OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

Youth Survey 2025

Engagement Report

BENTLEIGH

BENTLEIGH EAST

BRIGHTON EAST

CARNEGIE

CAULFIELD

ELSTERNWICK

GARDENVALE

GLEN HUNTLY

MCKINNON

MURRUMBEENA

ORMOND

ST KILDA EAST

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3
ENGAGEMENT REPORT 6
Background 6
Co-design with the YET 6
Co-design with Glen Eira College 7
Communication activities 7
Engagement activities 9
Survey responses 10
Survey demographic questions 11
Survey subject questions 21
Comparison with previous Youth Surveys 47
Valkstone Primary School activity 49
Appendix 1 – Valkstone Primary School transcription 51

Executive summary

We conduct the Glen Eira Youth Survey annually to help Council understand the unique interests, needs and challenges of young people in Glen Eira.

The 2025 *Survey* was delivered at the 'consult' level of community engagement and asked young people to share their experiences and feedback on matters that are important to them. The survey ran for a four-week period from 1 September to 28 September 2025.

We received responses from **465** young people aged 10–25 who live, work, study and socialise in Glen Eira. The survey was hosted on Have Your Say Glen Eira, with additional feedback collected through a school activity.

How we engaged

The survey design, communications and engagement activities were co-designed with 15 participants of the Youth Engagement Team (YET)

In the survey we asked young people (ages 10–25) in Glen Eira for feedback on a range of topics, including:

- their concerns and excitement for the future
- the community and their sense of connection
- their health and wellbeing
- ideas for youth support and accessibility.

A comprehensive communications campaign reached young people across the municipality through a range of channels. This included:

- pop-ups and walk-throughs at local shopping strips, leisure facilities, libraries, and Monash University Caulfield Campus
- promotion on Council's various social media channels
- posters displayed at libraries, leisure facilities, parks, and other Council facilities
- emails and visits to local schools and youth service providers
- e-newsletters from Youth Services and Community Engagement
- conversations with young people attending Youth Services programs.

Who we heard from

We received a total of **335 online survey responses** and **130 young people provided feedback through a school activity**.

The survey was completed by a diverse range of people. **36 per cent** of respondents identified themselves as someone from a multicultural background and **31 per cent** speak other languages at home. **Five** respondents identified as being First Nations people. **188** respondents identified as a woman or girl, while **120** identified as a man or boy. **11** identified as transgender and **eight** identified as non-binary.

Almost all respondents are connected to Glen Eira, with **93 per cent** either living, working, studying, socialising, or playing sport here. **80 per cent** live in a Glen Eira suburb.

What we heard

The survey included 15 questions on a range of topics, from concerns and excitement to wellbeing and community.

The **top three concerns** that young people hold for their future are:



Money
54%



Relationships/ Friendship
46%



Education
36%

The most common rating for **overall wellbeing** among young people was four out of five smiley faces, at 39 per cent.



The top three things that young people said would improve their health were:

- **quality sleep** (62 per cent)
- **exercise** (53 per cent)
- **family/friend support** (40 per cent).

The top four activities young people said that they enjoy doing were:



Spending time with friends, family or social groups **88%**



Entertainment at home **72%**



Just chilling or relaxing **65%**



Activities outside of home **62%**

Free text feedback was requested in seven questions. The responses to each question were themed, and the most common sentiments were:

- Preferences for personal support focused on education, community activities, and finances.
- Respondents are most excited for their future careers, education, and social connections.

- They'd like their parents to know that they face difficulties in life and appreciate support and understanding.
- To feel safe, included, and heard. They want more police, a stronger youth voice, and an inclusive community.
- They think Youth Services could be more accessible by focusing on promotional campaigns, information, and activities.
- They'd like Youth Services to support them through social activities, educational support, and community spaces.
- Most respondents learned about the survey through paper flyers, school and uni promotions, libraries, and leisure centres.



When asked if they feel safe, included, and heard, a high proportion said yes (**44 per cent**) or mostly (**41 per cent**).

Participants were also asked about their connection to Glen Eira Youth Services. **46 per cent** of respondents were aware of Youth Services, while **52 per cent** were not.

City of GLEN EIRA
GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL
YOUTH SERVICES

This survey's findings can be **compared with past Youth Surveys** from 2024, 2023, 2021 and 2020. Comparisons show broadly consistent sentiments and demographics. The most significant changes over the years are:

- Awareness of Youth Services has increased from 34 per cent in 2024 to 46 per cent in 2025.
- Money has become the top concern for young people in 2024 and 2025. In previous years it was mental health.

A facilitated session was held to engage a cohort of 130 **grade 6 students at Valkstone Primary School**. Their written feedback was themed and showed the following trends:

- Top concerns were around school (36 comments), local infrastructure and environment (33 comments), and safety and scams (19 comments).
- They would most prefer mental health and wellbeing support (16 comments).
- They are excited about growing up and living a good life (16 comments).
- They enjoy sports (17 comments) and going outside, eating and relaxing (14 comments).
- They'd like their parents to know that life is challenging (10 comments).

Engagement report

Background

Glen Eira Youth Services (GEYS) regularly conducts surveys and other engagement activities with young people to provide an evidence base for the development of programs and activities. As part of the establishment of the Glen Eira Youth Engagement Team in 2024, Council identified an annual youth survey as a key project for the team.

The Glen Eira Youth Survey 2025 gathered feedback from young people on Council's services and programs to inform future Council decision making. The survey ran for a four-week period from 1 September to 28 September 2025. The survey aimed to:

- increase the level of engagement and accessibility for young people to inform Council decision making, plans, programs, and services.
- increase the profile of young people in Glen Eira, by platforming the youth voice and improving connections and community through GEYS.

GEYS is one of a broad range of services that Council provides to the community. GEYS works with young people aged 10 – 25 and their families who live, work, study and socialise in Glen Eira by providing flexible and proactive services, support, information and advocacy.

Prizes were offered to encourage young people to complete the survey. Once complete, young people could participate in a prize draw to win one of three prizes (two $200 gift cards and one three-month Glen Eira Leisure membership). Prizes were drawn at random, and winners were contacted the day after the survey closed.

Co-design with the YET

The survey was developed collaboratively with the Youth Engagement Team (YET) who had a significant role in its design and implementation. The YET comprises of 15 young people aged 18–25 who live in Glen Eira and have been recruited to provide a youth perspective on Council's policies and plans.

The co-design process captured ideas from the YET through six facilitated discussions and engagement activities prior to the launch of the survey. This included an idea-generating session, review of draft survey questions, testing of accessibility and audience, feedback on promotional artwork, and strategies to reach disengaged groups.

The co-design sessions established four key survey topics: community, participation, future, and health and wellbeing. These topics are aligned to the *Glen Eira Council Plan 2021–2025* and *Glen Eira Community Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025*.

GEYS also engaged with participants of Drop-in programs to ensure the survey was accessible to young people aged 10-12. While the survey was live, the YET were involved in engagement activities, promoting the project to the community, and analysing preliminary results to identify areas of potential improvement. Following the close of the survey the YET contributed across two sessions by reviewing the summary report and co-designing the infographic.

Co-design with Glen Eira College

Early in the design process, Glen Eira Youth Services contacted Glen Eira College, McKinnon Secondary College and Bentleigh Secondary College to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Glen Eira College responded and staff contributed to the review of the draft survey questions. Their feedback helped guide the questions and answer options in the survey to reflect local high school student cohorts. This collaboration also supported communication activities through Glen Eira College channels such as newsletters and the student portal.

Communication activities

The survey was promoted through Council communications channels, including:

- a Have Your Say Glen Eira page at www.haveyoursaygleneira.com.au/youthsurvey
- posters placed at most Council facilities
- postcards available at libraries and leisure centres.

The table below summarises the channels and reach of the communication activities.

Communication activities	Reach
Glen Eira News An article in the September edition directed people to the survey.	Distribution: 64,000 houses Online views: 135 E-newsletter clicks: 269
Have Your Say project engagement page An online webpage provided information and hosted the survey.	Page views: 2,074
Social media posts on Facebook and Instagram Posts about the survey were shared on the official social media platforms of Glen Eira City Council, Libraries, Arts and Culture, and Youth Services.	Reach: 5,056 Impressions/Views: 10,801 Interactions: 125 Link clicks: 15
Facebook and Instagram Ads	Reach: 14,547 Impressions/Views: 23,481 Link clicks: 519

Posters and postcards across Council facilities Posters and postcards were displayed in: Parks and open spaces Duncan MacKinnon Pavilion, Caulfield Park Pavilion, Caulfield East Reserve, Murrumbeena Park, Packer Park, and Glen Huntly Park. Glen Eira Leisure Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre, Caulfield Recreation Centre and Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool. Glen Eira Libraries Caulfield Library, Elsternwick Library, Bentleigh Library, and Carnegie Library. Facilities and services Glen Eira Gallery, Customer Service, Maternal and Child Health centres, and Moorleigh Village.	Parks and open spaces: 8 Glen Eira Leisure centres: 2 Glen Eira Libraries: 4 Facilities and services: 4
Youth Services programs Postcards and information were shared with GEYS programs and pride groups within local schools.	Postcards: 643
Young Adult Reserves Postcards were included in books for Young Adult Reserves at Bentleigh Library.	Postcards: 100
Emails Emails were sent to: • all primary and secondary schools in Glen Eira • Monash University Student Union (MONSU) Caulfield • sporting clubs • traders' associations • youth service providers • scout groups • art schools.	Primary schools: 30 Secondary schools: 15 Sporting clubs: 77 Multicultural networks: 2 Traders associations: 4 Youth service providers: 4 Scout groups: 8 Art schools: 9
Keeping-up-to Date News e-newsletter	Number of subscribers: 602
Community Engagement e-newsletter	Number of subscribers: 4,443
Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Youth Network Newsletter article directing people to the survey	Number of subscribers: 277
Community Capers Radio – Southern FM	Reach: 135,329 listeners across Bayside and southern suburbs

Internal communications The survey was promoted to Glen Eira City Council staff through: • a CEO update • a Djeembana post • direct emails to departments with a high number of young staff.	Staff reach: 1,873 Clicks on survey link: 5 Number of posts: 2 Views: 613 (Djeembana) Reactions: 25 Emails: 4

Engagement activities

A broad range of engagement activities were used to gather feedback from young people and included:

- collaboration with the YET to co-design the engagement approach and activities
- a facilitated workshop with Year 6 students at Valkstone Primary School
- an online survey to capture youth feedback through Have Your Say Glen Eira, open for a four-week period from Monday 1 September 2025 to Sunday 28 September 2025
- pop-ups and walk-throughs at locations around Glen Eira during peak times.

The table below summarises the engagement activities and participant numbers.

Engagement activities	Number of participants
Online survey The online survey was hosted on Have Your Say Glen Eira and included 24 questions covering: • concerns and excitement for the future • safety and inclusion • health and wellbeing • ideas for youth support and programs • demographic data.	Surveys completed: 335
Valkstone Primary School activity Year 6 students were involved in a facilitated workshop with Youth Survey questions.	Number of students: 130
Pop-ups and walkthroughs Staff and YET members conducted pop-ups and walkthroughs during busy periods at the following locations. • Youth Art Exhibition Presentation Night • Tunes and Treasure Youth Fest • Monash University Caulfield • Bentleigh shopping strip • McKinnon shopping strip	Locations: 22 Postcards: 2,345

• Carnegie shopping strip • Glen Huntly shopping strip • Gardenvale shopping strip • Elsternwick shopping strip • Bentleigh Library • Caulfield Library • Elsternwick Library • Carnegie Library • Youth Services programs • Bentleigh Secondary College • Jasper Road by Our Lady of Sacred Heart and Patterson Station • McKinnon Secondary College • Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre • Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool • Caulfield Park • Duncan MacKinnon Reserve for Caulfield & District Netball Association We handed out postcards and talked about the survey with local young people and parents.	
Youth Engagement Team The YET was involved in the co-design of the process, as well as analysis and summary of findings.	Team members: 15

Survey responses

The survey was open from Monday 1 September to Sunday 28 September 2025, accessible online through the Have Your Say Glen Eira webpage. A total of **335** survey responses were received from young people aged 10–25 years, with both qualitative and quantitative data captured to show young people's priorities.

The survey included **24 questions** — nine demographic questions and 15 subject matter questions. Respondents were also provided with privacy collection notices to explain how their response information would be used.

The 15 subject matter questions covered the following topics:

- employment
- concerns for the future
- leisure activities
- excitement for the future

- parents
- wellbeing
- safety, inclusion and feeling heard
- locations they like to connect with others
- Youth Services and programs
- how they found out about the survey.

Nine questions captured quantitative data, allowing comparison across participants. Seven questions invited free text feedback, providing respondents with the opportunity to share their views in their own words.

Each question and a summary of the responses are shown in the following pages.

Survey demographic questions

Question 1. How old are you?

Required question. Single choice.

335 responses (100 per cent of total responses)

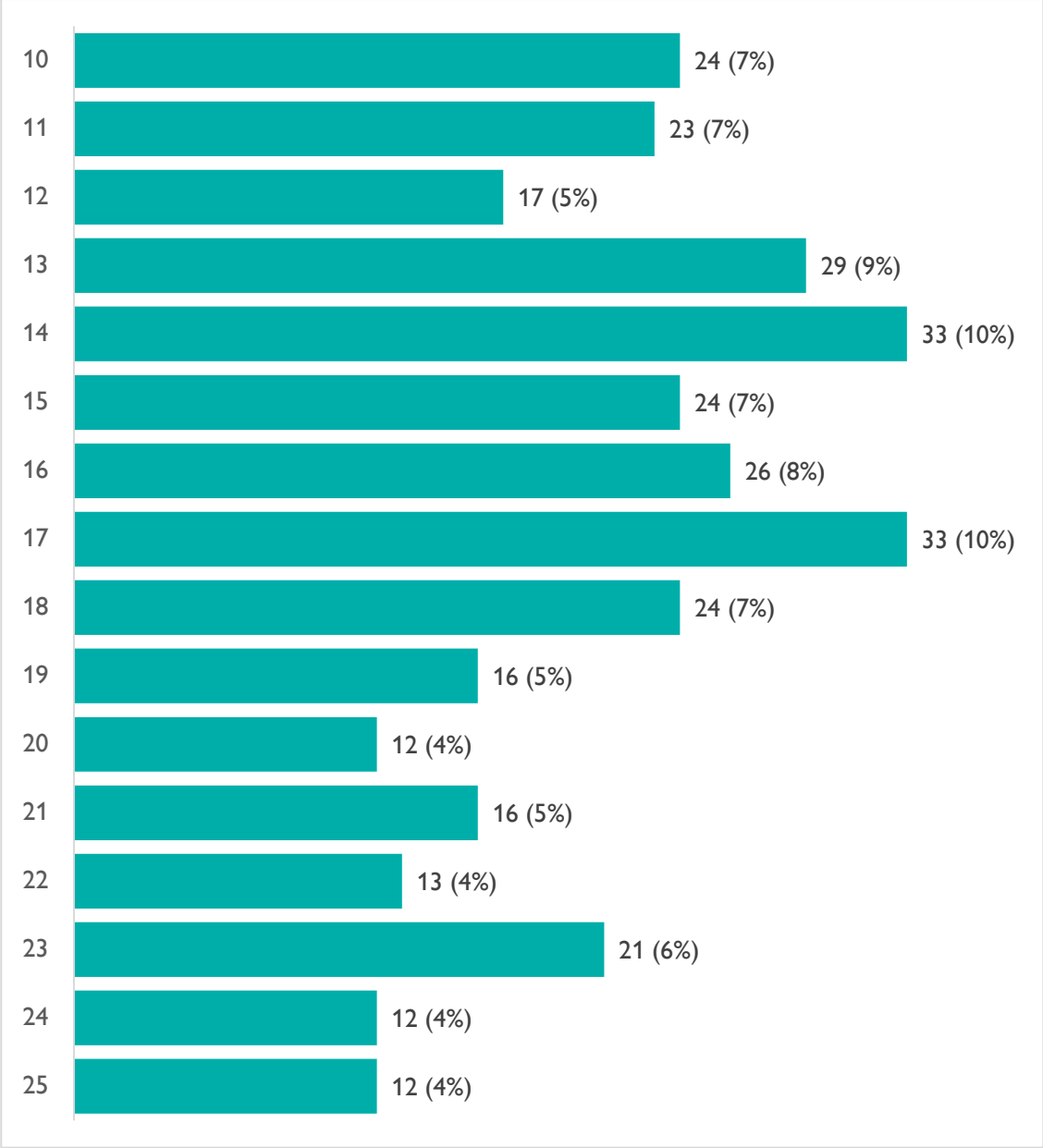
People of all ages from 10 to 25 were represented in the survey. The number of respondents for each age is presented in the chart below.

The most selected ages were:

- age 14 (10 per cent, **33 responses**)
- age 17 (10 per cent, **33 responses**)
- age 13 (9 per cent, **29 responses**).

The least selected ages were:

- age 20 (4 per cent, **12 responses**)
- age 24 (4 per cent, **12 responses**)
- age 25 (4 per cent, **12 responses**).



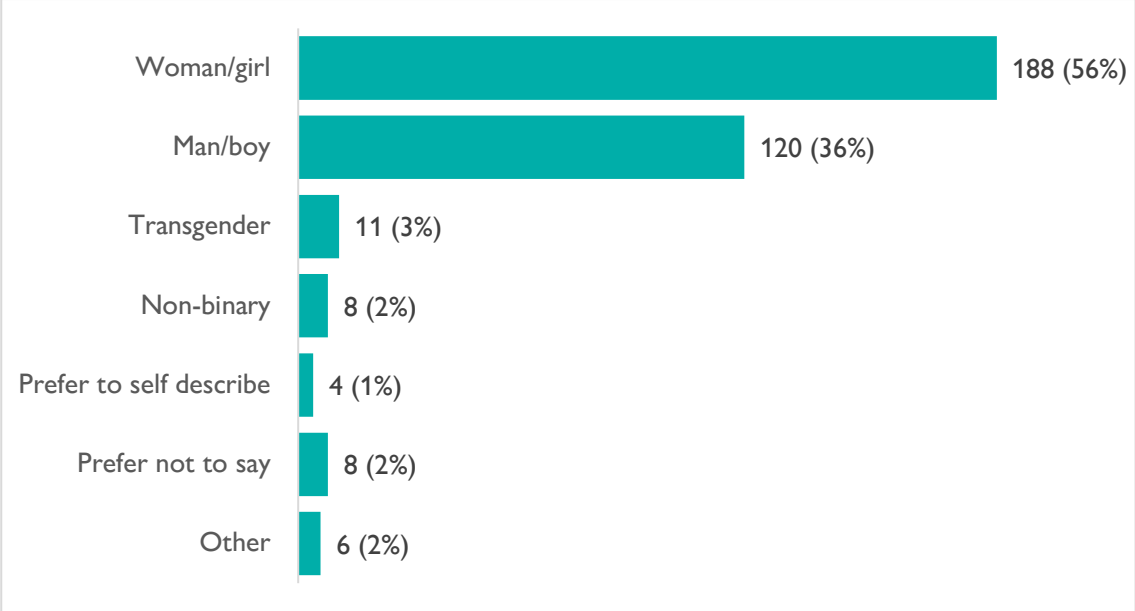
Question 2. What is your gender?

Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses (100 per cent of total responses)

The responses on gender identified:

- Women/girls were the most represented at 56 per cent (**188 responses**)
- Men/boys were the second most represented at 36 per cent (**120 responses**)
- People who selected transgender represented 3 per cent (**11 responses**), non-binary represented 2 per cent (**8 responses**), and prefer to self-describe represented 1 per cent (**4 responses**).



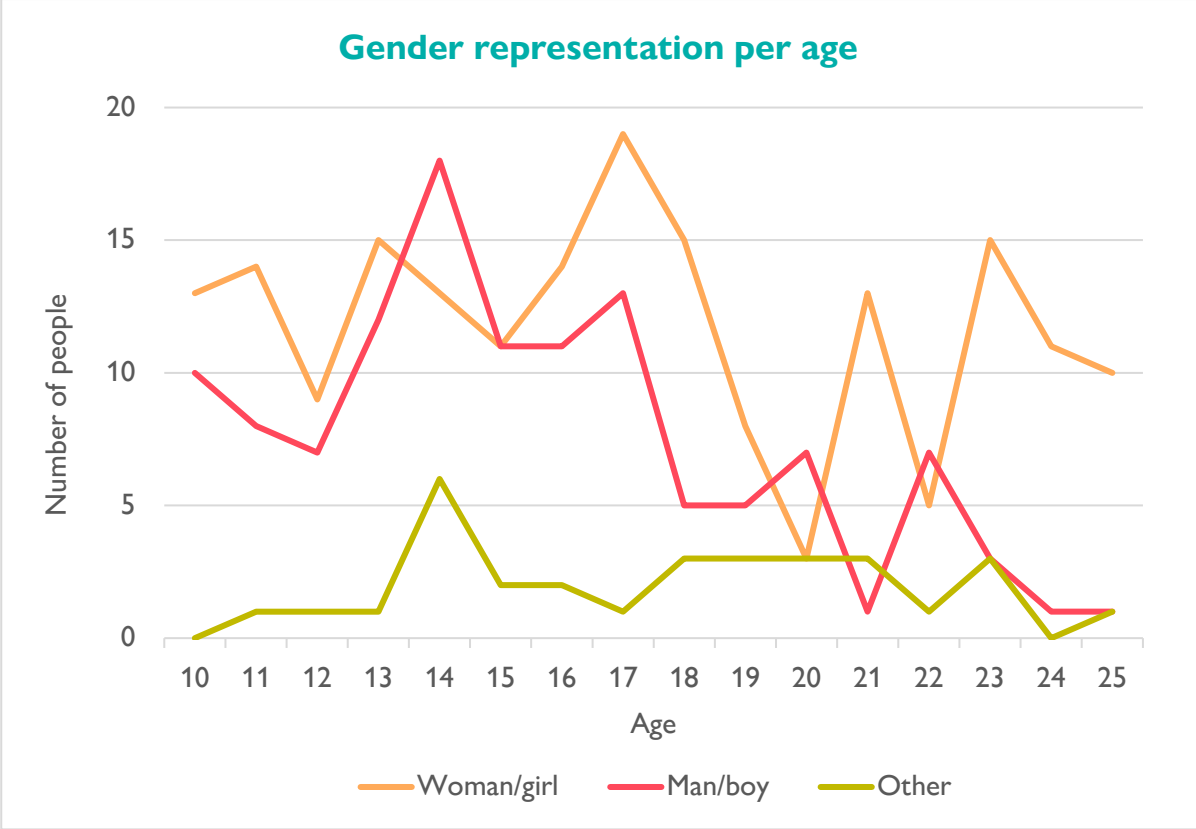
Gender representation by age

The number of respondents for each gender can be compared across the age range.

Due to the small number of responses, the genders of 'transgender', 'non-binary', 'prefer to self-describe', and 'other' have all been grouped under the term 'LGBTIQA+ and other'.

This data shows:

- 'women/girls' have fairly consistent representation across the age range,
- 'men/boys' have low representation in ages 18 and over,
- people who identify as neither 'women/girls' or 'men/boys' are relatively consistent throughout the age range.



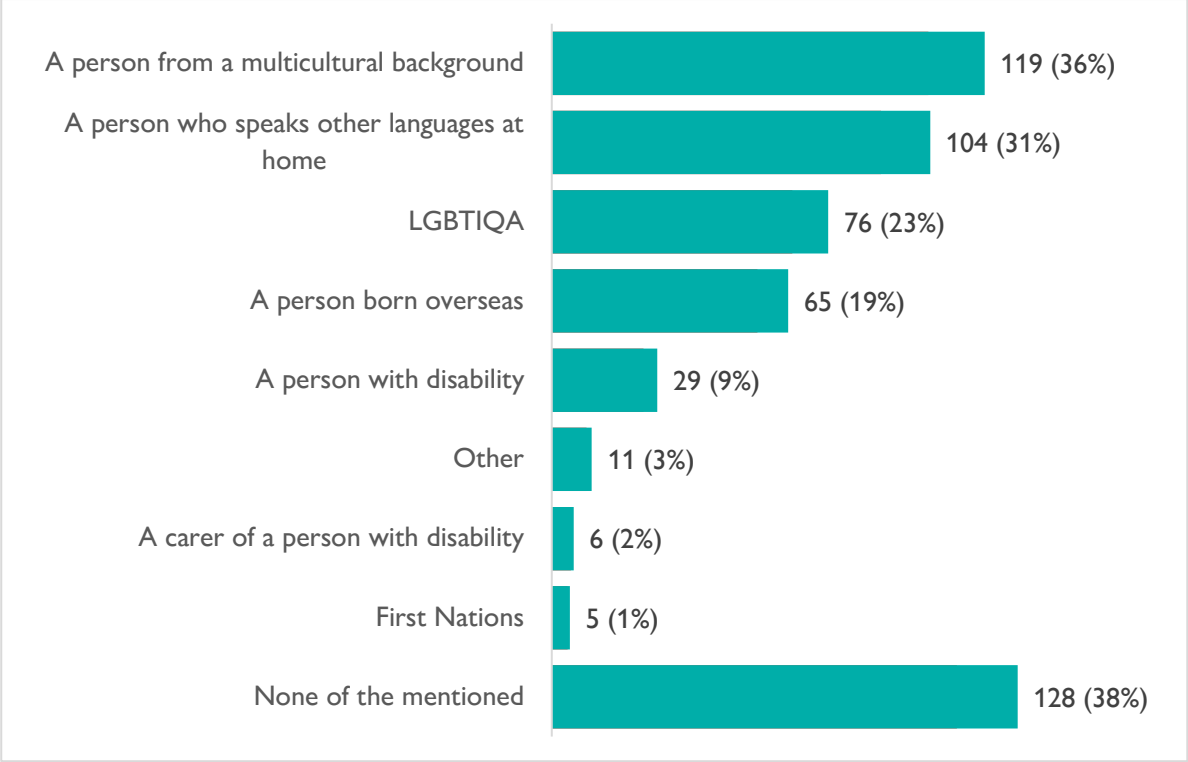
Question 3. Do any of the following apply to you?

Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses (100 per cent of total responses).

This question asked whether people identified under a range of diverse identities:

- people with multicultural backgrounds made up 36 per cent of the respondents (**119 responses**)
- people who speak another language at home made up 31 per cent of the respondents (**104 responses**).
- people born overseas made up 19 per cent of the respondents (**65 responses**)
- people who identify as LGBTIQA+ made up 23 per cent of the respondents (**76 responses**).



Question 4. As a First Nations person, how do you identify?

Optional question. Multiple choice.

5 responses. (1.5 per cent of total responses)

This question was asked of people who identified as First Nations in Question 3.

Two respondents identified themselves as Aboriginal, two respondents identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and one as Torres Strait Islander.

Question 5. What country were you born in?

Optional question. Free text response.

65 responses. (19 per cent of total responses)

This question was asked of people who identified as being born overseas in Question 3.

The most common responses were:

- India (11 responses)
- China (7 responses)
- England (5 responses)
- Israel (4 responses)
- Malaysia (4 responses)
- New Zealand (4 responses)

Question 6. What language/s other than English do you speak?

Optional question. Free text response.

104 responses. (31 per cent of total responses)

This question was asked of people who identified as speaking another language in Question 3.

The most common responses were:

- Chinese (11 responses)
- Hindi (10 responses)
- Russian (9 responses)
- Vietnamese (9 responses)
- Japanese (8 responses)
- Hebrew (8 responses)

Question 7. What are your connections to Glen Eira?

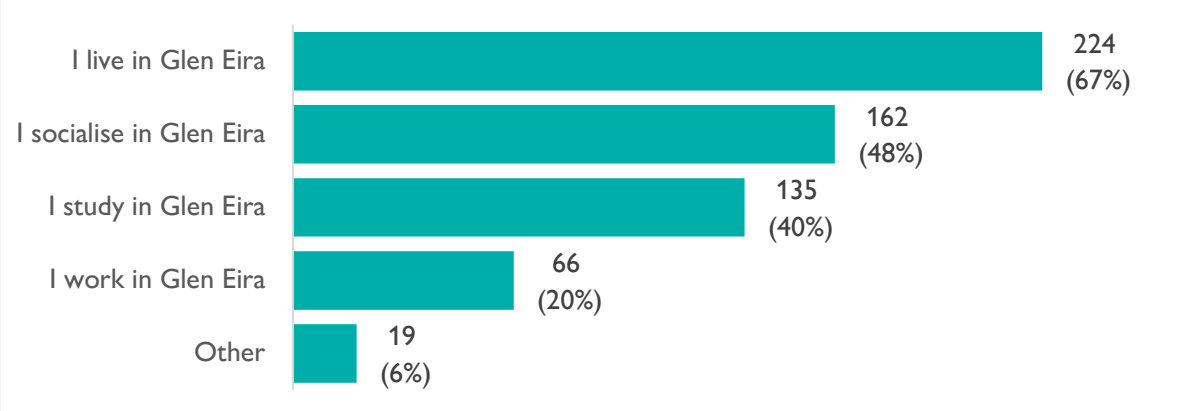
Optional question. Multiple choice.

317 responses. (95 per cent of total responses)

This question asked about the respondent's connection to Glen Eira.

The data identified that:

- 93 per cent of respondents (**313 responses**) have a connection to Glen Eira
- 67 per cent of respondents (**224 responses**) live in Glen Eira — though in Question 8 around 80 per cent of respondents identify as living in a Glen Eira suburb
- 4 per cent of respondents (**66 responses**) work in the municipality.



Question 8. Where do you live?

Required question. Multiple choice.

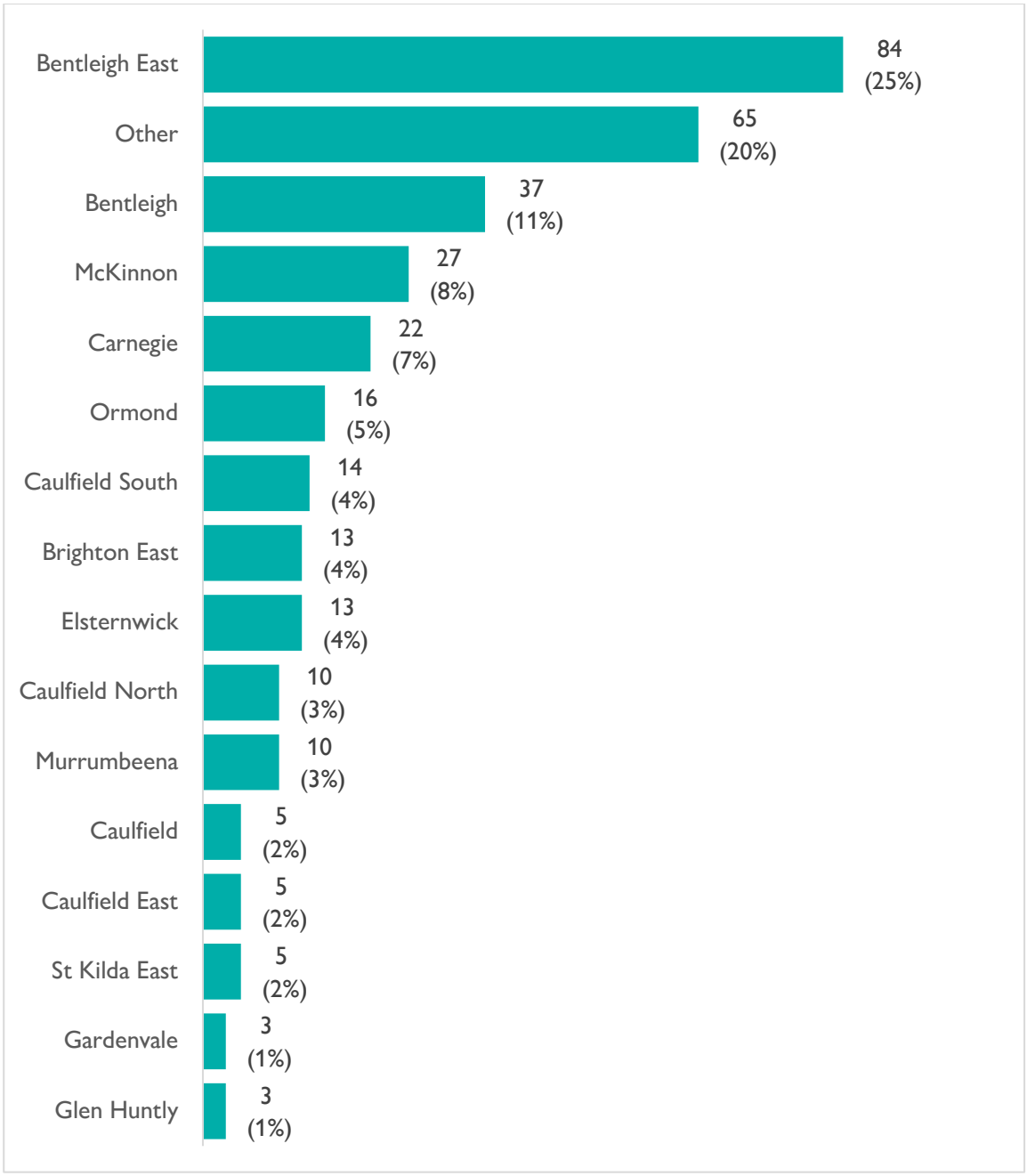
332 responses. (99 per cent of total responses)

All suburbs within Glen Eira were represented in the survey. 80 per cent of total survey respondents identified as living in Glen Eira.

The following suburbs were the highest represented:

- Bentleigh East at 25 per cent (**84 responses**)
- Bentleigh at 11 per cent (**37 responses**)
- Mckinnon at 8 per cent (**27 responses**).

20 per cent of respondents (**65 responses**) identified as living in a suburb outside of Glen Eira. The most represented council areas were City of Kingston (**25 responses**), City of Monash (**13 responses**), City of Boroondara (**5 responses**), and City of Port Phillip (**5 responses**).


Bentleigh East
84
(25%)
Other
65
(20%)
Bentleigh
37
(11%)
McKinnon
27
(8%)
Carnegie
22
(7%)
Ormond
16
(5%)
Caulfield South
14
(4%)
Brighton East
13
(4%)
Elsternwick
13
(4%)
Caulfield North
10
(3%)
Murrumbeena
10
(3%)
Caulfield
5
(2%)
Caulfield East
5
(2%)
St Kilda East
5
(2%)
Gardenvale
3
(1%)
Glen Huntly
3
(1%)

Question 9. Do you have a job?

Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

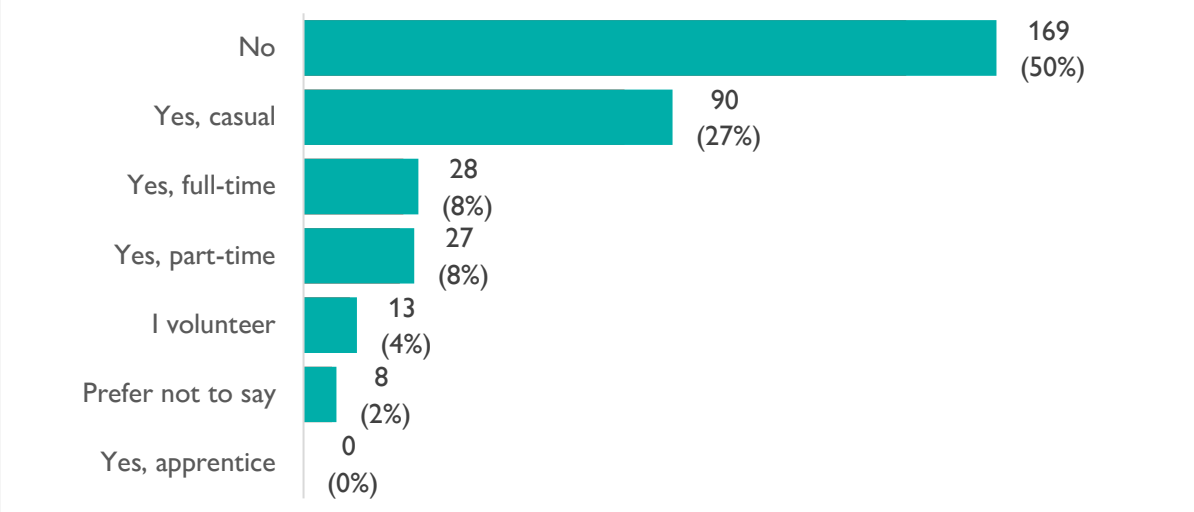
This question asked young people whether they had a job and the type of job. More than one choice was allowed, and people were able to comment as well as choose an option.

The data identified that:

- 50 per cent of respondents don't work (**167 responses**)
- 47 per cent of respondents work (**185 responses**)
- 4 per cent of respondents volunteer (**13 responses**)
- 2 per cent of respondents preferred not to say (**8 responses**).

The most common work type is casual work (27 per cent, **90 responses**). A small proportion of respondents work full-time (8 per cent, **28 responses each**) and part time work (8 per cent, **27 responses each**).

Half of respondents said they don't work. The most common reasons provided for not working are that they are too young (24 per cent, **81 responses**) or prioritising their education (16 per cent, **54 responses**).



Employment by age

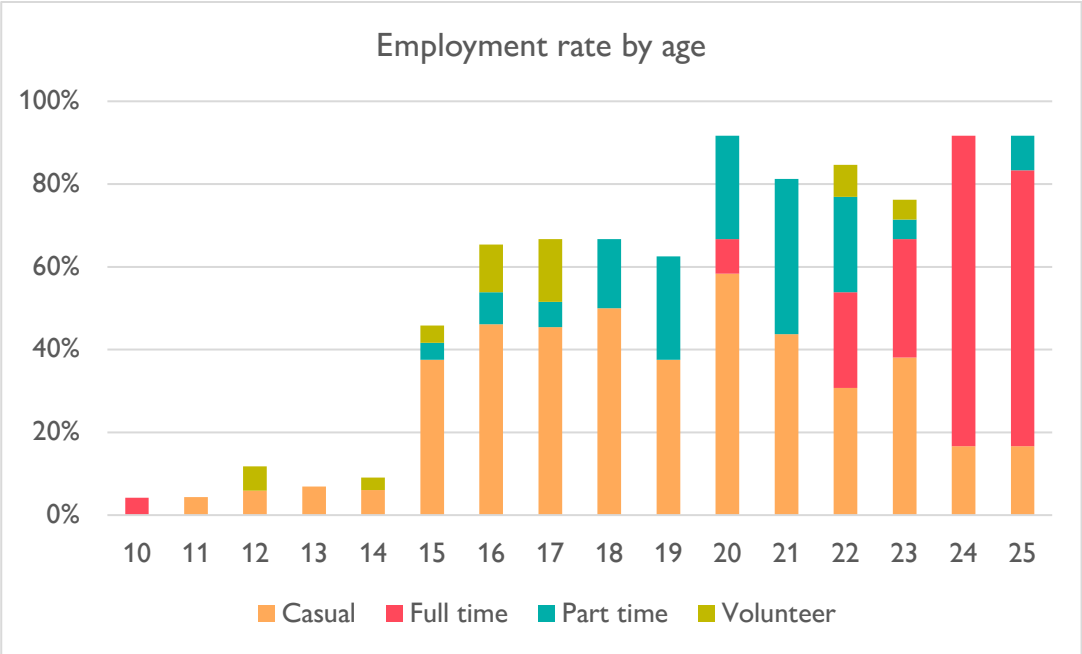
The rate of employment can be compared across the age range.

This data shows that employment:

- rises quickly at age 15 to 46 per cent
- 65 per cent of respondents aged 16-19 are employed
- 86 per cent of respondents aged 20 and over are employed
- casual employment is most common until the age of 24, when full time is more

common

- part time employment is only common amongst people aged 18-22, where around 25 per cent of respondents have part time employment.



Survey subject questions

Question 10. What are your top three concerns?

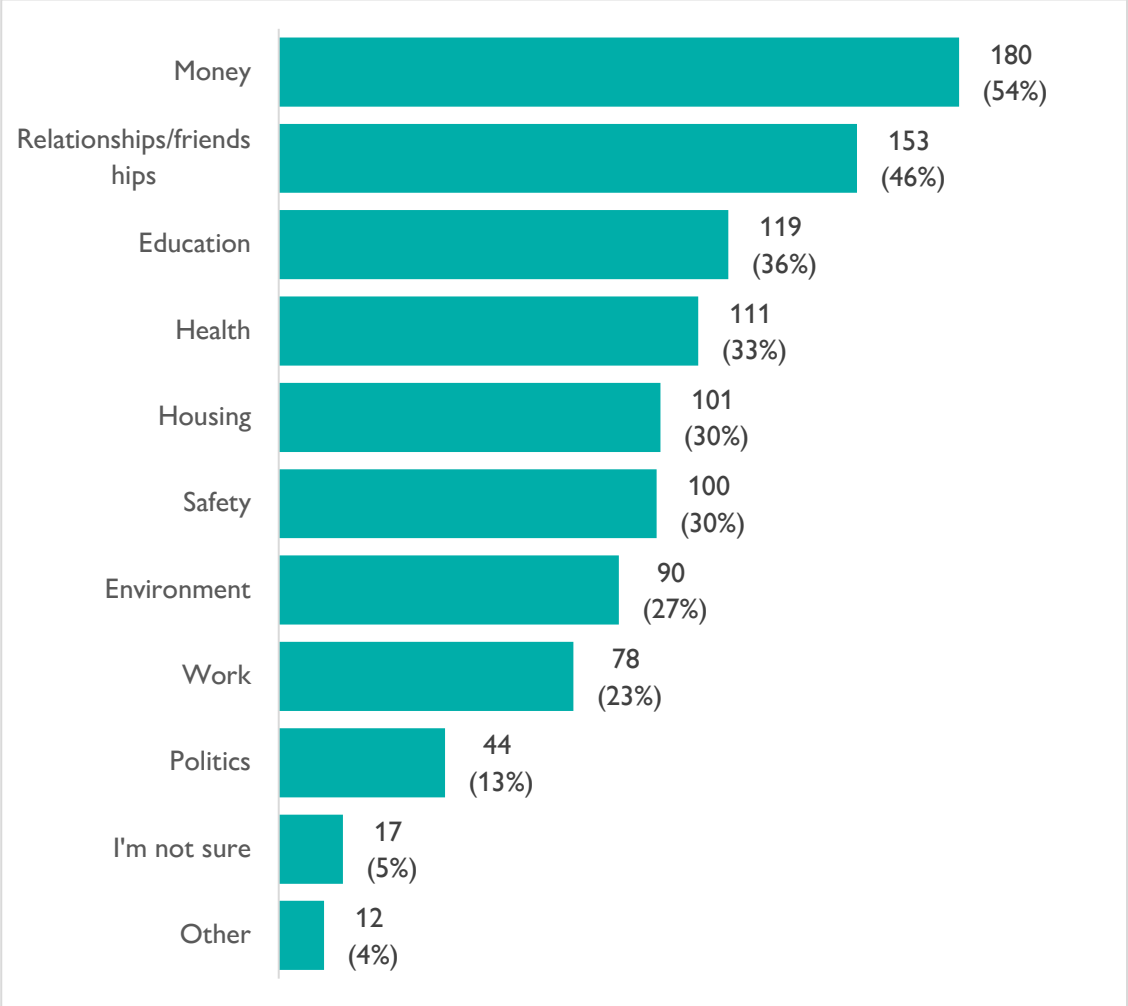
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people to choose their top three concerns from a range of pre-determined options.

The data shows the top responses being:

- money (54 per cent, **180 responses**)
- relationships/friendships (46 per cent, **153 responses**)
- education (36 per cent, **119 responses**)
- health (33 per cent, **111 responses**)
- housing (30 per cent, **101 responses**)
- safety (30 per cent, **100 responses**).

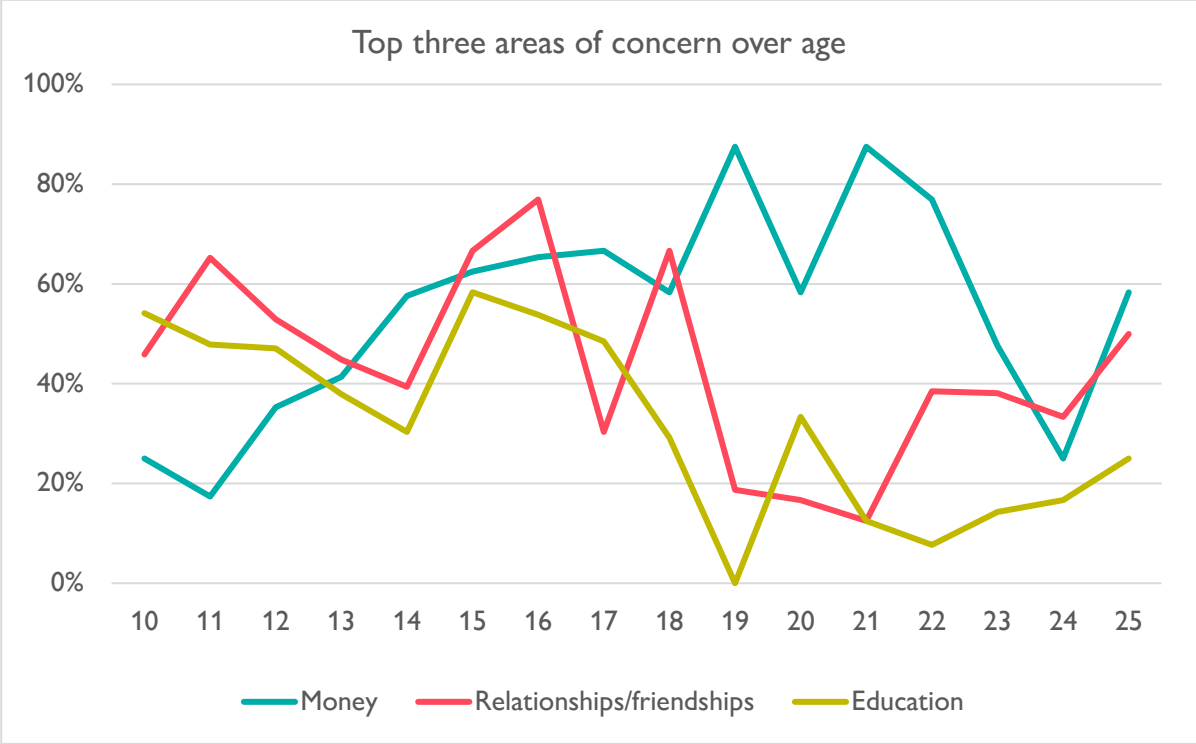


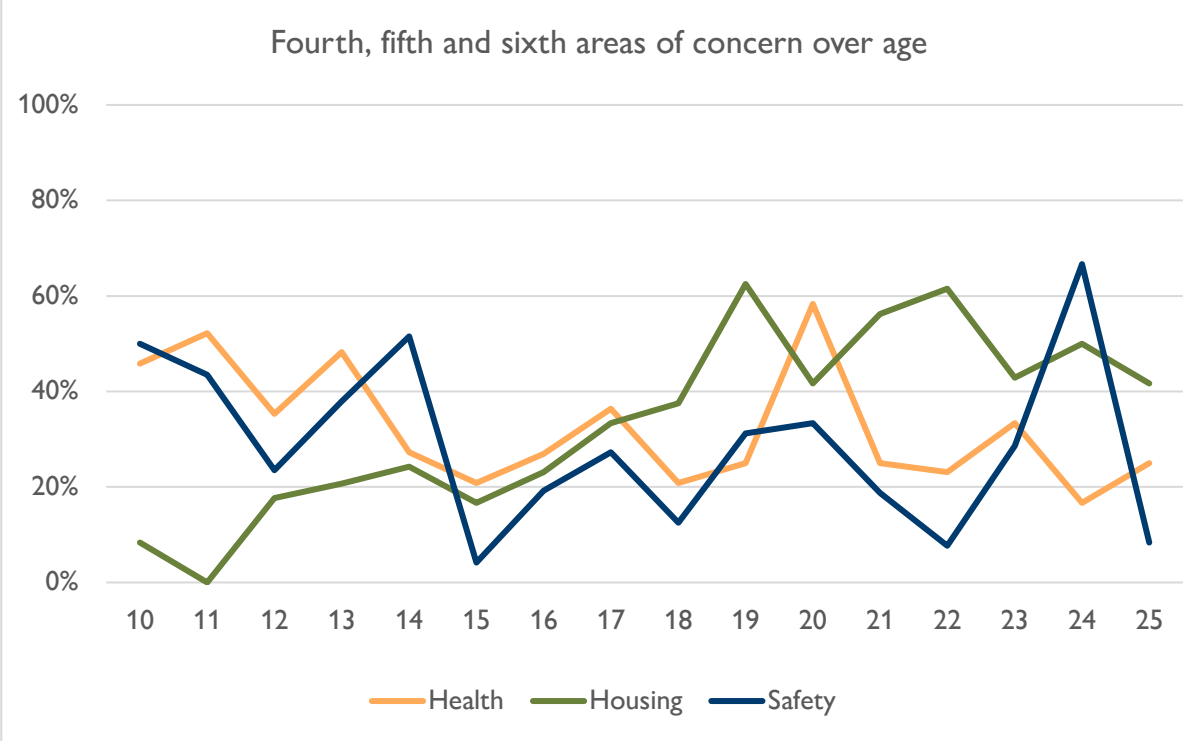
Top six areas of concern over age

The top six concerns across the whole cohort can be compared across age ranges.

The data shows:

- money becomes a concern for the majority of respondents by the age of 14
- concerns about relationships and education tend to drop after the age of 18
- concerns around housing increase notably after the age of 18
- trends in the data aren't clear cut, with high variance between ages.



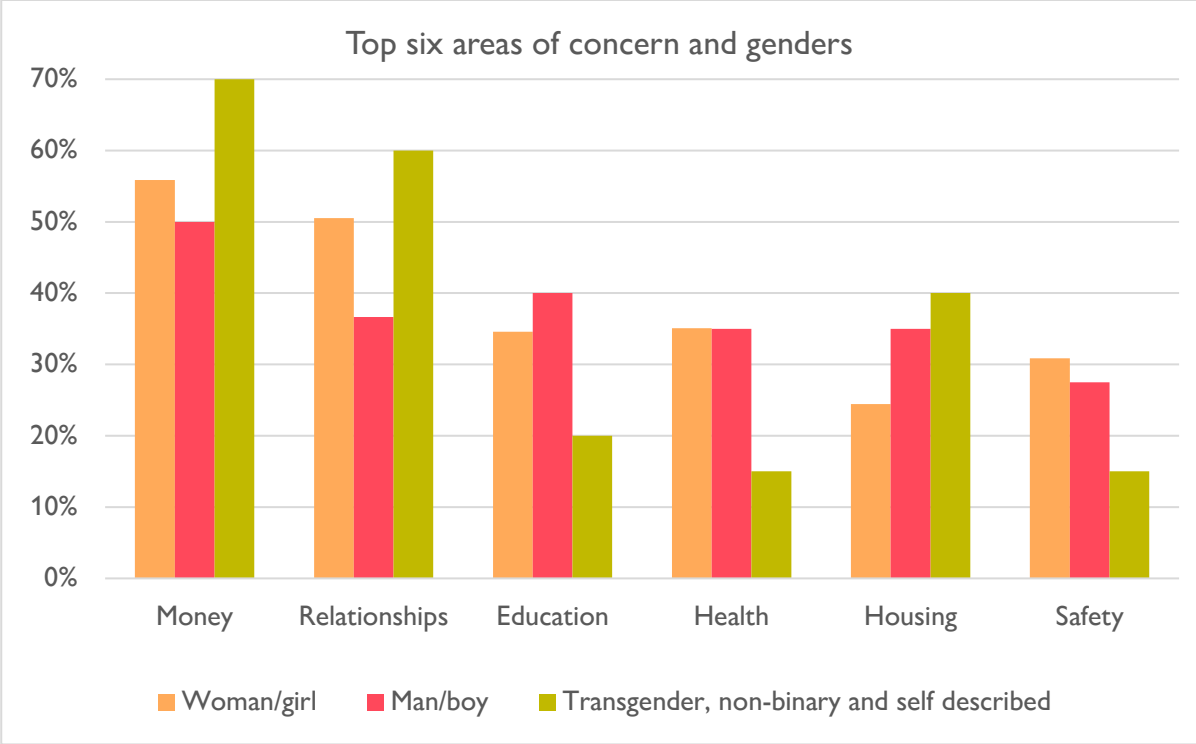

Fourth, fifth and sixth areas of concern over age
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
Health
Housing
Safety

Top six areas of concern for each gender

The top six concerns can be compared across genders. The genders of transgender (11 people), non-binary (8 people), and prefer to self describe (4 people) have been combined due to low sample sizes.

The data shows:

- money is consistently a high concern across all genders
- relationships/friendships are higher concerns for woman/girls, transgender, non-binary and prefer to self describe
- housing is a higher concern for transgender, non-binary and prefer to self describe.

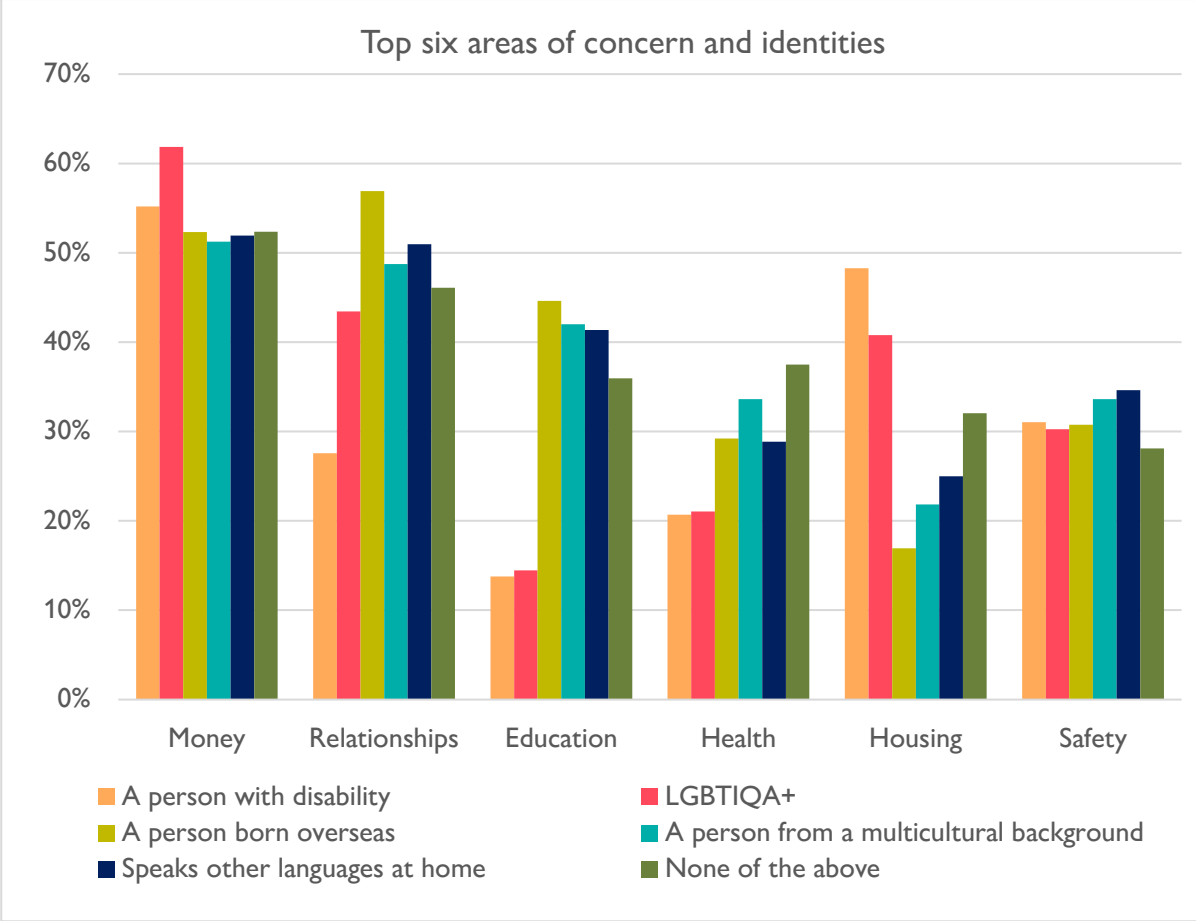


Top areas of concern for different identities

The top six concerns across the whole cohort can be compared across different identities/backgrounds. First Nations (5 people) and Carers of people with disability (6 people) have not been included due to the low sample size.

The data shows the following trends:

- money is a high concern across all backgrounds and identities
- relationships, education and health are lower than average concerns for people with disability and LGBTIQA+ people
- housing is a relatively high concern for people with disability and LGBTIQA+ people.



Question 11. How can we support you with these concerns?

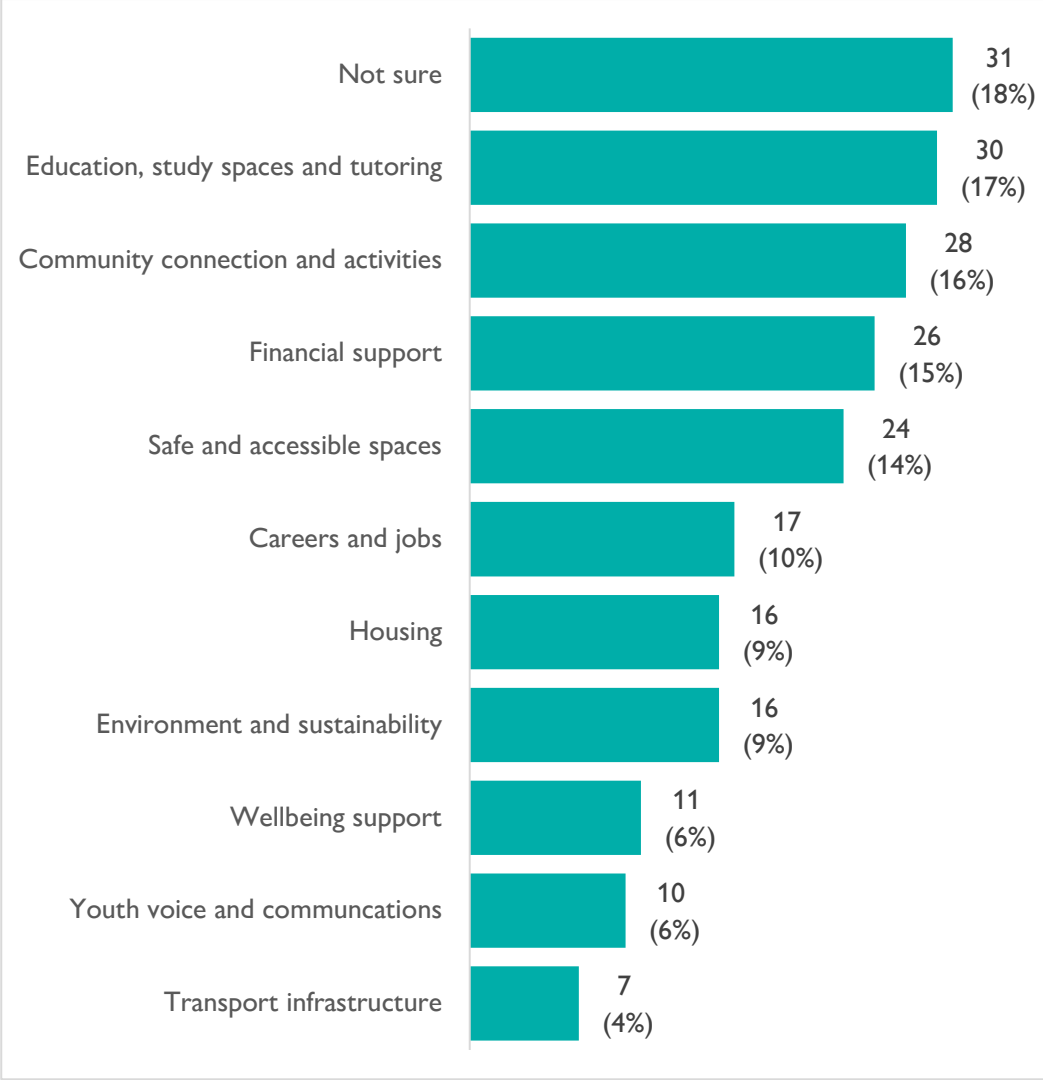
Optional question. Free text response.

172 responses. (51.4 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people to comment on how we can support them with their concerns. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

This data shows that young people think we can support them in:

- Education, study spaces and tutoring (30 responses, **17 per cent**)
- Community connections and activities (28 responses, **16 per cent**)
- Financial support (26 responses, **15 per cent**)
- Safe and accessible spaces (24 responses, **14 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for how we can support them with their concerns:
Make it safe to be on the streets and play in the park
Improve health care and facilities. Make footpaths and public transport more easily accessible.
You can't unfortunately
Not much. It's tough to make friends.
Lower prices and make the education system harder
Not too sure. I feel like what is being done at the moment is amazing. I wouldn't mind seeing a youth magazine or something like that similar to the glen eira news that people could subscribe to
Better street lighting at night.
Get teen and young adults involved in politics, get them involved with council and shaping the future of glen eira as they will be the ones to inherit it.
Stronger climate change responses through advocacy and policies
Make it easier to see job availabilities near me, promote spots for networking or just socialising to widen social circles and meet more people. Housing isnt so much of a

council issue but general ideas is faster urban expansion into rural areas and multiple house decentivizers.
Lower cost of living or do something to help reduce global warming PLEASE if this keeps up I will have no future
Attempt to understand the responses behind youth issues such as youth crime and approach solving them with a helping and compassionate perspective rather than seeing us as a danger. There's a story behind everyone's struggles. Also try to promote a more equitable society for everyone.
Support local sporting clubs, increase in local markets to boost supporting small businesses and access affordable food and an environment to socialise

Question 12. What are you most excited about for the future?

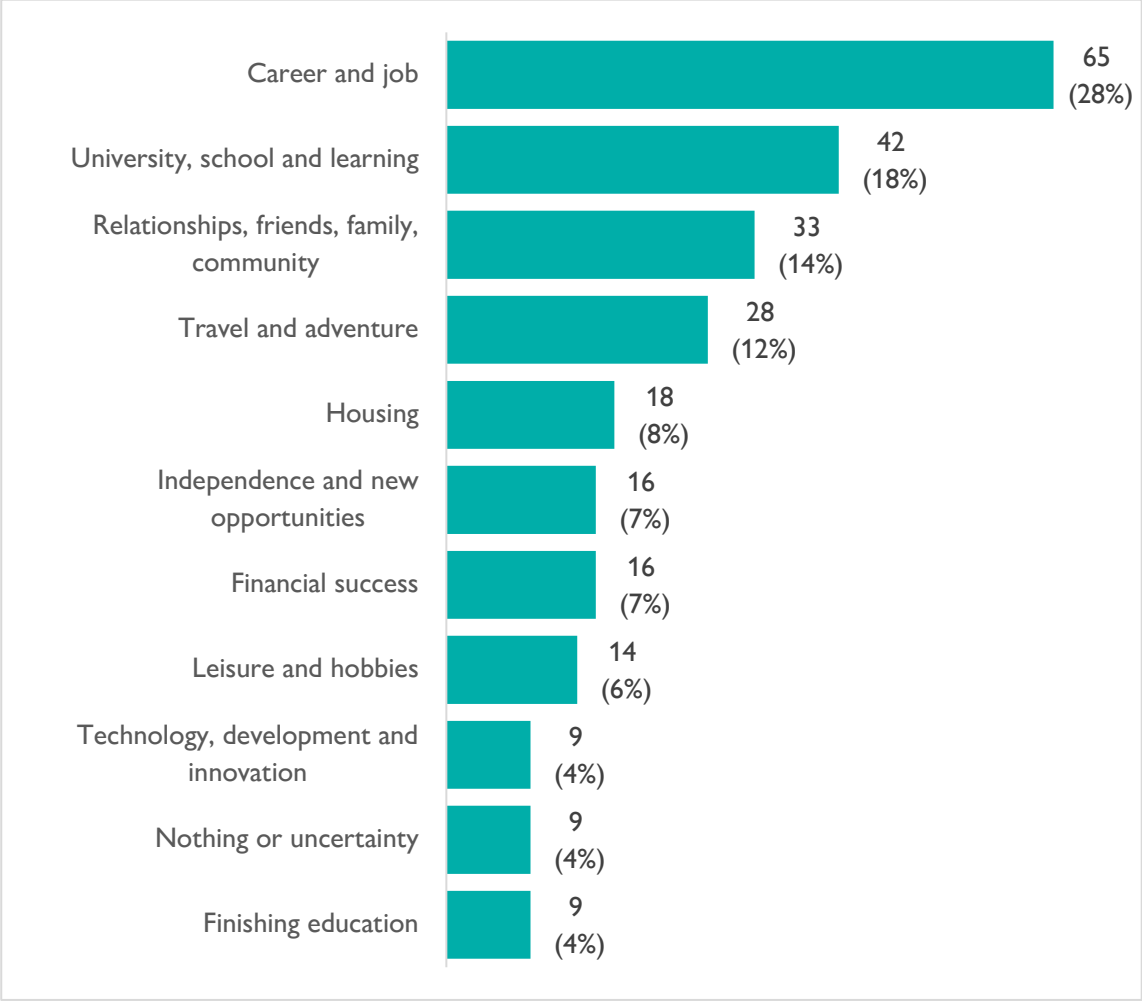
Optional question. Free text response.

230 responses (68.9 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people what they were excited about for the future. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data shows that young people are most excited for:

- Career and job prospects (65 responses, **28 per cent**)
- University, school and learning opportunities (42 responses, **18 per cent**)
- Relationships, friends, family and community (33 responses, **14 per cent**)
- Travel and adventure (28 responses, **12 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses about what most excites young people about the future:

Work/life balance, going out with friends and family, travelling abroad, meeting new people.

I am most excited about festivals and social events that help us connect and have fun.
Travelling, relationships, career
Building my own career and having full control over my life!
I am most excited about the new equipment for glen eira so i can practise more in my hobbies so I can enjoy and get better at them
I am excited for whatever the future brings to me! Whether it's working, going overseas or seeing how projects around the community will benefit us
I'm excited about my future social opportunities. I don't really spend much time with people outside of school since study & all, so I'm much looking forward to the potential of spending time with others that I'm/want to be more close with in the future.
Living with my partner.
Having a house and a job
School camp for a term away.
Unfortunately I truly can't think of anything. I cannot guarantee I will be a homeowner in my lifetime. Climate change isn't slowing. I will eventually get into my desired career but then I'll be paying off my hecs for forever.
What sport I will do and maybe going to the olympics.
a sustainable earth with financial equality
Getting a job, volunteering, college and university
Future relationships and memories

Question 13. What do you enjoy doing?

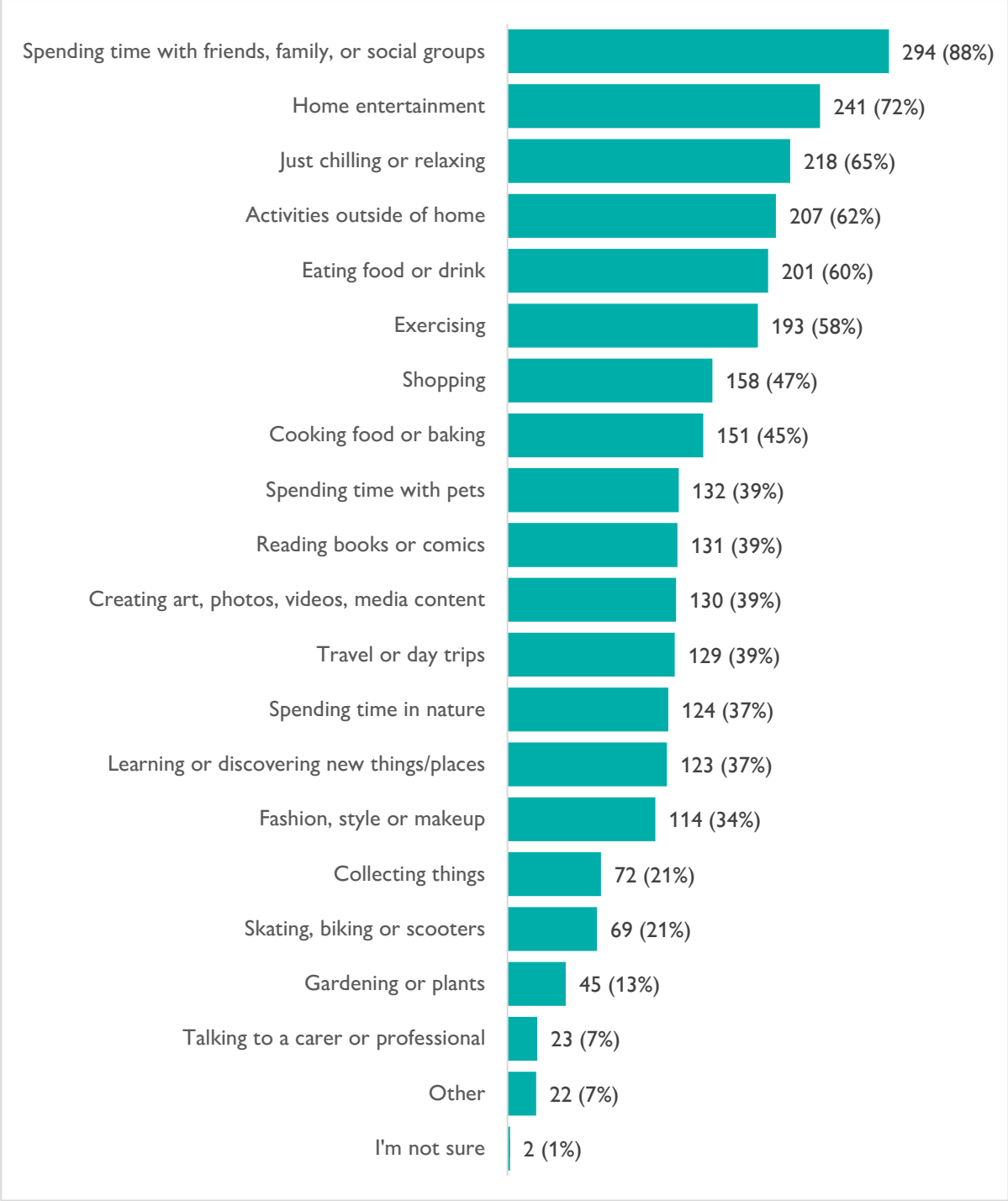
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people what they enjoyed doing out of a list of options, from which they could choose as many as they liked.

The data shows the top responses being:

- spending time with friends, family or social groups (88 per cent, **294 responses**)
- entertainment at home including videos, games, music and social media (72 per cent, **241 responses**)
- Just chilling or relaxing (65 per cent, **218 responses**).



Question 14. What do you wish your parents knew about being a young person?

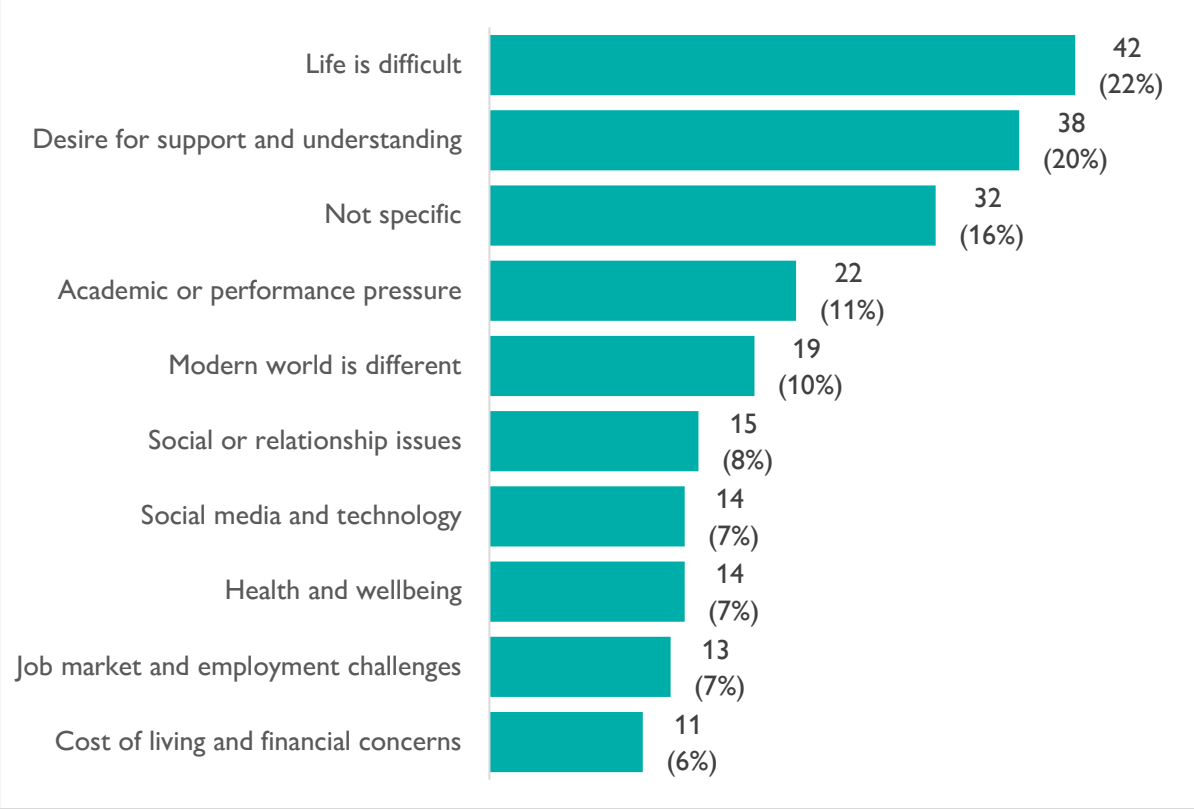
Optional question. Free text response.

194 responses. (58 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people what they wish their parents knew about being a young person. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data shows that common topics are:

- Life is difficult (42 responses, **22 per cent**)
- Desire for support and understanding (38 responses, **20 per cent**)
- Academic or performance pressures (22 responses, **11 per cent**)
- The modern world is different (19 responses, **10 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for what they would like their parents to know:
Social media is very distracting and it's hard to get a high grade consistently.
That young people mess up and that we will make mistakes and learn from them as well as the desire to try new things
The extreme anxiety this modern life causes. We aren't meant to be perpetually terrified of the state of the world
How we are starting to get older and have a mind of our own, we have our own space, some of us don't like talking too much, and how we get more tired than some adults and younger children
that sometimes i dont understand what there saying and they dont understand what im saying
Not for me, but for my younger brother, I wish they understood that he's an adult now doing his own thing, he's going to be fine, he's just figuring it out like we all are
Social media is a big part of my life.
Technology does not make things easier

Burn out
That we are dealing with many different issues than they did when they were young.
That my opinions are just as valid as any other adult's opinions. That I am watching older generations destroy my future and that can make everything seems pointless. I'm not lazy
That we are struggling to keep up (money, safety, housing crisis) because of decisions and events that happened before us.
I wish that they knew that all I need is love and support from them and everything will follow. They don't need to protect me from all of life's problems because I can face all of them myself if they support me.
The scale/level of influence from our friends and them and finding the balance between keeping both happy when the current world makes the two generations feel very opposing
A lot of young people don't know how to hold a conversation because they rely on their phones too much, so it is harder to meet new people than when my parents were growing up!
How turbulent our lives can be

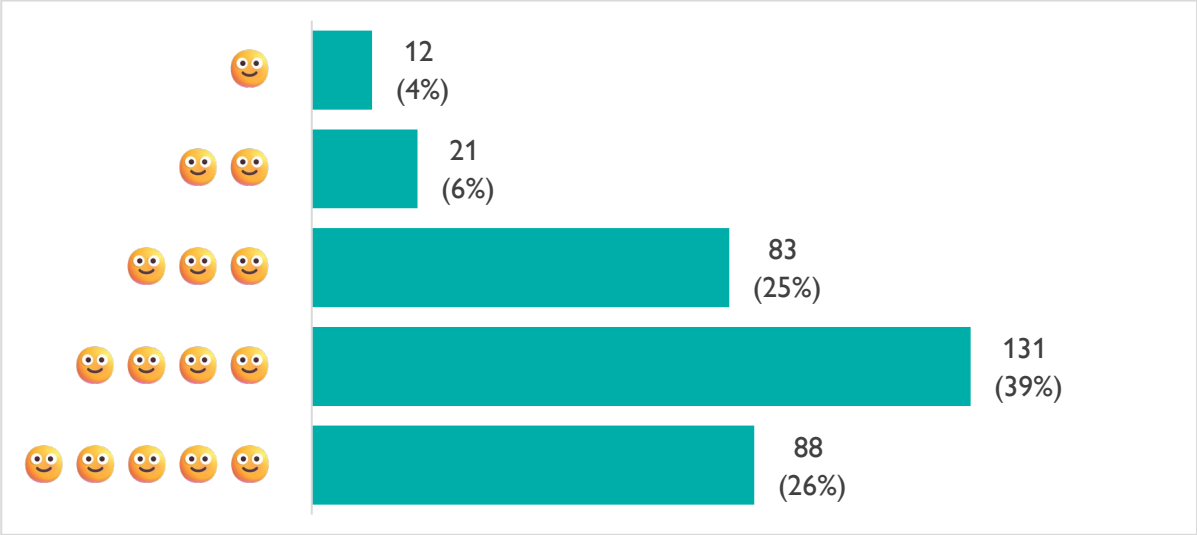
Question 15. How would you rate your overall wellbeing?

Required question. Scale matrix.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

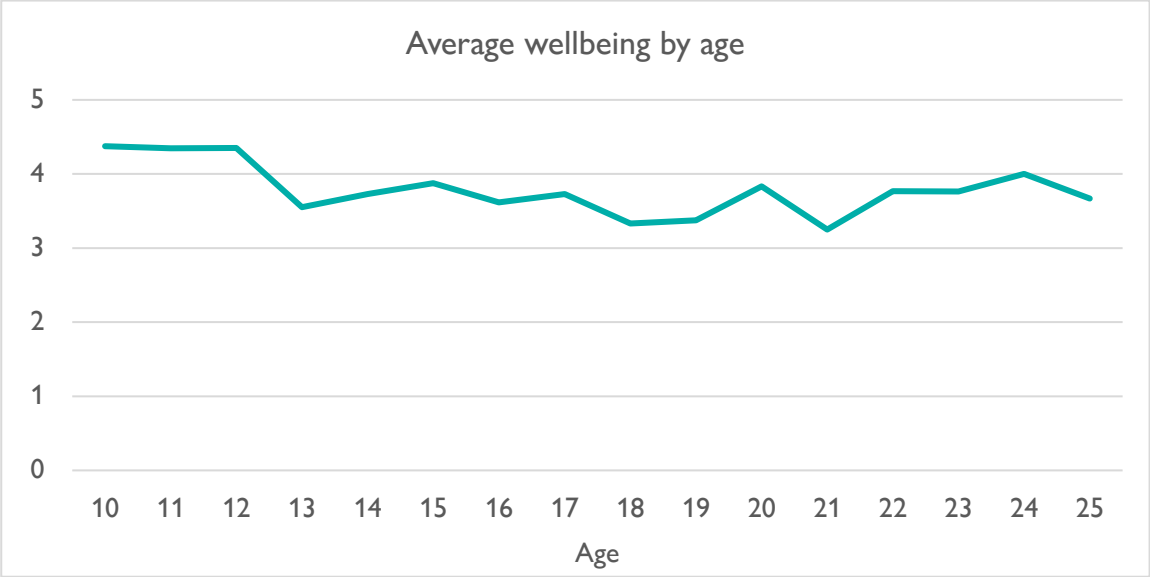
This question asked young people to rate their overall wellbeing on a scale of one to five smiley faces.

The data shows that the most common response was four out of five smiley faces, and the average rating was 3.78 out of five.



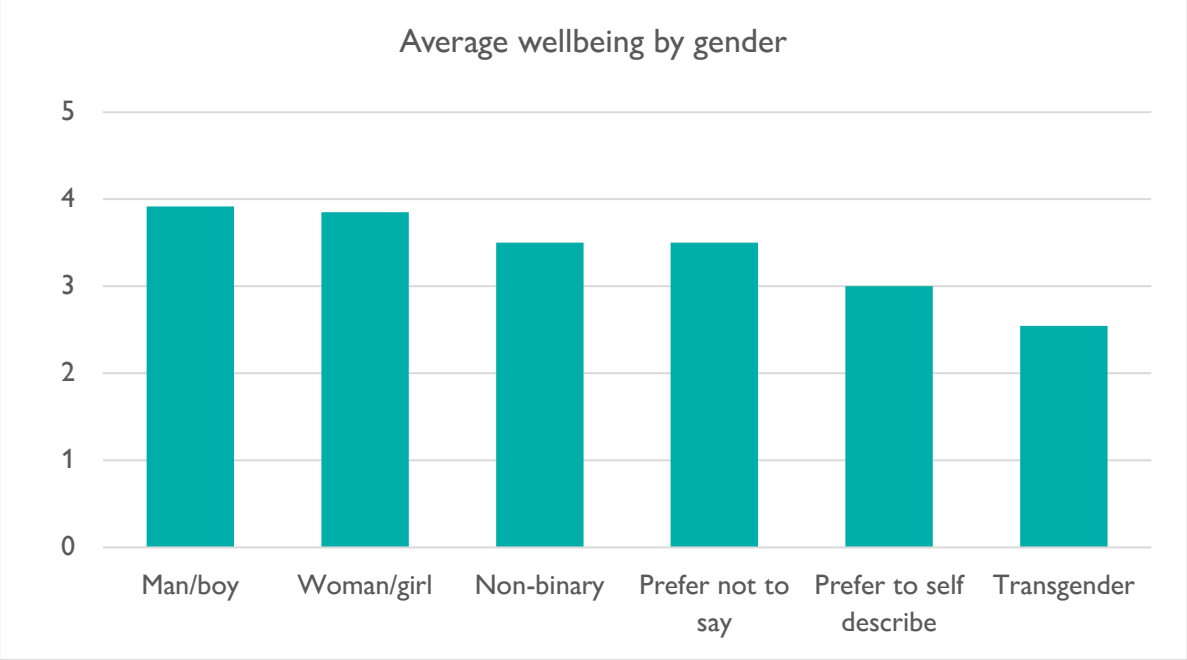
Average reported wellbeing by age

The data has been averaged for each age and shows that average wellbeing is fairly consistent across ages.



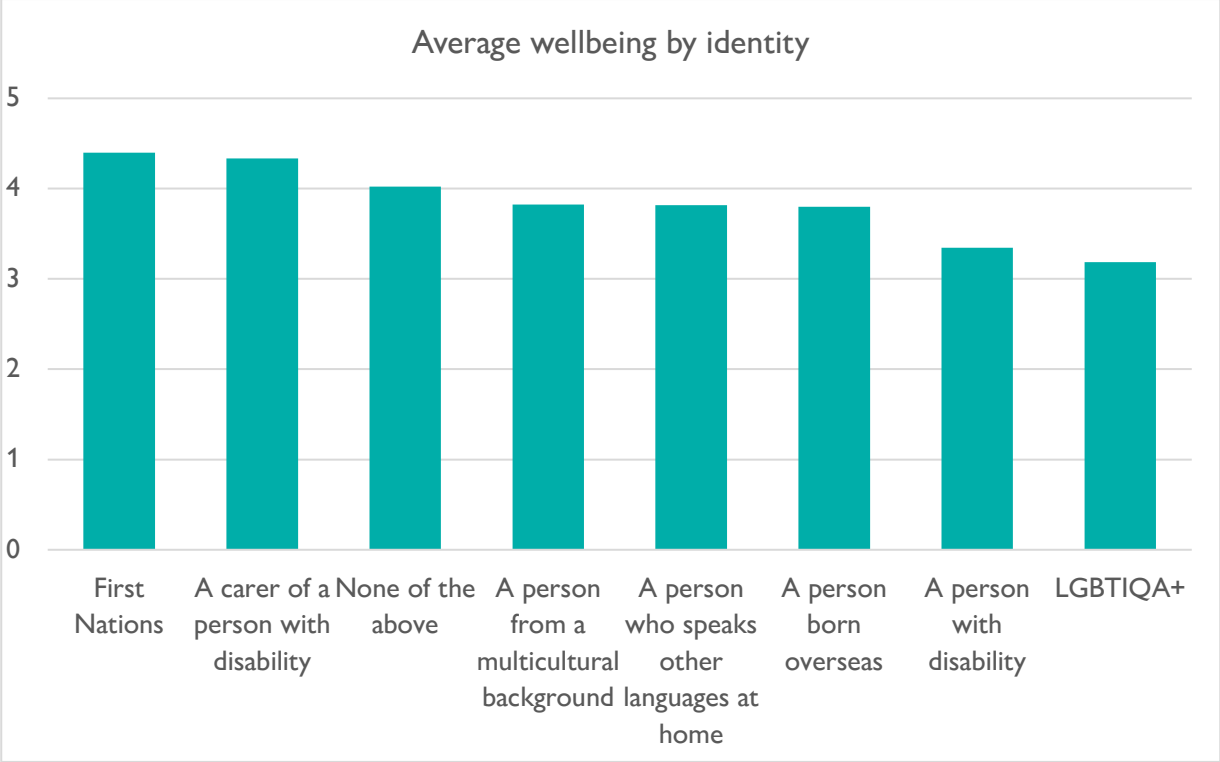
Average reported wellbeing by gender

The average reported wellbeing can be compared for each gender grouping. The data shows that wellbeing trends are worse for respondents identifying as transgender and prefer to self describe.



Average reported wellbeing of diverse identities

The average reported wellbeing can be compared for each identity grouping. This shows that reported wellbeing trends are worse for respondents identifying as LGBTIQA+ and a person with disability.


Average wellbeing by identity
5
4
3
2
1
0
First Nations
A carer of a person with disability
None of the above
A person from a multicultural background
A person who speaks other languages at home
A person born overseas
A person with disability
LGBTIQA+

Question 16. What three things would improve your overall wellbeing the most?

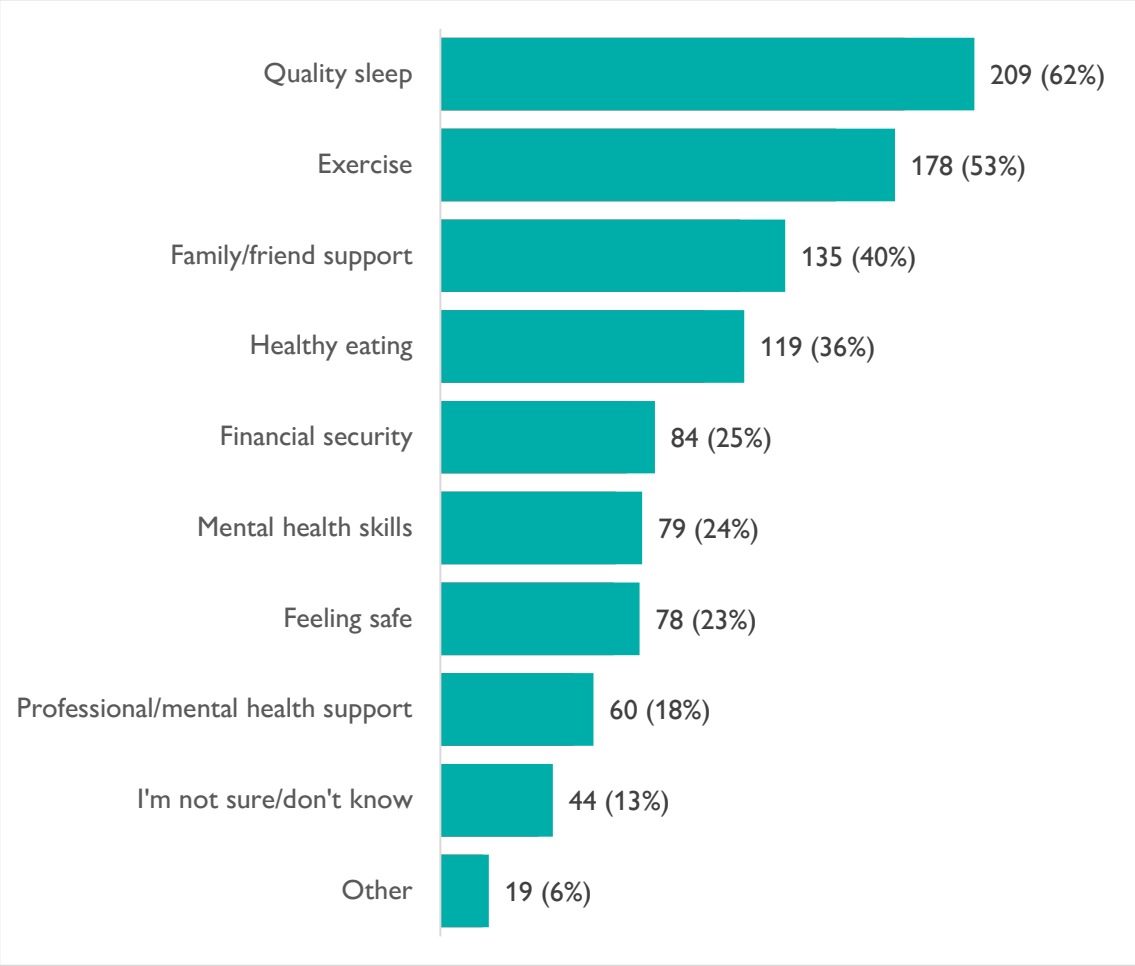
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question explored what would help improve young people's health from a list of predetermined options.

The data shows that the most people feel they could most benefit from:

- quality sleep (62 per cent, **209 responses**)
- exercise (53 per cent, **178 responses**)
- family/friend support (40 per cent, **135 responses**).



Question 17. Do you feel safe, included and heard by the people around you?

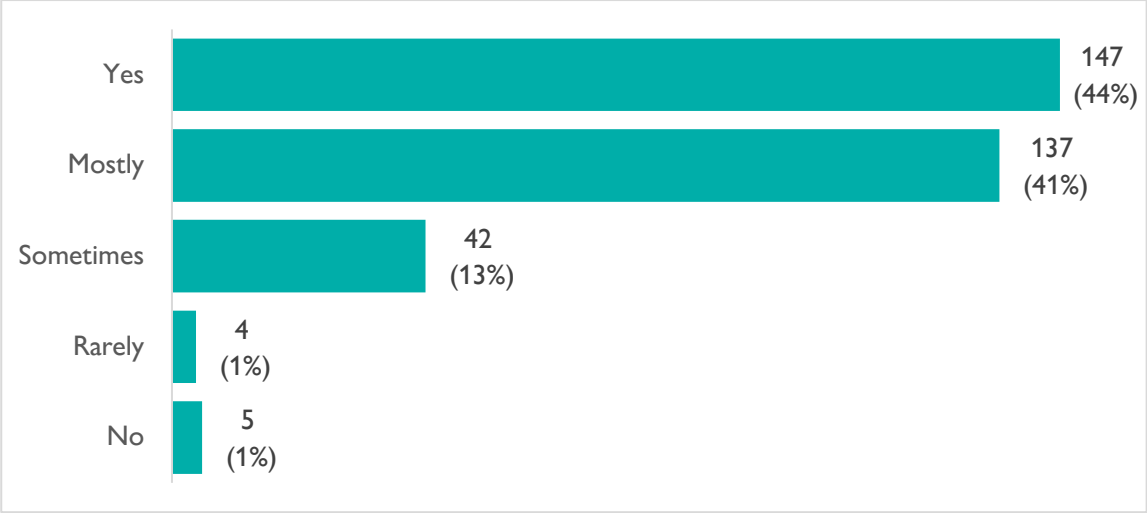
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question explored whether young people felt included by the people around them on a scale of: yes, mostly, sometimes, rarely, or no.

The data shows that young people:

- do feel included (44 per cent. **147 responses**)
- mostly feel included (41 per cent, **137 responses**)
- sometimes feel included (13 per cent, **42 responses**)
- rarely or not feel included at per cent combined (1 per cent, **9 responses**).



Question 18. What could help you feel safer or more included or heard in your community?

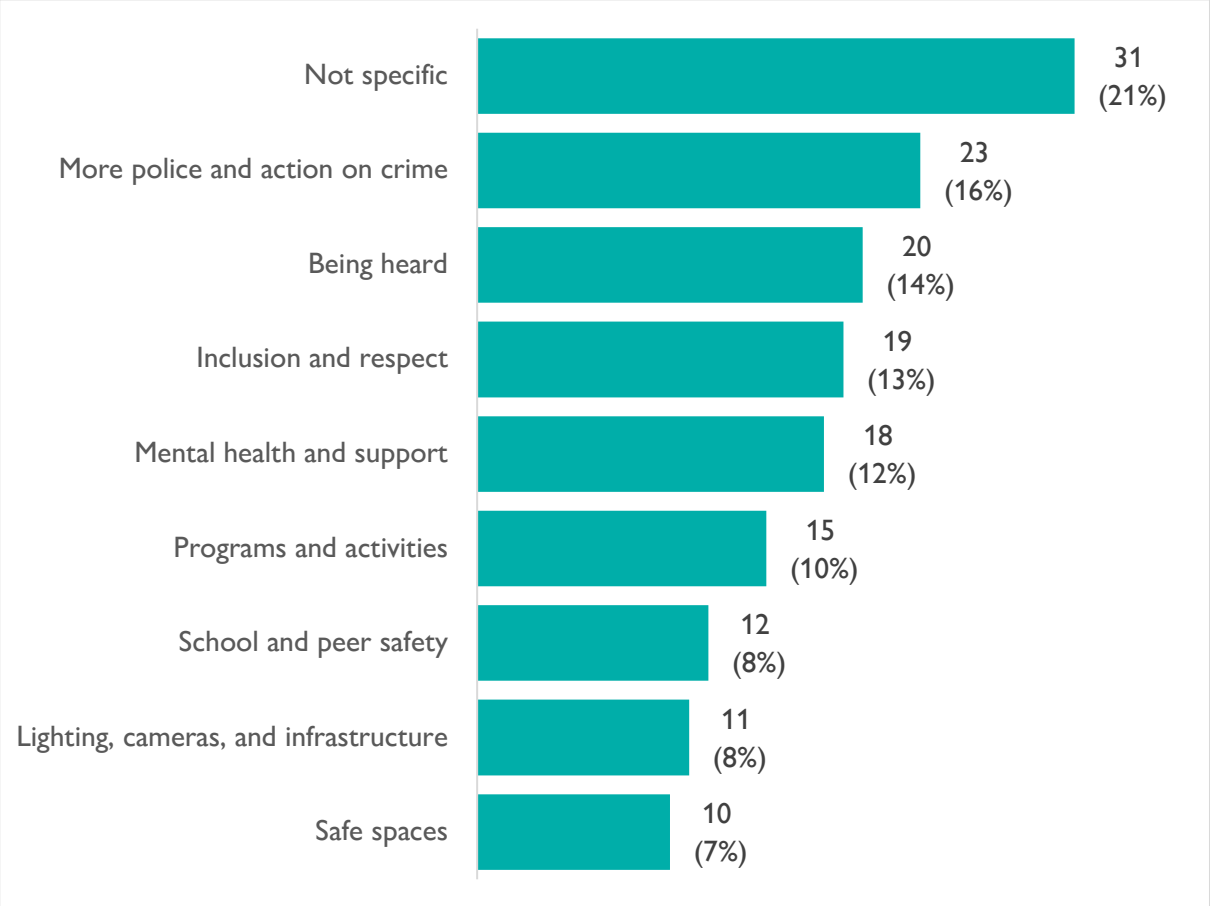
Optional question. Free text response.

146 responses (43.2 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people for free text comments on what could help them feel safer or more welcome in the community. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data identified the top themes being:

- police and action on crime (23 responses, **16 per cent**)
- being heard (20 responses, **14 per cent**)
- inclusion and respect (19 responses, **13 per cent**)
- mental health and support (18 responses, **12 per cent**)
- programs and activities (15 responses, **10 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for how we can help them feel safer, more included or heard:

Better footpaths and more accessibility. Also more cameras and lights.

I wish that there are cultural events that celebrate diversity and let indiviual races show themselves.
It would be good sometimes if young people have more of a say in community changes or decisions that affect them (like getting new facilities for example)
More opportunities for young people to get their voices heard. Maybe there are some opportunities I just don't know of them
I need to be more open about myself. I'm quite closed off & have many opinions, interests & passions that I have either not expressed or explained to others, which hampers others from understanding who I am, what to think about me or how to talk to me. That way, I feel people won't need to (incorrectly or vaguely) assume things about myself & that people actually understand or are able to more easily sympathies with me.
Maybe a school bus instead of a public bus.
Having more time away from my siblings
Letting go of expectations for females such as wearing certain clothing/shoes, wearing makeup, being polite. The female mask is draining and dehumanising.
To be included within more things and activities and meet new people.
more things like this survey and more accessible and advertised meetings with the council
Pedestrian crossing on north road opposite oasis, moving along the junkies who are becoming more common
Education regarding mental health
More education from a young age about differences, like disabilities or genders. Teach boys how to be nice and respectful instead of teaching girls how to cover themselves up and self defence
No rubbish drivers
More diversity, kindness,
Better lighting, police patrols of streets
Free housing for the less fortunate
Less racism

Question 19. Where do you like to spend time with other young people?

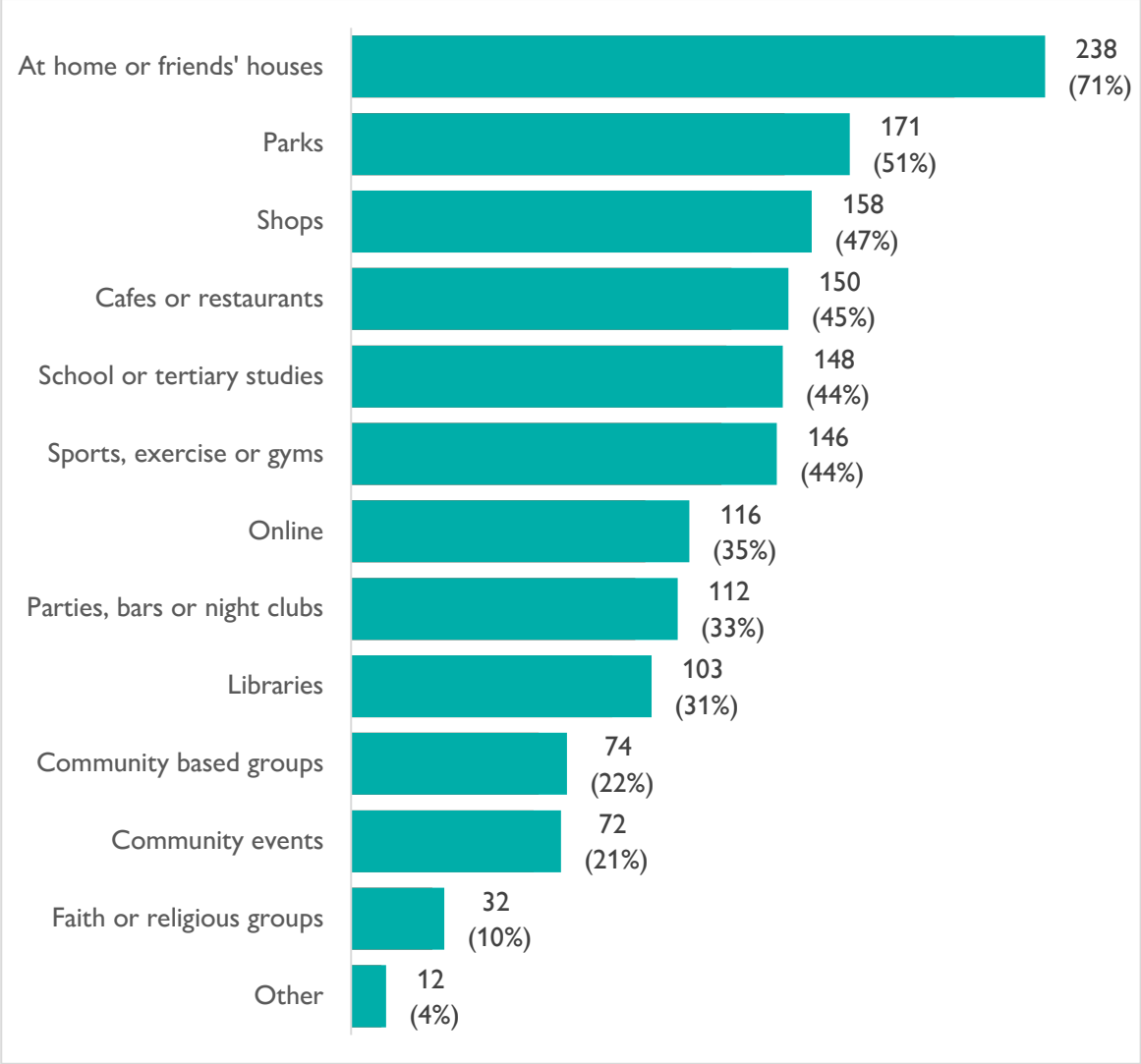
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people where they like to spend time with other young people.

The data shows that the top places where young people like to spend time together are:

- At home or friends' houses (71 per cent, 238 **responses**)
- Parks (51 per cent, **171 responses**)
- Shops (47 per cent, **158 responses**)
- Café or restaurants (45 per cent, **150 responses**).



Question 20. Did you know that Glen Eira's Youth Services provides support to young people and runs youth programs for young people aged 10–25?

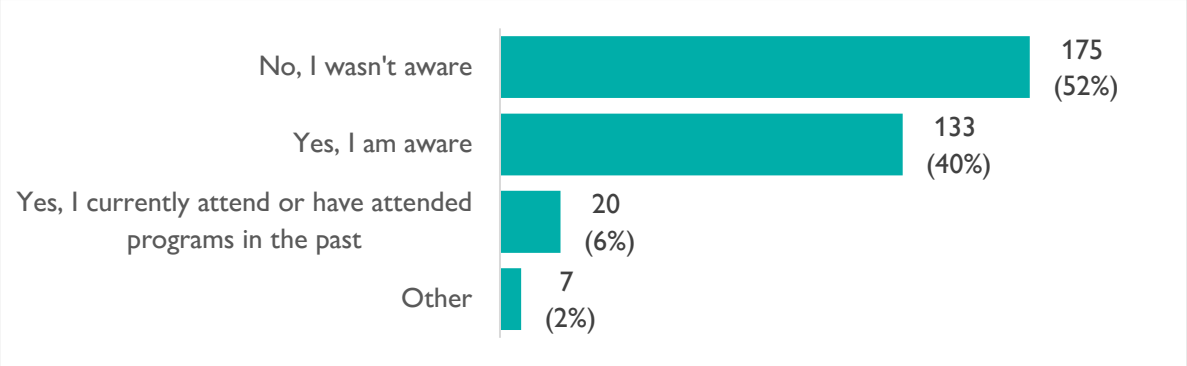
Required question. Multiple choice.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people whether they were familiar with Glen Eira Youth Services and their programs to understand the level of awareness about the service.

The data identified that:

- 52 per cent (175 respondents) are not aware of the service
- 46 per cent (153 respondents) are aware of the service, including 6 per cent (20 respondents) that have attended programs.



Question 21. Which programs have you attended?

Optional question. Multiple choice.

19 responses. (5.7 per cent of total responses)

This question was only shown to young people who responded "Yes" to Q.20. It asked which Glen Eira Youth Services programs the respondent had attended.

The most common programs attended by respondents were Youth Engagement Team' (**five responses**), Green Gecko Productions (**four responses**) and the School Holiday program (**three responses**).

Question 22. What would make Youth Services more accessible to you?

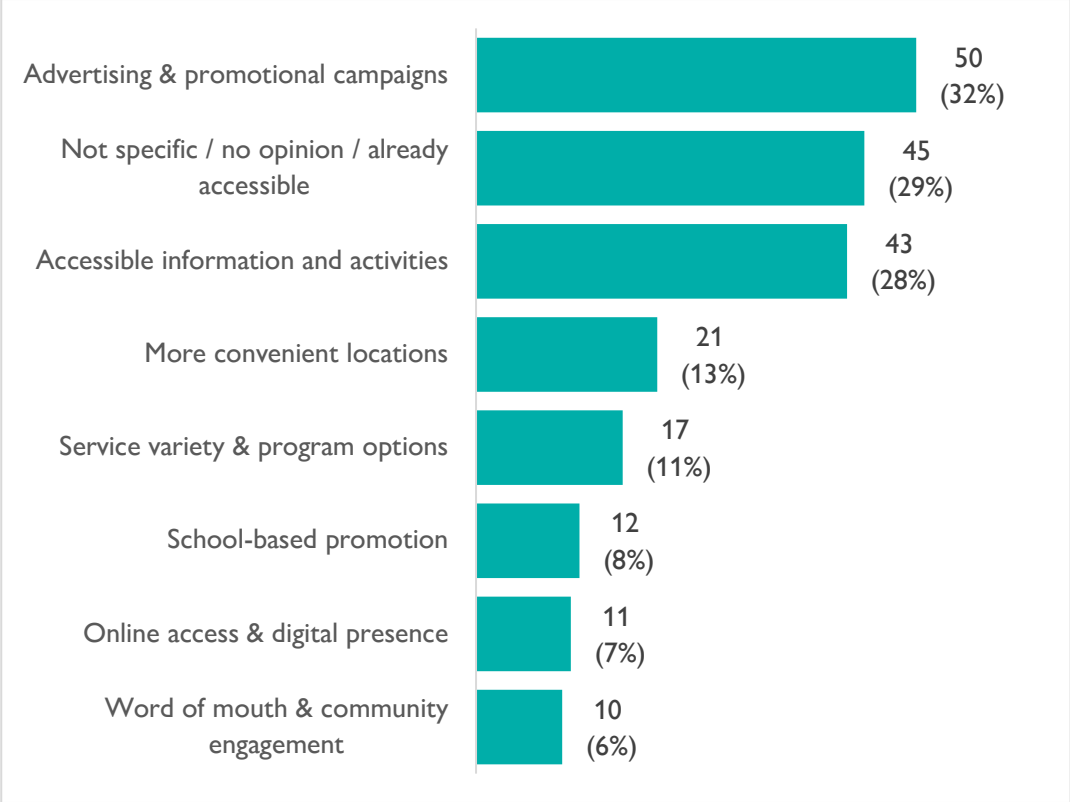
Optional question. Free text response.

156 responses. (46 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people for free text comments on what would make Youth Services more accessible. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data identified the top themes being:

- Advertising and promotional campaigns (50 responses, **32 per cent**)
- More accessible information and activities (43 responses, **28 per cent**)
- More convenient locations (21 responses, **13 per cent**)
- A variety of services and program opportunities (17 responses, **11 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for how Youth Services could be more accessible:
Having more marketing locations in public places!!!
Physical objects with information, business cards, flyers whatever. If I don't have any data on my phone I can't access literally any resources.
Just knowing what they do and where they are
Send out emails to parents
Putting up signs at common places because some people don't look at the news or they don't go around and check for info
If more things were open to younger children like me
If there was many locations
If they email us about every event that is happening so we know and send it earlier
more sessions and more locations
Probably knowing about it. I didn't know about it until I got asked to do this survey
Have services not just for school kids
Well I can't drive so maybe more closer venues and also more public transport that's free
Advertisements and school appearances
Have different locations & hire more staff
Although I've only heard a bit about these programs I feel it isn't advertised enough to the general public
understanding others needs and taking measures into providing consideration and help
Just hearing about it more, posters in libraries or on the street about it, instagram posts, targeted tiktoks, email chain, word of mouth.

Question 23. How can Glen Eira Youth Services better support you?

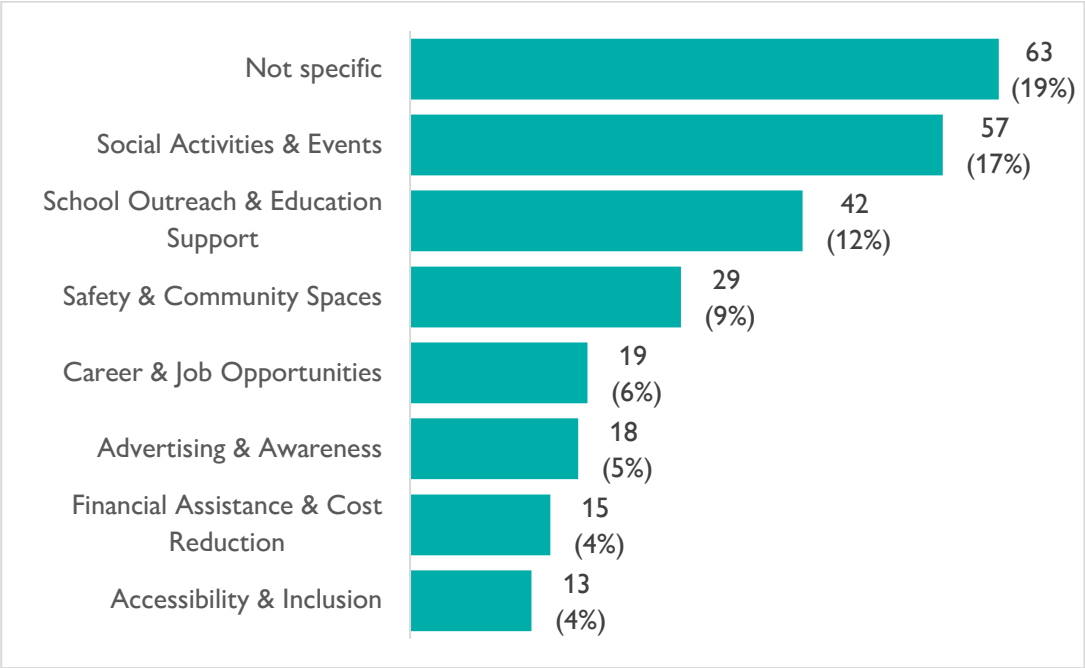
Required question. Free text response.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people for free text comments on how Youth Services can better support them. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data identified the top themes being:

- social activities and events (57 responses, **17 per cent**)
- school outreach and educational support (42 responses, **12 per cent**)
- safe and community focused spaces (29 responses, **9 per cent**)
- career and job opportunities (19 responses, **6 per cent**)
- advertising and awareness (18 responses, **5 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for how Youth Services can better support respondents:
More opportunities for new experiences.
Provide free mental healthcare service or suggestions to guard psychological wellbeing for me and my family
To make it more accessible because It can give people a peace of mind to know that there are people to care for us
I don't need anything in particular right now 👍
Have a presence in schools/other places as online is kinda hard to feel supported.
Would be good if you advertised the youth services more (what is available etc.)

More information on political situations, to help us feel less powerless with societal and environmental issues.
I hope there will be more social-recognition and workshops
Be a good place to socialize and be supportive
More outreach
Making sure they still have social and mental programs running for young adults (18-25) and the existing programs can still run
Jobs and safe activities for teens
-advise to how to balance life when working, full time uni, friends and also caring for wellbeing
Jobs and safe activities for teens
easier access to youth services and more information about what is included in it and what services i can actually access
I don't really need a big help with anything.
I havent really look into it, but Im sure something would.
Giving me the gift voucher
Run a silent disco
They can better support me by having more advertisements so people know more about them

Question 24. Where did you find out about the survey?

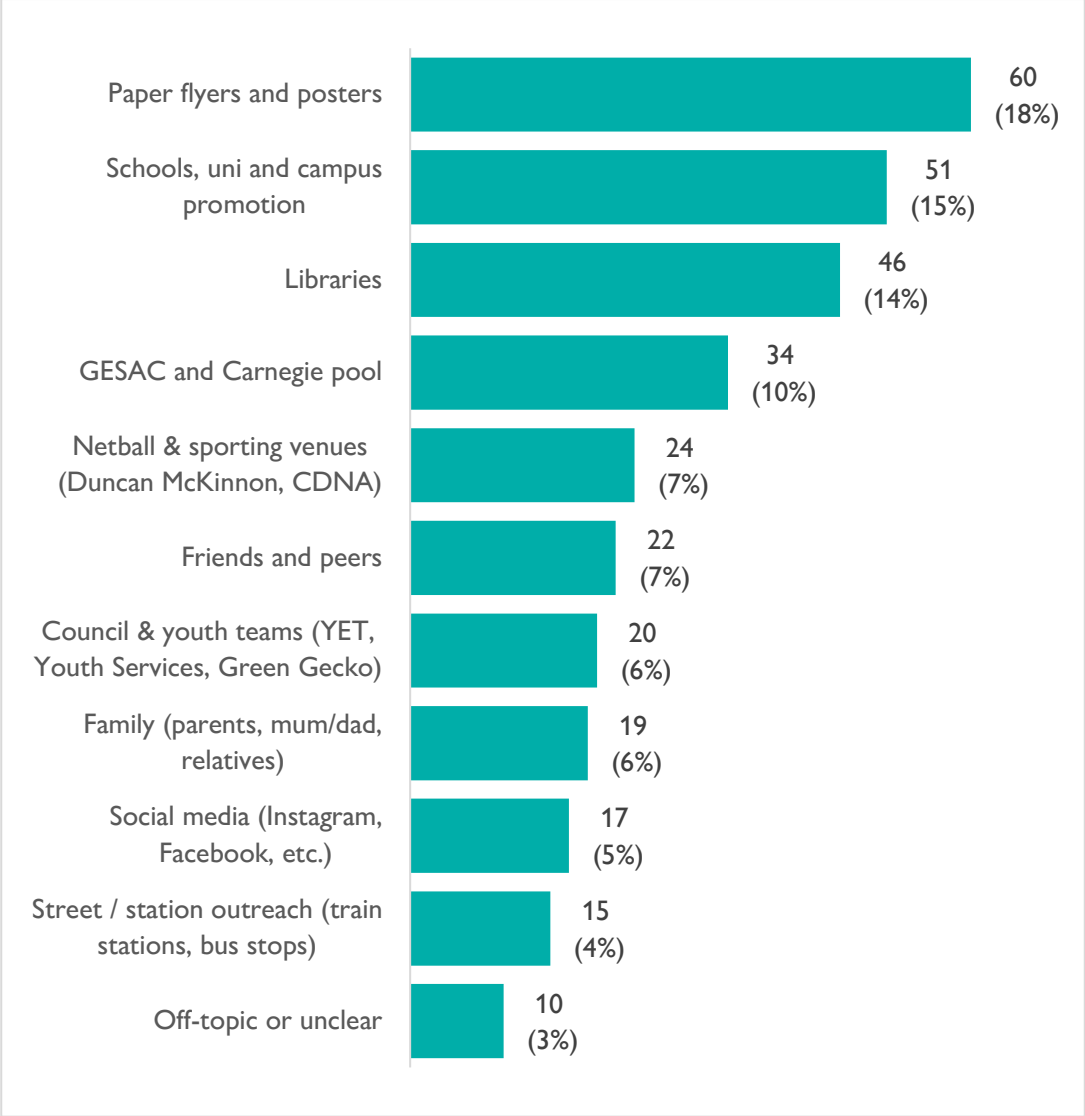
Required question. Free text response.

335 responses. (100 per cent of total responses)

This question asked young people for free text comments about where they found out about the survey. Responses to this free text question have been analysed and themed to help understand trends.

The data identified the top themes being:

- paper flyers and posters (60 responses, **18 per cent**)
- schools, uni and campus promotions (51 responses, **15 per cent**)
- libraries (46 responses, **9 per cent**)
- GESAC and Carnegie pool (34 responses, **10 per cent**).



Examples of free-text responses for how Youth Services can better support respondents:

Bentleigh library poster
work
School
glen eira leisure
At the pool
When I went to the library people were handing out flyers about it
At a youth survey event near the library.
Yae and youthfest
School incursion at the Gesac and Bentleigh libraries
Gesac popup stand
Uni
Glen Eira Insta, GE fb, link finally became available on GE youth insta
the mkn respect walk
School survey

A woman stopped us near glen huntly station to tell us about it and we accepted the form
At CDNA we’re my mum works had blue round and there were flyers left over
Youth Engagement Team
School
pamphlet
I found out about the Youth Survey today at the Youth Fest.
Mum gave the flyer that was being handed out in front of Bentleigh Library

Comparison with previous Youth Surveys

The data can be compared in some areas with previous annual Youth Surveys (2025, 2024, 2023, 2021, and 2020). Some key comparisons and trends have been identified below.

The **top concerns** identified between 2025 – 2020 were:

Rank	2025	2024	2023	2021	2020
1	Money	Money	Mental health	Mental health	Mental health
2	Relationships/ Friendships	Housing	Navigating friendships	Peer pressure/ bullying	Lack of sleep
3	Education	Work	School stress	Grief and loss of family/ friends	Body image
4	Health	Relationships/ friendships	Cost of living	Lack of employment	Isolation

Health rating questions have varied in style between the 2025 and 2024 surveys. The approximate sentiment has remained consistent.

- In 2025 the average overall wellbeing was rated at four out of five smiley faces.
- In 2024, the average overall wellbeing was rated at "Mostly healthy".

The rankings of **things that would most improve health and wellbeing** can be compared between 2025 and 2024. The rankings have remained mostly consistent.

Rank	2025	2024
1	Quality sleep	Quality sleep
2	Exercise	Exercise
3	Family/friend support	Healthy eating
4	Healthy eating	Mental health skills
5	Financial security	I'm not sure
6	Mental health skills	Family/friend support
7	Feeling safe	Other
8	Professional support	Feeling safe
9	I'm not sure	Professional support

Feelings of **safety** can be compared between 2025 and 2024. Responses remained consistent across these two surveys.

Feelings of safety	2025	2024
Yes	44%	45%
Mostly	41%	40%

Sometimes	13%	12%
Rarely	1%	1%
No	1%	1%

The **awareness of Glen Eira Youth Services** can be compared between 2025 and 2024. Awareness has gone up by 12 per cent in 2025.

Awareness	2025	2024
Aware of the service	46%	34%
Not aware of the service	52%	66%

The **demographics** can be directly compared between 2025 and 2024. Some key trends and changes are identified below:

- **Age representation** has remained fairly consistent. The most notable change is an increase in representation from respondents aged 10 and 11. Combined, these ages have risen from 9 per cent to 14 per cent of the survey respondents.
- **Gender representation** has remained fairly consistent at around 56-58 per cent woman/girl, and 36-38 per cent man/boy.
- People from **diverse backgrounds and identities** have been represented at around 60-62 per cent in 2024 and 2025.
- The representation of people's **suburb of residence** has varied slightly, but Bentleigh East and Bentleigh are consistently the most represented at around 22-25 per cent and 11-12 per cent respectively. The other suburbs typically represent around 1 per cent to 10 per cent of respondents.
- **Employment** rates have had a slight increase from 42 per cent to 47 per cent.

Valkstone Primary School activity

A facilitated session was held to engage a cohort of 130 grade 6 students at Valkstone Primary School on 29 August 2025. The session included interactive presentations about local government, livability, the Youth Survey, and available supports and programs at Glen Eira Youth Services.

Feedback was collected on the following key Youth Survey questions:

- What are your top three concerns?
- How can we support you with these concerns?
- What are you most excited about in the future?
- What do you enjoy doing?
- What do you wish your parents knew about being a young person?

The feedback has been themed and a summary provided below. The full transcript of feedback is provided in Appendix 1.

This session was facilitated by a consultant from Insync, a Glen Eira Youth Services officer, and a Glen Eira Community Engagement officer, with support from Valkstone Primary School teachers.

Question 1. What are your top three concerns?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down their top three concerns. The written concerns have been themed to identify common trends across the cohort.

The most common concerns were:

- Moving to high school and academic performance (36 comments)
- The local infrastructure, environment and community wellbeing (33 comments)
- Safety, scams, bullying and crime (19 comments)
- Cost of living and housing prices (12 comments)
- Family and relationships (10 comments)
- Gaming and technology (7 comments)
- Mental health and wellbeing (5 comments).

Question 2. How can we support you with these concerns?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down how they could be supported with their concerns. The written comments have been themed to identify common trends across the cohort.

The most common preferences for support were:

- Mental health and wellbeing support (16 comments)
- School and educational support (9 comments)
- Local infrastructure and community support (7 comments)

- Other general ideas (7 comments)

Question 3. What are you most excited about in the future?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down what they are most excited about in the future. The written comments have been themed to identify common trends across the cohort.

The most common causes for excitement were:

- Growing up and living a good life (16 comments)
- Careers and work (11 comments)
- Moving to high school and education (8 comments)
- Independence (6 comments).

Question 4. What do you enjoy doing?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down what they enjoy doing. The written comments have been themed to identify common trends across the cohort.

The most common things that participants enjoy doing were:

- Sports (17 comments)
- Going outside, eating and relaxing (14 comments)
- Spending time with friends (10 comments)
- Creative activities and hobbies (8 comments)
- Gaming (8 comments).

Question 5. What do you wish your parents knew about being a young person?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down what they wish their parents knew about being a young person. The written comments have been themed to identify common trends across the cohort.

The most common things that participants wish their parents knew:

- Life is challenging (10 comments)
- Gaming is important (8 comments)
- They have needs for food and technology (6 comments).

Appendix 1 – Valkstone Primary School transcription

This appendix includes the full transcription of the written feedback provided by 130 grade 6 students during a facilitated session with Valkstone Primary School on 29 August 2025.

The session asked students to discuss and write down their comments in response to five questions. The below tables show each question, along with the student responses grouped into themes.

Question 1. What are your top three concerns?

Theme	Student responses	Comment count
School / education	My high school class, high school sport groups, high school · high school classes, high school, sporting events · feelings, family, education, family · school, family, loneliness · getting sick, future job prospects, high school and university grades · school is too easy, flooding, littering · school is too easy, flooding, internet goes out · going into year 7, homework, too cold · make school more welcoming Getting lost at high school · Moving to highschool and parents being disappointed · Lots of home work in high school · Wont do well in school, wont pass classes · Highschool, money, friends · High school, social interactions · Highschool, money, homework · Going to highschool, Naplan, friends · Highschool, making more friends, tests · Going to highschool · Price of stuff, highschool · Highschool · Learning, friends · Highschool · Making friends · Getting bullied · Exams, moving to year 8 · Less school · Moving to highschool · Starting high school · Too much homework · Education · Education · Highschool · Highschool · Learning · Highschool · Moving into year 7	36

Environment / community	School is too easy, flooding, littering · pollution, more public transport · not enough food, sleep, people dying · air pollution · not enough parks, not enough basketball courts and too many buildings · more parks, more restaurants, closer distance (locality) Global warming, price of things going up, my future · Moving to year 7, inflation, global warming · Housing costs, community, theft · Community wellbeing · Government · Not enough parks · Too many roads · The state of public toilets at the parks · More shops · Not enough ice cream places, traffic · Crossing near GESAC is dangerous · No funding towards girl sports · Public toilets, cleaner parks, more greenery · Traffic · Crowded roads · Rubbish · Environment · Speeding · Road crossings · Litter · Littering · Smoking and vaping · Litter · Glen Eira's ecological wellbeing · community · Community wellbeing · Community	33
Safety / crime	Thieves (crime) Getting scammed or lied too · Crime/being in danger · Housing costs, community, theft · Community wellbeing · Crossing near GESAC is dangerous · Scams · Crime · Bullying · Safety · Safety globally · Safety · Bullying · Scams · Bullying · Safety · Getting bullied · Theft	19
Cost of living / money	Food costs · inflation · not enough food Global warming, price of things going up, my future · Moving to year 7, inflation, global warming · Price of stuff, highschool · Housing costs · Inflation · Cost of living · Buying things · prices · Housing prices	12
Family & relationships	Feelings, family, education, family · school, family, loneliness Losing friends in highschool · friends · making friends	10
Technology / gaming	Popular games shutting down · Roblox grow a garden · internet goes out · ai · robots/ai, not being able to play roblox · not being able to play roblox	7
Mental health / wellbeing	Feelings, family, education, family · school, family, loneliness · more sleep, inflation, age appropriate things ·people · Secrets	5

Other	Korea dying · food, games, rubbish · food shops that are local · more food shops	4
Health	Getting sick, my hearing, my dreams · not enough sleep · clean hospitals	3

Question 2. How can we support you with these concerns?

Theme	Student responses	Comment count
Mental health / wellbeing	Talking to adults · facing it · you don't have to but you can · talking about it · stay positive · stay dedicated and motivated · hiring capable counsellors · taking our feedback and doing what you can to help Talking through it · Talk to a friend or an adult · Relaxing · Going to the park or a quiet place · Be chill and calm · Understand our point of view and talk through the situation · Being less stressed · Be positive	16
School / education	Letting students have a choice in groups · dealing with being nervous and choosing groups in school · making school harder · clean hospitals and more/better teachers · make school more fun to go to/having brain breaks and transitional classes · go through content slower in class Know what to expect at a new school · Help young people transition to high school · Year 10 buddies	9
General advice	Crafts · being able to sleep more · talk to us · take your time · talk to different pole/brainstorm · child support, policies	7
Environment / community	Adding variety of sport facilities · a good environment More cleaner places · Clean the bathrooms regularly · More road crossings · Rules made by local council · More food shops	7
Cost of living / money	Decrease inflation · reduce inflation	2

Question 3. What are you most excited about in the future?

Theme	Student responses	Comment count
Life & personal growth	Life · a dream coming true · better life · to experience different things · becoming a man · learn new things · family · new network system Going to therapy · Meeting new people socialising and meeting new people · Getting help · Family Going to therapy · Meeting new people socialising and meeting new people · Getting help · Family	16
Career/work	Making money · job · to be a lawyer · having a job/family My future job · Growing up · Going on vacation achieving my dreams · Getting a job · Job · Getting a job · Job	11
School/education	High school · high school sports · future high school classes · university · end of school Getting to know more people next year · Making new friends new school · New school future career/making money	8
Independence	Being able to drive · having a phone · car Eating food food · Money · Money	6
Sports/activities	Being known/Olympics · f1 grand prix · Olympics for running · being in the Australian open · sports	5
Techn/gaming	Video games · buying my own Roblox · gaming Getting a new phone · Phone	5
Environment and community	More peaceful environment · a better environment · better public transport · more shops	4

Question 4. What do you enjoy doing?

Theme	Student responses	Comment count
Sports	Sport games · AFL · basketball · playing soccer · running · playing/watching soccer · tennis · soccer · being active Netball · Cricket/p.e · Playing soccer · Doing athletics · netball · netball · cricket · playing soccer · doing athletics	17

Other/leisure	Living · work · playing in the park · parks · eating ice cream · going to the beach · enjoy eating food · Eating · Late night walks · eating · eating food · reading · late night walks · reading and playing games	14
Friends	Hanging out with friends · spending time with friends · sport and hanging out with friends, Going out with friends · Calling friends · Hanging out with friends · Hanging out with friends · calling friends · going out with friends · hanging out with friends	10
Gaming	Playing video games · playing video games (Roblox) · Roblox · playing grow a garden (video games) · making memes · playing Roblox · gaming · Roblox/playing video games	8
Creativity	Singing/dancing/drawing/hanging out with friends · parkour/reading/watching tv · dance · colouring in/drawing and playing with friends · baking/food · baking · Reading · art	8

Question 5. What do you wish your parents knew about being a young person?

Theme	Student responses	Comment count
Life	Its very busy and also fun · life wasn't the same when they where young · sometimes we do the wrong thing but we just want to have fun · that its hard to make the right decision · The joy these days · What happens at school · How hard life is · Its hard to come with everything · They expect so much of us · That its not easy	10
Tech/gaming	How important playing roblox is · you can't pause an online game · we can make money from gaming · we can get money by playing games · You can't pause an online game · Youtube, memes · Gaming · Gaming is good	8
Practical needs	How important it is to get a phone in year 6 · i wish they knew i don't like seafood · being healthy and energised, Not enough 7/11 slurpees · Food · That I need food	6

Independence/identity	Even though we are young we understand our feelings and who we are · the freedom , We're not stupid we should be able to use social media,	3
Youth culture	Brainrot · gen alpha slang, brainrot	3