE 8: PEOPLE EXPERIENCING BULLYING 2021



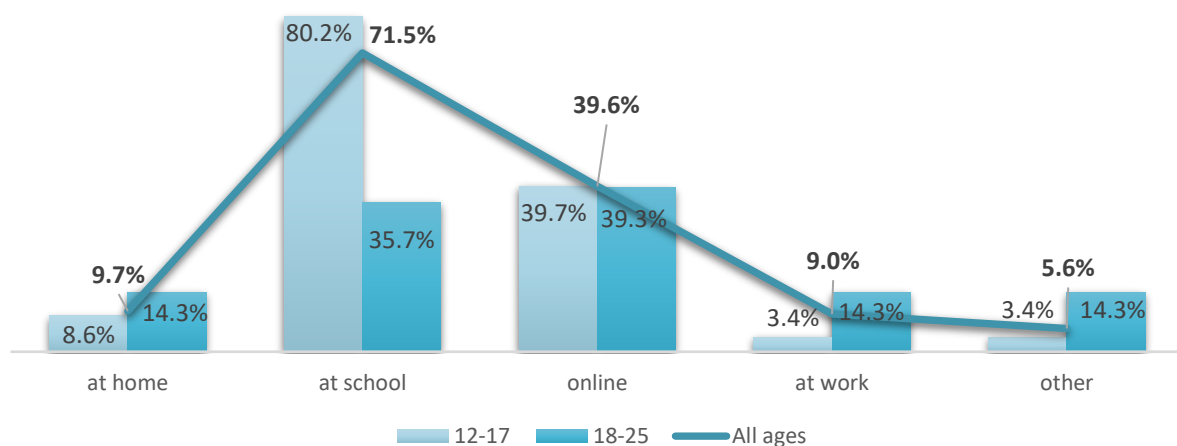
Total = 139 respondents.

School was the most likely place for bullying to happen and accounted for 71.5% of occurrences for the 139 people who answered the question, followed by online bullying which accounted for 39.6% of occurrences.

The locations for bullying were more evenly distributed for the 18-25 age group compared to the 12-17 age group. School was the clear most likely place to experience bullying for respondents aged 12-17 years (80.2%), while online was the most likely place for those aged 18-25 years (39.3%) followed by 14.3% indicating bullying at work, home and other location.

Online bullying has increased between 2020 and 2021, from 14.5% in 2020 to 41.0% in 2021.

FIGURE 9: LOCATIONS WHERE PEOPLE WERE BULLIED MOST, 2021



WHAT HELPED YOU WITH THE BULLYING?

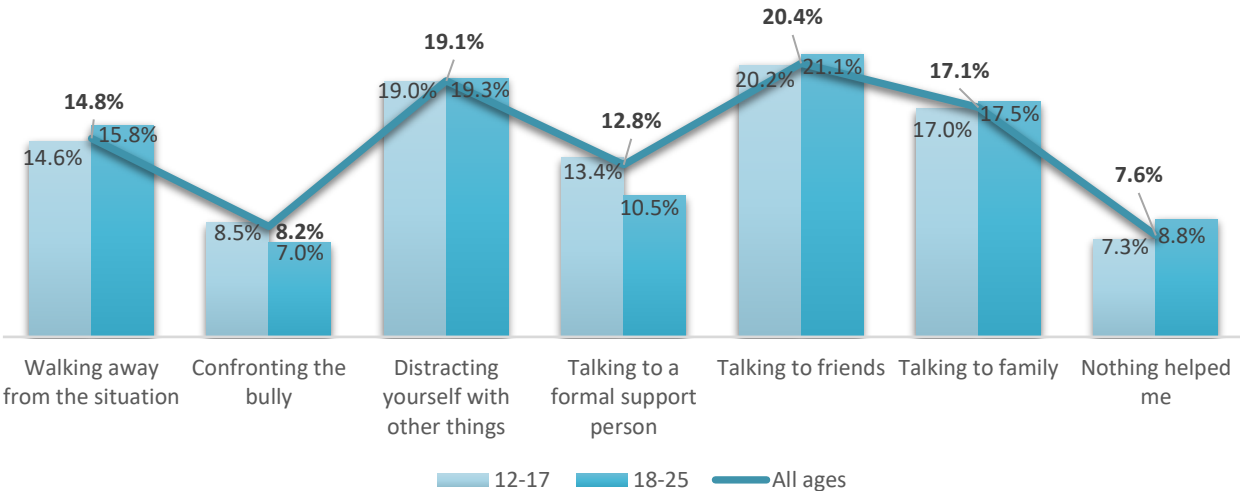
When asked what helped with the bullying 20.4% of all respondents felt talking to friends helped the most, followed by 19.1% who indicated distracting oneself with other activities.

Coping strategies for bullying were not overwhelmingly different between the two age groups. The biggest difference was that those in the 12-17 age group were more likely to talk to a formal support person such as a psychologist or counsellor (13.4% compared to 10.5% aged 18-25). The older age

group were slightly more likely to walk away from the situation (15.8% compared to 14.6% 12 to 17 years) talk to friends (21.1% compared to 20.2%) or indicate that nothing helped them (8.8% compared to 7.3%)

Alternative strategies mentioned by respondents in an open comment response were *retaliation* (3 responses), *not going to school* (2), *prayer* (1) and *moving schools* (1).

FIGURE 10: STRATEGIES TO COPE WITH BULLYING, 2021



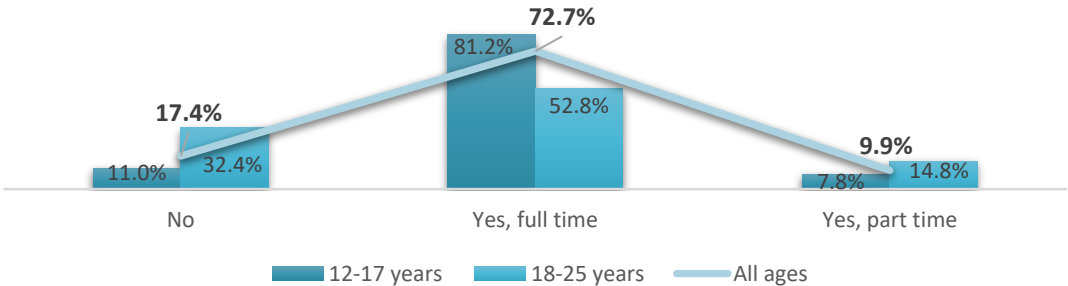
Total = 138 respondents.

LIVING IN WYNDHAM - LIVE, WORK, STUDY, SOCIALISE

STUDY STATUS

The vast majority of total respondents were either studying full time (72%) or part time (9.9%). Expectedly the majority of the 12-17 age group were studying full or part time (81.2% and 7.8% respectively) and the 18-25 age group had a higher percentage not studying (32.4%) and were most likely employed or looking for work.

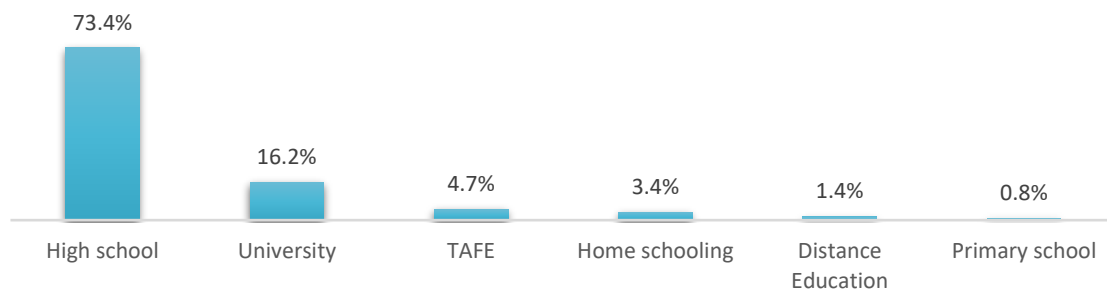
FIGURE 11: STUDY STATUS FOR AGE GROUPS, 2021



Total = 493 respondents.

Figure 12 below shows almost three in four (73.4%) respondents were attending high school and almost one in four attending higher education (16.2% university and 4.7% TAFE).

FIGURE 12: TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, 2021

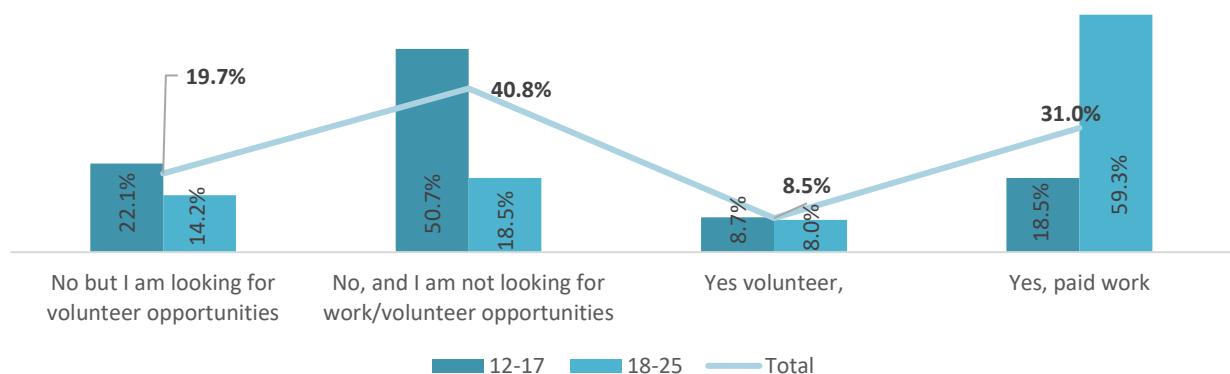


Total = 493 respondents.

WORK/VOLUNTEER STATUS

Just under a third were in paid work (31.0%) and 60.5% were not working or volunteering. Of those not working or volunteering, 19.7% were looking to do so and 40.8% were not. A total of 8% of young people in the survey were fully disengaged i.e. neither studying nor working. This is lower than the most recent Census (11.2%) but higher than the 3.3% recorded in the 2020 Youth Survey. Expectedly a higher percentage of the 18-25 age group were engaged in full time work (59.3% compared to 18.5% in the 12-17 age group).

FIGURE 13: WORK AND VOLUNTEER STATUS, COMPARISON BETWEEN AGE GROUPS



TOTAL= 529 RESPONDENTS.

IMPACTS ON ABILITY TO WORK OR STUDY

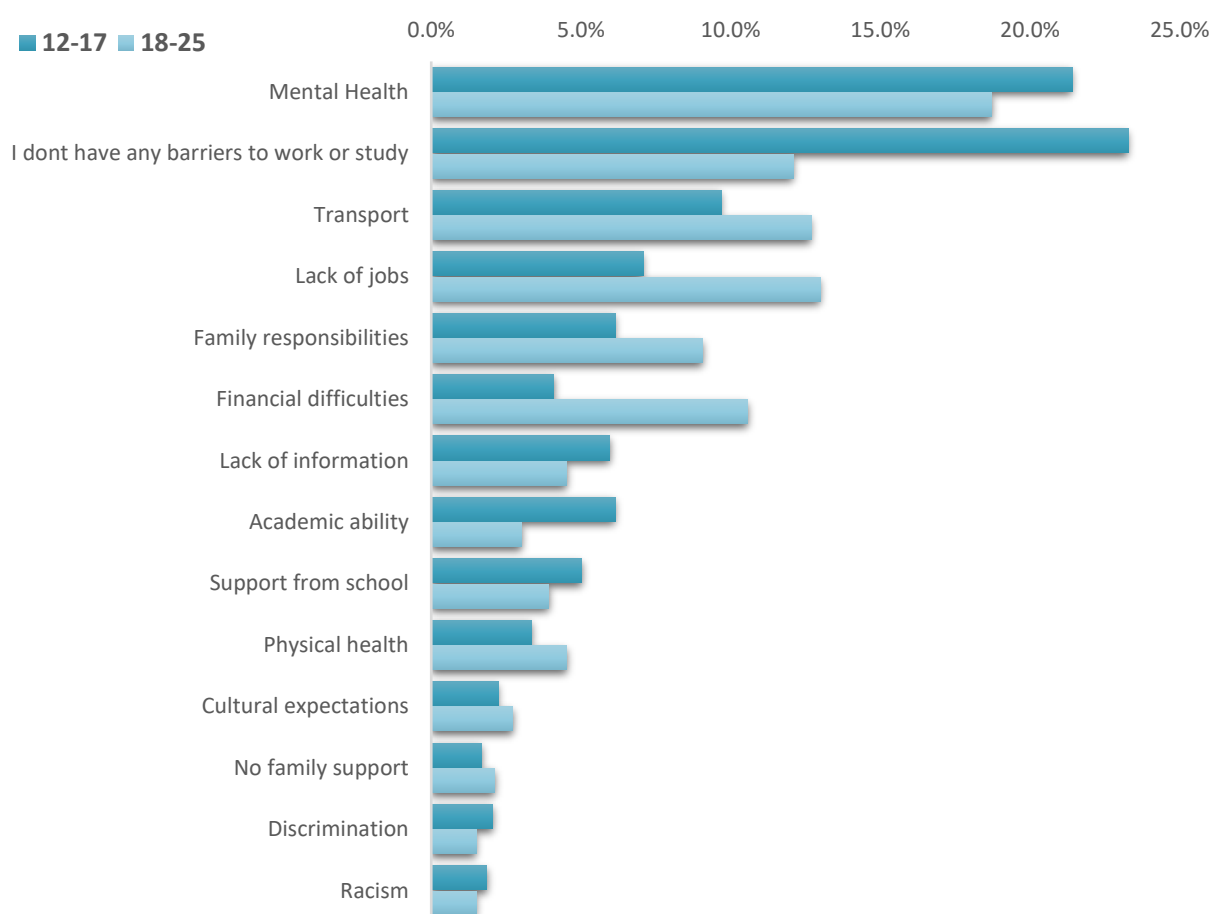
The majority of respondents (64.4%) experienced at least one barrier impacting their ability to work or study, and just over a third did not (32.8%). The main impacts on study and work were issues relating to mental health and wellbeing (36%) transport (18.8%) and lack of jobs (16.2%). Looking at barriers to work and study by age group, the younger age group were less likely to experience barriers but more likely to have experienced mental health as an impact (see Figure 14).

TABLE 6: BARRIERS IMPACTING WORK AND STUDY

Barriers impacting work & study	%
Mental Health	35.6%
I don't have any barriers to work or study	32.8%
Transport	18.8%
Lack of jobs	16.2%

Other (please specify)	14.4%
Family responsibilities	12.6%
Financial difficulties	11.4%
Lack of information	9.4%
Academic ability	8.6%
Support from school	8.0%
Physical health	6.6%
Cultural expectations	4.2%
No family support	3.2%
Discrimination	3.2%
Racism	3.0%

FIGURE 14: BARRIERS IMPACTING WORK & STUDY, COMPARISON BETWEEN AGE GROUPS



Overall, there were more people experiencing barriers to work and study in 2021 than 2020. In 2020 44% of respondents indicated they hadn't experienced any barriers, whilst in 2021 33% experienced some form barrier, a relative increase of 11%. The total respondents to this question 2021 was 499.

TOP 3 ISSUES AT THE PLACE OF STUDY

In total there were 394 people who provided open-ended responses about the top three issues at their place of study; the comments resulted in 471 total codes. The largest theme, accounting for 30.0% of the codes was *School or study environment* which mainly included wanting to return to onsite learning, various issues with teachers and lecturers, including equal treatment with other

students and need for further support. This theme was connected to *Stress about study*, which accounted for 4.7% of codes.

The second largest issue was *Discrimination and Inequality*, represented by the smaller sub-themes with bullying prevention the most prominent issue, followed by issues of sexuality and gender discrimination. Financial issues were a small sub theme which referred to the ability to pay school fees or uniforms. The *Discrimination and inequality* theme was strongly connected to the school environment, however the amount of responses warranted this as a standalone theme.

TABLE 7: TOP ISSUES AT PLACE OF STUDY (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	Subthemes	% of codes
School or study environment		30.0%
	Absence of student support	
	COVID - Online learning, on campus	
	Other people	
	Teachers and lecturers	
Discrimination and inequality		24.8%
	Bullying	
	Financial issues	
	Racism	
	Sexuality and gender	
Distractions and time management		9.7%
Facilities and resources		9.3%
	<i>Not enough sport</i>	
	<i>Technology</i>	
Stress about study (workload)		7.6%
Location - distance and transport		6.2%
Respect, acceptance and inclusion		5.2%
	<i>Social life</i>	
Vapes or vaping		2.8%
Mental health		2.4%
Aggression or conflict		2.1%
Total		100.0%

471 total codes

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR PLACE OF STUDY?

When asked what one thing they would change about their place of study, the strongest response was about having *positive social environments*, with inclusivity and acceptance, strong leadership and space for talking about mental health (see Table 8). This corresponds with the top issues at the place of study (discussed above, Table 7) where the top issue was *School Environment*.

The second most mentioned theme was *School alternatives/flexibility*. Respondents recommended change to incorporate more flexible learning options and uniform rules; and practical life skill programs, such as how to strengthen opportunities for success post school.

The third most mentioned theme was to *Address discrimination and bullying*, and this theme was connected to the *Create positive social environments*. Throughout all of the open comments in the whole survey, respondents consistently spoke of gender and LGBTIQA discrimination, racism and bullying. Connected to a minor but strong theme emerged about affordability of school fees and uniforms and funding for schools to improve facilities.

TABLE 8: WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE AT PLACE OF STUDY

Themes	Sub-themes	% of codes
Create positive social environments		33.9%
	Inclusivity and acceptance for all	
	Leadership	
	Space for talking about mental health	
	Listen to students	
	Additional study and personal support	
	Have a quiet place to study	
School alternatives/flexibility		19.4%
	Flexible learning	
	Practical life skills programs	
	Wellbeing and fun activities	
	Strengthening opportunities for success post school	
	Flexible about uniform	
Address discrimination and bullying		13.9%
	Bullying	
	Gender and LGBTIQ discrimination	
	Racism and cultural learning	
	School system - affordability and funding	
Improve the look and facilities of the school		9.9%
Nothing		7.2%
Distance from home & better public transport		6.7%
On campus learning		3.8%
Equal treatment		3.2%
Be more self-motivated		2.0%
Total		100.0%

384 responses, 504 codes

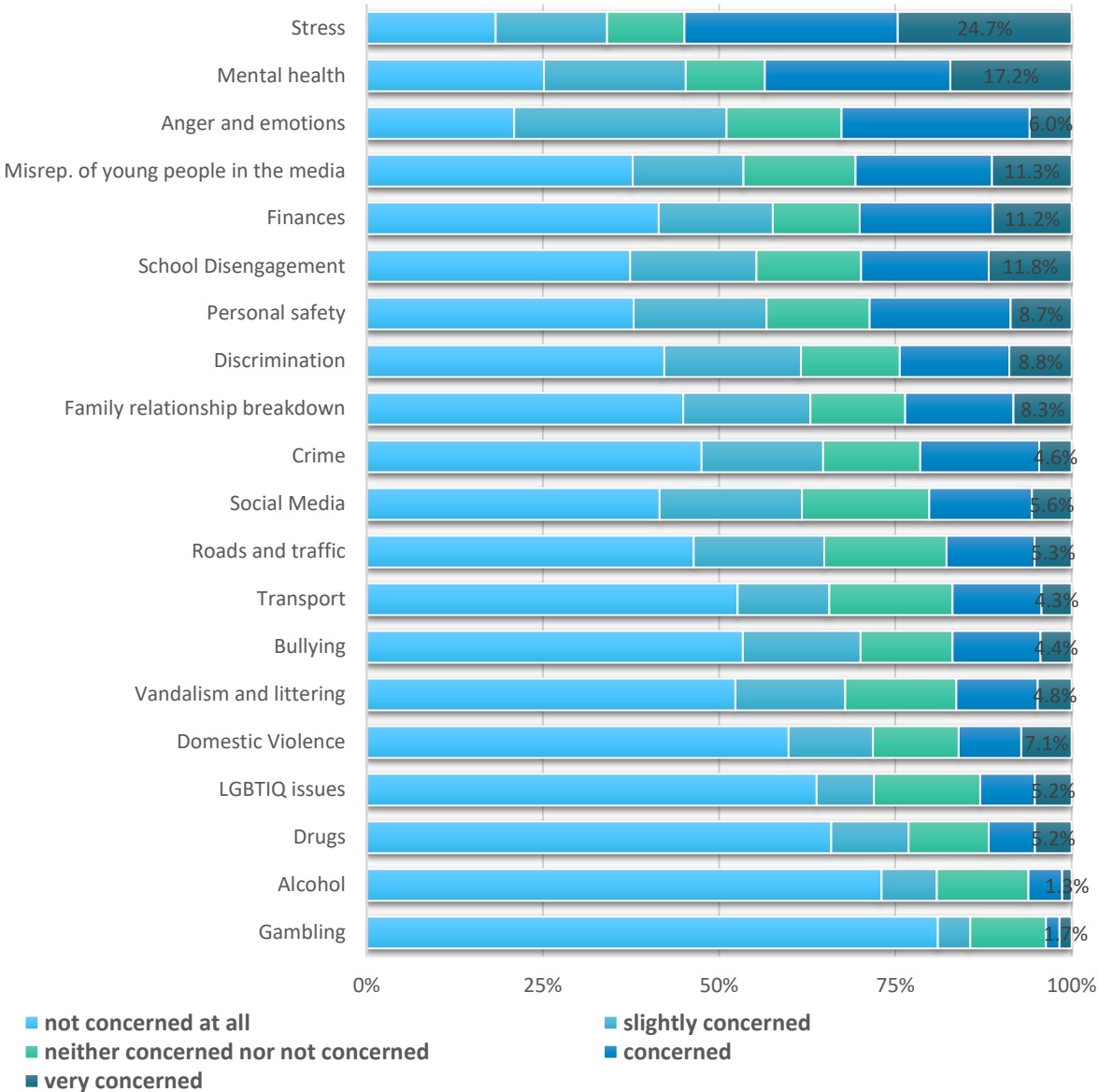
CONCERNS

The survey was open from June 2021, which places the timeframe for the following questions - issues of most concern in the past 3 months - from April to June 2021.

IN THE PAST 3 MONTHS HOW CONCERNED HAVE YOU BEEN ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS?

In 2021 the topic that caused the most concern was Stress with 55% of respondents feeling concerned or very concerned. The second top issue of concern was Mental Health, which 44% of respondents feeling concerned or very concerned. The areas of where respondents were not concerned at all were Gambling (81%), Alcohol (73%) and Drugs (66%).

FIGURE 15: HOW CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS OVER THE PAST 3 MONTHS



Respondents were also given the opportunity to outline their biggest concern in the past 3 months through an open comment response (Table 9). The concerns mentioned the most by respondents were *COVID-19, School and workload stress and Mental Health*. Significant but less mentioned themes were concerns about *Employment, Family health and relationships and family violence*.

TABLE 9: BIGGEST CONCERN IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	% of codes
COVID-19	19.5%
School and workload stresses	17.5%
Mental health	16.8%
Discrimination and bullying	5.7%
Financial concerns	5.7%
Stress	5.2%
Family health and relationships	5.0%
Physical health	3.5%
Friendships	3.1%
Employment	2.9%
Safety	2.8%
The future	2.4%
Body image	2.2%
Global issues	1.8%
Nothing	1.8%
Self confidence	1.5%
Family violence	1.1%
Public transport	1.1%
Isolation	0.4%
Total	100.0%

479 comments, 543 codes

These open ended answers somewhat corresponded with the results in Figure 15, with mental health and stress featuring in the top 3 concerns for both questions. However, the open ended responses allow vision into the connections and emphasis of concerns.

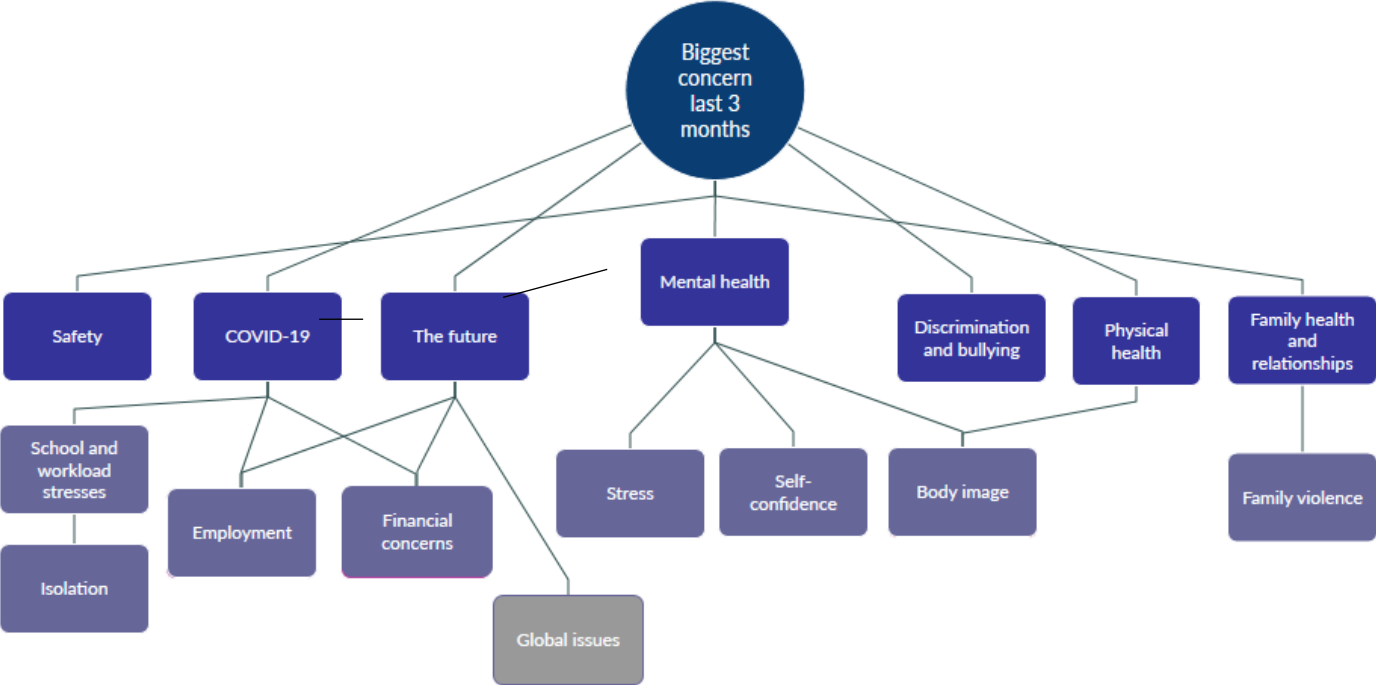
The mind map below shows the interconnections of themes for the biggest concern over the past three months. The *COVID -19* theme permeated most other themes, such as *Mental health* due to isolation, and the *School and workload stresses theme* with some respondents commenting how difficult it was to go in and out of lockdown, in a state of constant uncertainty, online learning and not seeing friends and family.

The *School and workload stresses* theme was also unrelated to COVID-19, where respondents indicated general stress about finishing exams/year 12, work life balance.

COVID-19 also contributed to create uncertainty about *Employment, The future* and added to *Financial concerns*.

Family health and relationships related to concern for parent’s health, or for family members they could not see due to lockdown who were unwell, and a smaller theme about personal relationship concerns. In addition, there were comments about family violence as their greatest concern.

FIGURE 16: MIND MAP - BIGGEST CONCERN OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS



Mental health was mentioned generally but also in regard to COVID-19, with respondents concerned about themselves, the people closest to them and wider society.

Discrimination and bullying was a key theme mentioned and mostly in relation to homophobia, racism, and bullying. Respondents didn’t give much detail about these concerns.

HOW COULD YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN BE HELPED?

An open comment question asking how the biggest concerns can be helped, resulted in an overarching theme of additional *Support* - from more mental health support and avenues to seek this support. In addition, support from schools in relation to bullying and school work and support to gain employment.

The second most prominent theme, *End COVID lockdowns, compliance, youth vaccination, go back to school*, corresponded with the biggest concern (see mind map above). These respondents wished for people to comply with COVID-19 directives and were looking forward to the opportunity to receive their vaccine and go back to school, and the ability to participate in more social interactions.

Solutions to issues of gender and sexual preference discrimination included recommendations for education on these matters for youth. Some respondents looked to themselves for solutions to their biggest concern, including suggesting they needed better study habits, motivation, mindfulness and self-care.

The third most prominent theme to the question how your biggest concern could be helped was / don't know.

TABLE 10: HOW CAN YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN BE HELPED (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	Sub-themes	% of codes
Support		27.6%
	Help to stop bullying	
	More mental health support and accessible avenues to seek support	
	Support from family and community	
	Support from school, reduced school work	
	Support to gain employment	
End COVID lockdowns, compliance, youth vaccination, go back to school		20.6%
I don't know		12.8%
Motivation, mindfulness, self-care		8.0%
Talking to a professional i.e. psychologist		6.0%
More social interaction, seeing and support from friends		5.8%
Better study habits, environments & local places to study		4.9%
Financial support for self and family		4.5%
Assistance with problematic relationships		2.7%
Gender, sexual preference and health education		2.1%
Knowing what the future holds		0.8%
Less crime and increased police presence		1.2%
Less racism		0.8%
Better local transport - increased frequency and locations		1.0%
Local job opportunities for youth		1.0%
Total		100.0%

466 comments, 485 codes themes, 275 codes for sub-themes

WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 ISSUES IN WYNDHAM TODAY

There were 416 responses to the question 'What are the top 3 issues in Wyndham today', resulting in 8 key themes, with 522 codes.

Issues relating to *Youth Health* was the predominant theme, with Mental Health and Drugs and Alcohol the sub themes. This result is interesting because while the 'mental health' issue threads throughout all of the survey response, 'drugs' was on of the least concerns when respondents were asked about the topic that caused the most concern (see Figure 15). Potentially the respondents consider drugs to be a perceived concern for the total youth population, but do not consider it to be a concern for themselves personally.

There was strong mention of traffic and road safety, both referring to unsafe driving and roadworks. The risks associated with increased traffic congestion was connected to the theme 'population growth' where respondents indicated some negative opinions towards the increasing number of people in in Wyndham.

TABLE 11: TOP ISSUES IN WYNDHAM TODAY (OPEN COMMENT)

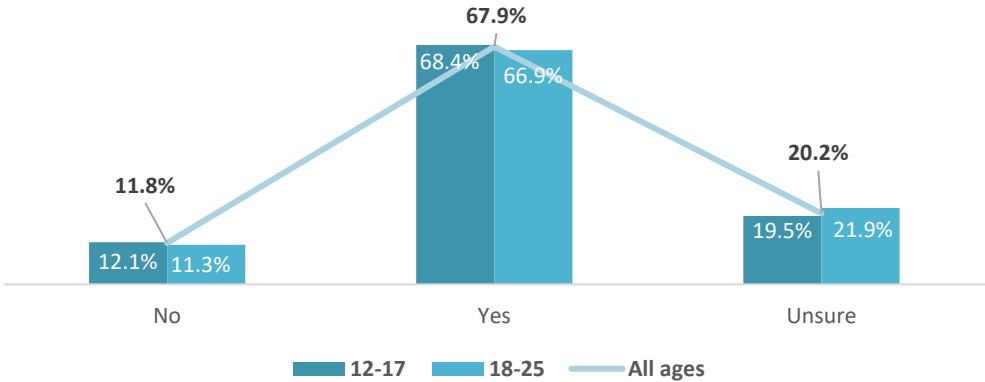
Themes	% of codes
Youth Health	32.4%
<i>Drugs and alcohol</i>	
<i>Mental health</i>	
Crime (youth), safety, violence	24.9%
Youth gangs	
COVID-19	9.9%
Traffic congestion, roads and unsafe driving	8.8%
Environment, conservation and public area maintenance	8.6%
Services and infrastructure	7.3%
<i>Population growth</i>	
<i>Public transport</i>	
<i>Schools</i>	
<i>Youth spaces and events</i>	
Inequality, bullying and discrimination	6.7%
<i>Affordability</i>	
<i>Gender and sexuality discrimination</i>	
<i>Racial discrimination</i>	
Youth unemployment	1.4%
Total	100.0%

416 responses, 522 codes

SAFETY IN NEIGHBORHOOD

FIGURE 17: DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Over 67.9% of respondents indicated they do feel safe in their neighbourhood, 20.2% were unsure and 11.8% did not feel safe. These results were consistent for each age group.



WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNSAFE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

For the 421 people who provided a comment for this question, a third indicated *Crime in the area* made them feel unsafe in their neighbourhood, followed by *Gangs* and *The people in my neighbourhood*. These comments were based on experience and also perception of crime, where they had heard about crime occurring in their neighbourhood. Additional themes were a *fear of getting hurt* and having *been a victim of crime* in the past.

TABLE 12: WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNSAFE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	% of codes
Crime in the area	36.4%
Gangs	13.0%
The people in my neighbourhood	11.7%
Drug use	9.1%
Fear of getting hurt	9.1%
Have been a victim of crime	6.5%
Violence (perceived or experienced)	6.5%
Nothing	3.9%
Poor lighting	3.9%
Total	100.0%

421 responses, and 266 codes, many responses were 'don't know, not sure, or N/A'.

WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The overwhelming response to what could make respondents feel safer was *Improved lighting* across a range of community locations, and greater *surveillance* (cameras and increased police presence).

Less mentioned but no less significant themes to feel safer were prevention strategies, such as *Neighbourhood Watch* or similar programs; *activities for older teenagers* and *self-defence education for young people*; *community strengthening* and *crime prevention*.

Some responses indicated that crime prevention will need a multi-faceted approach addressing inequalities and discrimination. In addition, a few respondents thought that if the consequences of offences were made known to the public this may deter further crime from occurring.

TABLE 13: WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD (OPEN COMMENT)

Themes	% of codes
Improved lighting - PT stops, parks, streets	24.4%
Greater Police presence - patrols and stations	17.7%
Neighbourhood Watch and community strengthening	13.5%
Camera surveillance	10.5%
Less crime and greater crime prevention	10.5%
Less undesirable behaviours (drugs, gangs, violence)	7.9%
Traffic safety - busy roads and unsafe driving	4.5%
Information about crime consequences in the area - justice	3.4%
Friends and family	3.0%
Activities for older teenagers	1.9%
More safe public spaces	1.5%
Self-defence education for young people	0.8%
More PTV officers on public transport	0.4%
Total	100.0%

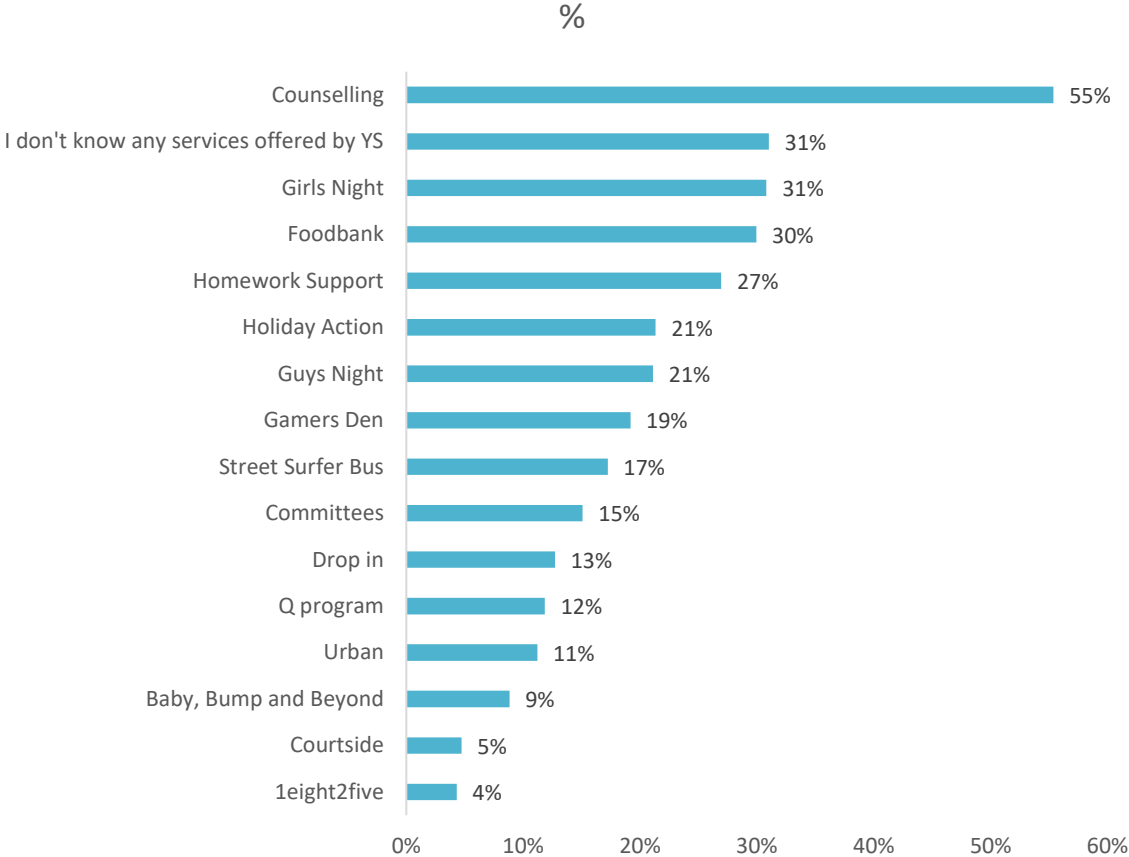
YOUTH SERVICES

KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH SERVICES OFFERED

Of the 464 people who answered this question, most young people know where their nearest community or youth space is (71.9%) though almost one in four do not (28.1%).

Counselling services are the most widely known service, with more than half of all respondents aware of this (55%). The services least known about were 1eightfive (4%) and Courtside (5%).

FIGURE 18: KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WYNDHAM YOUTH SERVICES OFFERINGS



APPENDIX

TABLE 14: SUBURB OF RESIDENCE FOR 'OTHER' LOCATION

Suburb of residence	Number	%
Altona	1	0%
Altona Meadows/North	3	1%
Bacchus Marsh	1	0%
Caroline Springs	2	0%
Deer Park	1	0%
Geelong	2	0%
Highbett	1	0%
Pascoe Vale	1	0%
Seabrook	5	1%
Sunshine	1	0%
Taylors Hill	1	0%
West Melbourne	1	0%
Williamstown	1	0%
Total	21	4%