

INFORMATION FOR ORGANISATIONS

Dear Organisation,

We invite your organisation to participate in the 2026 Mission Australia Youth Survey. This letter provides background to the Youth Survey, an overview of the methodology, and information about how to get your organisation involved.

Q. What is the Mission Australia Youth Survey?

Now in its 25th year, the Mission Australia Youth Survey is Australia's largest annual survey of young people of its kind. With 17,155 respondents in 2025, the Youth Survey helps schools, community organisations, governments and policymakers gain an understanding of young people's values, concerns, challenges and ambitions.

Q. What does the Youth Survey involve?

The survey seeks to gather a range of insights into the lives of young people aged 14 to 19 across Australia. The survey enquires about sociodemographic information; issues of national importance; study and work; mental health and wellbeing; sources of support; community support and connections; housing and financial situation; social media; climate issues; as well as sources of stress across a range of topics such as body image, cost of living, school, and friends/family. The 2026 survey also includes additional questions about local community involvement and neighbourhood changes that could improve young people's lives.

The study will involve the completion of an online questionnaire that takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Most of the questions require young people to check a box to indicate their response (such as yes/no questions or scales that rate the response from 1 to 5). There are a small number of questions that allow for free-text responses.

Q. How will my organisation benefit from being involved in this study?

Participating organisations are eligible to receive a complimentary, tailored report detailing key Youth Survey findings specific to your organisation. Over 100 schools and organisations received a report in December 2025 and many commented on their importance as a resource for planning wellbeing and school engagement programs.

The report must be arranged in advance. To do this, please complete the 'Organisation Consent Form' and tick the box to indicate you wish to receive a report for 2026. A member of our Research team will then allocate your organisation a unique, five-digit code. **Young people will need to enter this code when they complete the survey online.** Organisations with 100 or more responses from young people will automatically receive a report. If less responses are likely, an alternative response number must be agreed upon prior to data collection. Please discuss this with the Research team.

Q. How does Mission Australia maintain ethical conduct in this research?

The 2026 Mission Australia Youth Survey methodology and procedure have undergone ethical review by University of Melbourne's Human Research Ethics Committee¹, the Mission Australia Ethics Committee and the Department of Education in ACT, NSW, NT, SA, TAS, QLD, VIC and WA, as well as a number of the Catholic Education Offices.

All information provided by young people will be treated in the strictest of confidence. The survey is conducted through Alchemer, an online survey tool based in the USA. Data provided through this survey is encrypted and transferred to Alchemer's server in the USA. By completing this survey, participants agree to this transfer. All data will be stored securely on a password protected drive at Mission Australia, accessible only to the project research team. Data we collect will be used to produce reports, publications and presentations for a variety of forums. Data will also be retained for use in future reports. In any public reporting we will only use national, state and/or postcode-level results. Your organisation and your young people will not be identified in any reports resulting from the survey.

Q. How does Mission Australia maintain a duty of care for the young people who participate?

Mission Australia is committed to child and youth safety and has extended this responsibility to the young people who participate in the 2026 Youth Survey. In line with approvals obtained from State and Territory Education Departments and Catholic Education Offices, Mission Australia will report re-identifiable information back to School Principals (where the survey is conducted through a school code) or the appropriate Child Protection Authority, if a participant's

¹ University of Melbourne researchers involved in the Youth Survey: Dr Kate Filia, Prof Eoin Killackey, Dr Caroline Gao

free-text response indicates that the young person is at potential risk of harm, abuse or neglect. Re-identifiable information includes respondent date of birth, gender and postcode. Upon receiving the notification, we recommend that the young person is re-identified (where possible) and provided support as necessary.

For more information on the reporting risk of harm procedure please see the '*Young person's guide to reporting the risk of harm*'. We encourage you to make this document available to your young people and parents.

We anticipate few risks from young peoples' involvement in this study. There is no contact between researchers and participants or parents. We have been careful to make sure that the questions in the survey cause little distress. We have built in information about sources of support (Kids Helpline, headspace, Lifeline, QLife, Butterfly Foundation and 13YARN) throughout the survey to make this information available for young people, should the questions cause anxiety.

Participation is entirely voluntary. Both you, as an organisation leader, and young people are able to withdraw from participation in the Youth Survey at any time. Participants' data will not be used if they choose to withdraw from the study; any incomplete responses will be removed and destroyed to protect their information.

Q. How can I get my organisation involved?

There are five steps to take to get your organisation involved in the 2026 Youth Survey.

1. After reading the above information, please complete and sign the '[Organisation Consent Form](#)'. Tick 'yes' or 'no' to state whether you are interested in receiving a report for your organisation.
 - If you ticked 'yes' to receive a report, we will allocate your organisation a unique 2026 code for young people to enter when completing the survey online. A copy of the survey will be sent to you as part of the email containing your organisation code. We encourage you to read the survey and consider if it is appropriate for your organisation.
 - Please note that if you have previously participated in Mission Australia's Youth Survey you may have been given a code – please **DO NOT** use this code for the 2026 Youth Survey. Instead, **please use the new code** allocated for your organisation.
2. Send out the 'Information for Parents' and 'Parent Consent Form' and request they sign and return the form as soon as possible. Please keep the returned consent forms (either electronic or paper) for your records.
 - You may distribute parent consent forms via paper, or by circulating the consent information via your usual online permissions platform (which you may use to distribute permission slips for excursions), if your organisation has this technology available.
3. Organise a time in your organisational calendar for young people to complete the survey. The survey is open **between 19th March and 14th August** and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete per young person.
4. You may wish to organise an appropriate staff member to be available during and immediately after young people complete the survey, in case the survey raises any issues or concerns for young people. This staff member can then provide immediate support and assist young people to access further, appropriate support if/as necessary.
5. Share the survey link and your organisation code with young people. Young people can take part via www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey and will enter the organisation code on the second page of the online survey, when prompted. Young people can take part at any time and the survey can be completed on a laptop, computer or via smartphone.

Q. How can I get more information?

If you have any questions about the Youth Survey please email the Mission Australia Research Team at youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au. For additional information about the Youth Survey, please go to our website at www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey.

We welcome your organisation's involvement in 2026 and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

The Mission Australia Research & Insights Team

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