Monash Youth Survey Report







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Executive Summary

This report summarises results from the Monash Youth Survey, which was open from 24 July to 25 August 2023 to individuals between 10 and 25 years of age with a connection or connections to the City of Monash. The survey explored some of the priorities identified in the *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025* and the *Monash Loneliness Framework 2020-2025*. These priorities included addressing loneliness, mental health, all forms of discrimination, and gender equity. The survey also explored young people's ethnic identities, as well as their participation in physical activities and sports.

A working group of 14 young people contributed to designing, promoting and analysing the survey. The survey was widely promoted to the community and received 2,488 responses, representing diversity across age, gender, race, sexuality, and culture.

Monash Youth Services has undertaken a youth survey for approximately 15 years. More recently the Monash Youth Survey has been delivered every two years. Previous surveys have been loosely modelled on the Mission Australia Youth Survey focusing on young people's top concerns and quality of council services. In recent years engagement numbers have been consistently high with just under 1,400 young people surveyed in 2021, 2,500 young people in 2019 and more than 1,100 young people in 2017.

The 2021 census data for the City of Monash recorded a total of 38,041 people aged 10-24 years (*Five Year Age Groups | City of Monash | Community Profile*, n.d.). Young people aged 10-24 years account for approximately 20% of the City of Monash population.

The survey represents approximately 7% of young people in Monash, and tells a story of the general sentiment of young people in Monash across various areas, including ethnic identity, stress, loneliness, discrimination and gender inequality.

The 2023 Monash Youth Survey, created on **Qualtrics**, was exclusively available for completion online. This multi-page survey incorporated a series of questions, using display and skip logic to ensure a smooth flow. The design of the survey accommodated instances where respondents may wish to skip questions. However, to submit the survey, respondents were required to complete the majority of the questions applicable to them. This explains why the total responses may vary across different sections of the survey.

Ethnic identity

A total of 1,327 or 53% of respondents were from multicultural communities, of which the top ethnicities reported were Chinese (29%), Indian (17%), Greek (7%), Sri Lankan/Sinhalese (7%), Vietnamese (4%), and Tamil (4%). This data aligns with the top ethnic groups in the City of Monash, as identified in the 2021 Census (*Ancestry | City of Monash | Community Profile*, n.d.).

Overall, young people from these ethnic groups all reported having a good connection to and understanding of their ethnic identities, albeit at different levels. Respondents who identified as Tamil demonstrated the highest motivation to explore their ethnic identity, as well as the highest sense of belonging.

Stress

A total of 2,141 or 86% of survey participants shared their experiences of stress, of which 27% felt stressed most of the time, and 7% all the time. The main stressors were school problems (21%), overthinking (20%), high self-expectation (17%), and negative self-perception (15%).

The most common coping strategies among young people included 'enjoying their own time doing things that they like' (30%), 'spending time with other people' (22%), 'doing physical exercise' (17%), and 'maintaining a healthy lifestyle' (17%).

Loneliness

A total of 2,075 or 83% of young people surveyed shared their experiences of loneliness, of which 11% felt lonely most of the time and 3% all the time.

The main factors that were reported as causes of loneliness were 'unsupported or disconnected relationships' (21%), 'too much time on the internet, social media, or gaming' (20%), and 'being excluded' (20%).

Discrimination

A total of 2,049 or 82% of survey participants shared their experiences of discrimination, with 21% of respondents reporting being a victim of discrimination in the last 12 months. 32% of respondents reported that someone they knew experienced discrimination.

Young people of African and Middle Eastern descent experienced discrimination at the highest rate with 35% reporting that they have been discriminated against in the last 12 months. Religious beliefs were identified as the main cause of their discrimination.

Gender inequality

The survey utilised a six-item self-assessment scale to gauge Monash young people's attitudes towards gender inequality.

Collectively, respondents disagreed with the following statements: 'family violence is common in our community', 'family violence can be excused if afterwards, the violent person genuinely regrets what they have done', and 'men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household'.

Sport and physical activity

1,903 or 76% of survey participants told us about their engagement in sports and physical activity, with 78% of those respondents participating in sports or physical activities at least once a week. In contrast, 5% of young people surveyed reported they were physically inactive. The most popular sports in the City of Monash were swimming (26%), basketball (26%) and soccer (18%).

Introduction

Background

Monash Youth Services (MYS) is part of the broad range of services that Monash Council provides to the local community. MYS offers programs, events and services to children and young people aged 8-25 and their families living in and accessing the City of Monash. MYS services and programs are free and confidential. Recently MYS expanded its service scope to support children aged 8 and 9 years, currently delivering a weekly recreational and peer connection program targeting this age cohort. Due to the complexity of the 2023 Monash Youth Survey, it was determined to be not suitable for children aged 8 and 9 years and consideration would be made for their inclusion in future consultations.

Objectives

The Monash Youth Survey gives young people connected to the City of Monash a chance to have an active voice in their community. Monash Youth Services has been consulting Monash young people for approximately 15 years. Data collected from past surveys has provided evidence to support MYS strategic planning and direction, allowing the service to better understand Monash young people and be proactive and responsive to their ever-changing needs. In 2019, the Monash Youth Survey became biennial, providing more time for the youth services team to appropriately respond to young people's collective responses.

To ensure there was an active youth voice in developing and delivering the survey, MYS formed the 2023 Youth Survey Working Group and recruited a team of 14 young individuals. Across the group, there was representation from diverse cultural backgrounds with a wide range of ages and balanced gender representation. The working group met fortnightly for three months and played a vital role in developing the survey and contributed significantly to collating and analysing the data. A special acknowledgement goes to the young members of the working group: Noemi, Fiona, Chandani, Arjun, Nethaya, Aditi, Sasmi, Aldrich, Sabrina, Jeremy and Jonathan (from left to right), as well as Victoria, Liam, and Jonathon who are not in the group photo below.



The *Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025* identified priorities for the Monash community including addressing loneliness, mental health, all forms of discrimination and gender equity. Additionally, the *Monash Loneliness Framework 2020-2025* emphasises Council's responsibility to address loneliness by recognising cultural diversity and supporting free cultural expression as a

foundation for social cohesion and connection. Thus, the 2023 Monash Youth Survey adopted a stronger focus on these topics.

Methodology

Survey design

The City of Monash is one of the most culturally diverse municipalities in Victoria with more than 50% of residents born overseas. 2023 was the first time that the Monash Youth Survey explored young people's connection to their ethnicity. To do this, the survey utilised a tool to quantify the core components of ethnic identity common across all ethnic groups: a sense of attachment and involvement in ethnic practices. Drawing from Phinney and Ong's research (2007)¹, the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure – Revised (MEIM-R) was incorporated into this year's Monash Youth Survey. The Survey Working Group and the Monash Youth Committee tested the effectiveness of MEIM-R to ensure the wording of the questions was clear and appropriate for Australian young people. The feedback provided by both groups of young people was positive.

Prior to the 2023 Monash Youth Survey, Mission Australia released their annual youth survey data from 2022. The Mission Australia Youth Survey incorporated a series of questions exploring both young people's personal concern and community concerns. Monash Youth Services supported Mission Australia in promoting their youth survey to young people aged 15-19 years in the City of Monash. In return, MYS received a generated report² from Mission Australia sharing key data from 436 responses from Monash young people who completed the 2022 Youth Survey. This organisation-specific report indicated that the top three concerns for Monash young people were coping with stress 89%, mental health 84% and school and study problems 84%. The personal issue of coping with stress has been a constant issue identified in past Mission Australia and Monash Youth Surveys. As a result, the 2023 Monash Youth Survey was focused to quantify young people's stress levels, as well as explore how often respondents experience stress, the causes of their stress, and how they cope with it. A similar approach was adopted to understand young people's experiences regarding loneliness.

The survey also utilises Monash Council's Gender Diversity & Equity teams' two self-assessment scales to gauge young people's perceptions of discrimination and gender inequality in the Monash community. Both scales were tested and received positive feedback from the Monash Youth Survey Working Group and the Monash Youth Committee.

The 2023 Monash Youth Survey was created on **Qualtrics** and could only be completed online. Some parts of the survey were made mandatory, preventing respondents from skipping too many questions. However, the demographics section was voluntary. All respondents had the opportunity to self-define characteristics such as gender and sexualities. Self-defined data was used to further understand the experiences of young people that identify in different groups. The full version of the 2023 Monash Youth Survey is in Appendix 2.

Survey promotion

The 2023 Monash Youth Survey was conducted online from 24 July to 25 August 2023 and received 2,488 responses over the five-week consultation period, representing diverse ages, genders, races, sexualities and cultures.

¹ Conceptualization and measurement of ethnic identity: Current status and future directions. Journal of Counseling Psychology, 54(3), 271–281.

² This report is not published by Mission Australia. Monash Youth Services obtains a copy of this report.

The Monash Youth Survey Working Group collaborated with MYS workers to design the Youth Survey poster. Since the 2023 Monash Youth Survey was exclusively available online, the Youth Survey poster was widely used across various online platforms – such as Instagram – to promote the survey (Appendix 3).

MYS promoted to multiple networks and groups, including the Monash Youth Workers Network, Monash Interfaith Gathering, Monash Multicultural and Settlement Services Network, Monash Youth Committee, Monash LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, and the Monash LGBTIQA+ Working Group. Survey posters were prominently displayed in public locations such as Monash libraries, neighbourhood houses, sporting clubs and local shops. The posters also rotated across various JC Decaux boards located in the City of Monash to capture young people accessing public spaces.

An article promoting the youth survey was featured in the Monash Bulletin, a publication that is distributed to all Monash residents. MYS and the Youth Survey Working Group promoted the survey to Monash community organisations, schools, universities and TAFEs through outreach sessions. Physical survey flyers in A5 sizes were also distributed at these outreach sessions.

To engage young people further, the Youth Survey Working Group developed two Instagram reels as paid advertisements. These reels received significant engagement and were shared by various individuals, services and organisations.

Throughout the five-week period of data gathering, the youth survey demographic data was monitored regularly to ensure there was appropriate representation from young people throughout Monash. Outreach sessions were tailored to increase participation from underrepresented groups, ensuring a diverse representation in terms of ages, genders, races, sexualities and cultures. For example, to address underrepresentation of responses from older young people in the youth survey there was a particular focus on targeting university-aged young people to complete the survey. There was a concerted push in the Youth Survey Working Group and Monash Youth Committee to promote the survey to local young people aged 18-25 years. Youth Survey Working Group members who attended university were able to effectively promote the survey through university social media platforms and student association groups. This focus had a positive impact with representation of older young people, the strongest since the inception of the youth survey.

Prizes were used to incentivise young people to participate in the Monash Youth Survey. Young people who completed the survey could opt-in to the draw to win one of the four \$100 gift vouchers.

Data cleansing

Between 24 July and 25 August 2023, the youth survey received a total of 2,489 responses. Incomplete responses were automatically excluded on Qualtrics. After the data cleaning process, a total of 2,488 responses were retained. However, certain open-text answers were removed and recoded as 'not answered' when the responses were irrelevant to the questions, or of poor quality. For instance, responses like 'helicopter' were recoded as 'not answered' for the gender question '*How do you describe yourself?*'.

Results

Participant demographics

Ethnic identity profile

Phinney and Ong (2007) suggested that language often plays a significant role in defining one's ethnic identity. Consequently, only those who answered 'yes' to the question **'Do you or your family members use any languages other than English at home?'** were asked to complete the two follow-up questions **'What language (s) other than English do you or your family members use at home?'** and **'What is your ethnic identity?'** to gauge their perceptions of ethnic identity as open-text responses.

A total of 1,520 or 62% of young people indicated that they or their family members used languages other than English at home. As a benchmark, the 2021 Census suggested that 52% of people used a language other than English at home in the City of Monash. However, not all survey respondents described the languages used or indicated their self-perceived ethnic identities. 1,327 or 87% of young people provided responses to the open-text question *'what is your ethnic identity?'*.

At all points in the report, whenever applicable, non-ethnic data will be included for comparison purposes. Non-ethnic group refers to respondents who reported that the only language spoken at home was English.

The Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2019 (ABS) was used as the general guideline for recoding the open-text answers to the ethnic identity questions. The top single ethnic groups were highlighted (in yellow) in the table below. All the other ethnicities, e.g., Italian, had no more than 30 responses, which was not substantial for quantitative comparison as a single ethnic group. Those ethnic groups were categorised into their narrow group, such as Sub-Saharan African (e.g., Somali and South African) and Southern and Central Asian (e.g., Afghan and Iranian). The initial recoding results are displayed in the table below.

Table a: Initial recoding of ethnic groups					
Total Count	1,327	100%			
Chinese	318	24%			
Chinese Asian	61	5%			
Greek	94	7%			
Indian	221	17%			
Sinhalese	60	5%			
Sri Lankan	35	3%			
Tamil	47	4%			
Vietnamese	52	4%			
Multi-ethnic	78	6%			
European	95	7%			
North African and Middle Eastern	42	3%			
North-East Asian	51	4%			
Peoples of the Americas	28	2%			
South-East Asian	88	7%			
Southern and Central Asian	41	3%			
Sub-Saharan African	16	1%			

There were situations where respondents reported multiple ethnic identities. In these instances, the self-described languages were used to assist in determining their dominant ethnic identity. For instance, a respondent who identified with *'Australian Indo-Chinese'* and spoke *'Indonesian and Mandarin'* at home was recoded as 'Chinese Asian', while another respondent, even though they had the same ethnic identities, was recoded as 'South-East Asian' because the language used at home was exclusively *'Bahasa Indonesia'*.

There were also instances where respondents reported multiple ethnic identities from distant ancestry. In these instances, the responses were classified as 'Multi-ethnic' as suggested by the ASCCEG.

For comparison purposes, the top seven single ethnic groups will be analysed in this report, whereas other ethnicities, including multi-ethnic young people, will be categorised into 'All other ethnicities'.

The single ethnic groups that had at least ten respondents included Indonesian (30), Korean (27), Italian (25), Pakistani (23), Japanese (19), Cambodian (15), Egyptian (13), German (13), Russian (13), Bengali (12), Filipino (12), Ukrainian (12), Arab (11), Malaysian (11), Dutch (10), French (10), Iranian (10), Mauritian (10), Polish (10), and Thai (10). There were also a few ethnicities that had less than ten respondents, such as Sudanese, Chilean, and Portuguese.

'Chinese Asian' refers to young people who identified themselves as Chinese but were born or influenced by parents who were born in countries outside China, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

The survey respondents who identified as Chinese represented a combined percentage of 29%. Comparatively, the 2021 census data indicated that 25% of the residents in the Monash area were of a Chinese background (*Ancestry* | *City of Monash* | *Community Profile*, n.d.). Table 2 also illustrates the percentages of other ethnicities.

Table b (1): Top single ethnic groups revealed in the Monash Youth Survey				
Total Count	1,327	100%		
Chinese	318	24%		
Chinese Asian	61	5%		
Indian	221	17%		
Greek	94	7%		
Sri Lankan/Sinhalese	95	7%		
Vietnamese	52	4%		
Tamil	47	4%		
All other ethnicities	439	33%		

The Monash Youth Survey data reflected the multi-cultural nature of the Monash community.

Table b (2): 2021 Census – Top Ancestry Monash area Source: profile.id	o groups by
Chinese	25%
Indian	8%
Greek	7%
Sri Lankan/Sinhalese	4%
Vietnamese	2%
Tamil	1%

Age profile

A total of 1,854 or 75% of respondents provided their ages, with an average age of 16 years and a median age of 15 years. For comparison purposes, four groups were created to represent different stages of life for young people: ages 10 to 13, commonly known as middle years; ages 14 to 16, representing early secondary school ages; ages 17 to 18, representing senior school ages; and ages 19 to 25, representing early adulthood and tertiary education ages.

Table c: Respondents by age groups					
Total Count	1,854	100%			
10 - 13	546	29%			
14 - 16	683	37%			
17 - 18	259	14%			
19 - 25	366	20%			

Gender and sexuality profile

The 2023 Youth Survey had the most balanced gender distribution in recent years' surveys. A total of 1,833 or 74% of respondents provided a response to the gender question, **'How do you describe yourself?'**. Respondents who selected 'Other' were given the opportunity to self-describe, with most of the open-text answers indicating non-binary, gender-fluid and queer identities.

Table d: Respondents by gender groups					
Total Count 1,833 100%					
Woman / girl	882	48%			
Man / boy	852	47%			
Other	99	5%			

Young people were also given the opportunity to express whether they identify themselves with LGBTIQA+ communities, with options including 'Yes', 'Unsure', 'No', and 'Prefer not to say'. Their responses are shown in the following table.

Table e: Do you identify with LGBTIQA+ communities?							
Total Count	Total	Yes	Unsure	No	not to		
					say		
Woman / girl	880	22%	10%	62%	6%		
Man / boy	851	11%	13%	72%	4%		
Other	97	72%	6%	10%	11%		

For reference, it is estimated that 18% of Australians aged 16-24 identify with a diverse sexuality, and 2% identify with a diverse gender (Higgins et al., 2024)³. Notably, in the City of Monash, only male identifying young people reported a lower percentage than the national estimate for diverse sexuality.

³ Prevalence of Diverse Genders and Sexualities in Australia and Associations With Five Forms of Child Maltreatment and Multi-type Maltreatment. Child Maltreatment.

First Nations profile

First Nations Australians include people identifying as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and persons who are of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. The 2023 Monash Youth Survey marked a significant increase in the number of respondents identifying as First Nations compared to previous youth surveys. From the 1,855 young people who answered the question **'Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?'**, a total of 110 or 6%⁴ selected 'Yes', while 4% chose 'Prefer not to say'. All the 110 respondents indicated that they lived in or spent most of their time in a Monash suburb. This sample size allowed for a meaningful comparison between First Nations respondents and those who did not identify.

Suburb profile

A total of 1,858 or 75% of respondents provided their answers to the question '*The Monash suburb you live in or spend most time in*'. Due to uneven population density, some Monash suburbs received significantly fewer responses than others. For comparative analysis and improved data quality, certain suburbs were combined, which took consideration of multiple factors such as the size, history, location, and access to services.

Table f: Respondents by Monash suburbs					
Total Count	1,858	100%			
Ashwood, Chadstone, and Burwood	371	20%			
Oakleigh Area⁵	264	14%			
Clayton Area ⁶	241	13%			
Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill	324	17%			
Glen Waverley	414	22%			
Mount Waverley	244	13%			

⁴ In the 2021 Census, 0.3% of the City of Monash's population was of Aboriginal and/or Torres Islander origin (<u>https://atlas.id.com.au/monash/maps/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander</u>)

⁵ The Oakleigh Area includes Oakleigh, Oakleigh East, Oakleigh South, and Hughesdale.

⁶ The Clayton Area includes Clayton, Notting Hill, and Huntingdale.

Ethnic identity

Having a fully developed ethnic identity increases positive connections and improves mental health and overall wellbeing, as suggested by Renshaw (2019). Phinney and Ong (2007) suggest that exploration and commitments are essential components for understanding one's ethnic identity. Exploration involves actions to seek information and experiences, which are key to the formation of one's ethnic identity. Commitment is the core component of ethnic identity, indicating one's level of belonging to their ethnic identity.

Phinney and Ong (2007) introduced the MEIM-R, a six-item self-assessment scale that effectively explores people's levels of exploration and commitment to their ethnic identity. The MEIM-R included three statements reflecting exploration:

- Statement 1 (S.1) I have spent time trying to find out more about my ethnic group, such as its history, traditions, and customs.
- Statement 4 (S.4) I have often done things that will help me understand my ethnic background better.
- Statement 5 (S.5) I have often talked to other people in order to learn more about my ethnic group.

And three statements reflecting commitment:

- Statement 2 (S.2) I have a strong sense of belonging to my own ethnic group.
- Statement 3 (S.3) I understand pretty well what my ethnic group membership means to me.
- Statement 6 (S.6) I feel a strong attachment towards my own ethnic group.

Respondents were given the opportunity to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with these statements, using a scale where 1 stood for strongly disagree, 2 for somewhat disagree, 3 for neither disagree nor agree, 4 for somewhat agree, and 5 for strongly agree. The higher the number, the greater the level of exploration or commitment among young people.

The 2023 Monash Youth Survey incorporated the MEIM-R scale. The responses are presented below, sorted by the highest average mean figure regarding the level of exploration and commitment.

Table 1a: le	vels of exp	loration by	ethnic gro	ups	Table 1b: le	vels of com	nmitment b	y ethnic gr	oups
Mean/Ethnic groups	S.1	S.4	S.5	Exploration	Mean/Ethnic groups	S.2	S.3	S.6	Commitment
Tamil	4.17	4.30	4.26	4.24	Tamil	4.26	4.30	4.28	4.28
Greek	3.73	4.03	3.90	3.89	Greek	4.06	4.06	4.02	4.05
Indian	3.77	3.92	3.83	3.84	Indian	3.95	3.98	4.03	3.98
Vietnamese	3.85	3.75	3.77	3.79	Vietnamese	3.75	4.04	3.92	3.90
Chinese Asian	3.72	3.95	3.41	3.69	Chinese	3.74	3.80	3.79	3.78
Chinese	3.48	3.65	3.58	3.57	Chinese Asian	3.62	3.66	3.75	3.68
Sri Lankan/Sinhalese	3.35	3.35	3.29	3.33	Sri Lankan/Sinhalese	3.71	3.81	3.63	3.72
All other ethnicities	3.62	3.71	3.70	3.68	All other ethnicities	3.75	3.80	3.88	3.81

It is important to note that none of the ethnic groups scored lower than 3.00, indicating that young people in Monash have a strong connection and understanding of their ethnic identity. Monash young people who identified as Tamil demonstrated the highest motivation to explore their ethnic identities (4.24). Similarly, young people who identified as Tamil (4.28), Greek (4.05), Indian (3.98), and Vietnamese (3.90) have a stronger sense of belonging to their ethnic identities.

Stress

How often do you feel stressed?

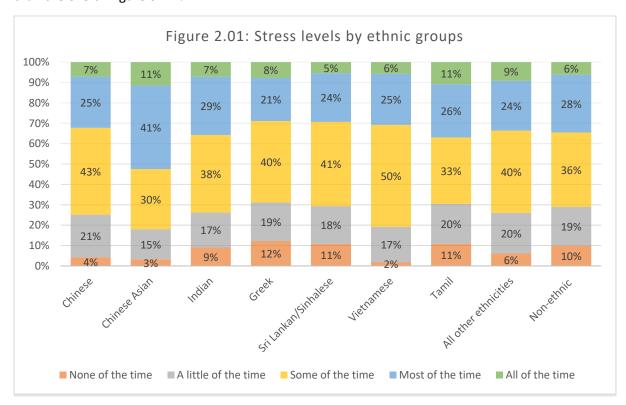
Feeling stressed most or all the time can be a concerning sign for young people's mental health. This section provides the percentages of different groups of young people who feel stressed most or all the time, the causes of their stress, and their coping strategies.

A total of 2,141 or 86% of survey participants responded to this question, with 27% indicating they felt stressed most of the time, and 7% reporting they felt stressed all of the time. These figures will be the benchmark for understanding different groups of young people's experiences of stress levels.

Ethnic groups

When exploring stress with different ethnic groups, 52% of young people of 'Chinese Asian' descent reported feeling stressed most of the time or all the time. For respondents who identified as Tamil and Indian and Chinese, 37%, 36% and 32% reported high levels of stress respectively.

A slightly less percentage of young people who identified as Vietnamese, Sri Lankan/Sinhalese and Greek reported high levels of stress however the proportion of these groups who reported feeling stressed most or all of the time also sat at around 30%.

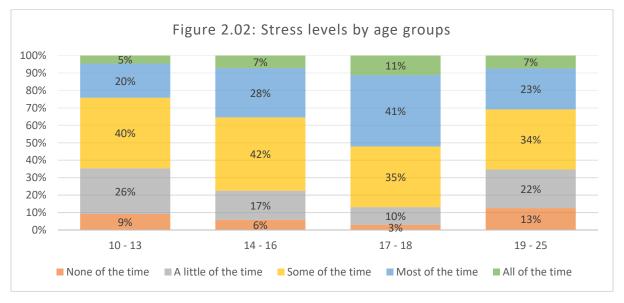


41% of 'Chinese Asian' young people felt stressed 'most of the time', which was significantly higher than the overall figure of 27%.

Age groups

The age group that reported the highest percentage of stress both 'most of the time and 'all of the time' when compared to all other age groups was the senior school age group (17-18 years old). 52% of young people between the ages of 17 and 18 felt stressed most or all the time.

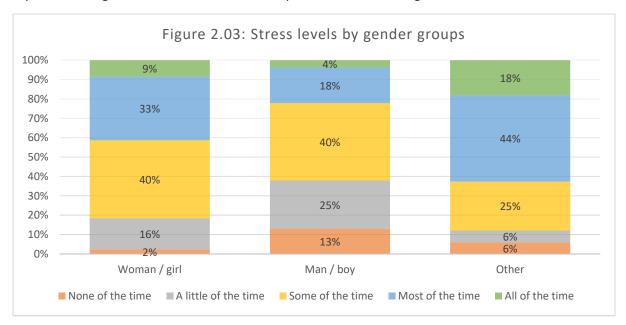




Gender groups

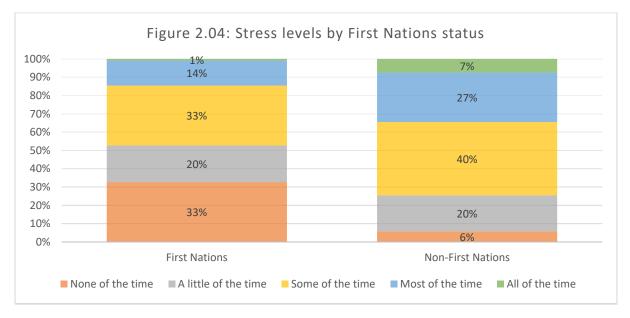
Gender diverse young people reported the highest combined percentage of feeling stressed 'most of the time' and 'all of the time', with almost 20% saying they experience stress all the time. The data also demonstrates that young people who identified as women/girls were almost twice as likely to feel stressed 'most of the time' or 'all the time' compared to their male identifying counterparts.

A total of 44% gender diverse young people reported feeling stressed 'most of the time', which was significantly higher than the overall figure of 27%. About 18% of gender diverse young people reported feeling stressed 'all of the time', compared to the overall figure of 7%.



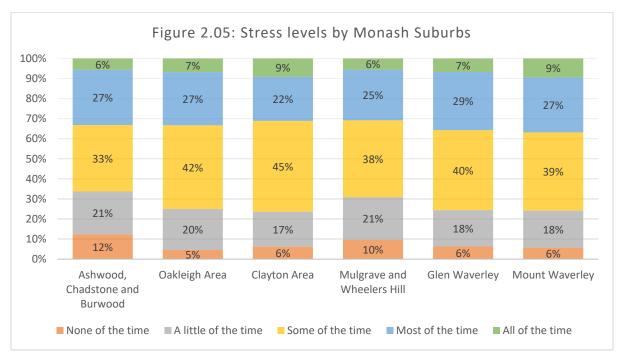
First Nations young people

The data suggests that young people who identify as First Nations experienced much lower levels of stress compared to other respondents.



Monash suburbs

Overall, 33% of Monash young people felt stressed 'most of the time' or 'all of the time', regardless of the Monash suburbs they live in or spend the most time. However, young people living in Glen Waverley and Mount Waverley demonstrated a higher percentage of feeling stressed 'most of the time' or 'all the time'.

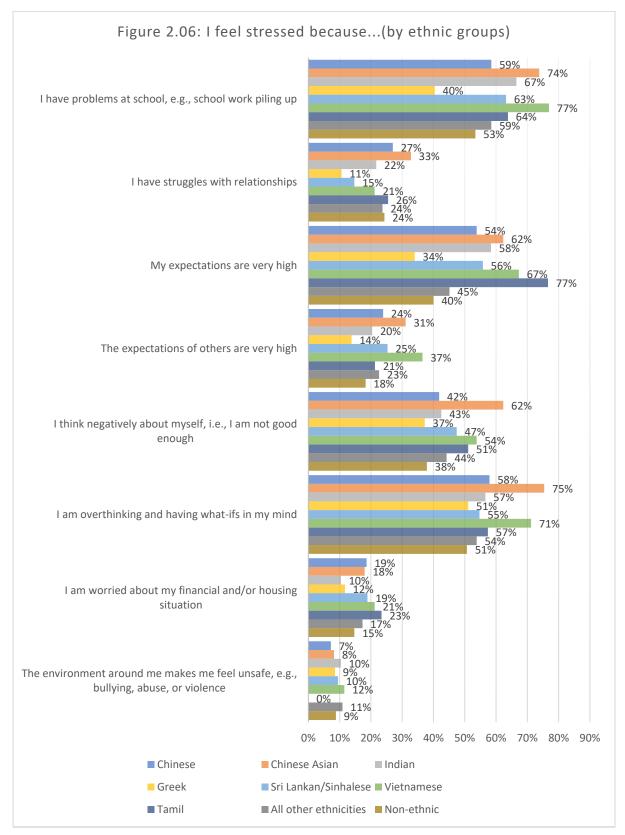


I feel stressed because...

This question allowed respondents to choose all the factors that may have caused their stress. Respondents were able to choose multiple options.

Ethnic groups

Each category on the horizontal bar graph represents a factor of stress, and each coloured segment represents an ethnic group. The longer the coloured segment, the more relevant the associated factor is to that group compared to other ethnicities. Respondents were able to select multiple answers for this question.



All ethnic groups shared a similar pattern overall, with some smaller differences. For instance:

- Young people who identified as Chinese and 'Chinese Asian' identified that they struggled more with relationships, whereas it was less impactful for young people from the Greek community.

- Young people who identified as Tamil identified that high expectations impacted their stress levels, whereas it was less impactful for young people from the Greek community.

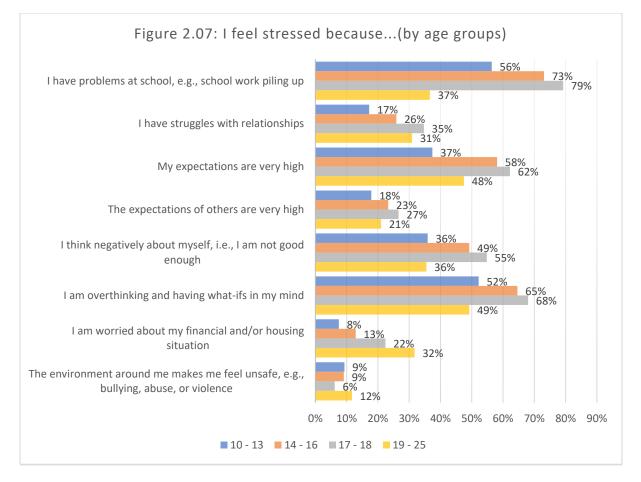
- Vietnamese young people identified that very high expectations of others increase their stress, whereas it was less impactful for young people form the Greek community.

- Young people who identified as Tamil and Vietnamese identified higher level of stress due to concerns relating to financial and/or housing situations, whereas these situations were much less relevant to young people from the Indian community.

- Young people who identified as Vietnamese and Indian identified higher level of stress because 'the environment around me makes me feel unsafe, e.g., bullying, abuse, or violence', whereas no 'Tamil' respondents reported this in the survey.

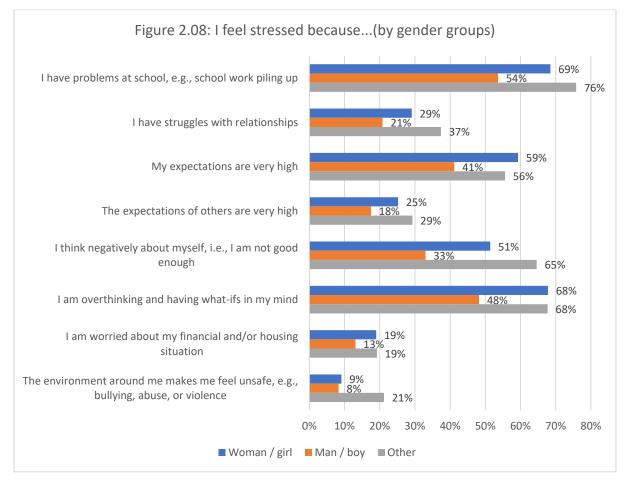
Age groups

The category of having problems at school was the most frequently reported category, with exception of the 19- to 25-year-old cohort. The data suggests that overthinking and high expectations emerged as the top reasons that caused young people's stress when they turned 19 years old.



Gender groups

School problems were the most frequently reported cause of stress for all genders. While an unsafe environment (such as bullying, abuse or violence) rated low against other causes of stress, it is worth noting that gender diverse young people reported this (20%) at twice the rate of male and female identifying respondents (9% and 8% respectively). This factor was also the only area where male and female identifying young people were the most aligned.



First Nations young people

First Nations young people responses demonstrate a different pattern compared to other demographic groups such as ethnic identities, ages and genders. The data identified that school problems were a much less prominent issue for First Nations young people.

However, if we explore the age breakdown (Table 2.09) for all the respondents who identified as First Nations, the majority of respondents were outside the secondary school age.

Table 2.09: First Nations and Non-First Nations by age groups							
Total 10 - 13 14 - 16 17 - 18 19 - 2							
First Nations	110	6%	14%	5%	76%		
Non-First Nations	Non-First Nations 1,669 32% 39% 14% 15%						

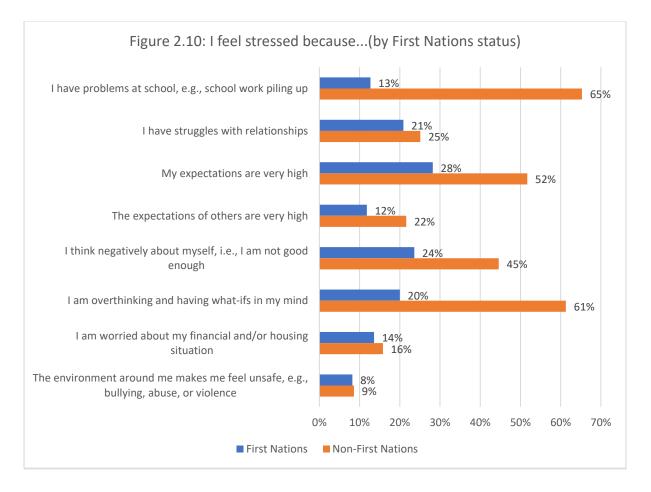
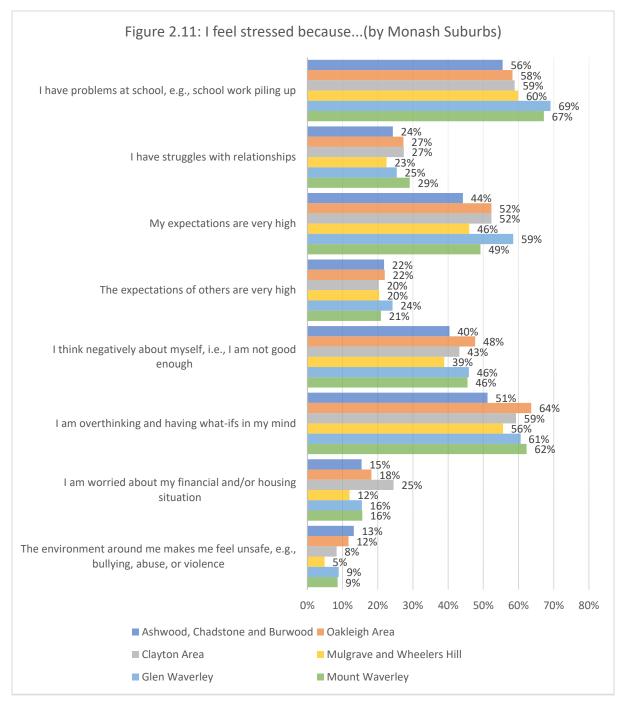


Figure 2.10 illustrates that First Nations young people surveyed reported experiencing stress less often than their non-First Nations counterparts. Data illustrates that First Nations young people reported lower levels of stress in area of handling expectations, managing overthinking and negative thinking.

It was also notable that factors such as an unsafe environment, financial and/or housing situations, and relationship issues were equally impactful for young people regardless of their cultural status.

Monash suburbs

The table below explores different areas in Monash and young people's responses to questions related to stress. This is demonstrated with a horizontal bar graph. Respondents were able to select multiple answers for this question.



The chart indicates that 25% of respondents living in or spending most of their time in the Clayton area (Clayton, Notting Hill, and Huntingdale) reported experiencing financial and/or housing-related stress, which was higher than any other Monash area.

Respondents from Ashwood, Chadstone and Burwood, followed by the Oakleigh area (Oakleigh, Oakleigh South, Oakleigh East, and Hughesdale) reported that they were more likely to feel unsafe in their environment. Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill reported lower levels. However, the reasons for the differences is not apparent from the data collected.

Other

In addition to the options included in this question, young people were given the opportunity to selfdescribe what factors cause them stress. After recoding, about 2% of the respondents found none of the options provided reflected their experiences and instead, they shared their own reasons for feeling stressed in open texts.

Notably, most of the self-describing respondents indicated that feeling stressed was part of their mental health symptoms.

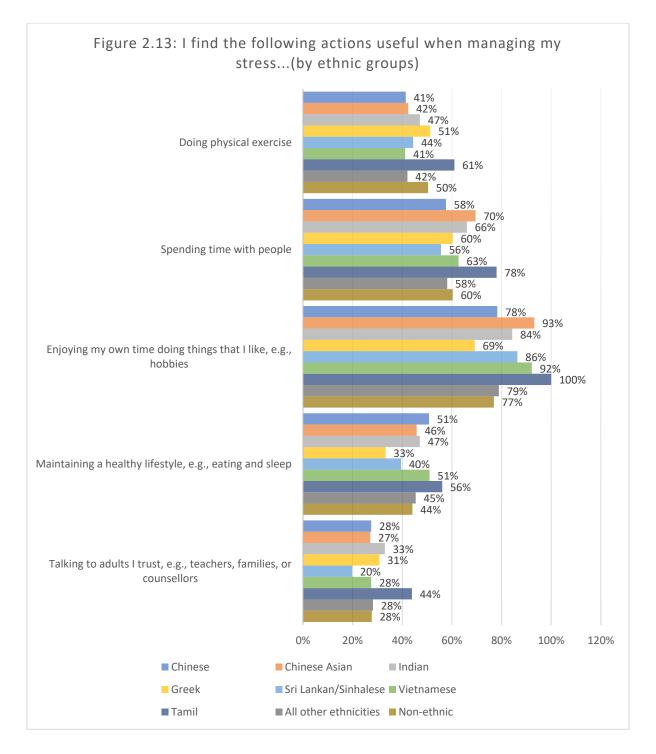
I find the following actions useful when managing my stress...

This question collected respondents' coping strategies for stress. All respondents had the opportunity to choose all the actions that were useful in managing their stress. A respondent could choose multiple options. A total of 1,935 participants responded to this question. As benchmarks, the percentages of their responses are demonstrated in the table below.

Table 2.12: Respondents' stress managing strategies				
Actions	Percentage			
Talking to adults I trust, e.g., teachers, families, or counsellors	28%			
Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, e.g., eating and sleep	45%			
Doing physical exercise	46%			
Spending time with people	60%			
Enjoying my own time doing things that I like, e.g., hobbies	79%			

Ethnic groups

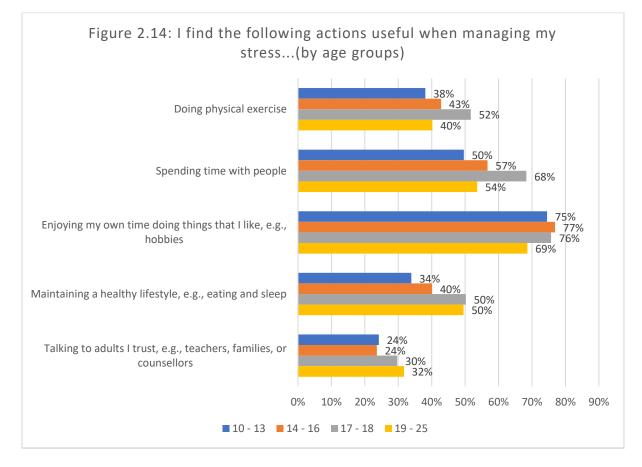
The following figure 2.13 shows that all ethnic groups adopted a similar pattern of actions when managing their stress. It was worth noting that a higher percentage of Tamil young people generally found it useful to utilise all the provided options when managing their stress. For instance, 44% of Tamil young people appeared to be more open to the idea of talking to a trusted adult to help manage their stress, whereas the overall figure was 28%. Another more striking example is that 100% of Tamil young people said they manage stress by doing things they enjoy in their own time, such as hobbies.



Tamil and Greek respondents chose physical exercise more often than their counterparts when managing their stress, with 61% of Tamil and 51% Greek respondents choosing physical exercise, whereas the overall figure was 46%.

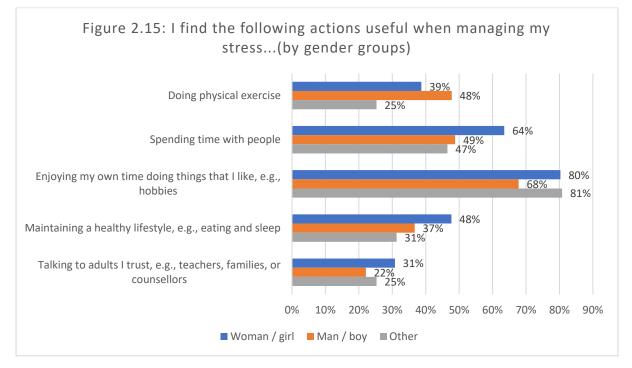
Age groups

The data illustrates that enjoying one's own time was the top strategy across all age groups. Strategies such as 'maintaining a healthy lifestyle' and 'talking to a trusted adult' were reported at higher levels for young people aged 17 and over. Notably, 'doing physical exercise' and 'spending time with people' was reported at higher levels as young people moved into the next stage of their lives but dropped significantly when they turned 19 years old.



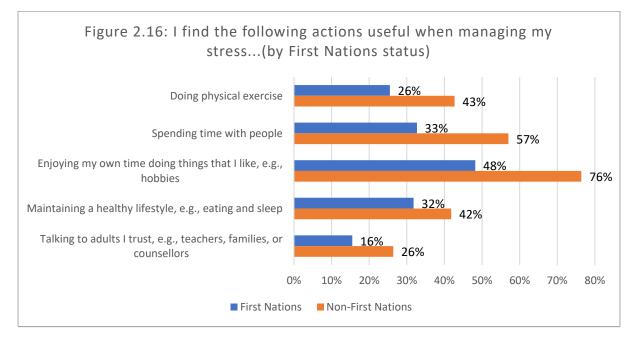
Gender groups

The data below shows that enjoying one's own time was the top strategy across all genders and was the key strategy for gender diverse young people. More respondents identifying as female found 'spending time with people' useful than respondents identifying as male and gender diverse. In contrast, the key strategy favoured by male identifying respondents compared to other genders was focusing on doing physical exercise.



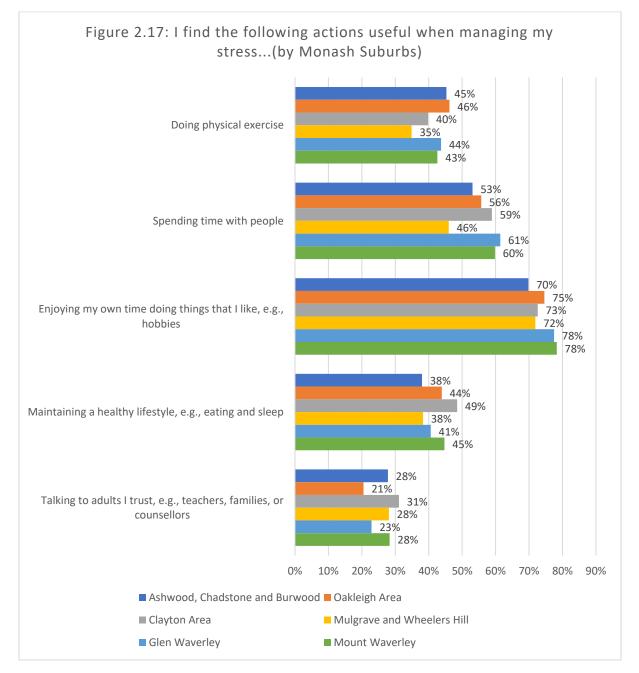
First Nations young people

The data below demonstrates that respondents who identified as First Nations and their non-First Nations counterparts adopted similar actions when managing their stress. Consistently, across all the strategies fewer First Nations young people found them useful compared with their non-First Nations counterparts.



Monash suburbs

The stress management strategies young people reported using were relatively consistent across all Monash suburbs with spending time with people presenting the largest contrast.



Other

In addition to the options provided with the question 'I find the following actions useful when managing my stress', young people were given the opportunity to self-describe their stress management strategies.

Approximately 2% of the respondents found none of the options provided reflected their experiences and instead they shared the strategies they felt useful to manage their stress in open texts.

Notably, spiritual activities such as praying and going to church, and spending time with their pets were widely mentioned by participants.

Loneliness

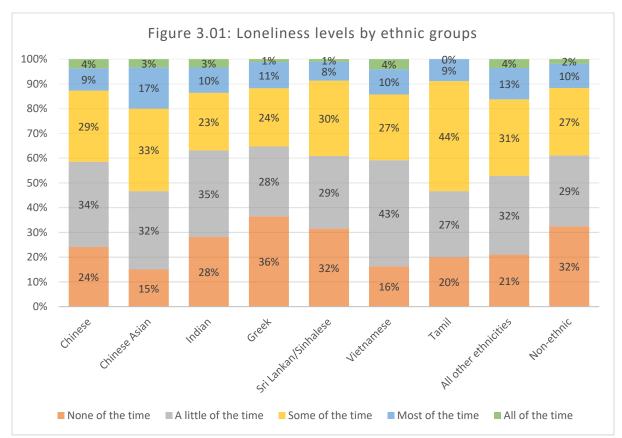
How often do you feel lonely?

Loneliness is another prevalent concern among young people in Monash. Feeling lonely most or all of the time could suggest that young people are isolated, which may lead to long-term mental health problems. This section will report on the proportions of different groups of young people who felt lonely most or all the time and present the reasons young people identify for their loneliness.

A total of 2,075 or 83% survey participants have responded to this question. Of this, 11% of respondents reported feeling lonely 'most of the time', and 3% of respondents reported feeling lonely 'all of the time'. These figures will be the benchmark for understanding different groups of young people's experiences of loneliness.

Ethnic groups

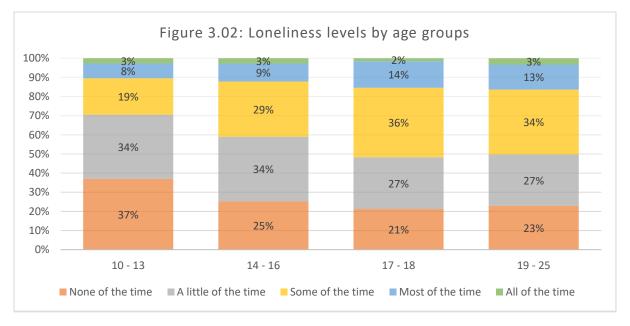
The data below illustrates that one in every five 'Chinese Asian' respondents reported feeling lonely 'most of the time' and 'all of the time'. In contrast, just less than one in 10 Sri Lankan/Sinhalese and Tamil young people reported the same levels of loneliness as their 'Chinese Asian' counterparts.



Notably, a total of 17% of 'Chinese Asian' young people felt lonely 'most of the time', which was significantly higher than the overall figure of 11%.

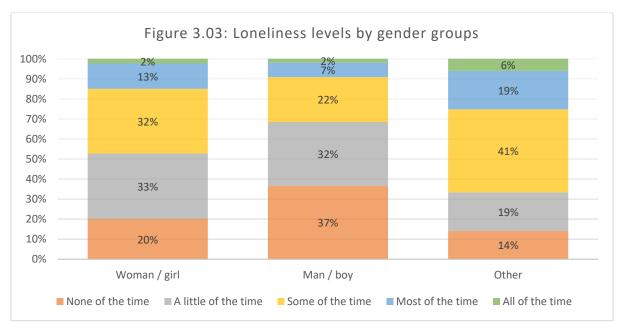
Age groups

Exploring age ranges and loneliness levels, the data shows that more young people felt lonely 'most of the time' and 'all of the time' when in the age ranges of 17-18 and 19-25 years old. Approximately one in six respondents in both age groups reported experiencing loneliness most or all the time.



Gender groups

The data indicates that one in four gender diverse young people experienced loneliness 'most of the time' or 'all the time', whereas the figure was much lower for female identifying and male identifying young people at one in seven and one in ten respectively.

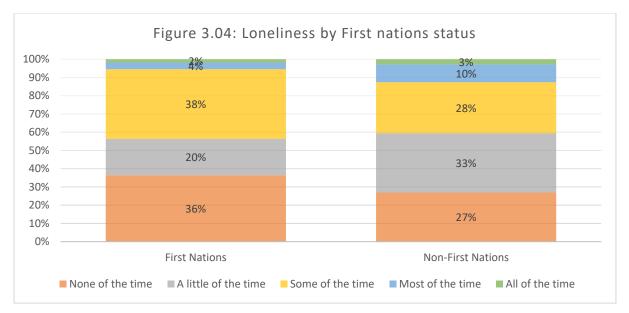


Notably, a total of 19% of gender diverse young people reported feeling lonely 'most of the time', which nearly doubled the overall figure of 11%.

First Nations young people

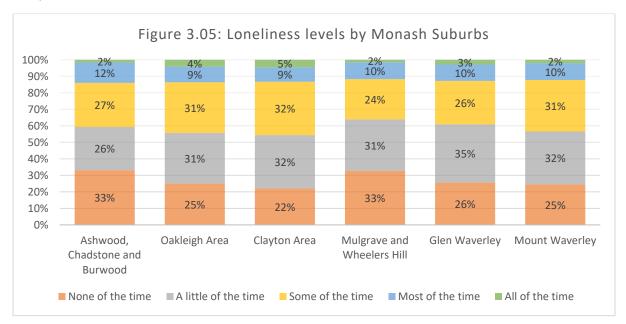
First Nations respondents had lower percentages of feeling lonely 'most of the time', and 'all of the time', combined, than their non-First Nations counterparts.

Notably, 36% of First Nations respondents felt lonely 'none of the time' compared to 27% non-First Nations.



Monash suburbs

One in eight Monash young people either felt lonely 'most of the time' or 'all the time'. However, both the Clayton area (Clayton, Notting Hill, and Huntingdale) and Oakleigh area (Oakleigh, Oakleigh South, Oakleigh East, and Hughesdale) had more respondents who felt lonely 'all of the time' when compared to other Monash suburbs.



I feel lonely because...

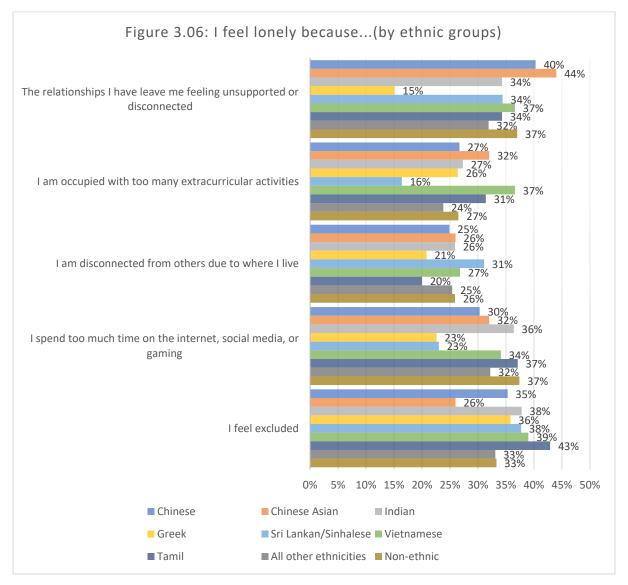
This question allowed respondents to choose all the factors that may have caused their loneliness. Each respondent was able to choose multiple options.

Ethnic groups

40% of young people who identified as Chinese and 44% of 'Chinese Asian' young people reported that they felt lonely because they were unsupported or disconnected in their relationships. Noticeably, relationship issues were reported at lower levels for Greek young people at 15%.

Young people who identified as Vietnamese and 'Chinese Asian' were more likely to feel lonely because they were occupied with too many extracurricular activities, whereas this issue was less concerning for Sri Lankan/Sinhalese young people.

While spending too much time on the internet, social media or gaming was consistent across all the ethnic groups, Greek and Sri Lankan/Sinhalese young people reported lower levels of impact on feelings of loneliness.



Age groups

The data shows that feelings of loneliness increased with age among the respondents. However, different age groups identified different factors that contributed to their loneliness as they grew older.

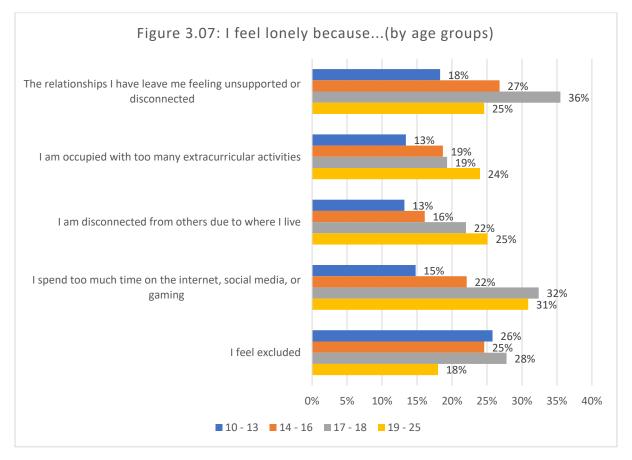
The two main factors that increased with age among respondents were: 'the relationships I have leave me feeling unsupported or disconnected' and 'I spend too much time on the internet, social media, or gaming'.

Approximately one in four young people aged 10-13 felt lonely because they felt excluded. This was the top cause of loneliness for this age group.

The top three causes of loneliness for young people aged 14-16 years were 'unsupported or disconnected relationships' (27%), 'feeling excluded' (25%), and 'spending too much time on the internet, social media, or gaming (22%)'.

Approximately one in three senior school aged young people felt lonely because they spent too much time on the internet, social media or gaming, or had unsupported or disconnected relationships.

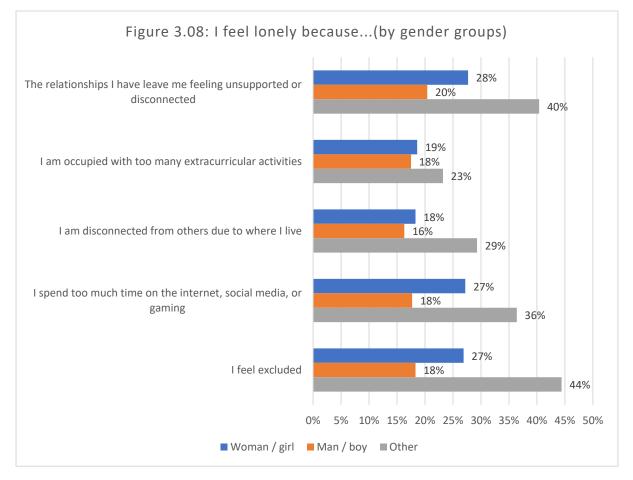
Spending too much time on the internet, social media or gaming was also the top cause identified by young people aged 19 to 25.



Gender groups

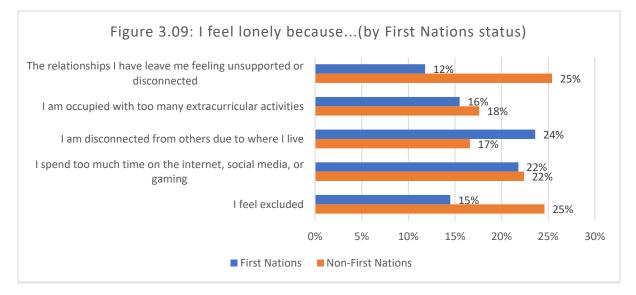
The top three reasons for loneliness in female identifying young people were 'relationships where they felt unsupported or disconnected', 'spending too much time on the internet, social media or gaming' and 'being excluded'. These three factors were evenly weighted as the main reasons for feeling lonely, accounting for approximately 25% for each topic area. In contrast, all five factors evenly contributed to the loneliness of male identifying young people.

Gender diverse young people identified with all the provided reasons for loneliness more than both male and female identifying respondents. Of these, feeling excluded, having unsupported or disconnected relationships, and spending too much time on the internet, social media, or gaming stood out as the top three reasons.



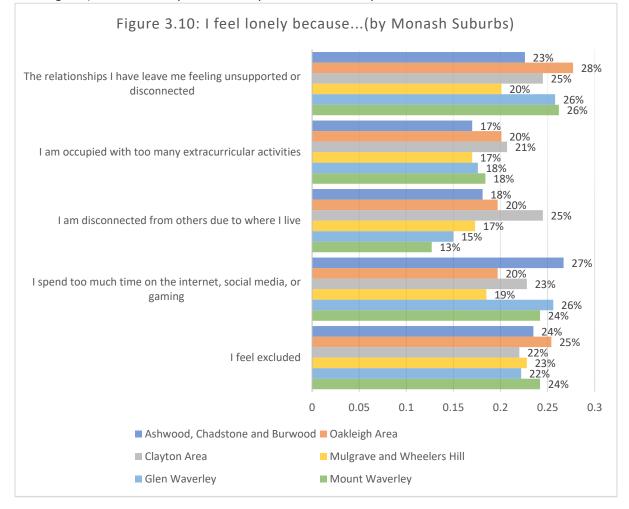
First Nations young people

The top reason First Nations respondents felt lonely was feeling disconnected from others due to where they live. In contrast, the top two reasons for loneliness for non-First Nations young people was their relationships leaving them feeling unsupported or disconnected and feeling excluded.



Monash suburbs

The chart below illustrates that young people living in the Clayton area (Clayton, Notting Hill, and Huntingdale) are more likely to feel lonely due to where they lived.



Other

Young people were also given the opportunity to write in their own reason for their loneliness. Approximately 5% of the respondents found none of the options provided reflected their experiences and submitted their own reasons.

Most of these reasons involved a lack of time due to other commitments, or their friends not being available. Some suggested that they were unable to catch up because of their physical or mental health conditions.

A few respondents indicated that they preferred not to socialise with others often.

What actions would you like to see to reduce loneliness among Monash young people? This question allowed respondents to suggest how to address loneliness for young people in the City of Monash. A total of 688 respondents provided their feedback as open text. The following word cloud visualises their answers.



The survey working group examined 40 randomly selected open-text responses and created a coding system with two main categories. They were:

- Activities (events, projects and programs) for young people to socialise and make friends.
- More facilities in the community, including agencies that offer support and services.

The coding system was used to code all the 688 responses. Approximately 95% of respondents would like to see more activities for young people to socialise and make friends, while another 6% asked for more facilities such as basketball courts. A selection of these responses follows:

- 'More opportunities to connect with young people, whether through events or community groups.'
- 'I think that by opening more community recreation centres, like outdoor playgrounds, basketball courts, it might help with reducing loneliness.'
- 'Have more programs that bring people together, like clubs so likeminded people can connect.'
- 'Safe, organised meetups for young people who are neurodivergent/LGBTQ+ friendly, i.e., sensory friendly, comfy, relaxed.'
- 'More events tailored towards young adults would be good. Particularly events that support Monash's arts scene, as these can bring us together more.'

- 'Provide support for career development and employment opportunities. Help young people integrate into the work environment and connect with colleagues by providing internships, job training and career guidance.'
- 'Provision of mental health resources: schools and communities can provide mental health resources and support, including counselling services, mental health workshops, etc. These resources can help young people cope with feelings of loneliness and provide necessary psychological support.'
- 'Create online forums and social platforms for young people to communicate online and build social networks.'

Discrimination

This section reports on young people's experiences of discrimination in the City of Monash.

In the last 12 months, have you experienced discrimination?

A total of 2,049 or 82% of survey participants responded to this question, with 21% of respondents choosing 'Yes'. This figure will be the benchmark for comparing young people's experiences of discrimination. Additionally, 32% of respondents reported that someone they knew was discriminated against.

Ethnic groups

When comparing the top 7 ethnic groups, the data identifies that 'Chinese Asian' young people reported experiencing the most discrimination in the last 12 months compared to their counterparts in other ethnic groups. Tamil young people reported experiencing the least discrimination.

Table 4.01: Experiences of discrimination by ethnic groups				
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither
Chinese	295	56 (19%)	79 (27%)	160 (54%)
Chinese Asian	59	16 (27%)	19 (32%)	24 (41%)
Indian	203	42 (21%)	58 (29%)	103 (51%)
Greek	84	13 (16%)	15 (18%)	56 (67%)
Sri Lankan/Sinhalese	90	21 (23%)	24 (27%)	45 (50%)
Vietnamese	49	10 (20%)	14 (29%)	25 (51%)
Tamil	44	4 (9%)	17 (39%)	23 (42%)
All other ethnicities	411	95 (23%)	144 (35%)	172 (42%)
Non-ethnic	816	164 (20%)	290 (36%)	362 (44%)

However, the overall reliability of data is reduced when measuring specific ethnic identities due to a small sample size of the ethnic groups not represented in Table 4.01 above. To have a better picture of this topic, respondents have been categorised into different regions following the guidelines in the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2019.

Table 4.02: Experiences of discrimination by ethnic groups				
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither
North-East Asian	416	83 (20%)	115 (28%)	218 (52%)
South-East Asian	128	24 (19%)	38 (30%)	66 (52%)
Southern and Central Asian	370	77 (21%)	105 (28%)	188 (51%)
African and Middle Eastern	60	21 (35%)	15 (25%)	24 (40%)
European	165	28 (17%)	57 (35%)	80 (49%)

Young people of African and Middle Eastern descent experience discrimination more often, with about 35% experiencing direct discrimination in the last 12 months. This was significantly higher than the overall figure of 21%. Approximately one in five Asian respondents had been discriminated against in the last 12 months, whereas approximately one in six European respondents stated they experienced discrimination.

Age groups

Reported experiences of discrimination was consistent across all age groups, ranging from 17% to 20%. However, the older the respondents, the more likely they are to know someone who was discriminated against (starting with 19% for 10-13-year-olds, up to 50% for 19-25-year-olds).

Table 4.03: Experiences of discrimination by age groups				
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither
10 – 13 years	546	104 (19%)	104 (19%)	338 (62%)
14 – 16 years	683	138 (20%)	212 (31%)	333 (49%)
17 – 18 years	259	43 (17%)	94 (36%)	122 (47%)
19 – 25 years	366	68 (19%)	184 (50%)	114 (31%)

Gender groups

The data shows that 50% of gender diverse young people had experienced discrimination in the last 12 months. This was significantly higher than the overall figure of 21%. In contrast, the figure was approximately 17% for both female and male identifying respondents.

Table 4.04: Experiences of discrimination by gender groups					
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither	
Woman / girl	882	153 (17%)	314 (36%)	415 (47%)	
Man / boy	852	141 (17%)	252 (27%)	459 (54%)	
Other	99	50 (51%)	23 (23%)	26 (26%)	

First Nations young people

First Nations respondents had a similar percentage of reported experiences of discrimination. Overall, First Nations respondents were more likely to know of someone who had been discriminated against compared with their non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counterparts.

Table 4.05: Experiences of discrimination by First Nations status										
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither						
First Nations	110	25 (23%)	60 (55%)	25 (23%)						
Non-First Nations	1,680	321 (19%)	501 (30%)	858 (51%)						

Monash suburbs

Young people living in the Oakleigh area (Oakleigh, Oakleigh South, Oakleigh East and Hughesdale) and Mount Waverley reported more experiences of discrimination than other Monash suburbs in the last 12 months. In contrast, young people from Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill experienced the lowest rate of discrimination with 61% of respondents neither being discriminated against nor hearing about anyone they knew being discriminated against in the last 12 months.

The Oakleigh area and Mount Waverley were the only Monash suburbs that had a figure higher than the overall figure of 21%.

Table 4.06: Experiences of discrimination by Monash suburbs										
Experiences of discrimination	Total responses	Yes, I have been discriminated against	No, but someone I know was discriminated against	Neither						
Ashwood, Chadstone and Burwood	371	70 (19%)	140 (38%)	161 (43%)						
Oakleigh Area	264	64 (24%)	85 (32%)	115 (44%)						
Clayton Area	241	43 (18%)	72 (30%)	126 (52%)						
Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill	324	56 (17%)	72 (22%)	196 (61%)						
Glen Waverley	414	66 (16%)	143 (35%)	205 (50%)						
Mount Waverley	244	55 (23%)	84 (34%)	105 (43%)						

What was the discrimination you experienced based on?

Respondents who had experienced any discrimination in the last 12 months had the opportunity to choose the reasons for their discrimination using a self-assessment scale ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating strongly disagree and 5 indicating strongly agree. This section investigates the details of Monash young people's discrimination experiences by working out the mean scores for each type of discrimination. The higher the number, the more concerning that form of discrimination was for the specific groups.

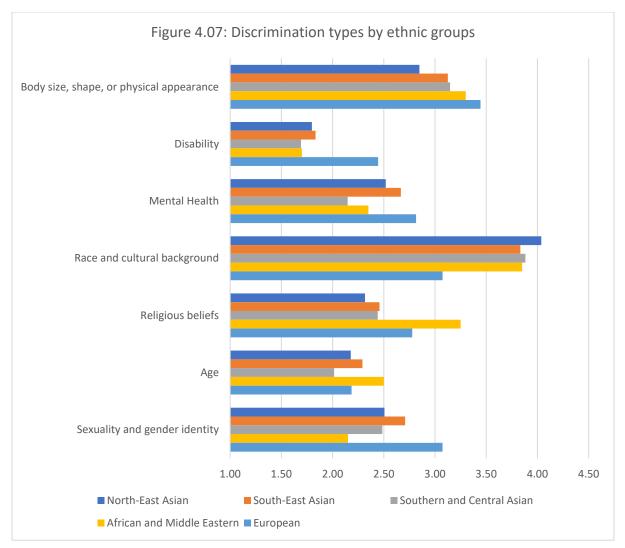
Ethnic groups

The experiences of Asian respondents, including North-East Asian, South-East Asian, and Southern and Central Asian, appeared to be similar. In contrast, young people of European and African and Middle Eastern descents reported a noticeably different pattern.

The data suggests that most of the respondents were discriminated against because of their 'race and cultural background'. North-East Asian young people, such as Chinese, Japanese and Korean reported being discriminated at higher levels than their counterparts from difference races or cultural backgrounds. However, reports of discrimination based on 'race and cultural background' was not as prominent for young people of European descent.

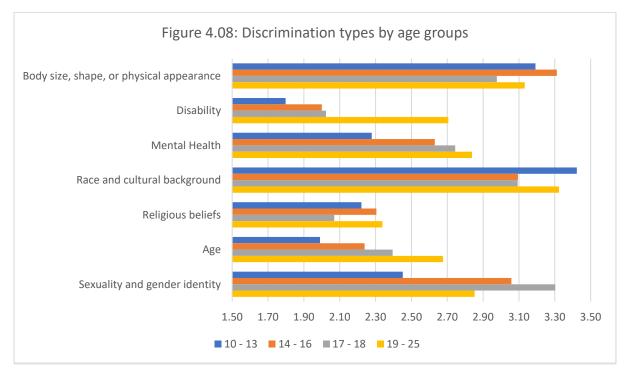
For young people of European descent, the top reason for their discrimination was due to their 'body size, shape, or physical appearance'.

Young people of African and Middle Eastern descent reported 'religious beliefs' as the main factor for their discrimination.



Age groups

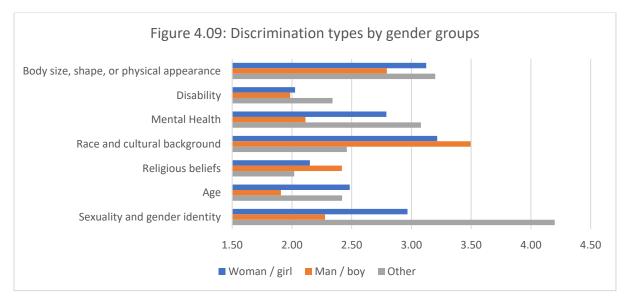
Monash young people mainly reported facing discrimination due to their 'race and cultural background' and 'body size, shape, or physical appearance' across all age groups. Discrimination based on 'sexuality and gender identity' affected young people aged 17-18 at higher levels but was less of a factor for 10-13-year-olds.



Gender groups

'Sexuality and gender identity' was a significant factor for gender diverse young people's discrimination experiences. This gender group was also more likely to be discriminated against because of their 'body size, shape, or physical appearance', and 'mental health'.

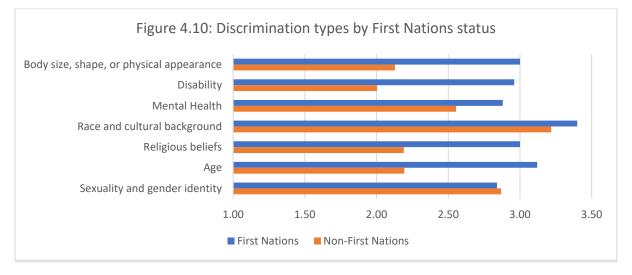
Male identifying respondents were targeted due to their race and cultural background more often than their female identifying counterparts. On the other hand, female identifying respondents felt discriminated against because of their body size, shape, or physical appearance more often than their male identifying counterparts.



First Nations young people

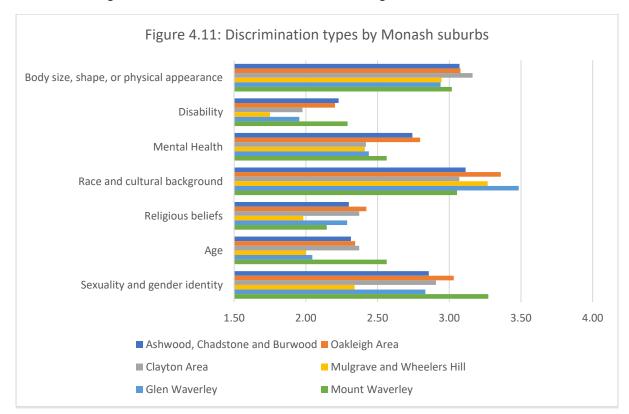
First Nations respondents reported more experiences of discrimination in almost all the areas than their non-First Nations counterparts.

First Nations young people were also reported more experiences of discrimination across other area including 'disability', 'age', 'body size, shape, or physical appearance', and 'religious beliefs'.



Monash suburbs

All Monash suburbs appeared to have a similar pattern regarding factors of discrimination with slight differences. Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill had the lowest discrimination rate in 'disability', 'religious beliefs', and 'sexuality and gender identity'. Young people from Mount Waverley were more likely to be discriminated against because of their 'sexuality and gender identity' and 'age' than their counterparts in other Monash suburbs. Young people in Glen Waverley were more likely to be discriminated against because of their 'race and cultural background'.



Other

Young people were given the opportunity to self-describe the reasons for their discrimination. A total of 84 young people surveyed responded. However, most of the open-text responses were irrelevant to this question, for example, 'I am happy', 'N/A' and 'none'. These responses were categorised as invalid based on the recoding rules, and they were marked as 'not answered' in this process.

What actions would you like to see to make Monash more inclusive and accepting? This question allowed respondents to suggest ways to make the City of Monash more inclusive and accepting. A total of 365 respondents provided their feedback as open text. The following word cloud visualises what young people surveyed thought about this topic.



To have a more in-depth understanding, the survey working group examined 40 randomly picked responses and created a coding system, including three main categories and several subcategories. They were:

- More activities for young people, such as events, projects and programs.
- Driving for a change:
 - Education (raise awareness of inclusivity and diversity)
 - Advocacy (actions to bring about social and political change).
- More safe spaces, and inclusive and accessible facilities.

Responses not fitting in any of the above categories were recoded as 'other'. For instance, 'be kind and everyone should have an open heart', 'continue what they're doing', and 'do better'.

Some responses were long answers spanning multiple categories, and they were recoded multiple times accordingly. For instance, the response 'just educating people, and creating safe places, and anonymity for people who are not comfortable with sharing themselves' was categorised as both 'driving for a change through education' and 'creating more safe spaces'.

The coding system was used to code all the 365 responses. Approximately 56% of respondents would like to see some changes happen, with 37% requesting more education to raise awareness of inclusivity and diversity and 19% asking for more advocacy. For instance:

- 'Provide training and workshops on topics such as cultural sensitivity, unconscious bias, and inclusion. This will help create awareness and foster an inclusive mindset.'
- 'Develop and implement inclusive policies to protect the rights and interests of minorities and eliminate all forms of discrimination and prejudice.'
- 'Encourage cooperation and mutual assistance between different communities, build friendly relations, solve problems together, and promote the overall inclusion of the community.'
- 'Action against racism and other forms of discrimination.'
- 'Better representation and more voice for disadvantaged groups.'
- 'More advertising or support programs to promote a more open way of thinking.'
- 'More outreach and talking more about diversity and inclusivity.'
- 'Provide some cultural understanding to the youth at Monash for inclusion and to avoid discrimination.'

A total of 30% of respondents requested more activities. For instance:

- 'Organise events and activities that celebrate and promote diversity, such as cultural festivals, guest lectures, and panel discussions.'
- 'Organise multicultural celebrations to promote different cultures.'
- 'Organise cross-cultural exchange activities, such as cultural exhibitions and international food festivals, to provide opportunities for people from different communities to communicate and get to know each other.'
- 'More LGBTIQIA+ events, such as meet ups.'
- 'Events and festivals which are diverse and allow people from all backgrounds to connect with each other.'

Another 16% of respondents wanted more safe spaces and youth friendly facilities. For instance:

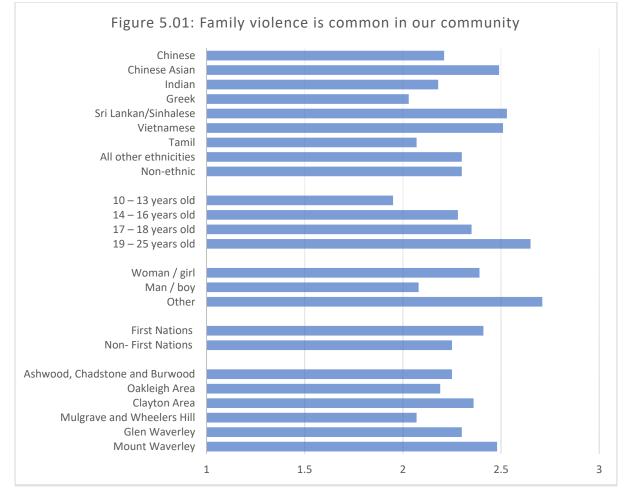
- 'Have places people can go to that are inclusive and accepting if their home is not, both casual places to hang out and accommodation if need be.'
- 'Longer hours in the library and more areas for students to study/hang out for free.'
- 'More disabled toilets.'
- 'More places/ activities dedicated to women only.'

Gender inequality

This section reports on Monash young people's perceptions of gender inequality. Similar to the presentation of young people's experiences of discrimination, a self-assessment scale was used to allow young people to choose the extent they agree or disagree with the following statements. The scale ranged from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating strongly disagree, 2 somewhat disagree, 3 neither disagree nor agree, 4 somewhat agree, and 5 strongly agree.

This section will look at each statement individually and compare the responses of young people from different groups.

Family violence is common in our community.



Although all the ethnic groups tended to somewhat disagree that 'family violence is common in our community', there was a slightly higher mean score for young people from Sri Lankan/Sinhalese, Vietnamese and 'Chinese Asian' ethnicities.

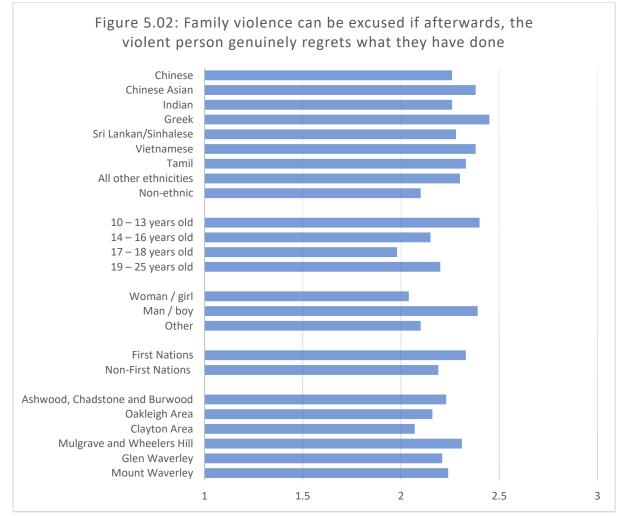
All age groups disagree that 'family violence is common in our community'. However, as age cohorts of young people increased, their disagreement waned.

Gender diverse and female identifying young people were not as strong in their disagreement that 'family violence is common in our community' compared with their male identifying counterparts.

First Nations young people reported lower levels of disagreement that 'family violence is common in our community' compared to non-First Nations young people.

All the Monash suburbs somewhat disagreed that 'family violence is common in our community', with Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill reporting higher level of disagreement.

Family violence can be excused if afterwards, the violent person genuinely regrets what they have done.



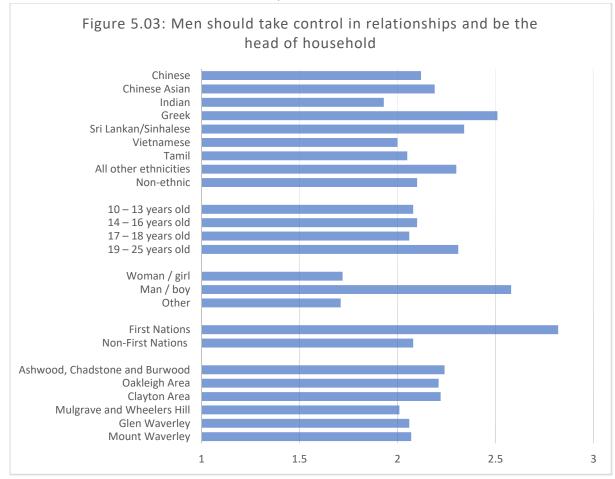
All the ethnic groups disagreed with this statement, with no significant differences. Non-ethnic young people, however, were stronger in their disagreement.

While young people aged 17-18 were strongest in their disagreement that family violence could be excused if afterwards, the violent person genuinely regrets what they have done, young people aged 10-13 were somewhat disagreeing with the statement.

Male identifying young people were not as strong in their disagreement that 'family violence can be excused if afterwards, the violent person genuinely regrets what they have done' compared to young women's disagreement.

First Nations young people were slightly less in their disagreement that family violence could be excused if the violent person genuinely regretted what they had done when compared with their non-First Nations counterparts.

All Monash suburbs somewhat disagreed with this statement.



Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household.

Young people identifying as Indian reported the highest levels of disagreement to this statement. All other ethnic groups somewhat disagreed with 'men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household'. Greek young people reported a slightly lower level of disagreement.

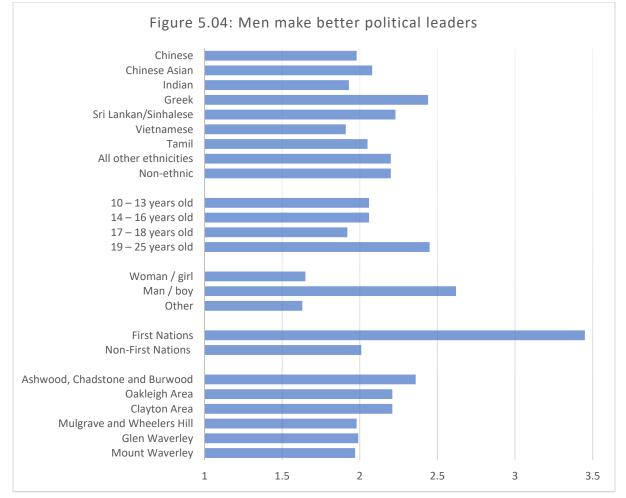
All the age groups somewhat disagreed with 'men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household'. Young people aged 19-25 were lower in their disagreement with this statement.

Male identifying young people somewhat disagreed that 'men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household'. In contrast, female identifying, and gender diverse young people were more likely to disagree with this statement.

First Nations young people tended to lean towards neither disagreeing or agreeing with 'men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household', whereas their non-First Nations counterparts tended to somewhat disagree with this statement.

Young people somewhat disagreed that men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household across all the Monash areas. Young people were not as strong in their disagreement with this statement in Ashwood, Chadstone and Burwood, the Oakleigh area and the Clayton area, compared with their counterparts in Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley and the Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill area.

Men make better political leaders.



All the ethnic groups disagreed or somewhat disagreed with 'men make better political leaders'. Young people identifying as Vietnamese reported the highest level of disagreement with this statement, whereas Greek young people somewhat disagreed.

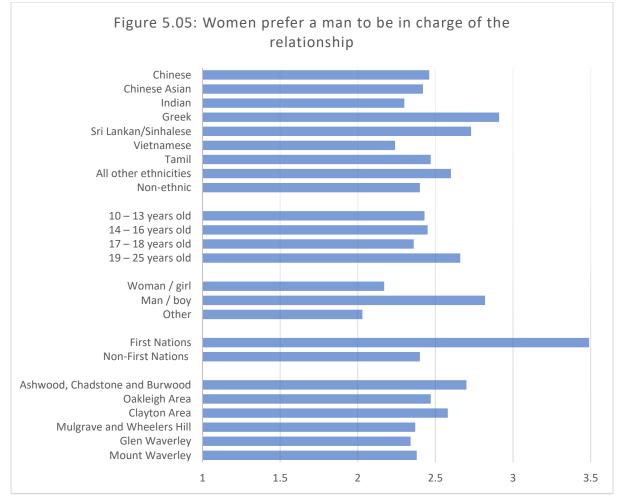
All age groups somewhat disagreed with 'men make better political leaders' with young people aged 19-25 lower in their disagreement with this statement.

Male identifying young people slightly disagreed that 'men make better political leaders'. Female identifying young people tended to share similar response rates with gender diverse young people disagreeing with this statement.

First Nations young people slightly agreed that 'men make better political leaders', whereas non-First Nations young people tended to somewhat disagree with this statement.

Young people disagreed or somewhat disagreed that 'men make better political leaders' across all the Monash area. Young people were lower in their disagreement with this statement in Ashwood, Chadstone and Burwood, the Oakleigh area and the Clayton area, compared with their counterparts in Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley and the Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill area.

Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship.



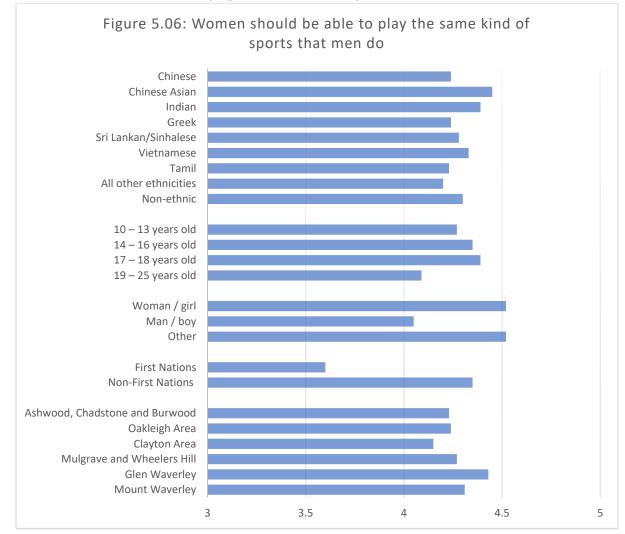
Most ethnic groups slightly disagreed with 'women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship'. Young people identifying as Vietnamese were highest in their disagreement with this statement, whereas Greek young people were lower in their disagreement, leaning towards neither agreeing nor disagreeing with this statement.

All age groups somewhat disagreed with the statement 'women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship', with no significant differences.

Male identifying young people were lower in their disagreement that 'women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship', with male responses edging towards neither agree nor disagree while young women somewhat disagreed with this statement.

First Nations young people tended to slightly agree with the statement, whereas non-First Nations young people slightly disagree with this statement overall.

Young people in all Monash suburbs somewhat disagreed with 'women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship', with young people in Ashwood, Chadstone and Burwood were not as strong in their conviction.



Women should be able to play the same kind of sports that men do.

All the ethnic groups somewhat agreed or agreed with the statement 'women should be able to play the same kind of sports that men do' with no significant differences.

All the age groups somewhat agreed or agreed with the statement.

Male identifying young people somewhat agreed that 'women should be able to play the same kind of sport men do'. In contrast female identifying and gender diverse young people agreed that women can play the same sports.

First Nations young people slightly agreed 'women should be able to play the same kind of sports that men do', whereas non-First Nations counterparts were higher in agreement with this statement.

Young people in all Monash suburbs somewhat agreed or agreed that 'women should be able to play the same kind of sports that men do'.

Sport and physical activity

This section explores Monash young people's level of engagement in sports and physical activities.

How often do you participate in sport or physical activity?

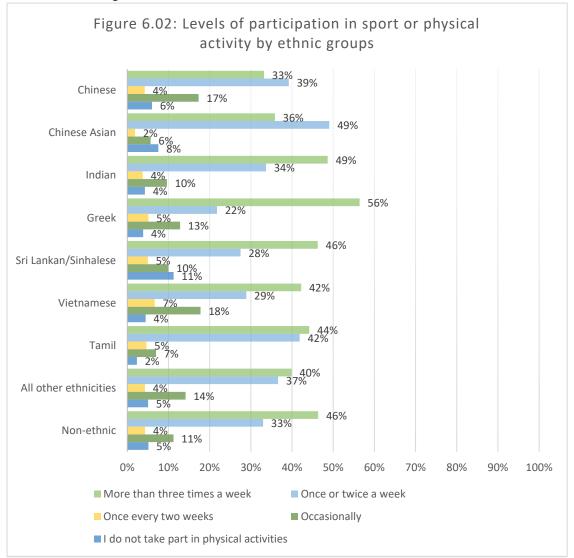
A total of 1,903 or 76% survey participants responded to this question. The data shows that 78% or nearly 4 out of 5 young people in the City of Monash are participating in sports or physical activities at least once a week.

Table 6.01: Respondents' levels of participation in sport or physical activity									
Total Percentage									
More than three times a week	823	43%							
Once or twice a week	659	35%							
Once every two weeks	82	4%							
Occasionally	238	13%							
I do not take part in physical activities	101	5%							

This section will look at different groups of young people to understand which groups were not as physically active as their counterparts, particularly those who 'do not take part in physical activities'.

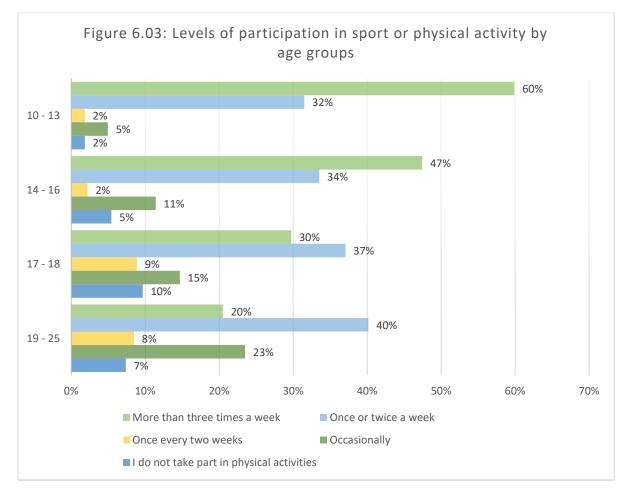
Ethnic groups

Tamil and 'Chinese Asian' young people reported being the most physically active, with about 85% engaging in sport or physical activity at least once a week. In contrast, a total of 11% of Sri Lankan and Sinhalese young people did not take part in physical activities, which was significantly higher than the overall figure of 5%.



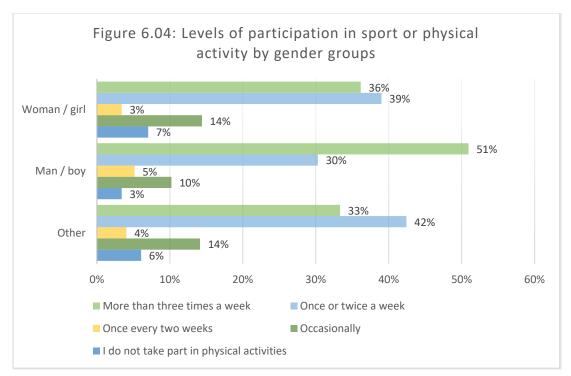
Age groups

Young people aged 10-13 years were the most physically active, with more than 90% engaging in sport or physical activity at least once a week. In contrast, 10% of young people aged 17-18 years did not take part in physical activities, which was significantly higher than the overall figure of 5%. Young people aged 19-25 also had a relatively high number of young people not participating in sport, sitting at 7%.



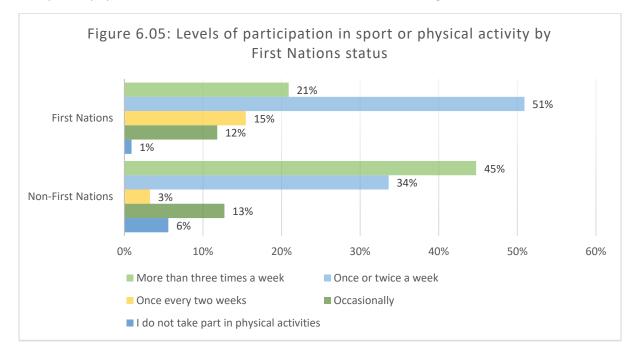
Gender groups

Male identifying respondents were the most physically active, with more than 80% engaging in sport or physical activity at least once a week. Female identifying and gender diverse young people demonstrated similar percentages to each other, with 75% engaging in sport or physical activity at least once per week. For the answer 'I do not take part in physical activities', responses from female identifying (7%) and gender diverse young people (6%) were both higher than the overall figure of 5%.



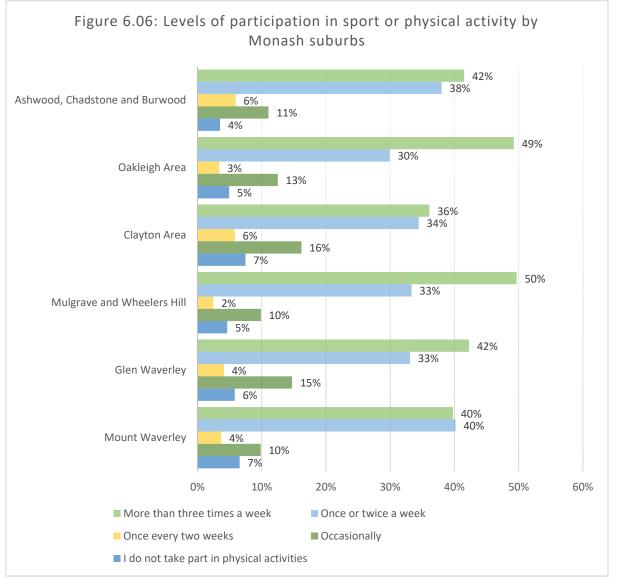
First Nations young people

A total of 72% of First Nations respondents were engaging in sports or physical activities at least once a week, which was slightly less than the overall figure of 78%. Only 1% indicated that they 'do not take part in physical activities', which was much less than the overall figure of 5%.



Monash suburbs

Young people living in the suburbs Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill were the most physically active in the City of Monash, with 83% engaging in sports or physical activities at least once a week. In contrast, Mount Waverley and the Clayton area had the highest percentage of respondents who did not take part in physical activities.



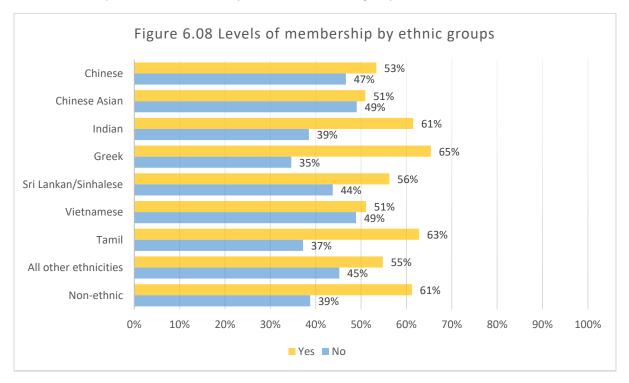
Are you a member of any sporting club or taking any sporting class?

A total of 1,903 or 76% survey participants responded to this question. The data shows that 58% of young people in the City of Monash were either a member of a sporting club or taking a sporting class.

Table 6.07: Respondents' levels of membership								
	Total	Percentage						
Yes	1,109	58.3%						
No	794	41.7%						

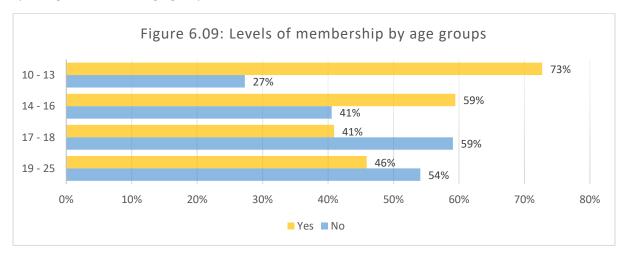
Ethnic groups

51% of Vietnamese and 'Chinese Asian' respondents enrolled in a sporting club or class, which was the lowest compared to their counterparts in other ethnic groups.



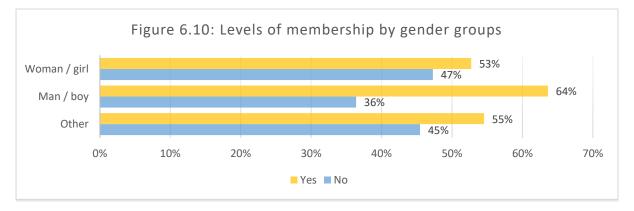
Age groups

41% of young people aged 17-18, and 46% aged 19-25 were members of sporting clubs or taking sporting classes. Both age groups were lower than the 58% overall benchmark.



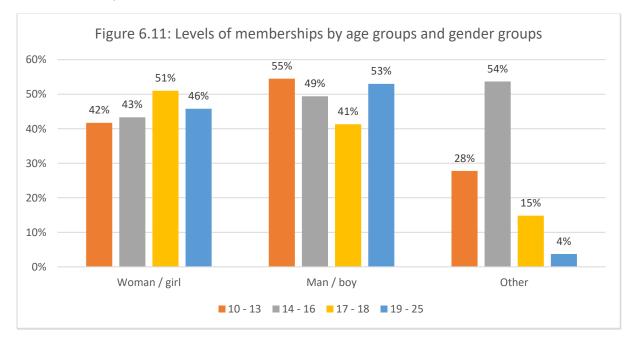
Gender groups

53% of female identifying and gender diverse respondents were members of sporting clubs or took sporting classes, which was slightly lower than the 58% benchmark. Female identifying, and gender diverse young people demonstrated similar percentages overall.



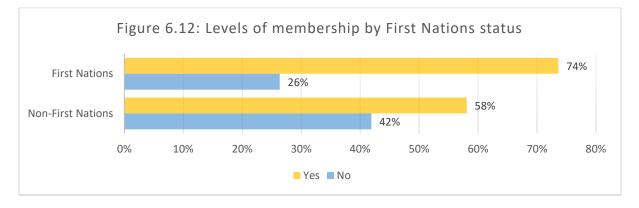
When examining the impact of gender and age on the decision to join a sporting club or participate in a sporting class, distinct patterns emerged across different age groups for each gender.

There was a gradual increase in the percentages for young females, peaking at 51% when 17-18 years old, which then dropped slightly at 19 years of age. The highest percentage for young males was at 10-13 years (54%), consistently dropping as they grew older, but bouncing back significantly to 53% for those aged 19-25 years. In contrast, only 28% of gender diverse young people aged 10-13 were members of a sporting club or participating in a sporting class. This percentage peaked at 54% when they were 14-16 years old but fell significantly to only 15% at 17 years of age, dropping further to a low of 4% at 19 years.



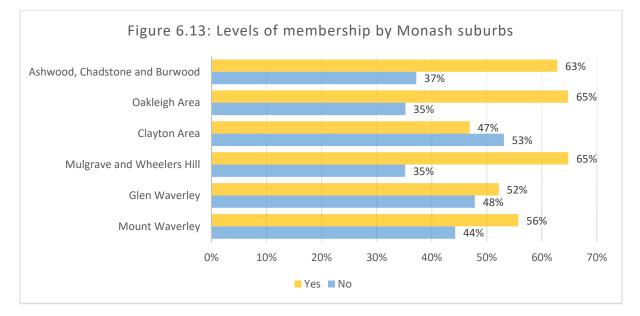
First Nations young people

A total of 74% of First Nations respondents enrolled in a sporting club or class, which was much higher than the 58% benchmark.



Monash suburbs

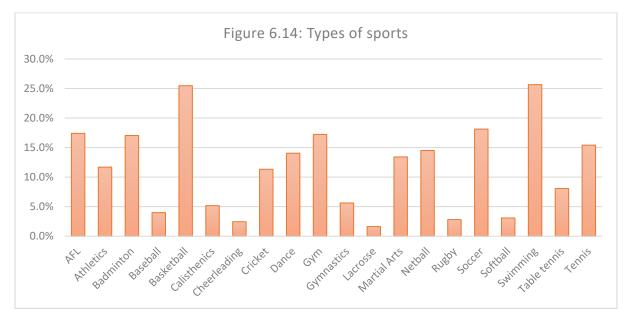
Young people from the suburbs Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill and the Oakleigh area had the highest percentages of respondents who enrolled in sporting clubs or classes at 65%. A total of 47% of respondents in the Clayton area enrolled in a sporting club or class, which was the lowest compared to their counterparts of other suburbs.



What sports do you participate in?

A total of 1,103 or 44% survey participants responded to this question. One in four Monash young people who responded to this question engaged in basketball and swimming. These two sports had the highest percentages of participation from young people. Soccer, AFL, badminton and going to the gym were also popular among Monash young people.

17% of survey respondents chose to self-describe as the sports they participated were not in the list of answers provided. Volleyball, hockey, running, rowing and water polo were mentioned most frequently among the open-text responses.



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Appendix 1:

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		Zambian							
	9221	Zimbabwean							
		Amhara							
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		Masai							
	9228	Tigrayan							
	9231	Tigre							
	9232	Zulu							
		Burundian							
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	9236	Ogaden							
		Rwandan							
		Shona							
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Default Question Block

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.

The City of Monash is one of the most multicultural municipalities in Victoria. This section will help Monash Youth Services understand the connection young people have to

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their ethnic identity.



Do you or your family members use any languages other than English at home?

O Yes

O No

What language(s) other than English do you or your family members use at home, e.g., Tamil, Panjab, Mandarin?

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What is your ethnic identity, e.g., Greek, Australian Chinese, Sinhalese, Indian Tamil?

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I have spent time trying to find out more about my ethnic group, such as its history, traditions, and customs.	0	0	0	0	0
I have a strong sense of belonging to my own ethnic group.	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0
I understand pretty well what my ethnic group membership means to me.	0	0	0	\bigcirc	0
I have often done things that will help me understand my ethnic background better.	0	0	0	0	0

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	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree					
I have often talked to other people in order to learn more about my ethnic group.	0	0	0	0	0					
I feel a strong attachment towards my own ethnic group.	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc					

This section will help Monash Youth Services understand how young people experience stress.



How often do you feel stressed?

 \bigcirc None of the time

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O Some of the time

- O Most of the time
- O All of the time

I feel stressed because: (tick all that apply)

\square	Thave	problems	at school,	ea	school	work	pilina	up
			at 3011001,	C.g.,	3011001	WOIK	pining	uρ

	I have	struggles	with	relationship	os
--	--------	-----------	------	--------------	----

	My expectations	are	very	high
--	-----------------	-----	------	------

The expectations of others are very high

- I think negatively about myself, i.e., I am not good enough
- I am overthinking and having what-ifs in my mind
- I am worried about my financial and/or housing situation
- The environment around me makes me feel unsafe, e.g., bullying, abuse, or violence

Other

I find the following actions useful when managing my stress: *(tick all that apply)*

Doing physical exercise

- Spending time with people
- Enjoying my own time doing things that I like, e.g. hobbies
- Aaintaining a healthy lifestyle, e.g., eating and sleep

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	Talking to adults I trust, e.g., teachers	, families, or counsellors

	Other

This section will help Monash Youth Services understand how young people experience loneliness.



How often do you feel lonely?

- \bigcirc None of the time
- O A little of the time
- \bigcirc Some of the time
- \bigcirc Most of the time
- \bigcirc All of the time

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I feel lonely because: (tick all that apply)

The relationships I have leave me feeling unsupported or disconnected

I am occupied with too many extracurricular activities

I am disconnected from others due to where I live

I spend too much time on the internet, social media, or gaming

I feel excluded

Other

What actions would you like to see to reduce loneliness among Monash young people?

Discrimination is when someone treats you differently, unfairly or worse because of factors such as age, disability, gender

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identity, religion or race.



In the last 12 months, have you experienced discrimination?

- O Yes, I have been discriminated against
- 🔘 No, but someone I know was discriminated against
- O Neither

What was the discrimination you experienced based on? (Please use the scale below to help indicate what the discrimination related to)

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Body size, shape, or physical appearance	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

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			Neither agree		
	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Disability	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Mental health	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Race and cultural background	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Religious beliefs	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Age	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Sexuality and gender identity	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Other	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc

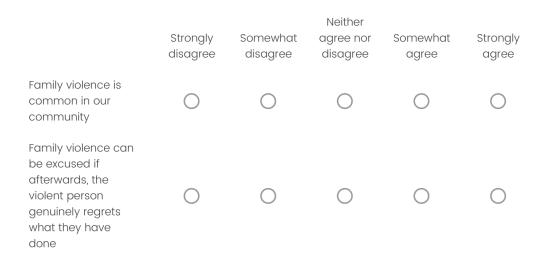
What actions would you like to see to make Monash more inclusive and accepting?

This section will help Monash Youth Services understand young people's opinions of gender equality.

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *Please use the scale below to indicate where you are. Note: we only want to hear your opinions and there are no right or wrong answers.*



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	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree		
Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household	0	0	0	0	\bigcirc		
Men make better political leaders	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		
Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		
Women should be able to play the same kind of sports that men do	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		

This section will help Monash Youth Services understand young people's participation in physical activity.



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How often do you participate in sport or physical activity?

- \bigcirc More than three times a week
- O Once or twice a week
- \bigcirc Once every two weeks
- \bigcirc Occasionally
- O I do not take part in physical activities

Are you a member of any sporting club or taking any sporting class?

O Yes

O No

What sports do you participate in? (7	Fick all that apply)
---------------------------------------	----------------------

AFL	
Athletics	
Badminton	
Baseball	
Basketball	
Cricket	
Dance	
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Gym	
Gymnastics	
Lacrosse	
Martial Arts	
🗌 Netball	
Rugby	
Soccer	
Softball	
Swimming	
Table tennis	
Tennis	
Other	

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.

What is your age?

- 0 10
- \bigcirc 11
- 0 12
- 0 13

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0 25

Monash suburb you live in or spend most time in?

O Ashwood	O Hughesdale	Oakleigh
O Burwood	O Huntingdale	🔘 Oakleigh East
O Chadstone	O Mount Waverley	Oakleigh South
Clayton	O Mulgrave	O Wheelers Hill
O Glen Waverley	O Notting Hill	

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Under the Gender Equality Act 2020, Council is required to consider the gender impact of its policies, programs, and services. While this question is non-mandatory, you will be assisting Council to promote gender equality if you provide this information.

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How do you describe yourself?

- O Woman / girl
- O Man / boy
- O Prefer not to say

Prefer to self-describe

Do you identify with LGBTIQA+ communities?

- O Yes
- O Unsure
- O No
- O Prefer not to say

Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- O Yes
- O No
- O Prefer not to say

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Appendix 3:

