

Young Australians: What matters, what concerns them and what's the place of family in their lives?

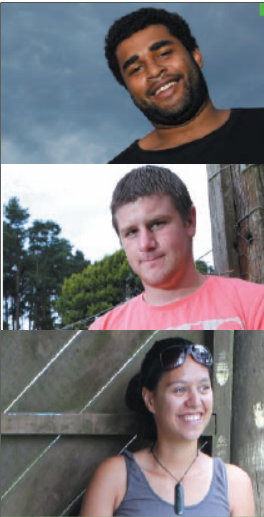


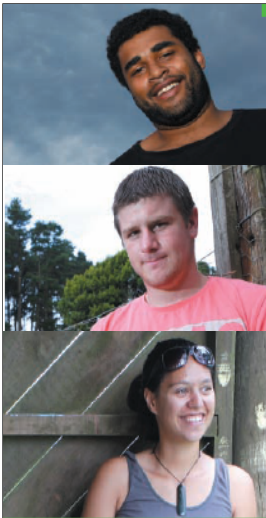
Kathryn Di Nicola
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Mission Australia

AIFS conference, 7th July 2010
Sustaining families in challenging times

Survey overview

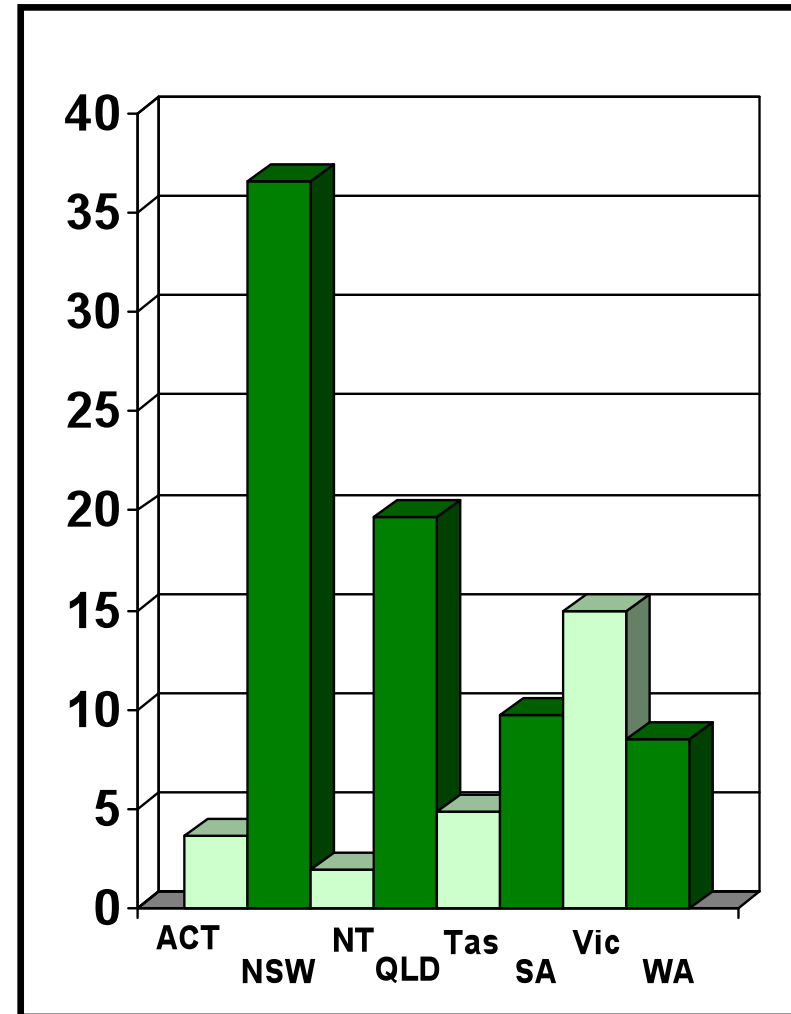
- Annual survey since 2002
- 48,000 respondents in 2009
- Main questions and 'family' items:
 - What do young people value?
 - *family relationships*
 - What are young people concerned about?
 - *family conflict*
 - Where do young people go for advice and support?
 - *parents*
 - *relative/family friend*
 - Who do young people admire?
 - *free response, coded family*



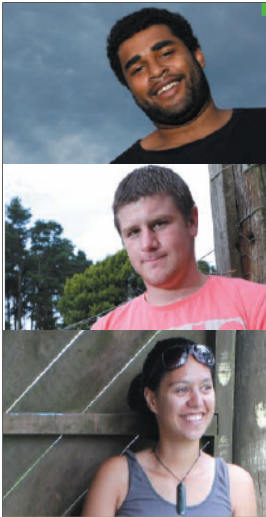


Participants by state

| | N | % |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| ACT | 1,631 | 3.6 |
| NSW | 16,414 | 36.6 |
| NT | 839 | 1.9 |
| QLD | 8,827 | 19.7 |
| SA | 4,347 | 9.7 |
| Tas | 2,208 | 4.9 |
| Vic | 6,748 | 15.0 |
| WA | 3,812 | 8.5 |
| Australia | 47,735 | 100.0 |

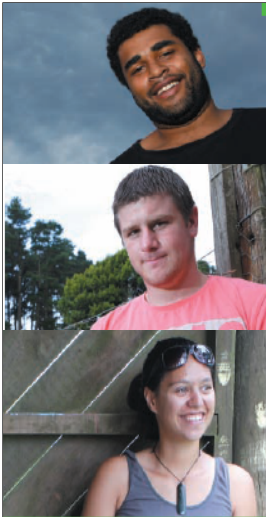


Participant demographics



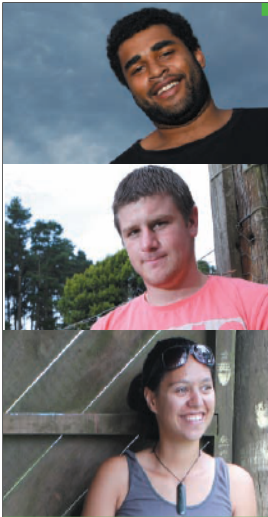
| National survey of young Australians 2009 | |
|---|-------------|
| Age | % |
| 11 to 14 years | 51.1 |
| 15 to 19 years | 46.8 |
| 20 to 24 years | 2.1 |
| Gender | % |
| Female | 52.4 |
| Male | 47.6 |
| Metro/non-metro | % |
| Live in a capital city | 56.4 |
| Live outside the capital cities | 43.6 |
| Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status | % |
| ATSI | 5.0 |
| Non-ATSI | 95.0 |
| Language spoken at home | % |
| Spoke a language other than English at home | 14.4 |
| Spoke only English at home | 85.6 |
| Disability | % |
| Had a disability | 2.3 |
| Did not have a disability | 97.7 |
| Housing | % |
| Homeless | 0.7 (N=328) |
| Out-of-home care | 0.5 (N=225) |
| Juvenile justice | 1.0 (N=460) |
| Other housing (with family, boarding school, alone, share house, with partner, other) | 97.8 |

What young people value



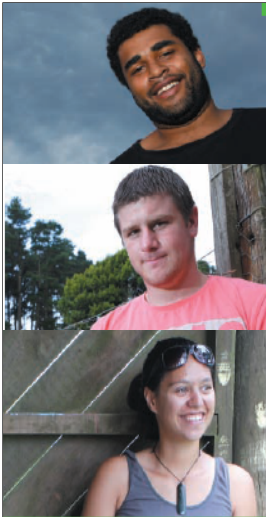
| | 2009% | 2008% | 2007% | 2006% |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Family relationships | 75.6 | 75.3 | 76.2 | 72.3 |
| Friendships (other than family) | 60.6 | 62.3 | 60.3 | 66.8 |
| Being independent | 32.7 | 31.7 | 32.9 | 35.2 |
| Physical and mental health | 31.1 | 31.8 | 33.1 | N/A |
| Feeling needed and valued | 26.1 | 26.2 | 25.6 | 29.3 |
| School or study satisfaction | 22.0 | 21.0 | 19.5 | 24.9 |
| Getting a job | 18.1 | 16.9 | 15.9 | 20.3 |
| Financial security | 13.8 | 13.4 | 12.6 | 16.2 |
| Spirituality/faith | 12.8 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 13.9 |
| Making a difference in the community | 8.2 | 7.8 | N/A | N/A |
| Peer acceptance | N/A | N/A | 9.8 | 12.2 |
| Environmental issues | N/A | N/A | N/A | 8.9 |

Breakdown of responses



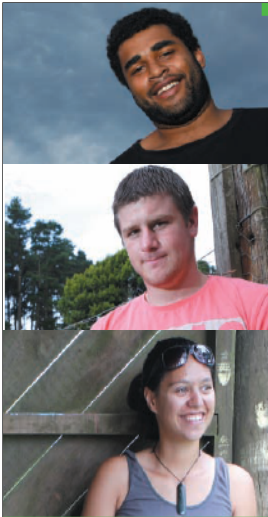
| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Overall | <p><i>Family relationships and friendships were the top two items for all three age groups and both genders.</i></p> <p><i>Being independent and physical and mental health were each highly valued by about a third of all groups when broken down by age and gender.</i></p> |
| Age | <p><i>Financial security (27% 20-24 yrs; 12% 11-14 yrs)</i></p> <p><i>School or study satisfaction (23% 11-14 yrs; 12.5% 20-24 yrs)</i></p> <p><i>Feeling needed & valued (33% 20-24 yrs; 26% 11-19 yrs)</i></p> |
| Gender | <p><i>Getting a job (13% females; 24% males)</i></p> <p><i>Family relationships (80% females; 70% males)</i></p> <p><i>Friendships (66% females; 55% males)</i></p> |
| Cultural background | <p><i>Getting a job (26% Indigenous; 18% non-Indigenous)</i></p> <p><i>Being independent (40% Indigenous; 32% non-Indigenous)</i></p> <p><i>Friendships (51% Indigenous; 61% non-Indigenous)</i></p> |
| Living arrangements | <p><i>Family relationships (67% OOHC and homeless; 76% other)</i></p> <p><i>Friendships (43% homeless; 50% OOHC; 61% other)</i></p> <p><i>Being independent (56% homeless; 45% OOHC; 32% other)</i></p> |

Issues of concern



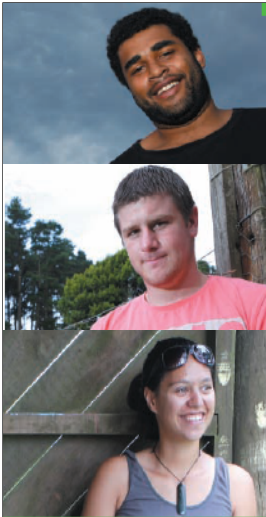
| | 2009 % | 2008 % | 2007 % | 2006 % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Drugs | 26.8 | 26.0 | 20.1 | N/A |
| Suicide | 26.3 | 24.6 | 23.9 | 28.0 |
| Body image | 25.5 | 26.3 | 32.3 | 28.1 |
| Family conflict | 24.1 | 25.9 | 29.3 | 28.6 |
| Bullying/emotional abuse | 23.4 | 22.6 | 22.7 | 27.5 |
| Alcohol | 23.0 | 20.9 | 20.5 | N/A |
| Physical/sexual abuse | 22.7 | 22.6 | 21.2 | 27.9 |
| Personal safety | 22.2 | 22.9 | N/A | N/A |
| Coping with stress | 18.7 | 20.4 | 26.9 | 27.6 |
| Depression | 18.7 | 17.8 | 19.6 | 25.8 |
| School or study problems | 17.3 | 18.6 | 25.4 | 26.4 |
| The environment | 16.7 | 18.4 | 23.4 | N/A |
| Self harm | 13.3 | 13.7 | 14.7 | 21.5 |
| Discrimination | 11.7 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 18.4 |
| Sexuality (r/ships, health, identity) | 11.4 | 12.2 | 9.6 | 13.3 |
| Alcohol and other drug issues | N/A | N/A | N/A | 28.2 |

Issues of concern: age



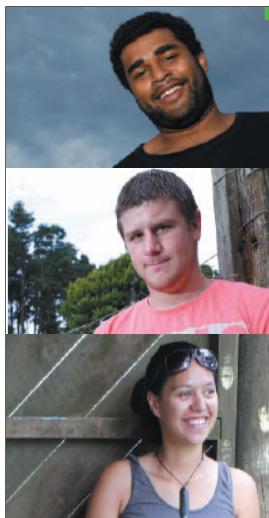
| | 11-14 yrs % | 15-19 yrs % | 20-24 yrs % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Drugs | 31.0 | 22.6 | 17.5 |
| Suicide | 26.3 | 26.6 | 21.8 |
| Body image | 23.7 | 27.4 | 28.7 |
| Family conflict | 24.7 | 23.5 | 21.2 |
| Bullying/emotional abuse | 25.4 | 21.2 | 19.4 |
| Alcohol | 24.4 | 21.6 | 18.5 |
| Physical/sexual abuse | 22.7 | 22.8 | 24.4 |
| Personal safety | 23.4 | 21.0 | 21.9 |
| Coping with stress | 15.9 | 21.2 | 30.2 |
| Depression | 15.5 | 21.8 | 30.5 |
| School or study problems | 16.7 | 18.2 | 12.4 |
| The environment | 18.7 | 14.4 | 18.9 |
| Self harm | 12.5 | 14.4 | 9.9 |
| Discrimination | 10.3 | 13.1 | 13.0 |
| Sexuality (r/ships, health, identity) | 10.9 | 11.9 | 14.4 |

Issues of concern: gender



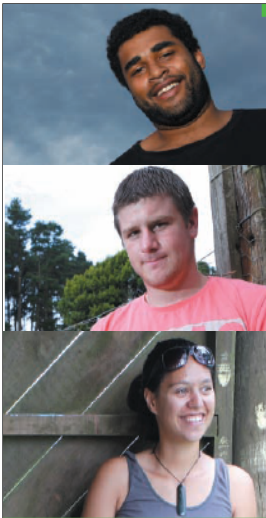
| | Female % | Male % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Drugs | 24.4 | 29.5 |
| Suicide | 27.1 | 25.3 |
| Body image | 27.4 | 23.4 |
| Family conflict | 24.4 | 23.7 |
| Bullying/emotional abuse | 22.7 | 24.1 |
| Alcohol | 19.0 | 27.6 |
| Physical/sexual abuse | 27.5 | 17.0 |
| Personal safety | 22.8 | 21.6 |
| Coping with stress | 19.5 | 17.7 |
| Depression | 20.1 | 17.2 |
| School or study problems | 17.0 | 17.7 |
| The environment | 15.4 | 18.2 |
| Self harm | 14.0 | 12.4 |
| Discrimination | 10.9 | 12.5 |
| Sexuality (r/ships, health, identity) | 9.7 | 13.6 |

Issues of concern: cultural background

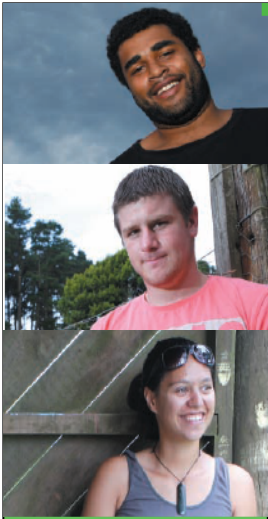


| | ATSI 2009 % | Non ATSI 2009 % | ATSI 2008 % | ATSI 2007 % |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alcohol | 32.4 | 22.5 | 31.2 | 31.8 |
| Body image | 29.7 | 25.3 | 31.9 | 34.9 |
| Drugs | 27.5 | 26.7 | 24.4 | 21.4 |
| Bullying/emotional abuse | 25.5 | 23.2 | 26.3 | 22.9 |
| Suicide | 24.7 | 26.3 | 23.2 | 21.4 |
| Family conflict | 22.9 | 24.1 | 23.4 | 29.3 |
| Physical/sexual abuse | 20.0 | 22.9 | 21.0 | 15.8 |
| Personal safety | 18.5 | 22.4 | 18.5 | N/A |
| School or study problems | 16.6 | 17.4 | 16.0 | 22.3 |
| Coping with stress | 15.8 | 18.9 | 17.4 | 19.7 |
| Depression | 15.8 | 18.9 | 14.8 | 15.6 |
| The environment | 14.9 | 16.7 | 18.3 | 25.1 |
| Discrimination | 13.9 | 11.5 | 13.1 | 16.5 |
| Sexuality (r/ships, health, identity) | 12.6 | 11.4 | 15.0 | 14.0 |
| Self harm | 12.3 | 13.3 | 14.6 | 13.2 |

Issues of concern: living arrangements



| | Homeless % | OOHC % | JJ % | Other % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Body image | 37.5 | 33.2 | 38.9 | 25.0 |
| Alcohol | 37.3 | 31.4 | 37.9 | 22.4 |
| Bullying/emotional abuse | 32.0 | 31.1 | 26.1 | 23.0 |
| Suicide | 26.0 | 14.1 | 24.5 | 26.3 |
| The environment | 20.1 | 14.8 | 18.1 | 16.6 |
| Physical/sexual abuse | 19.0 | 19.6 | 15.9 | 22.9 |
| Family conflict | 18.4 | 22.9 | 14.7 | 24.4 |
| Drugs | 17.4 | 25.2 | 22.8 | 26.9 |
| Coping with stress | 15.8 | 13.4 | 19.4 | 18.8 |
| Depression | 15.7 | 19.6 | 18.7 | 18.8 |
| Sexuality (r/ships, health, identity) | 15.6 | 14.4 | 17.1 | 11.3 |
| Self harm | 12.7 | 13.5 | 12.5 | 13.4 |
| Discrimination | 12.3 | 12.1 | 14.2 | 11.6 |
| Personal safety | 10.4 | 18.4 | 12.4 | 22.6 |
| School or study problems | 9.6 | 18.7 | 10.8 | 17.6 |



Qualitative responses to issues of concern

Family

I feel that family conflict is a terrible issue that has occurred in my family, and it's almost irreparable. Everyone in the family (and some outside the family) is affected and it sticks in your mind for a long time. (Female, 12 yrs)

I'm mostly concerned about 'family conflict' because I depend on my family (and friends) for support. (Female, 12 yrs)

I don't want my family to break up or die cause i love them too much (Female, 13 yrs)

I've been through two break ups and am concerned about my family (Male, 12 yrs)

Family conflict: Because my mum and dad split up and then my dad committed suicide. I don't want to go through that again. (Male, 13 yrs)

There needs to be more of a support network from governments & other organisations when the family breaks down. (Male, 24 yrs)

Relationships are very important to me and I think having positive relationships in your life helps with a lot of other things like having the confidence to keep a steady job and live the life you want (for me it's a very independent one). Family relationships are important to me because there are so many families torn apart by divorce. (Female, 24 yrs)

Qualitative responses

Drugs

I am very concerned about drugs and use of them I have been hearing terrible stories about them. (Male, 11 yrs)

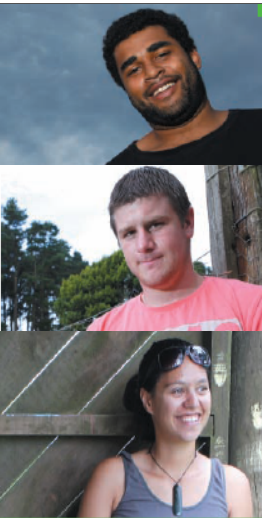
I think peer pressure is something that I'm quite worried about ... because it makes lots of those things like drugs or alcohol worse. You might say that you won't be silly with things like that but you don't know what will happen in different settings when you are under peer pressure. (Female, 12yrs)

I believe that drugs are a very concerning issue because once you are on drugs it is very hard to get off them so we should fight together to stop drug use! (Female, 12 yrs)

I don't want to be pressured into drugs. (Female, 14 yrs)

I hope no one offers me drugs. (Male, 13 yrs)

Taking drugs is a major concern for me. Many peers and people I have met could develop problems, and there is a major concern that it could spread to other people including myself with peer pressure. (Male, 16 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Alcohol

I think drug and alcohol issues are very prevalent in our society and more emphasis needs to be put into education surrounding these topics.. (Female, 20 yrs)

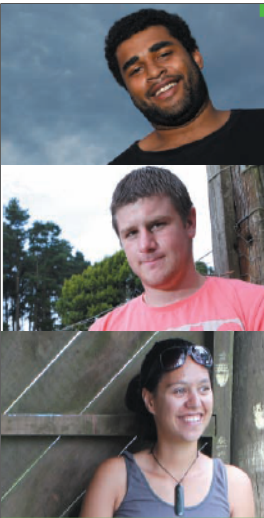
Too many people my age are destroying their futures with drugs and alcohol, and more needs to be done to help these people in rural areas (Male, 16 yrs)

Alcohol particularly is pretty bad, especially when you have 14-year-olds bingeing on the hard stuff...(Male, 19 yrs)

Body image

I wish the media would back off and leave young people alone. It's a lot harder to like your self and your body image with the media always telling you what to do! (Female, 15 yrs)

I listed my concerns, not because they're a problem in my life, but because I think there needs to be more discussion about the issues. Body image is always going to be a problem because the media puts too much pressure on what young girls should look like. (Female, 15 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Suicide and self harm

I am concerned about suicide of family or friends the most because i think that i wouldn't be able to cope without any of them. (Female, 12 yrs)

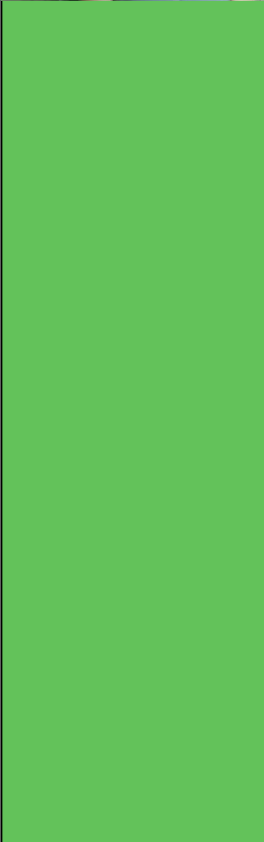
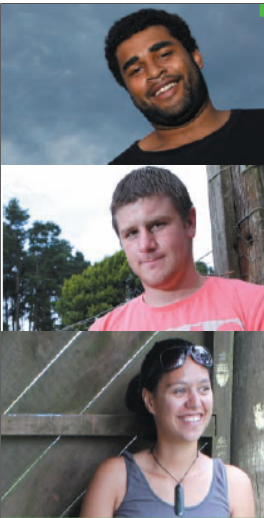
Suicide is going around a lot in our days so i think some thing should be done. i don't know what but something. (Male, 11 yrs)

I think suicide is terrible because people are choosing to die where they could be alive. (Female, 12 yrs)

I think that self harm is the biggest concern amongst my peers as i am aware of some of them who do self harm themselves. (Female, 14yrs)

I believe that suicide is the most concerning issue because it is putting someone's life in danger. (Male, 14 yrs)

I think that suicide is a major concern because many people out in the world take their own lives due to a number of things such as depression. But there is help available such as talking to a counsellor, family, friends, teacher etc. (Female, 17 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Depression

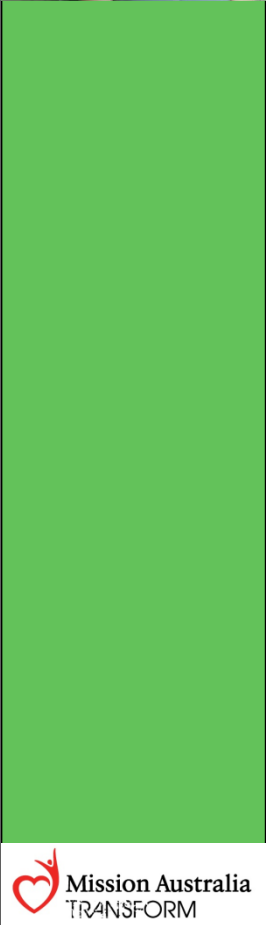
Depression sucks and a lot of teens turn to the internet because they don't know who to turn to. Unlike the other issues, depression/suicide/self harm aren't widely discussed making it even harder for someone to recognise and do something about it if they or a mate are being affected by any of the three fore mentioned. (Female, 14 yrs)

Too many young people within my life are dealing with suicide and depression and a lot of them feel like there aren't many adequate services to accommodate for them. Or are too afraid to access help. (Female, 17 yrs)

Depression is something that still widely goes unnoticed. Particularly schools and work places need more information about the impact depression can have on a young persons life; and how hard it can be to function normally when the black dog has its teeth around your neck. (Female, 17 yrs)

Diagnosing major depression was easy, but doing something about it is hard. As a young woman I get a lot of pressure to 'do it all' when I really can't cope. I cannot talk with my family about my problems, since they hold very different views to myself, including religious anti-sexual beliefs. (Female, 20 yrs)

People are afraid to seek help concerning depression. (Male, 20 yrs)



Qualitative responses

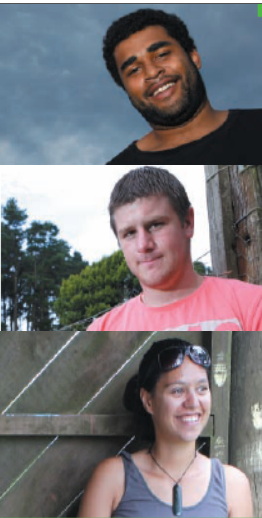
Stress

Coping with stress, is my biggest concern because not only do my friends notice when I am stressed so do my family. I seem to take it out on my family more than my friends. I am lot more angry and moodier at home than at school. I guess that says i can't cope with stress. A lot of my stress comes from school. (Female, 14 yrs)

I am mostly concerned bout school or study problems i am in year 11 and i feel myself getting more stressed and worried about what happens if i fail an exam or don't do well in my HSC. Life seems to be getting harder and harder. (Female, 16 yrs)

I know a lot of teenagers are struggling to cope with pressure and stress put on them by family, friends and school/uni. i know how these stresses can cause other problems such as depression and in worse cases suicide. (Female, 18 yrs)

If we can help reduce stresses in our lives then alcohol drugs and body image issues should be less so if we work on all the emotional stuff with people hopefully that will lead to young people to make better choices at times. (Male, 24 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Abuse

Sexual abuse is disgusting. I can't really understand how someone would want to do that. (Male, 13 yrs)

Physical and sexual abuse is extremely bad and needs to stop. (Male, 13 yrs)

The most concerning issues to me are abuse: both physical/sexual and emotional. I am concerned as I believe these are not just issues in themselves but can be the catalyst for many of the other issues described above. They are also worrying as many young people are too afraid to report abuse or to seek counselling to help them deal with their experiences. Many young people also do not know how to help friends who have suffered abuse so they ignore the issue. (Female, 20 yrs)

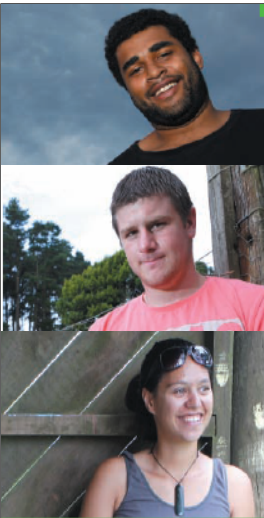
Bullying

I think bullying is a major issue because the way kids can treat people is cruel and this inappropriate behaviour can cause in suicide/death. (Male, 12 yrs)

Bullying needs to stop it is a big issue that causes a lot of the other issues. (Female, 13 yrs)

I think that all bullying and harassment should be stopped because it can lead to people committing suicide and inflicting self harm (Female, 13 yrs)

Bullying leads to self esteem issues, when you have no self esteem you do things and let things get done to you that can either be dangerous or just demeaning. You can only live a good, successful happy life if you feel you deserve it... (Female, 17 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Safety

I'm concerned about personal safety the most due to all the random people walking around the streets, when I am walking alone or with just one of my friends and there is a total stranger that seems suspicious I get out my mobile phone for security reasons as I feel that that person could do anything to my friend and I. (Female, 12 yrs)

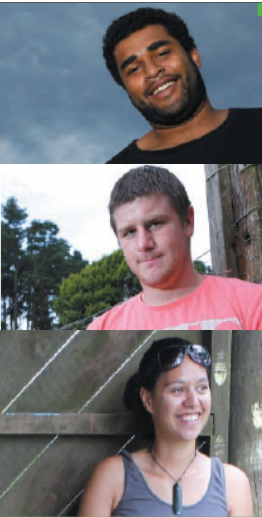
Every body should feel very safe in life. (Male, 11 yrs)

I am concerned about personal safety because it is easy to be hurt. (Male, 14 yrs)

I think that it is important to feel safe and to think that you are needed in this world and that there's always something good. It is also vital that you feel safe and comfortable in the environment around you. (Female, 12 yrs)

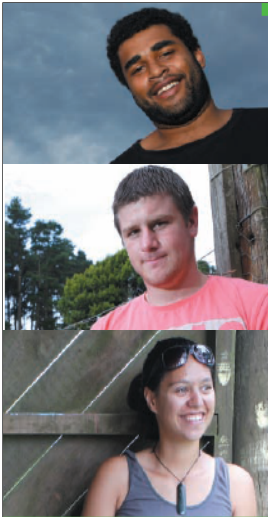
I am very worried about my personal safety such as sexual and physical abuse (Female, 12 yrs)

I think feeling/being safe is very important. No one should have to live with abuse of any form (Female, 20 yrs)



Qualitative responses

Employment/financial security/economy



I worried about my dad because he hasn't had a job since last Christmas. (Male, 13yrs)

One concern that I do have which is the pressure to get a part-time job when I have many other things in my life which I value highly and take up time (school, music, health, busking etc). Because of these things I do not really want a part-time job but I feel pressured to get one. (Male, 17yrs)

I found myself feeling worried about the future, especially having failed to secure a graduate job for next year. (Female, 21yrs)

There is so much pressure and need to become an adult, independent and self-reliant yet in school there is little education on how to achieve this. I.e. understanding budgeting, saving, credit card use rental issues etc combine this with alcohol, drug use and partying we can become vulnerable and learn habits that will not help us succeed in life. (Female, 24yrs)

Future security. I have the degree but am unable to find a job which is a) worthwhile or b) pays well. Most young people are deeply concerned with their future. Surely you know this? It's all any of my friends talk about. (Male, 23 yrs)

My major concern i show am i going to afford to live. There is no way I will ever be able to afford a house. Everything is owned by the older generations (Male, 24 yrs)

Qualitative responses

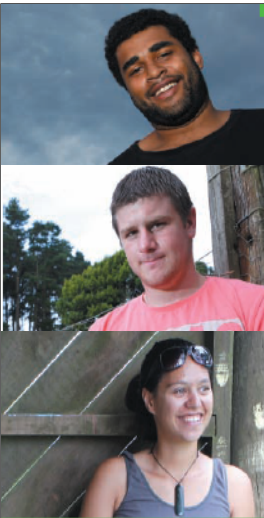
General comments

I don't want to get affected by my top concerns. I don't want my family to be separate from each other because of some stupid feud. I don't want drugs become part of my life. I don't want to underage drink. I don't want to think about the poor kids getting abused. I don't want to be under stress at such a young age. (Female, 12 yrs)

LIFE IS GOOD! DON'T WASTE IT!!! (Male, 13 yrs)

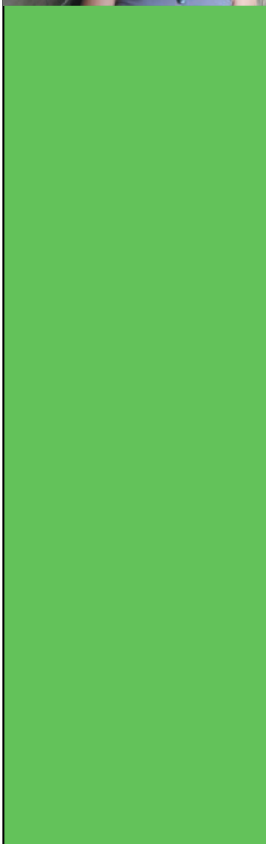
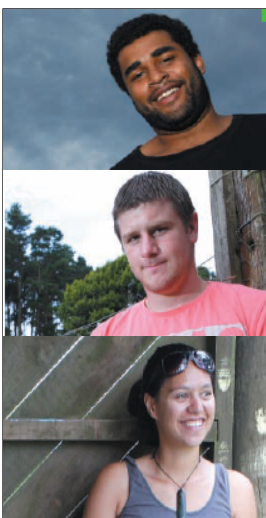
Young people are too embarrassed to speak up when they are suffering from these problems and feel pressured not to voice their concern about other young adults who they know are suffering. (Female, 24yrs)

I work in the health sector with young people and am increasingly concerned about education and health choices for young people. These are the adults of the future who we will rely on to make a difference to our community and work to preserve the fantastic environment and lifestyle that we have in Australia. They face a whole range of challenges, growing up differently to even I did ten years ago. I want to see young people raised to be proud of where they live and helping other people out in their community when they need it. (Female, 23)

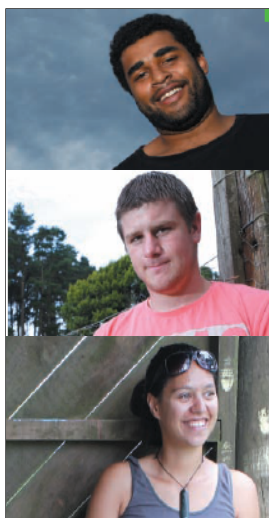


Sources of advice and support

| | 2009 % | 2008 % | 2007 % | 2006 % |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Friends | 84.5 | 85.1 | 86.0 | 86.4 |
| Parents | 73.4 | 74.1 | 73.6 | 74.2 |
| Relative/family friend | 60.8 | 61.0 | 63.3 | 64.0 |
| Internet | 22.5 | 20.3 | 19.1 | 16.8 |
| Community agencies | 12.5 | 11.1 | 11.6 | 9.3 |
| Magazines | 11.0 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 13.5 |
| Teacher | 11.0 | 11.4 | 10.5 | 9.3 |
| School counsellor | 10.8 | 11.5 | 10.8 | 11.6 |
| Someone else in the community | 8.9 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Telephone helpline | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 6.2 |

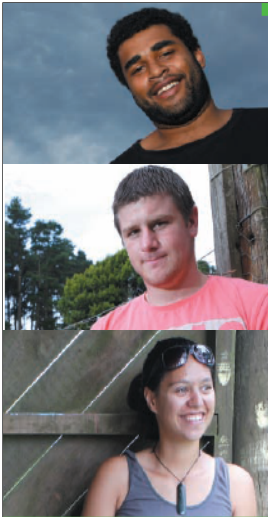


Breakdown of responses



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Overall | All 3 age groups, both genders and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents identified <i>friends, parents</i> and <i>relative/family friend</i> as top sources of advice and support. Different results when broken down by living arrangements. |
| Age | <p><i>Friends</i> (80%+ for all 3 groups)</p> <p><i>Parents</i> (78% 11-14 yrs; 69% 15-19 yrs; 67% 20-24 yrs)</p> <p><i>Relative/family friend</i> (63% 11-14 yrs; 55% 20-24 yrs)</p> <p><i>Internet</i> (18% 11-14 yrs; 33% 20-24 yrs)</p> <p><i>Someone else in community</i> (8% 11-14 yrs; 17% 20-24 yrs)</p> |
| Gender | <p><i>Friends</i> (89% females; 80% males)</p> <p><i>Parents</i> (75% females; 71% males)</p> <p><i>Relative/family friend</i> (65% females; 56% males)</p> <p><i>Internet</i> (18% females; 28% for males)</p> <p><i>Community agencies</i> (9% females; 17% males)</p> |
| Cultural background | <p><i>Friends</i> (79.2% Indigenous; 84.9% non Indigenous)</p> <p><i>Parents</i> (63% Indigenous; 74% non Indigenous)</p> <p><i>Relative/family friend</i> (55% Indigenous; 61% non Indigenous)</p> <p><i>Community agencies</i> (22% Indigenous; 12% non Indigenous)</p> |
| Living arrangements | <p>Top three for homeless and juvenile justice groups: <i>Friends, community agencies, internet</i></p> <p>Top three for OOHC and other housing groups (lower for OOHC): <i>Friends, parents, relative/family friend</i></p> |

Access to enough information

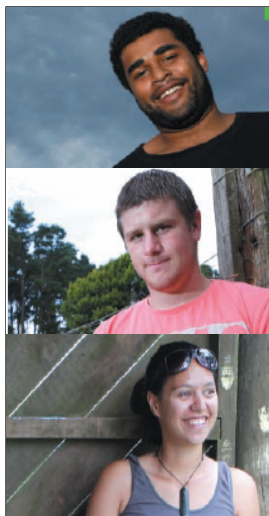


| | 2009 | | | | | | 2008 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|------------|------------|
| | 11-14 yrs % | 15-19 yrs % | 20-24 yrs % | Female % | Male % | All ages % | All ages % |
| Enough information | 87.1 | 86.3 | 78.7 | 86.3 | 86.8 | 86.5 | 83.7 |
| Not enough information | 12.9 | 13.7 | 21.3 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 13.5 | 16.3 |

Respondents wanted more information on a range of issues, including:

Alcohol and drugs; depression; sexuality and sex education; suicide and self harm; stress and anxiety; environmental issues; school and study; family conflict; bullying; global issues including terrorism, war and politics.

Who young people admire



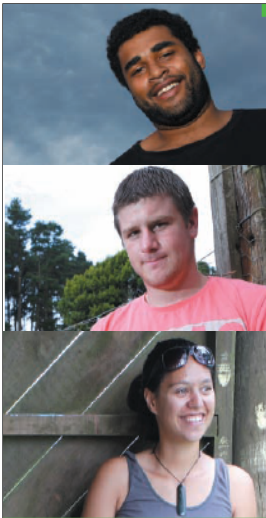
| | Total number | 2009 % |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Family | 30,224 | 29.2 |
| Friends | 16,692 | 16.1 |
| Sports teams, players and coaches | 8,757 | 8.5 |
| Entertainers | 7,171 | 6.9 |
| International aid organisations | 6,168 | 6.0 |
| Community agencies helping disadv. people | 4,697 | 4.5 |
| Orgs/research supporting seriously ill people | 4,026 | 3.9 |
| Animal protection groups | 3,530 | 3.4 |
| Schools and their staff | 2,503 | 2.4 |
| Businesses and business people | 1,946 | 1.9 |
| Political organisations and figures | 1,896 | 1.8 |
| Environmental groups | 1,850 | 1.8 |
| Religious figures | 1,700 | 1.6 |
| Protection agencies | 1,564 | 1.5 |
| Youth organisations and leaders | 1,468 | 1.4 |
| Medical professionals and hospitals | 1,233 | 1.2 |

Some priority areas

1. Family: primacy of family relationships; deep impact of conflict and breakdown. Need to skill up parents, other family members and friends to openly communicate with young people, including through times of family stress and change. Early intervention needed to avoid conflict escalating.

2. Drugs: especially for 11 to 14 yr olds. Need to review current drug education-support strategies to ensure they are evidence-based and equip young people with skills to effectively deal with issue, if/when they come across drugs. Need to be able to apply knowledge learnt through programs in specific social contexts in which they mix. Information alone is not enough.

3. Mental health: especially for young adults. Range of issues and potential 'triggers'. Early intervention including supporting those who young people are most likely to turn to (friends, parents, relative/family friend) is critical. Development of young people's mental health literacy and ongoing development of integrated and youth-friendly mental health services are required.



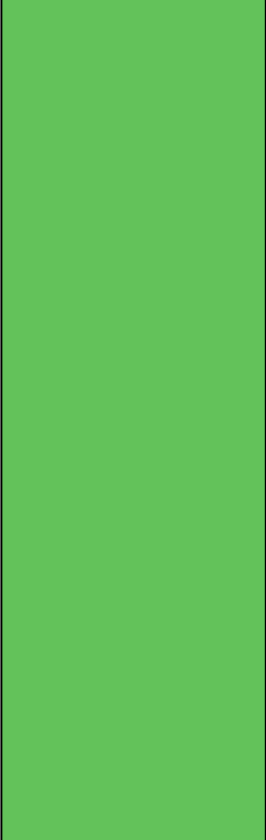
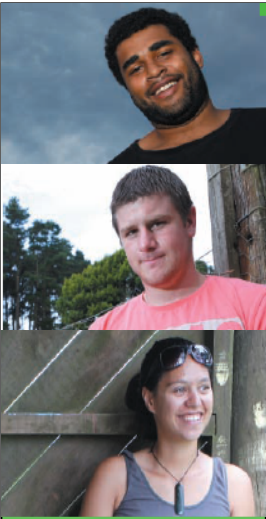
Some priority areas

4. Financial issues: some flags for young people and family re potential impact of GFC including on things such as financial struggles of some young people as they move into adulthood and concerns re career, study, finding a home, 'surviving'.

5. Personal safety: all ages and both genders. National priority for all environments in which they live. Need to balance good personal safety habits with goal of young people's active participation in the community.

6. Integrated responses: young people clearly identify links between various issues that affect them. This can act as a guiding principle to inform government, community and other initiatives aimed at enhancing their wellbeing.

7. Natural supports: skilling up and equipping young people's 'natural supports' (parents, friends, other relatives/friends) to best support young people if and when issues (including complex and deeply personal ones) arise.



Conclusion

- **Family:** with some variation across groups of young people, by and large they value family relationships, go to their parents and other relatives for advice and support, admire family members, and are concerned when family relationships break down.
- Young people are grappling with a complex range of issues, which vary by age, gender and other factors, and no 'one size fits all' response will suit.
- We owe it to the wellbeing of young people across Australia, including the 47,700 who participated in the survey, to take action.

Thank you

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