

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Please read this information carefully. If you are happy to participate, please add your signature to the parent consent form and return the form to your school as soon as possible.

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.

Why am I being asked to take part and what are you asking me to do?

We are looking to hear from all young people in Australia between the ages of 14 and 19. The survey asks 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.

Regardless of your background, ability, gender or where you live, we want to hear from you! Sharing your thoughts and experiences will help Mission Australia to develop reports that are widely used by governments, community organisations and policymakers across the country to develop programs that support young people. Data collected will be used to produce reports, publications and presentations. Data will also be retained for use in future reports. In reporting we only use national, state and/or postcode-level results. Your school may also request a report based on school-level data, which your school will use to develop programs that respond to the needs of you and your peers.

The online questionnaire takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. You will be asked to complete the survey either during class or in your own time. Most of the questions require you to check a box to indicate your response (such as yes/no questions or scales that rate the response from 1 to 5). A small number of questions allow for free-text responses.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

All information that you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. The survey is conducted through Alchemer, which is a 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. Your answers to the survey will be kept confidential. Your parents or teachers will not know what you write. You will not be identified in any reports resulting from the study.

However, Mission Australia has a duty of care to the young people who take part in the Youth Survey. If any of your answers to the open-text questions indicate you might be unsafe or at any risk of harm, we will alert your school Principal or Child Protection Authority, so they can help to make sure you are safe. Additionally, if your responses indicate you might be experiencing symptoms of psychological distress, we will inform your school Principal so they can provide support.

Mission Australia's Youth Survey has obtained Human Research Ethics Committee approval from the University of Melbourne.¹ We anticipate few risks from your 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. If you begin to feel anxious about any of the survey questions, you can skip that question. If the questions make you feel like you need someone to talk to, we recommend that you contact one of the following sources of support, in addition to your parent/caregiver or school counsellor:

- Kids Helpline [1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800) or go to kidshelp.com.au
- headspace [1800 650 890](tel:1800650890) or go to headspace.org.au
- Lifeline [13 11 14](tel:131114) or go to lifeline.org.au
- QLife [1800 184 527](tel:1800184527) or go to qlife.org.au
- Butterfly Foundation [1800 334 673](tel:1800334673) or go to butterfly.org.au
- 13YARN [13 92 76](tel:139276) or go to 13YARN.org.au

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary: it is up to you if you wish to take part in the survey or not. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, you are welcome to stop at any time and exit the survey before selecting 'finish'. The research team will not use any of your responses in our reports if you choose not to complete the survey; the data will be removed and destroyed to protect your information.

Where can I get more information?

You can find out more about the Mission Australia Youth Survey by going to our website:

missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey

You can also contact the Mission Australia Research & Insights Team by emailing youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au.