



**Youth Survey 2016:
Key and emerging issues**

**Data breakdown for
Mission Australia - North Sydney**

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Demographic profile of respondents

In total, 392 young people from North Sydney aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2016. Overall, 169 (43.7%) respondents were female and 218 (56.3%) were male. A total of 5 (1.3%) young people from North Sydney identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Overall, 76 (19.9%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 87 (22.8%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home.

Plans for study and training

Respondents were asked about their future plans for education and training following school. Overall, 94.7% of young people from North Sydney stated that they intended to complete Year 12. A greater proportion of males than females indicated that they were not planning to complete Year 12 (6.7% compared with 3%). Young people were also asked whether they were undertaking a vocational education and training (VET) course or if they had done so in the past. Of all young people surveyed, 23.7% indicated that they had previously participated or were currently participating in a VET course.

When asked what they were planning to do after school, going to university was the most frequently chosen option among both males and females from North Sydney (75.1%), although a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they planned to do so (83.6% compared with 69%). Many young people also planned to get a job (32.8%) or to travel or go on a gap year (27.2%) after school, while 14.8% planned to attend TAFE or college and 6.1% planned to undertake an apprenticeship.

Unfair treatment or discrimination

The Youth Survey 2016 asked young people whether they had experienced any unfair treatment or discrimination and whether they had witnessed any unfair treatment or discrimination in the last twelve months.

Overall, 25% of young people from North Sydney indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination and 51.5% indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination.

Overall, a greater proportion of female respondents than male respondents reported that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (29.6% compared with 20.9%). A greater proportion of females than males also indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination over the last year (56.9% compared with 47.1%). Respondents who indicated that they had experienced and/or witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination were then asked to indicate the reason for this from a list of items.

Overall, the top three reasons indicated by young people from North Sydney for their reported experience of unfair treatment and discrimination were Gender (34.4%), Race/cultural background (28.1%) and Religion (22.9%). A greater proportion of female than male respondents indicated that gender was a reason why they reported they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination (50% compared with 15.9%). While a greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that race/cultural background was a reason for their reported experience of unfair treatment or discrimination (36.4% compared with 22%). The top three reasons cited for the unfair treatment and discrimination witnessed by young people from North Sydney were Race/cultural background (50.5%), Sexuality (38.7%) and Physical health or ability (34.5%).

Influences on post-school plans

Also for the first time in 2016, respondents who were studying at school were asked to indicate from a list of items which had helped them to make a decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school. Parent/s (84.2%), Other family members (79.5%) and the Internet (75.7%) were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans. Overall, 70% of respondents indicated that Friends

helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while 49.8% indicated that a Career advisor helped them with their decision about what they were planning to do after leaving school.

What young people value

Respondents were again asked how much they valued family relationships, financial security, friendships, getting a job, physical and mental health and school or study satisfaction. Young people from North Sydney ranked Family relationships, Friendships (other than family) and Physical and mental health as the three most highly valued items. A high value was also placed on School or study satisfaction, Financial security and Getting a job.

Issues of personal concern

Respondents were asked to rank how concerned they had been about a number of issues in the past year. In North Sydney, the top three issues of concern were Coping with stress, School or study problems and Body Image. Following this, it was found that young people from North Sydney were either extremely concerned or very concerned about Family conflict and Depression.

Where young people go for help with important issues

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. The top three sources of help for young people from North Sydney were Friend/s, Parent/s and Relative/family friend (85%, 79.8% and 62.7% respectively). A majority of respondents indicated that they would go to their Brother/sister (52.8%) and the Internet (45.7%) for help with important issues, followed by their Teacher or School counsellor (34.3% and 31.4% respectively).

How well do young people's families get along?

Young people were asked how well they thought their family got along. The majority of young people at North Sydney were positive about their family relationships, with 37.3% rating their family's ability to get along as excellent, and 28.5% as very good. However, some young people did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either fair (7.4%) or poor (7.4%).

Most important issues in Australia today

Young people were asked to write down the three issues that they considered were the most important in Australia today. The top three issues identified by young people at North Sydney were Equity and discrimination (29%), International relations (26.7%) and Alcohol and drugs (24.3%). For females, the top national issue was Equity and discrimination (34.6%), followed by International relations (28.8%) and then Alcohol and drugs (23.5%). For males, the most important issue was International relations (25.4%), followed by Alcohol and drugs (24.9%) and then Equity and discrimination (24.3%).

The future

Young people were asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. Overall, young people from North Sydney were quite confident about their future with the majority of young people feeling either very positive (19.5%) or positive (47.5%) about the future. In total, 25.9% of young people felt neither positive nor negative about the future, while 5.3% felt negative and 1.8% felt very negative.

This report is based on the responses of 392 young people at North Sydney.

Note: Data were collected using a self-report questionnaire. Missing data have been excluded from the calculation of these tables.

Table 1: Gender profile

	MA - North Sydney	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Female	169	43.7	54.1
Male	218	56.3	45.9

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

	MA - North Sydney	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	5	1.3	5.2
Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	374	98.7	94.8

Table 3: Country of birth

	MA - North Sydney	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Australia	306	80.1	88.1
Other	76	19.9	11.9

Table 4: Language background other than English

	MA - North Sydney	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Language other than English	87	22.8	21.2
English	294	77.2	78.8

Table 5.1: Plans to complete Year 12

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Yes	94.7	96.4
No	5.3	3.6

Table 5.2: Plans to complete Year 12

	MA - North Female %	MA - North Male %
Yes	97.0	93.3
No	3.0	6.7

Table 6: Currently undertaking a VET course or have done so in the past

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Yes	23.7	18.3
No	76.3	81.7

Table 7.1: Satisfaction with studies

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Very satisfied	17.4	14.3
Satisfied	51.1	55.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	24.1
Dissatisfied	5.5	4.5
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.8

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Very satisfied	19.9	15.2
Satisfied	54.2	48.6
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	19.9	27.6
Dissatisfied	4.8	6.2
Very dissatisfied	1.2	2.4

Table 8.1: Plans after leaving school

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Go to university	75.1	67.0
Get a job	32.8	29.7
Travel/gap year	27.2	28.6
Go to TAFE or college	14.8	12.3
Get an apprenticeship	6.1	8.2
Other	5.3	4.8
No choices are available to me	0.5	0.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 8.2: Plans after leaving school, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Go to university	83.6	69.0
Get a job	38.8	27.1
Travel/gap year	28.5	26.7
Go to TAFE or college	10.9	18.1
Get an apprenticeship	3.6	8.1
Other	4.2	6.2
No choices are available to me	0.6	0.5

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 9: Influences on post-school plans

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Parent/s	84.2	84.3
Other family members	79.5	74.2
Internet	75.7	69.0
Friends	70.0	65.1
Career advisor	49.8	44.1
Teacher	48.0	50.1
Career fair or expo	47.5	40.1
Work experience/internship	38.5	34.1
Mentor/coach	32.5	27.2
Year advisor/other school staff	28.8	32.3
Part-time work	26.8	22.2
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	15.9	13.1
Traineeship	9.4	8.5

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 10: What young people value

MA - North Sydney %	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Family relationships	50.3	30.1	13.0	4.1	2.6
Friendships (other than family)	43.6	39.5	11.4	3.4	2.1
Physical and mental health	42.9	29.6	17.5	6.5	3.4
School or study satisfaction	33.9	36.6	19.3	6.3	3.9
Financial security	16.4	26.8	33.1	13.0	10.7
Getting a job	11.0	22.6	29.4	22.8	14.2

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

MA - North Sydney %	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned
Coping with stress	17.1	18.4	29.6	19.2	15.6
School or study problems	11.3	21.0	32.3	16.3	19.2
Body Image	9.4	15.2	27.3	22.6	25.5
Family conflict	9.4	11.5	15.4	17.8	45.8
Depression	8.1	11.2	13.3	16.9	50.5
Personal safety	5.8	9.2	15.2	20.4	49.5
Discrimination	4.7	5.7	12.3	16.7	60.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.0	6.3	15.3	19.0	55.4
Suicide	4.7	3.6	7.8	9.6	74.2
Drugs	4.1	3.1	9.3	8.5	74.9
Alcohol	2.1	2.8	13.7	13.2	68.1
Gambling	1.6	1.6	4.4	4.9	87.5

Table 12: Where young people go for help with important issues

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Friend/s	85.0	84.0
Parent/s	79.8	78.3
Relative/family friend	62.7	64.0
Brother/sister	52.8	53.9
Internet	45.7	47.0
Teacher	34.3	38.4
School counsellor	31.4	31.5
Community agency	12.3	9.0
Online counselling website	12.1	16.2
Telephone hotline	11.3	10.7
Magazines	5.1	5.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 13.1: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Arts/cultural/music activities	50.9	52.9
Environmental groups or activities	16.7	25.2
Religious groups or activities	31.7	32.6
Political groups or organisations	9.5	8.3
Sport (as a participant)	76.7	78.1
Sport (as a spectator)	63.7	68.1
Student leadership activities	46.5	44.2
Volunteer work	56.3	56.0
Youth groups and clubs	34.5	31.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 13.2: Activities young people were involved in over the past year, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Arts/cultural/music activities	57.5	45.3
Environmental groups or activities	21.4	13.1
Religious groups or activities	31.9	31.4
Political groups or organisations	8.9	9.0
Sport (as a participant)	75.9	77.8
Sport (as a spectator)	58.8	67.9
Student leadership activities	52.5	42.1
Volunteer work	67.3	47.9
Youth groups and clubs	31.6	35.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 14.1: Family's ability to get along

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Excellent	37.3	30.0
Very good	28.5	31.2
Good	19.5	21.4
Fair	7.4	11.4
Poor	7.4	6.1

Table 14.2: Family's ability to get along, by gender

	MA - North Female %	MA - North Male %
Excellent	34.1	40.3
Very good	29.3	28.1
Good	20.1	18.9
Fair	7.3	7.1
Poor	9.1	5.6

Table 15.1: Feelings about the future

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Very positive	19.5	17.9
Positive	47.5	47.2
Neither positive nor negative	25.9	25.9
Negative	5.3	6.5
Very negative	1.8	2.5

Table 15.2: Feelings about the future, by gender

	MA - North Female %	MA - North Male %
Very positive	20.0	18.7
Positive	45.5	49.3
Neither positive nor negative	26.1	25.8
Negative	6.7	4.3
Very negative	1.8	1.9

Table 16.1: How happy young people are

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
100	17.5	13.6
90	17.5	15.4
80	21.1	22.4
70	13.6	15.6
60	11.0	9.1
50	9.9	10.1
40	3.7	5.0
30	2.3	3.0
20	1.0	2.4
10	1.3	1.2
0	1.0	2.1

Table 16.2: How happy young people are, by gender

	MA - North Female %	MA - North Male %
100	15.6	18.5
90	16.2	18.5
80	22.2	20.9
70	12.6	14.7
60	14.4	8.5
50	7.2	11.8
40	5.4	2.4
30	3.6	0.9
20	1.2	0.9
10	1.8	0.9
0	0.0	1.9

Table 17.1: Most important issues in Australia today

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Equity and discrimination	29.0	27.9
International relations	26.7	18.9
Alcohol and drugs	24.3	28.2
Mental health	19.7	22.6
Population issues	17.7	16.1

Note: Participants provided three open-ended responses, which were coded and aggregated. This table shows only the top 5 issues for North Sydney. It may not include the top 5 issues in NSW or nationally.

Table 17.2: Most important issues in Australia today, females

	MA - North Sydney % females
Equity and discrimination	34.6
International relations	28.8
Alcohol and drugs	23.5
Crime, safety and violence	22.9
Mental health	21.6

Table 17.3: Most important issues in Australia today, males

	MA - North Sydney % males
International relations	25.4
Alcohol and drugs	24.9
Equity and discrimination	24.3
The economy and financial matters	19.0
Mental health	18.0

Table 18.1: Experienced unfair treatment or discrimination

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Yes	25.0	26.5
No	75.0	73.5

Table 18.2: Experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Yes	29.6	20.9
No	70.4	79.1

Table 19.1: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; experienced

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Gender	34.4	36.5
Race/cultural background	28.1	32.8
Religion	22.9	19.5
Physical health or ability	18.8	20.6
Sexuality	17.7	15.4
Age	16.7	19.5
Other	15.6	16.3
Mental health	13.5	17.5

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 19.2: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; experienced, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Gender	50.0	15.9
Race/cultural background	22.0	36.4
Religion	20.0	27.3
Sexuality	8.0	27.3
Physical health or ability	18.0	20.5
Age	20.0	13.6
Mental health	12.0	15.9
Other	8.0	20.5

Table 20.1: Witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Yes	51.5	51.4
No	48.5	48.6

Table 20.2: Witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Yes	56.9	47.1
No	43.1	52.9

Table 21.1: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; witnessed

	MA - North Sydney %	NSW %
Race/cultural background	50.5	59.5
Sexuality	38.7	38.3
Physical health or ability	34.5	36.0
Religion	33.0	35.3
Mental health	29.9	29.8
Gender	27.8	33.6
Age	16.0	18.6
Other	9.3	7.0

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option.

Table 21.2: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; witnessed, by gender

	MA - North Sydney Female %	MA - North Sydney Male %
Race/cultural background	55.8	46.4
Sexuality	43.2	35.1
Physical health or ability	40.0	28.9
Religion	33.7	33.0
Mental health	27.4	33.0
Gender	33.7	22.7
Age	17.9	14.4
Other	9.5	8.2