



Monash Youth Survey 2021

About the survey

Monash Youth Services (MYS) is a part of the broad range of services that Monash Council provides to the local community. MYS provides programs, events and services to young people, aged 10-25 years, and their families living and accessing the City of Monash. MYS services and programs are free and confidential.

The biannual Monash Youth Survey enables both MYS and Monash Council to be proactive and responsive to the ever-changing needs of young people in the City of Monash.

Monash Youth Ambassadors (YABS) have played a significant role in the design and implementation of the Monash Youth Survey. YABS are a group of up to 20 young people aged 10-25 who consult with other young people in the community to hear their concerns and perceptions on current issues, and understand how MYS can appropriately respond to these needs. YABS together with MYS and guidance from the Consultation and Research Coordinator (Monash Communications Department) developed this year's survey (Appendix 1), with the aim to:

- Understand the topics of concern for young people connected to the City of Monash
- Identify young people's key connections to their local community
- Create meaningful opportunity for young people to contribute to service improvement of youth services and the Monash Council

The survey was conducted from 10 May to 4 June, 2021 and was available online and in hard copy. There were 1394 participants, aged between 10 and 25 years. It was anticipated that this survey will:

- Increase the level of engagement and accessibility for young people in Monash to participate in community consultation
- Increase the profile of young people in Monash as being responsible, engaged, and empowered in their local community
- Raise the profile of Monash young people and the current issues that are impacting their lives

Engaging young people

This year, 1394 young people responded to the Monash Youth Survey, of which more than 75% engaged the survey in electronic form. In the designing phase, MYS and YABS considered the limitations and risks associated with the use of hard copy surveys in the unpredictable COVID-19 environment and decided to focus on launching the survey online. MYS collected many useful ideas from YABS young people to ensure the Monash Youth Survey was mobile friendly and easy to access. MYS communicated with the Monash Council's Consultation and Research Coordinator, who then helped to bring YABS young people's ideas to life using online community engagement tools such as *The HiVE* and *Survey Monkey*.

The Monash Youth Survey link and QR Code were distributed by YABS and MYS through a variety of networks, such as:

- Monash secondary school newsletters and online communications portals
- Monash University residences, clubs and international student services
- Monash Youth Workers Network
- Monash Interfaith Gathering
- Monash Multicultural and Settlement Services Network
- Monash Youth Services program participants and clients
- MYS, City of Monash and local community organisations' social media pages

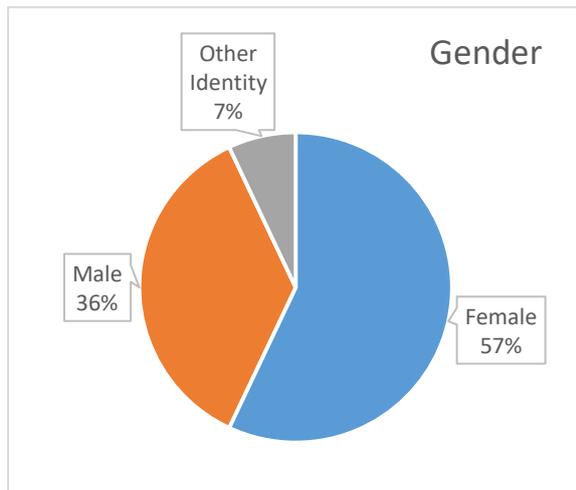
Posters and flyers with the link and QR Code were distributed throughout Monash to engage young people, e.g. neighbourhood houses, libraries, aquatics centres, sporting clubs, cafes, restaurants and shops. Eight JC Decaux bus shelter posters were produced and were displayed during the 26 days that the survey was open to capture young people throughout the City of Monash. Prizes were used to encourage young people to engage the Monash Youth Survey. Young people who completed the survey could decide whether they wanted to go into the draw to win one of the three prizes of their choice. The three prize options were a Fitbit Inspire, a Razer Blackshark V2 X Gaming Headset, or a 12-month Zoos Victoria Membership.

MYS and YABS also distributed hard copy surveys to young people throughout Monash. This included Youth Worker outreach sessions at secondary schools, such as South Oakleigh College; Youth Worker and YABS outreach sessions in local neighbourhoods, e.g. Monash Council libraries, Monash University libraries, homework groups and tutoring classes.

MYS and YABS drew from the experience in the past and acknowledged the difficulty of engaging young people from minority groups such as disability, multicultural, and gender diverse. MYS and YABS consulted with Metro Access Community Development Officer, Multicultural Community Development Officer and Gender Equity Coordinator at Monash Council to make sure the languages used in the 2021 Monash Youth Survey were appropriate. YABS also worked hard to reach out to community organisations and groups where minority young people attended, e.g. Monash Student Association (Disabilities and Carers), Interchange Inner East, Monash Interfaith Gathering, and LGBTIQ groups at Monash University.

Participant demographics

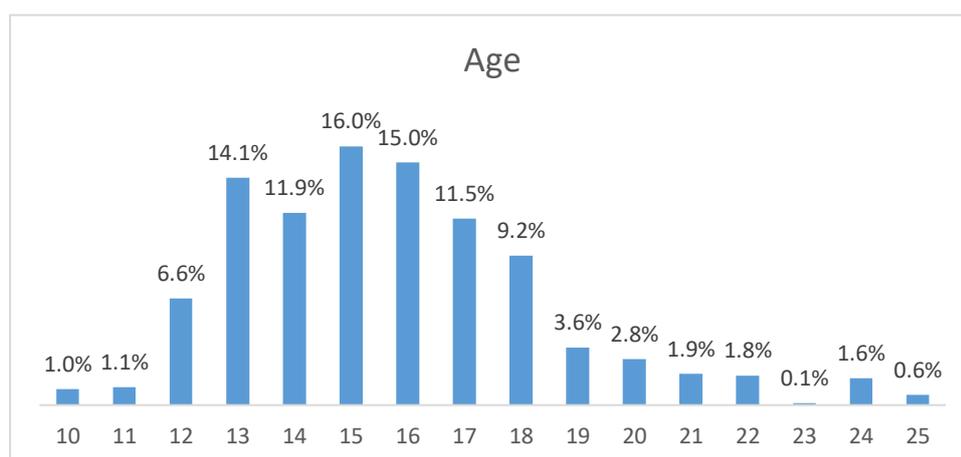
Gender and age profile



Gender	Number of participants	Percent
Female	660	57.0
Male	416	35.9
Non-binary	22	1.9
Gender diverse	14	1.2
Transgender	9	0.8
Self-describe	1	0.1
Prefer not to say	36	3.1
Total	1158	100.0
Unanswered	236	
Total	1394	

Approximately 83% of survey participants identified their gender, whereas 17% young people left this question unanswered. Of those who responded to the gender question, 35.9% identified as male, 57.0% female, and 7.1% other identity, including non-binary, gender diverse, transgender, self-describe and prefer not to say.

The Monash Youth Survey was predominately facilitated online this year. COVID-19 restrictions significantly reduced the ability to consult young people face to face in 2021. Online survey engagement resulted in significantly higher representation from females (57%) compared to males (36%). These figures are similar to the engagement that Youth Services social media platforms experience where females are more inclined to engage with online content than males. In 2021 Monash Youth Services Instagram and Facebook accounts experience female engagement at levels between 60%-70% while male engagement ranges between 30%-35%.

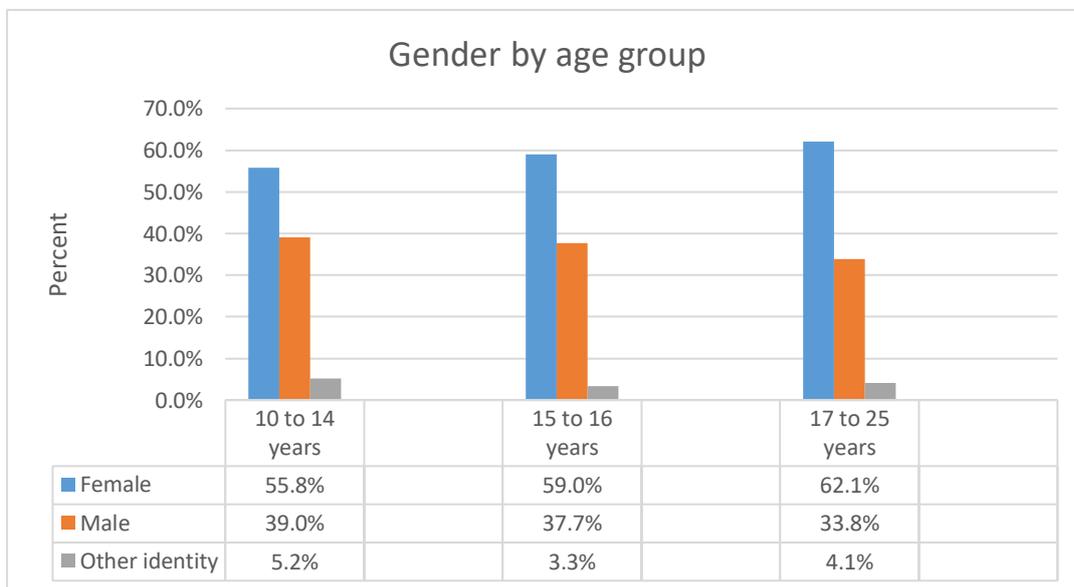
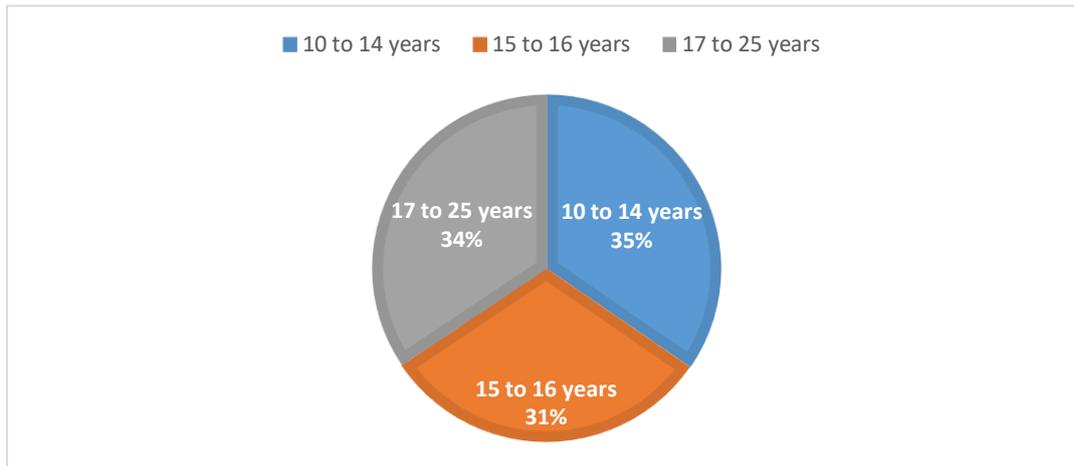


The number of participants who provided their age was 78.6%. Of those, all were between the ages of 10 and 25 years. It was intriguing to know why more than 20% of young people did not answer this question. Particularly with previous years of conducting Monash youth surveys there have not been issues with young people not choosing to disclose their age. YABS reflections on the participant survey experience identified that young people who did complete a hard copy of the

Monash Youth Survey in 2021, may have accidentally missed the age questions which was situated in the top left hand corner of the hard copy survey.

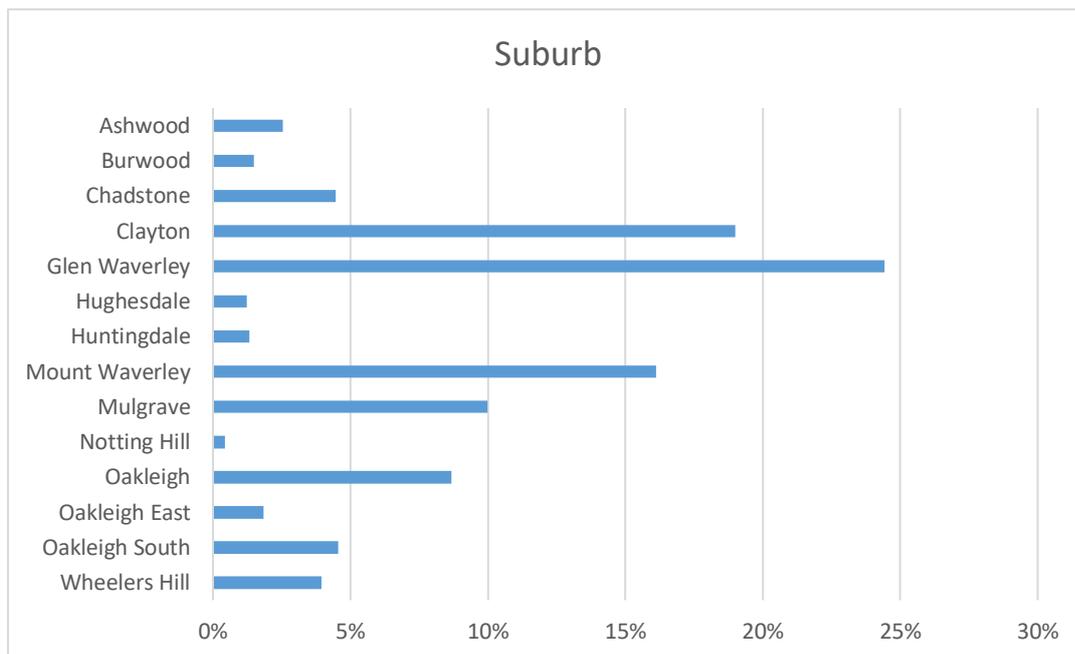
The 2021 Monash Youth Survey consultation period was impacted by a State Government lockdown that prevented MYS workers consulting with all primary schools. Given that most primary aged children were not old enough to access to social media, it may explain why this year’s survey had limited representation from young people aged 10 and 11 years.

For comparison purposes, three groups have been created containing approximately the same number of participants across the age range: 10 to 14 years; 15 to 16 years; and 17 to 25 years.



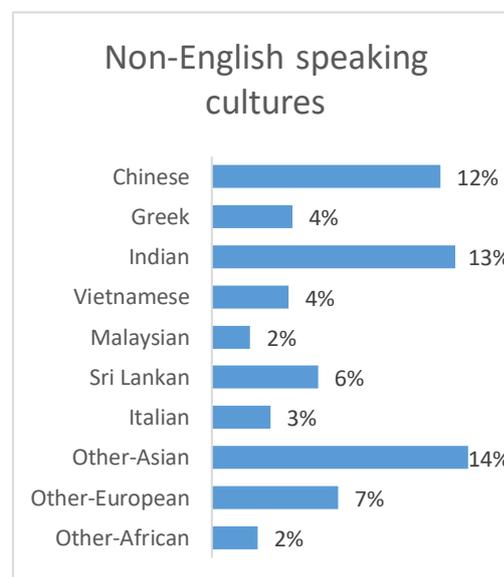
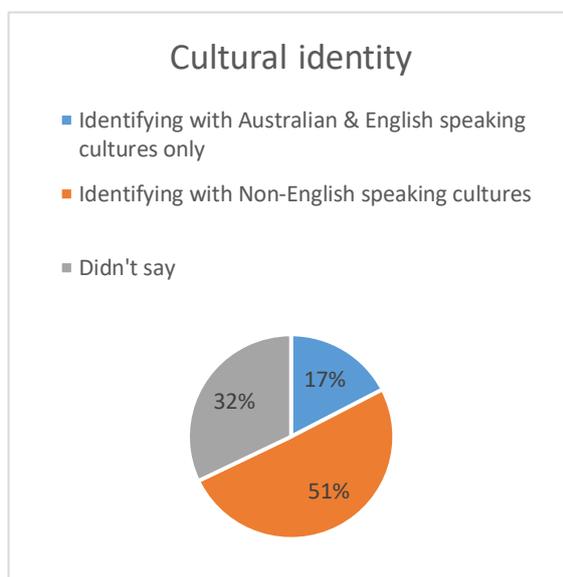
The gender distribution was similar across age groups, with a slightly higher proportion of people in the youngest age range identifying as male or other identity.

Suburb profile



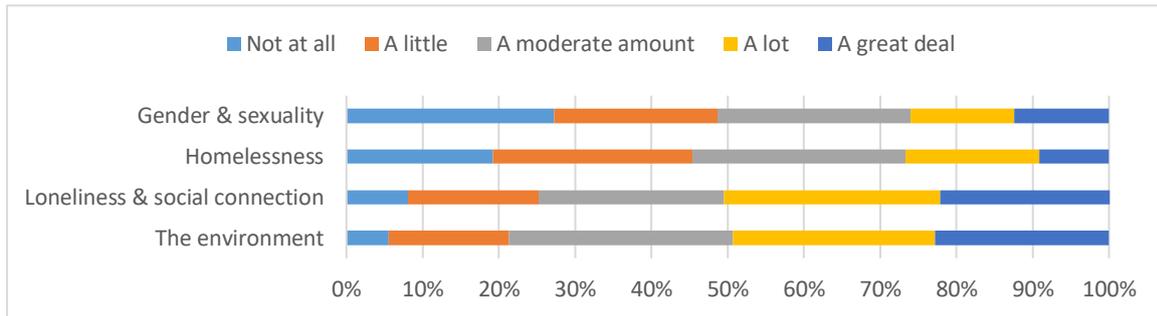
The respondents were distributed across all Monash suburbs, with larger representation from Glen Waverley, Clayton and Mount Waverley. Oakleigh was also well represented with young people in Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, and Oakleigh South.

Cultural profile



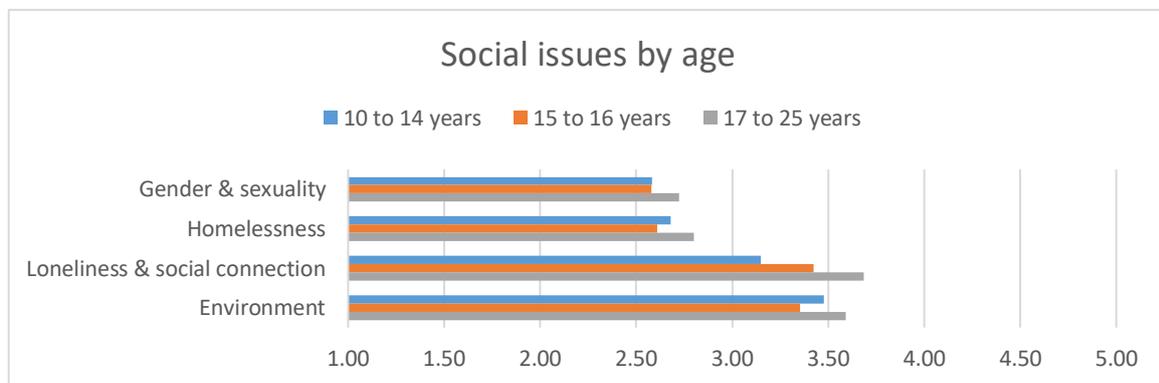
With regard to cultural identity, one-third of participants did not provide information about their cultural heritage. In line with demographic data for the City of Monash, 51% of the young people identified that they have a Non-English speaking culture background. Of those who responded to this question, 67% were from non-English speaking cultures, and 51% were from an Asian culture. This data reinforced the high level of cultural diversity across the municipality.

Q1. In the past year, how concerned have you been about these social issues in your community?



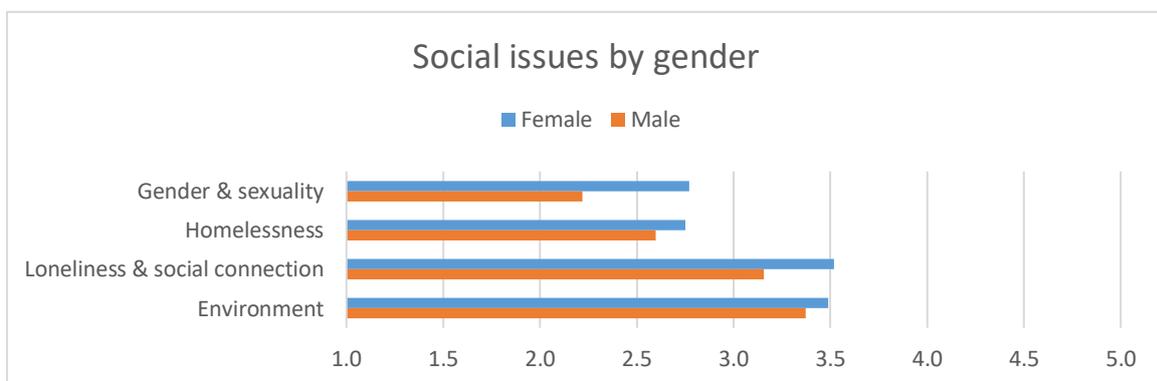
Overall, loneliness & social connection (50.6% were concerned ‘a lot’ or ‘a great deal’) and the environment (49.3%) mattered the most among these issues.

Concern with social issues by age group



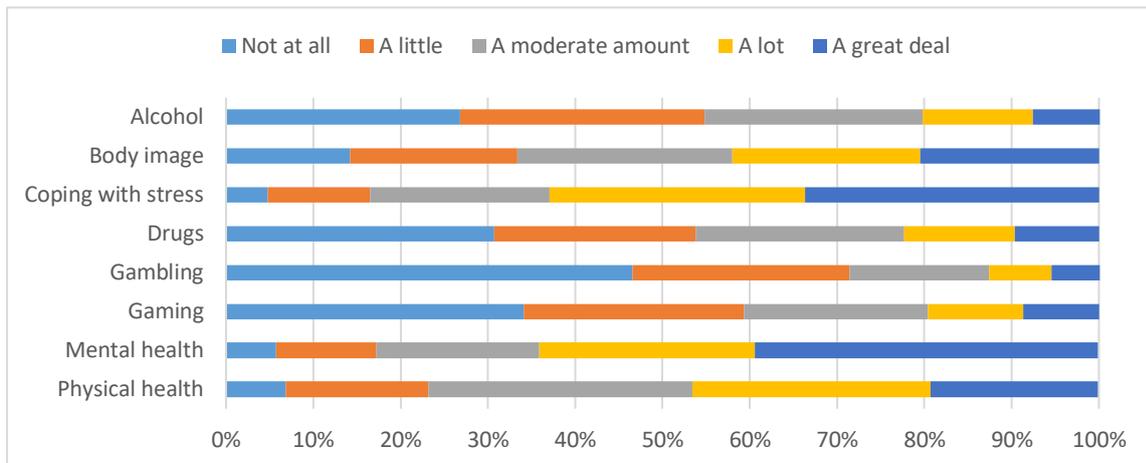
The average level of concern for each age group is shown above on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (a great deal). Interestingly, the older age group had higher levels of concern on each of the four listed issues.

Concern with social issues by gender



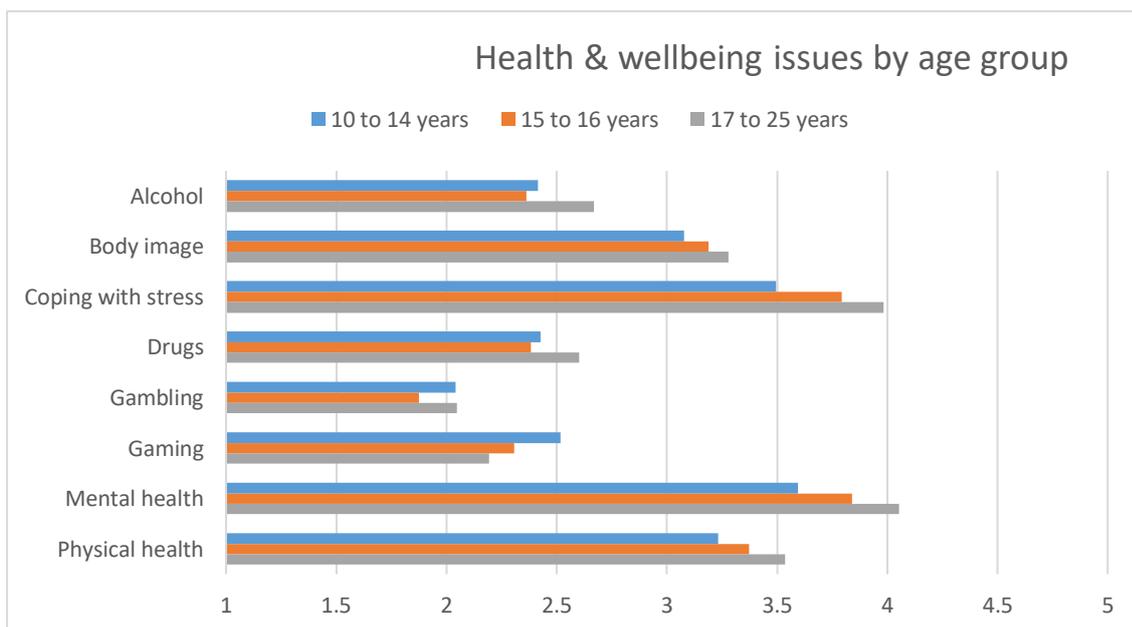
Young women were slightly more concerned than young men on the issues of homelessness and the environment. Females were significantly more concerned with issues related to gender & sexuality and loneliness & social connection than their male counterparts. Due to the small sample size, gender diverse young people’s concerns will be discussed separately later in this report.

Q2. In the past year, how concerned have you been about these health and wellbeing issues in your community?



Overall, the health and wellbeing issues that mattered the most were mental health (64% were concerned ‘a lot’ or ‘a great deal’) and coping with stress (62.9%). Physical health and body image were considered the next two most important health and wellbeing issues by young people.

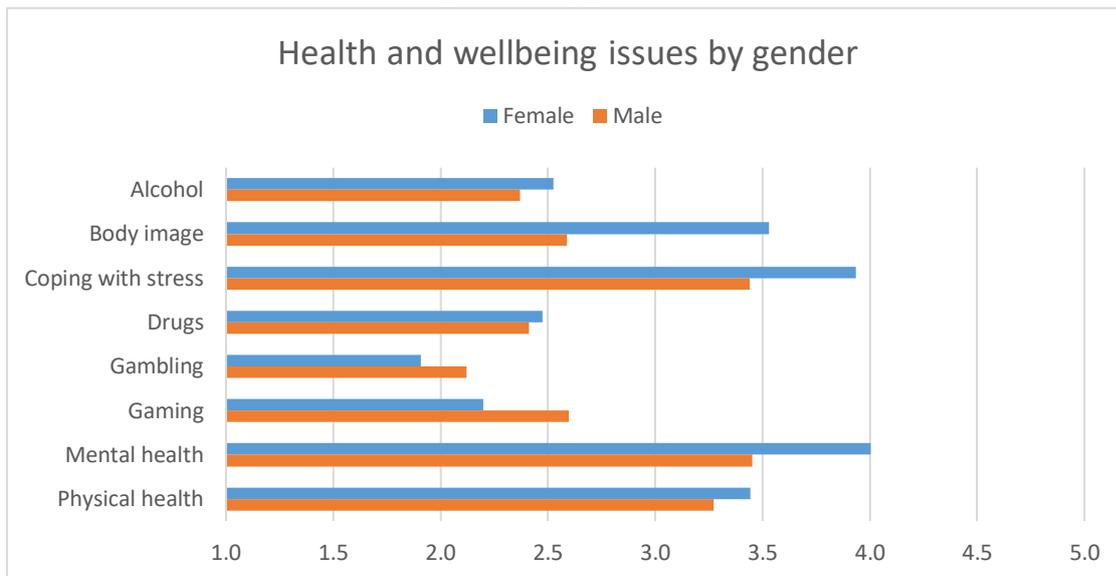
Concern with health and wellbeing issues by age group



Eight different health and wellbeing issues were explored in the Monash Youth Survey and responses to each issue have been categorised in three age groups. The number identified for each age group illustrates the level of concern for each of the listed issues on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (a great deal). Concern on common topics, such as mental health, coping with stress, physical health and body image, tended to increase with the age of the Monash young people.

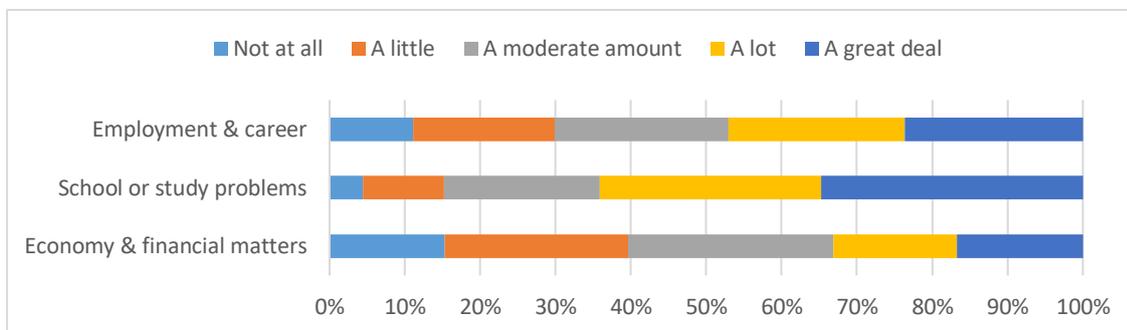
Although gaming did not stand out as a top concern, it was noticeable that young people’s level of concern decreased with age.

Concern with health and wellbeing issues by gender



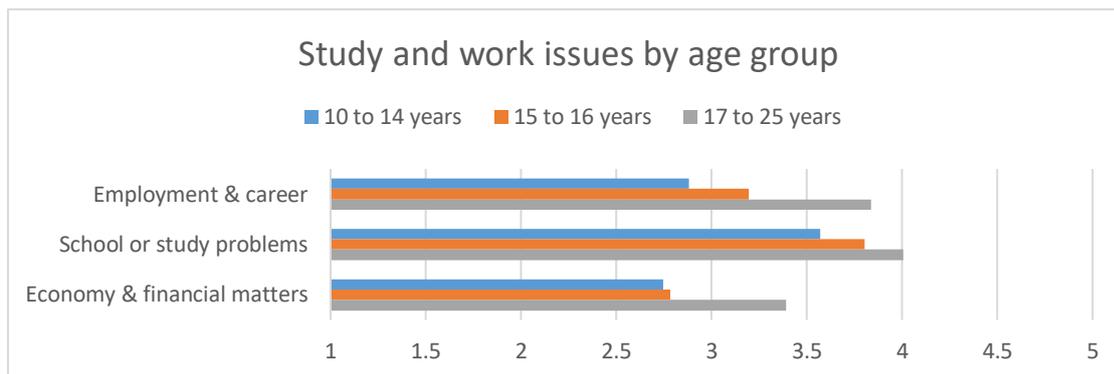
When exploring health and wellbeing concerns regarding gender, we found young men had higher levels of concern than young women with gambling and gaming. Young women had much higher levels of concern than young men with their body image. The women were also more concerned than the young men about their mental health and ability to cope with stress.

Q3. In the past year, how concerned have you been about these study and work issues in your community?



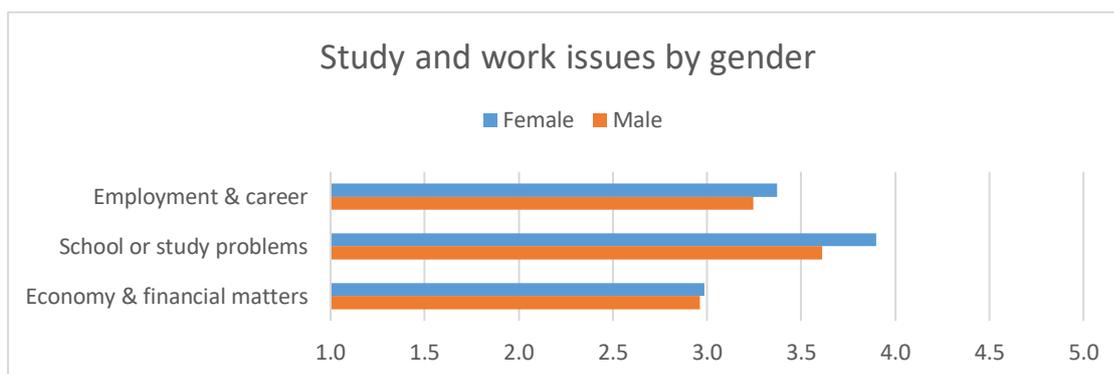
Over the last 12 months young people were most concerned with school or study problems, with 64.1% of respondents rating their level of concern as 'a lot' or 'a great deal'.

Concern with study and work issues by age group



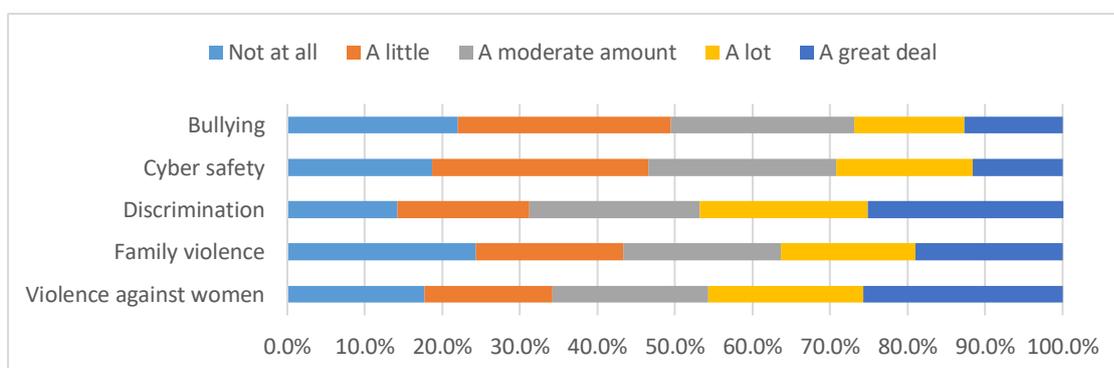
The average level of concern for each age group is shown in the table above using a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (a great deal). Concern regarding study and work issues increased with age. It seemed that young people started to worry about employment & career from 15 years and their concern for the economy & financial matters began to increase significantly from 17 years.

Concern with study and work issues by gender



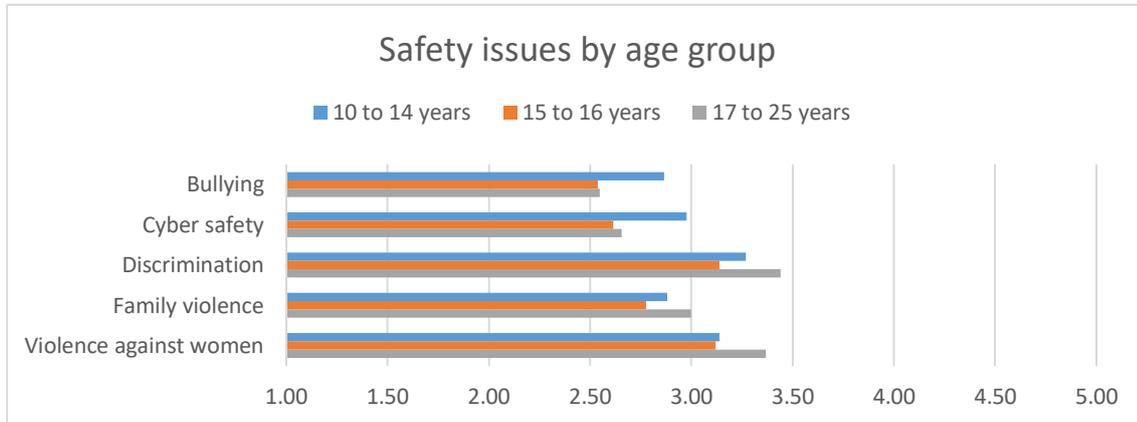
When exploring study and work issues and gender, young women were marginally more concerned about the economy and financial matters. With study and work issues young women were clearly more concerned.

Q4. In the past year, how concerned have you been about these safety issues in your community?



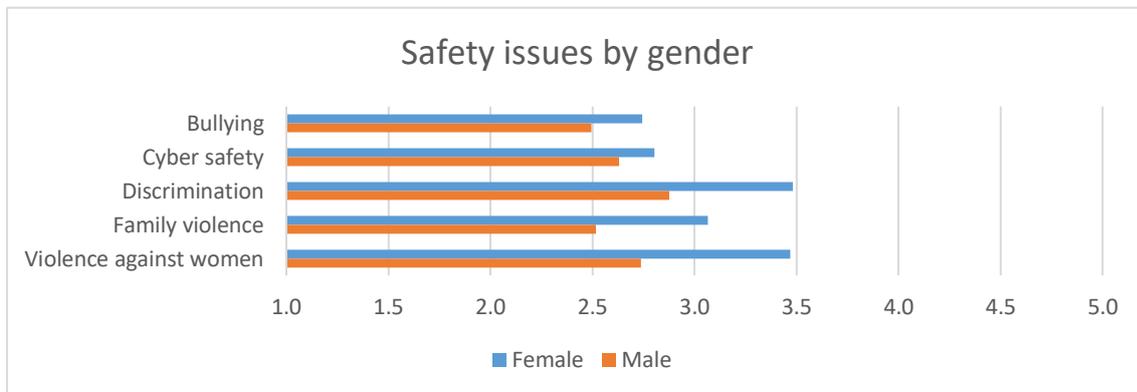
Regarding safety issues over the last 12 months, the highest levels of concern were with discrimination (46.9% rated 'a lot' or 'a great deal') and violence against women (45.7% rated 'a lot' or 'a great deal').

Concern with safety issues by age group



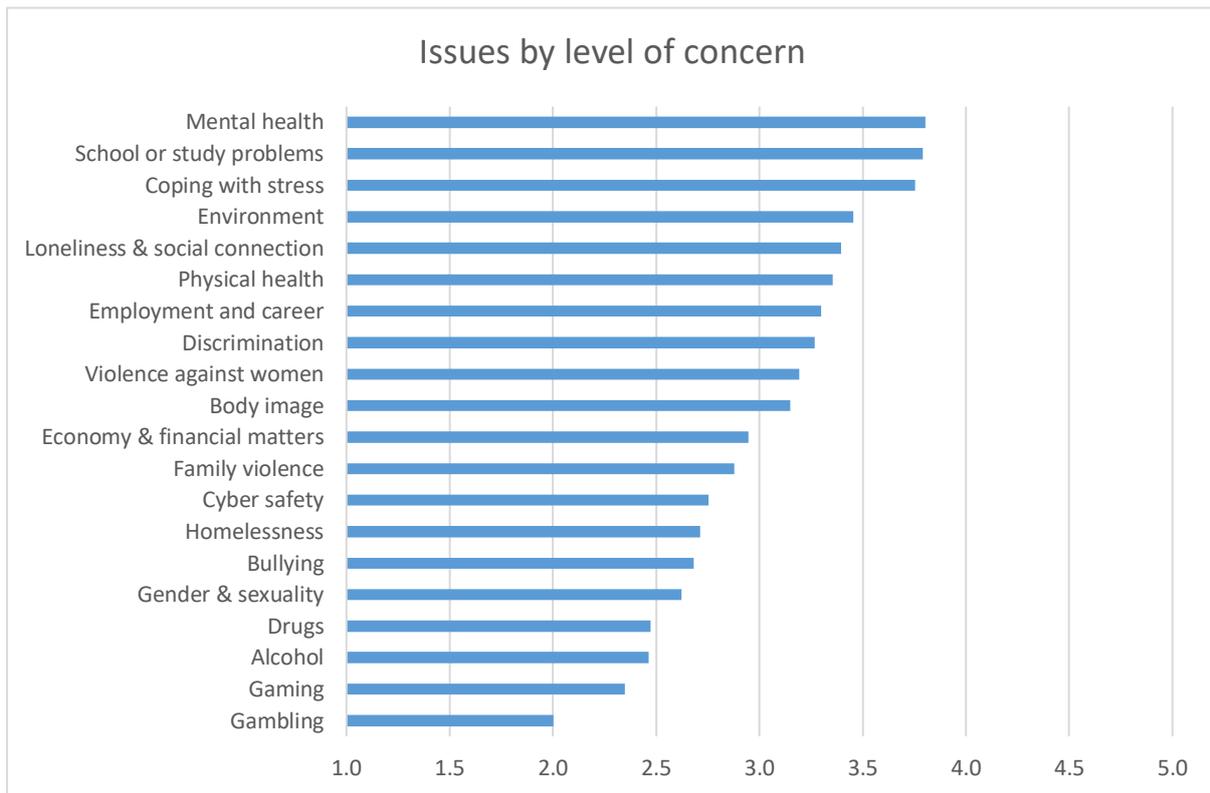
The average level of concern for each age group is shown above on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (a great deal). Each age range was most concerned with discrimination and violence against women. Young people from the 10-14 years age range had much higher levels of concern with bullying and cyber safety than the older age groups.

Concern with safety issues by gender

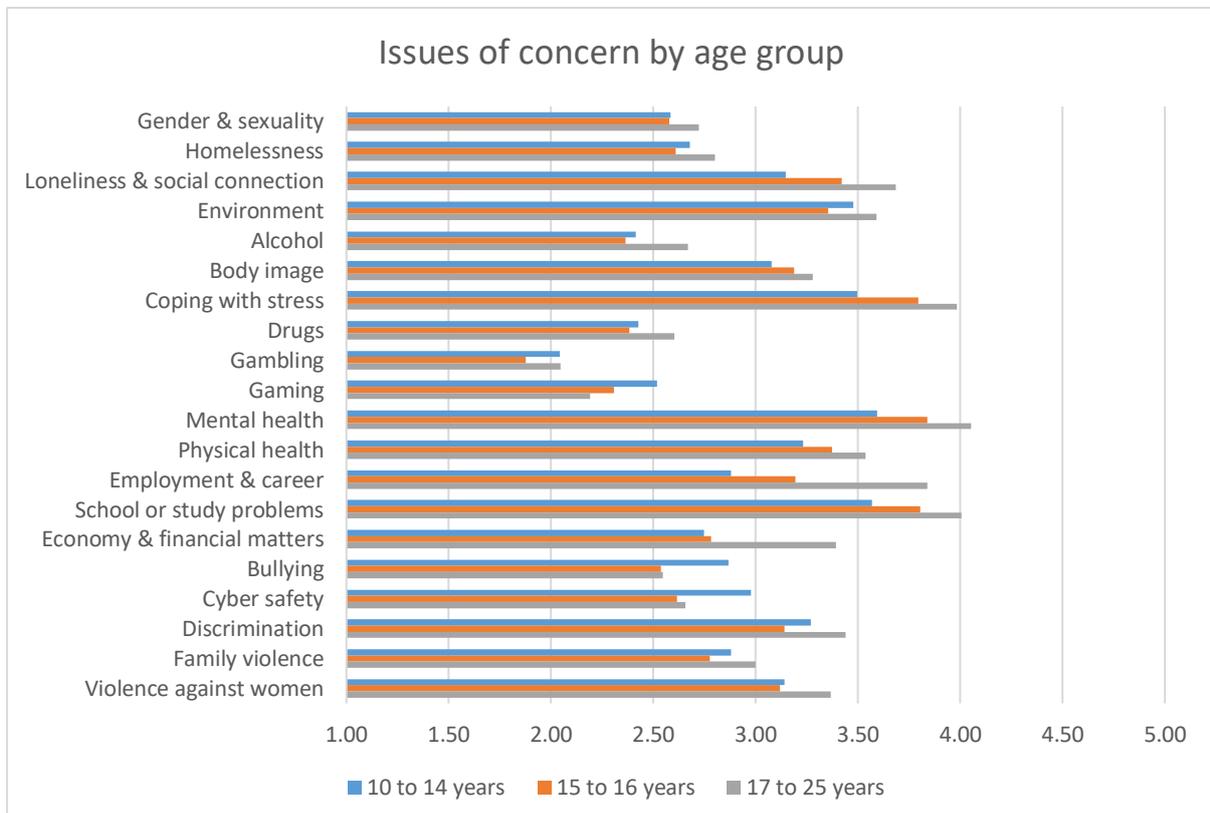


When exploring safety issues and gender, young women had higher levels of concern on all safety issues than young men. Violence against women, discrimination and family violence were all rated considerably higher by young women than young men.

Analysis of all issues of concern



When scored on a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (a great deal), the issues of most concern for all young people consulted are mental health (3.81), school or study problems (3.79) and coping with stress (3.75).



Top concerns by age group

Rank	10 to 14 year-olds	15-16 year-olds	17-25 year-olds
1	Mental health (3.60)	Mental health (3.84)	Mental health (4.05)
2	School or study problems (3.57)	School or study problems (3.8)	Coping with stress (3.98)
3	The environment (3.48)	Coping with stress (3.79)	School or study problems (4.01)
4	Coping with stress (3.50)	Loneliness and social connections (3.42)	Employment and career (3.84)
5	Discrimination (3.27)	Physical health (3.37)	Loneliness and social connections (3.69)

The top concerns varied slightly among age groups, mental health, school or study problems and coping with stress were all common top four issues for each age group.

Loneliness featured in the top 5 for people aged 15 years and over. The youngest cohort generally had lower levels of concern overall, but the environment ranked third highest for this age range and did not appear as a top five concern for young people 15 years or over.

Top concerns by gender

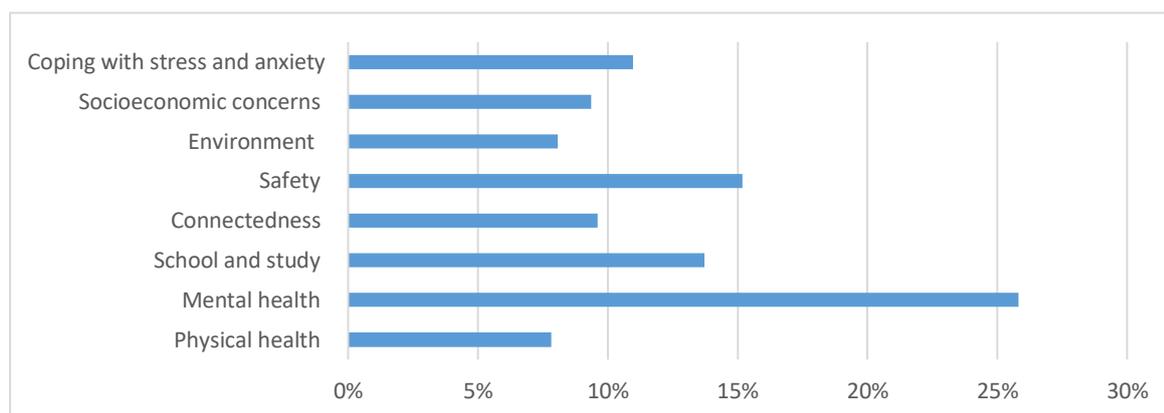
Rank	Female identifying	Male identifying	Diverse genders ¹
1	Mental health (4.0)	School or study problems (3.90)	Mental health (4.43)
2	Coping with stress (3.94)	Mental health (3.45)	Gender & sexuality (4.36)
3	School or study problems (3.90)	Coping with stress (3.44)	Discrimination (4.22)
4	Body image (3.53)	The environment (3.37)	School or study problems (4.11)
5	Loneliness and social connection (3.52)	Physical health (3.27)	Loneliness & social connection (3.97)

The top concerns were different among each gender group. Body image and loneliness were top 5 issues for young women and the environment and physical health were top 5 for young men.

Gender diverse young people experienced higher levels of concerns overall. This group were particularly concerned about gender & sexuality and discrimination issues.

¹ The small sample size for diverse genders means there is a large margin of error on these results.

Q5. In the past year, what was your number one topic of personal concern?



When young people identified their number one topic of personal concern, it was generally consistent with the top overall issues identified by young people. Safety was the second most prominent issue ahead of coping with stress and school and study.

Mental health

Concerns relating to mental health were identified as the number one issue for 26% of respondents and discussed in terms of impact of COVID-19 related restrictions and lockdowns, gaming, and study.

- *During the year, it was hard to think positively all the time, mostly because of not being able to interact with people face to face*
- *Mental health and how stress from school affects it*
- *Caring for the mental health of friends and family during the loneliness/isolation of the pandemic*

Safety

Various aspects of safety were named as the number one issue by 15% of young people, particularly in relation to discrimination, family violence and bullying.

- *One of my personal concerns were the Black Lives Matter and the Asian Hate movement.*
- *Unemployment and small businesses having to close, and also family violence during lockdown.*
- *Discrimination, more specifically racial discrimination.*
- *Bullying because it causes a lot of mental problems, but also lots of people suicide because of this, and it's not fair*
- *I was mostly concerned about domestic violence as there was no escape from it during the lockdown*

School and study

School and study concerns were the number one issue for 14% of young people.

- *I think it is about how I can't focus with studies*
- *Worrying about school and my studies, getting into University, and finding a job at the same time*
- *Effect of studying year 12 and being in a lockdown and personal issues*
- *I was getting quite a lot of assignments during online learning and it was a little stressful*

Coping with stress and anxiety

Stress was the number one issue for 11% of young people and comments were also focused on stress caused by issues related to studies and COVID-19 related restrictions and lockdowns.

- *The amount of stress I've been under due to having so much work and not being able to see my friends when I need them the most.*
- *Stress in terms of school assignments and tests*
- *Stress and balancing work, university, social and home life*
- *Motivation to get work done, procrastination*

Social connectedness

Feeling connected was the most important issue for 11% of young people. This included family relationships as well as friendships, and the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions and lockdowns.

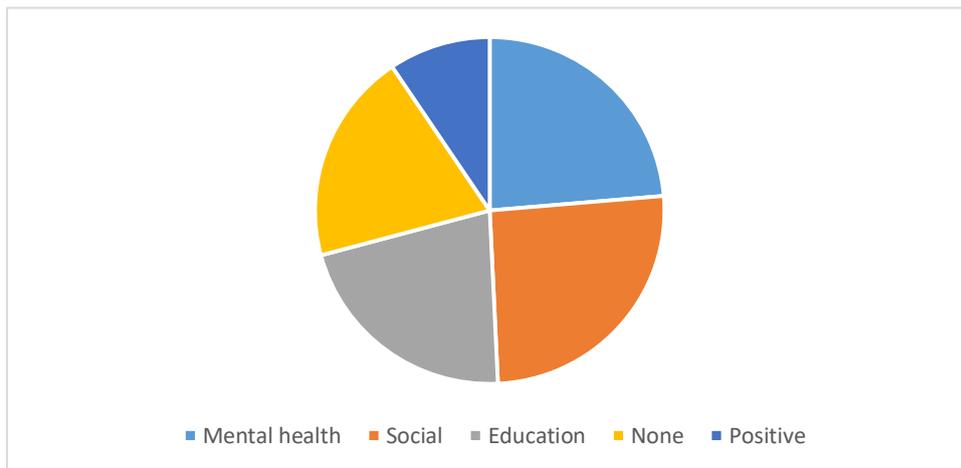
- *Being dropped from social groups due to lack of interaction*
- *Loneliness and socialising (including missing out in all important events that determine school leavers experience and the effect of that)*
- *I think it is day to day kindness and connection between people in the community*
- *Being lonely and not being able to make friends.*
- *My social connection with others, and why it is so awkward sometimes when I'm with friends.*

Other issues of concern

Here are some examples of other concerns expressed:

- *Health - this is because of the pandemic and fear of catching the virus.*
- *One of my family members or friends getting COVID.*
- *Staying healthy and spending an unhealthy amount of time on screens.*
- *The environment, global warming.*
- *I think I was mostly concerned about the social issue of gender and sexuality because so many people around me are of the LGBTQ+ community.*
- *That some people have lost their jobs, family or friends from Covid19.*
- *The situation of the homeless.*
- *Body image is a serious issue that is not spoken a lot about but it happens in all of us.*
- *Support structures for young adults were inadequately advertised, and often people like me do not find about these services in their time of need.*

Q6. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?



While almost 30% of respondents said they weren't affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or experienced positive effects, the majority of negative impacts were felt in terms of mental health, reduction of social life and education. Some comments are shown below.

Positive impacts (9%)

- *I have enjoyed working from home because I feel more independent that way and I enjoy being in the comfort of my own home.*
- *The Covid-19 pandemic made me a bit stronger as I had to adapt to the different changes.*
- *I have been able to spend more time with my family and build bonds that I would not have been able to build otherwise.*
- *It's given me a lot of time to find new hobbies.*
- *It has allowed me to wind down a bit, focus on myself and organise my time better with my school work.*

Social impacts (26%)

- *Being stuck at home a lot - Separation from family*
- *Loneliness, Alcohol use*
- *I have felt lost a bit and missed friends*
- *It has prevented me from seeking the support of my friends at times and conversations about the pandemic often make me stressed.*
- *It took the performing arts away from me, which is the one thing that kept me going*
- *It was hard to meet new people especially starting high school*
- *I have missed out on quite a few things due to the pandemic.*
- *Lost many social connections, dropped grades*
- *My social skills deteriorated.*
- *Loneliness and frustration*

Mental health (24%)

- *Covid 19 has affected me by my mental health, causing me stress and losing my social life.*
- *I tend to wonder all the time if and how Covid-19 has completely short-stopped and permanently ruined my future plans, hopes and dreams.*
- *Makes me feel tired and lazy*
- *It has made me less motivated, caused me to lose connections with a lot of friends, and it also developed unhealthy eating and exercise habits*
- *Changed my plans for the future and made me more anxious.*

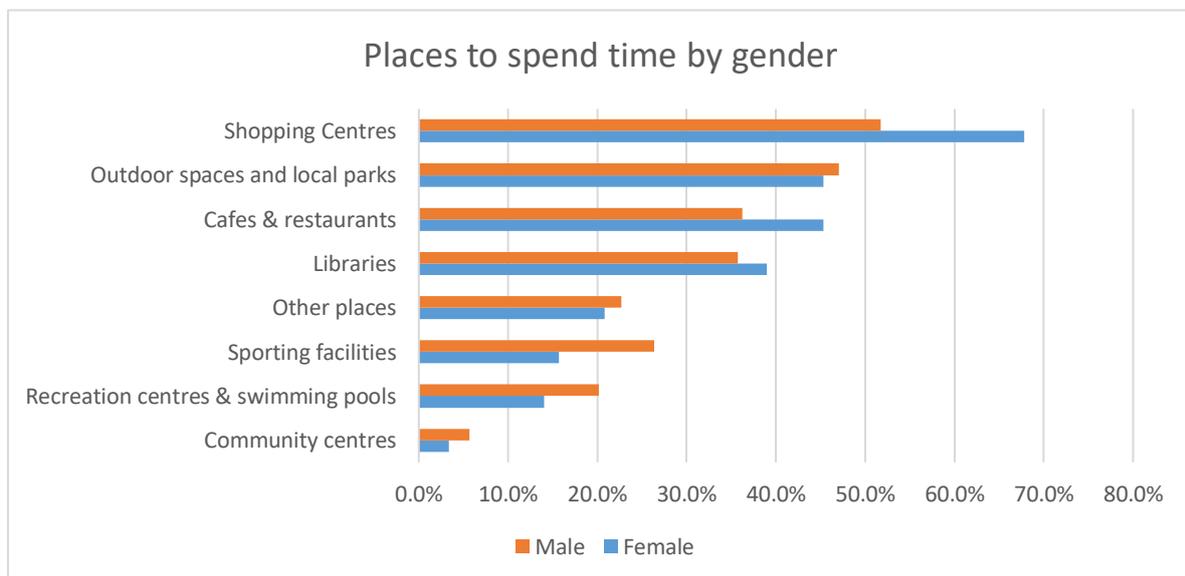
- *Impacted upon my mental health and drive to do things. I was let go from work temporarily, both my parents were also. It just made me very tired and sluggish all the time.*
- *It made me very depressed and made me do things i would never normally do. Family life sucked and I had no break from it because of school closing.*
- *An increased stress regarding future financial prospects, housing affordability and general life meaningfulness*

Education (22%)

- *It has been difficult for my education and family at home*
- *I haven't been able to go to school and I spent most of my first year of high school at home.*
- *The pandemic has put more stress on me. Since we aren't attending school, we are given a lot more homework and it's hard to keeping handing in assignments and completing test online.*
- *Not able to study very well as I prefer to have face-to-face.*
- *Covid caused school to be much more difficult, as online classes are tiring and aren't as effective in person teaching.*
- *I have thoroughly enjoyed home based learning and I love the feeling of doing school at home. It is very enjoyable and relaxing.*
- *Unable to go to many practical classes, less learning opportunities*
- *I had to undergo university studies online which has been really difficult.*
- *Was unable to go on placements for uni and affected my course progression and entry into workforce*

Q7. Where do you usually spend your spare time in the City of Monash?

Young people are most likely to spend their spare time in shopping centres, followed by outdoor spaces, such as parks, cafes and restaurants. There was little variation between age groups. The places where young people spend time is shown on the chart below.

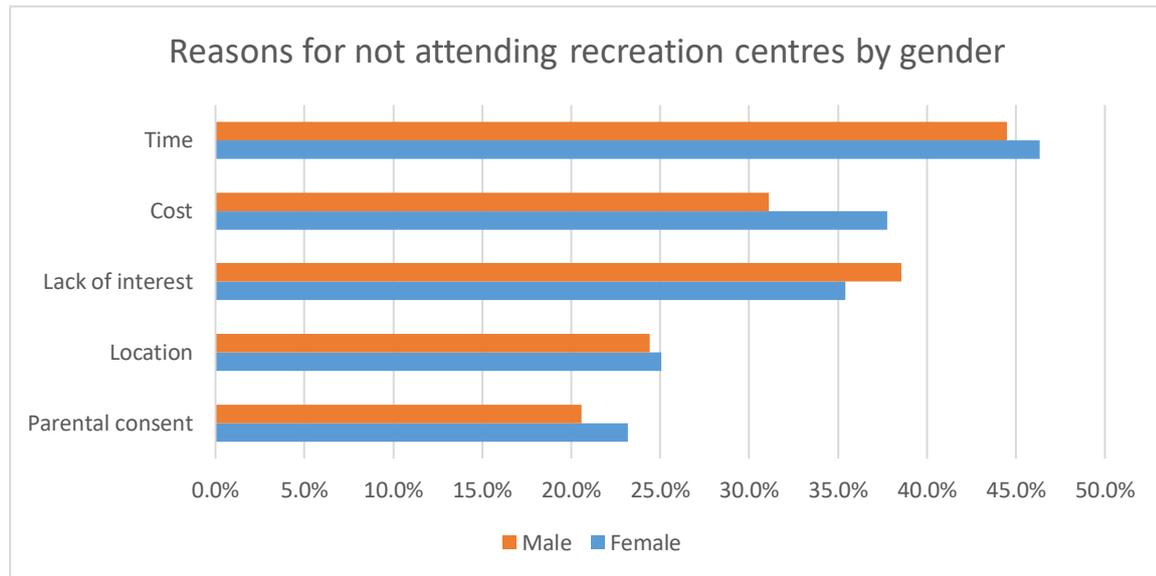


Q8. Please name the places you spend time at

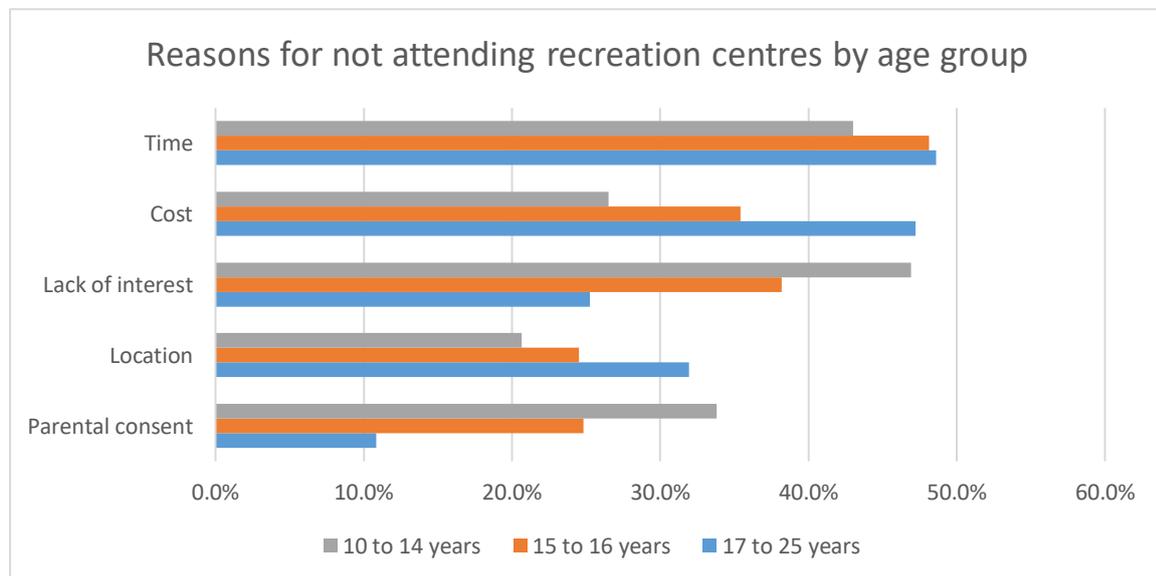
Most young people hang out with each other in Monash’s major shopping and activity centres, such as Brandon Park Shopping Centre, The Glen, and Eaton Mall. Local parks and reserves were also popular, such as Jells Park, Central Reserve and Valley Reserve.

Q9. Is there anything that prevents you from participating in services at our recreation centres?

Young people identified that engagement at recreation centres in the City of Monash was mostly impacted by having limited time, followed by lack of interest and cost in participating in their available services. Both males and females identified similar reasons for not attending recreation centres.



The reasons for non-attendance by age groups is shown below.

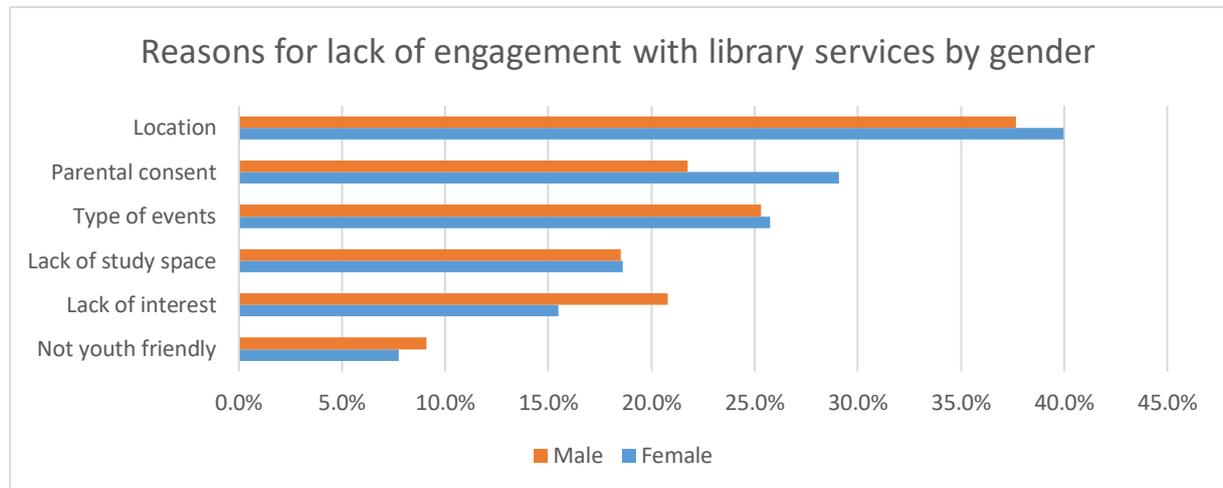


Participant comments

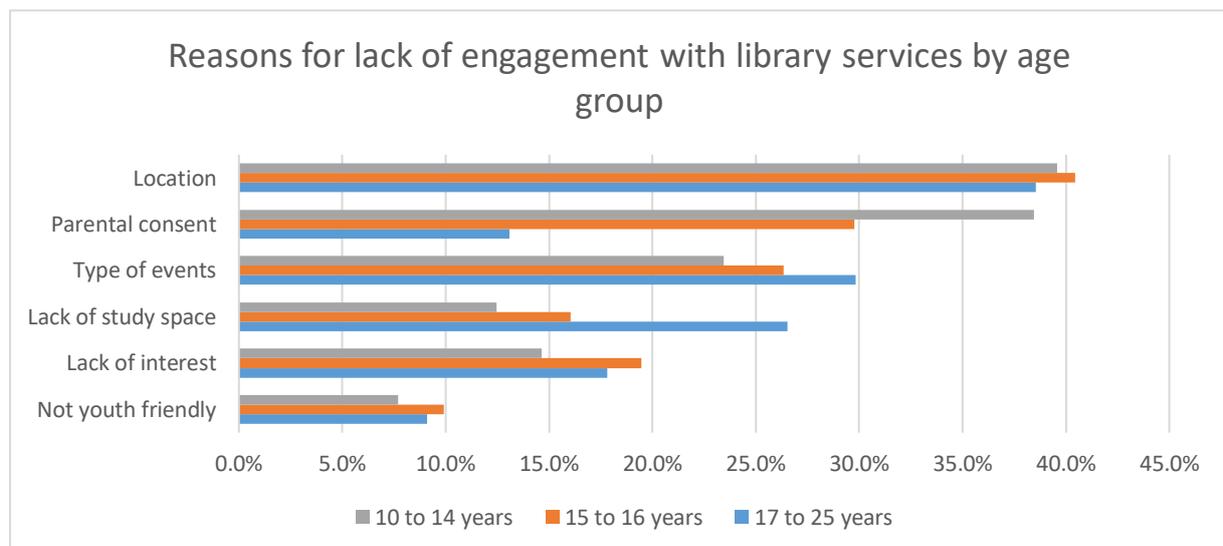
Other comments made by young people on why they had not attended the Monash recreation centres or used their services (excluding previously identified reasons), they were already committed to extra-curricular activities, they do not live in the City of Monash, or other Local Government’s recreational centres are actually closer to where they live.

Q10. Is there anything that prevents you from engaging with library services?

The main issues associated with engaging with Monash Libraries was location, followed by parental consent (particularly for young women) and the type of events library services offer young people.



The identified barriers for engaging with Monash library services varied slightly between age groups, except for parental consent and lack of study space. The demand for study space increased dramatically with age; whereas the need for parental consent reduced as young person became older.



Participant comments

Many young people provided positive feedback in regard to their experience at Monash Libraries. However, some young people identified the following barriers.

- *Not enough study space, limited opening hours during weekends and difficulty getting parking for the Glen Waverley Library*
- *Glen Waverley Library is always very full and loud on weekends*
- *I love the libraries, when it's busy there isn't enough places to study*
- *You have to be 18 to borrow books without parental consent*
- *COVID risk*

Q11. What opportunities for young people do you see in other communities that you'd like to see in the City of Monash?

Young people identified a broad range of areas where they felt the City of Monash could improve. Young people want to see improvements in areas of community events, sporting opportunities, and support services. Unfortunately only one-third of participants answered this question. Some comments are shown below.

Community events

- *I would like to see more events regarding culture and sports*
- *More events for students to sign up for through school consent rather than parental*
- *Maybe have an event at one of the sport centres to engage people with disabilities*
- *Perhaps more family friendly festivals and carnivals*
- *Kids gaming days? Movie nights at the park*
- *Social events/ groups for young adults (university students)*
- *More events to get people out & about would be great. Live music in seating areas, different food vans/stores*

Sporting opportunities

- *Sporting opportunities for talented individuals*
- *I would like to see more community sports, such as a pickup game that anybody can join*
- *I want there to be better parks with outdoor gyms and lakes and huge playgrounds and a table tennis table like in Taylors Lake*
- *Hosting weekly sporting events and other extra-curricular activities*
- *Free sporting events that allows everyone to get involved rather than having people enrol in sports club and make a full time commitment*
- *Lots of local parks but could have a few bike tracks*

Support services

- *I don't think about other communities that much but maybe a digital version of some of the youth programs that currently run. Some people, like me, find it very difficult socialising in a physical space but if it were digital then we can participate as well*
- *Mentorships (business, property) for younger students such as 11&12s. A change to be educated of a wider variety of careers*
- *Community groups for people with mental health issues for them to open up to other people and are able to relate to people*
- *I would like to see more council voice from young people and for young people to be considered and heard in government settings*
- *Internships, job opportunities, workshops on developing life-long skills, improvement of modern and technical skills*

YABS analysis of the data and actions

YABS participants have compared data from the last three Monash Youth Surveys (2018, 2019 and 2021) with the goal of identifying a number of themes impacting young people in Monash over this four year period. YABS participants will respond to any key identified themes by developing meaningful actions.

Top concerns over time

Rank	2018	2019 ²	2021
1	Education ³	Mental health	Mental health
2	Feeling stress ⁴	Environment	School or study problems
3	Employment & career	Feeling stress	Coping with stress
4	Mental health	Safety ⁵	Environment
5	Physical health	Education	Loneliness & social connection ⁶

YABS discovered that **Mental health**, **School or study problems** and **Coping with stress** have remained top concerns for the last four years. YABS were keen on finding out why these topics continually present as high concerns. The City of Monash is home to five of the best 100 secondary schools in Victoria⁷ and one of Australia’s leading universities, which means that young people in the City of Monash are highly competitive academically. It has been identified earlier in the research completed by MYS and YABS at the 2018 Youth Forum that students were experiencing more and more pressure from the expectations of better academic performance, resulting in increased stress and decreased mental health (Appendix 2).

School aged young people had to switch to remote learning during periods of disruption caused by COVID-19, which created a new challenge. Regardless of COVID-19, students always have to deal with stress from school work, assignments and exams. Inspired by the fact that school is the centre of most young people’s lives and a good amount of stress may have positive impact on young people’s motivation and academic performance, YABS decided to create an accepting environment for Monash young people to openly talk about school related stress, with a focus on educating and promoting practical coping strategies.

YABS also looked into the possible links among **Coping with stress**, **Mental health**, and **Loneliness & social connection**. YABS explored the answers of the two open-ended questions in the 2021 Monash Youth Survey, “How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you”, and “In the last year, what was your number one topic of personal concern”, to find some insights.

Socialising with others was acknowledged by many young people as an important part of their lives. Meeting face-to-face was no longer a COVID Safe way to socialise, thus many young people had to switch to other methods to continue socialising. Many young people felt that losing the traditional way of socialising has caused stress and anxiety, which might further impact their mental and

² From 2019, YABS decided to run the youth survey biannually which provides more time for YABS to working towards understanding the data in order to better respond to the needs of the community

³ **Education** was renamed **School or study problems** in the 2021 survey

⁴ **Feeling stress** was renamed **Coping with stress** in the 2021 survey

⁵ **Safety** was introduced as a concern in the 2019 survey

⁶ **Loneliness & social connection** was introduced as a concern in the 2021 survey

⁷ This is according to the Better Education website and based on ATAR scores for 2020

emotional wellbeing if COVID-19 remains a global pandemic. Whilst many young people had negative COVID-19 lockdown experiences, others were more resilient and were able to identify positive outcomes such as spending more time with family. YABS decided to further investigate what barriers are preventing young people from socially connecting so they can develop more suitable actions. YABS also wanted to promote the successful coping experiences of other Monash young people to enhance their resilience.

When looking at how COVID-19 impacted on Monash young people's lives, YABS started to consider whether this was only the case in the City of Monash, or it is across the entire Victoria. YABS were interested in identifying what issues were impacting young people in other local government areas. YABS were also interested in finding out how their counterparts were managing with COVID-19 restrictions. YABS have decided to consult with other youth services in eastern region to obtain a better understanding of youth issues and the long term impacts of COVID-19.

YABS acknowledged they need more time to examine current data and they have decided to prioritise three areas for the remainder of 2021. YABS young people are divided into three teams, each of which will work together to plan and implement their project with guidance and support from MYS workers. At the time of writing, all teams have finalised their project ideas. A snapshot of all the projects:

- Normalising school related stress

This team wants to create podcasts to share information and resources with students in the City of Monash to help them cope with school related stress.

- Polling young people's experiences on social connection

This team decides to engage with young people creatively to gather data on Monash young people's personal experience with social connection in a city that has experienced highest level of COVID related lockdown in the world. The team plans to use polling options through Instagram and explore other innovative ways to reach Monash young people.

- Benchmarking with other City Councils' consultation data

This team plans to contact City Councils that are neighbouring to the City of Monash to connect with their youth representatives, identify concerns and issues that are common to young people, and explore possible cross council collaboration.

MONASH YOUTH SURVEY 2021

The results of this survey guide the themes and actions that the City of Monash will adopt in response to the needs of young people in the community. If you need help with the survey, please speak to a trusted adult or call Monash Youth Services on 9518 3900. If you find any of the content overwhelming, support is available; please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Age:	Monash suburb do you live in or spend most time in:			
What is your gender:	<input type="radio"/> Female	<input type="radio"/> Gender diverse	<input type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> Non-binary
	<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say	<input type="radio"/> Transgender	Self-describe:	
Cultural background (for example, Australian, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Greek, Indian Australian):				

In the past year, how concerned have you been about the following topics in your community?

Please tick your level of concern.

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all	N/A
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First, you will be looking at the following social themes in your community:

| | <input type="radio"/> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gender & Sexuality | <input type="radio"/> |
| Homelessness | <input type="radio"/> |
| Loneliness and social connection | <input type="radio"/> |
| The environment | <input type="radio"/> |

Please respond to the topics relating to health and wellbeing:

| | <input type="radio"/> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Alcohol | <input type="radio"/> |
| Body image | <input type="radio"/> |
| Coping with stress | <input type="radio"/> |
| Drugs | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gambling | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gaming | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mental health | <input type="radio"/> |
| Physical health | <input type="radio"/> |

The following topics are related to study and work:

| | <input type="radio"/> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Employment & career | <input type="radio"/> |
| School or study problems | <input type="radio"/> |
| The economy and financial matters | <input type="radio"/> |

Finally, here are topics related to safety:

| | <input type="radio"/> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bullying | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cyber safety | <input type="radio"/> |
| Discrimination | <input type="radio"/> |
| Family violence | <input type="radio"/> |
| Violence against women | <input type="radio"/> |

In the past year, what was your number one topic of personal concern? (It does not need to be from the table on page one)

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

Please turn to the other page!

Where do you usually spend your spare time in the City of Monash? (You can select more than one option)	
	Please specify i.e. Which library or shopping centre?
<input type="radio"/> Monash Libraries	
<input type="radio"/> Shopping Centres	
<input type="radio"/> Café and restaurant	
<input type="radio"/> Outdoor space and local parks	
<input type="radio"/> Sporting facilities	
<input type="radio"/> Recreational centres and swimming pools	
<input type="radio"/> Community Centres	
<input type="radio"/> Places not listed above:	

The City of Monash runs services such as gym, group fitness classes, swimming, and youth-specific programs in Clayton Aquatics & Health Club, Monash Aquatic & recreation Centre, and Oakleigh recreation Centre.		
Is there anything that prevents you from participating in services at our centres? (You can select more than one option)		
<input type="radio"/> Cost	<input type="radio"/> Location	<input type="radio"/> Time
<input type="radio"/> Parental consent	<input type="radio"/> Doesn't interest me	
Please add any comments here:		

Monash Public Library Service offers a range of services and programs such as Homework Club, Young Writer's Group, e-resources, books, magazines and study space.		
Is there anything prevents you from engaging with library services? (You can select more than one option)		
<input type="radio"/> Location	<input type="radio"/> Type of events	<input type="radio"/> Lack of study space
<input type="radio"/> Parental consent	<input type="radio"/> Lack of relevant resources	<input type="radio"/> Not youth friendly
Please add any comments here:		

What opportunities for young people do you see in other communities that you would like to see in the City of Monash?
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Do you wish to be contacted with the results and actions of this survey?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Do you wish to go into the draw to win one of the following three prizes of your choice? (Razer gaming headset Blackshark V2 X or Zoo membership for 12 months or Fitbit Inspire)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Do you wish to receive information about upcoming opportunities & events?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide your email address:		

Your email address will be used only for the reasons above which you have ticked and will not be disclosed to any external party without your consent, unless required or authorised by law. If you wish to alter or delete the email address you have supplied here, please contact Monash Youth Services on 9518 3900 or via email at yrcr@monash.vic.gov.au.
Your survey responses will be de-identified from your personal email address at the time of data collation.

Privacy collection statement
Monash City Council is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the principles of the Victorian Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.
The information you provide will be used to assist Council staff to determine the community needs and priorities on this project.
You may access information you have provided to Council and make corrections if you believe that information is incorrect. For further information including Council's information privacy policy, visit www.monash.vic.gov.au.

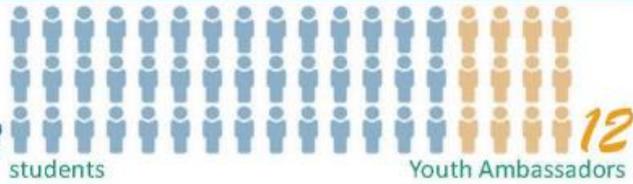
Monash Youth Forum

Jordanville Community Centre

2018



54 students



Students feel the most **pressure** from:



Key causes of **stress** for students:

- 1** Achieving grades and peer competition
- 2** Decision making about the future
- 3** Creating life balance
- 4** Pressure and expectations

Results in school define your future

Being afraid of the wrong choice

The struggle between money and happiness

Not being good enough

Students identified changes in their **physical health** to be the number 1 effect of stress.

- Panic Attacks**
- Weight changes**
- Skin conditions**

The Foundation for Young Australians, New Work Mindset suggests that young people could...

Choose a **job cluster** or skill portfolio based on their **interest** and **strengths** rather than focus on one dream job

Students **want**:

- Continued education about the New Work Mindset
- To open communication lines between students, school staff and parents

The best methods to **share** this information are:

- School newsletters
- Social media
- Assemblies

The **key people** who need to know about the New Work Mindset are:

