

Project: Mission Australia Youth Survey 2026
Contact: youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au
Key dates: Survey opens on 19th March and closes on 14th August 2026

FACTSHEET

The Mission Australia Youth Survey is...

- ◆ The largest annual survey of young people of its kind in Australia.
- ◆ A population-level survey. Data is aggregated to a national, state and/or postcode level and individual participants or schools cannot be identified in any survey report.
- ◆ A measure of multiple aspects of young people's experiences and transition plans (including engagement with education and work; personal and national issues; sources of support; community support and connections; wellbeing; housing and financial situation and climate).
- ◆ An important resource that gives schools, communities and governments valuable information about the needs and concerns of young people.
- ◆ A tool that can be used by youth-oriented organisations to develop policies and programs to benefit young people and address need.
- ◆ Data collected is used to produce reports, publications and presentations for a variety of forums. Data is retained for use in future reports.

How is the information used?

- ◆ Schools and staff committees can discuss the results from the school-level report to help plan programs to support students with their engagement, wellbeing, and transition from school.
- ◆ The *Mission Australia Youth Survey Report* helps equip community organisations, governments and NGOs with evidence to develop policies and programs for young people.

How does the Youth Survey work?

- ◆ The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- ◆ Students that are A) between the ages of 14 and 19, and have B) received consent from a parent/guardian can complete the survey online (via www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey).
- ◆ The survey can be completed either in class time (such as pastoral care) or in students' own time as advised by the school principal or other staff leader.

- ◆ Students can use their laptops, tablets or school computers to take part (depending upon resources, school policies and access).
- ◆ Completed surveys are held by a secure online data system at Mission Australia.
- ◆ Participating schools may receive a tailored report that details school-level findings for key Youth Survey questions. Schools that would like to receive a school report need to contact the MA Research Team to arrange a unique school code prior to students completing the survey.
- ◆ To maintain anonymity and confidentiality, schools that receive fewer than 100 responses may not receive a school report.
- ◆ Young people's participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Parents/guardians and students can withdraw consent at any time.

Mission Australia's duty of care

- ◆ In line with approval from State and Territory Education Departments and Catholic Education Offices, MA will report re-identifiable information back to school Principals or the appropriate Child Protection Authority, if a student's free-text response indicates they may be at potential risk of harm, abuse or neglect and/or if a student's response indicates they are experiencing symptoms of psychological distress.

The Mission Australia Youth Survey does not...

- ◆ Diagnose young people with specific issues or conditions (such as learning disabilities or disorders).
- ◆ Assess the 'success' or 'failure' of young people.
- ◆ Identify individual students or schools in reports.
- ◆ Compare the 'performance' of students, teachers or schools.

Where can I get more information?

- ◆ You can find out more about the Mission Australia Youth Survey by going to our website: www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey
- ◆ You can also contact the Research Team by emailing youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au