

# Youth Survey 2021

## Results

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# Youth Survey 2021

## Results

### DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Out of the 590 total survey respondents, 70% were between 12-17 years old and 30% between 18-25 years.
- 59.3% of respondents were female, 31.5% males and 2.4% identified as transgender.
- While 57.3% identified as heterosexual, 11.4% identified as bisexual and 5.1% pansexual.
- A total of 4.2% (23) identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- For the 28.3% of people who were born overseas, the top 3 countries of birth were India, New Zealand and the Philippines.
- 34% of respondents spoke a language other than English at home. The top 3 languages were Hindi, Arabic and Tagalog.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND FEELING VALUED:

- The average mental health in the last 12 months was 3.0 out of 5.0.
- The 18-25 age group were slightly more likely to report a lower mental health status, with 15% selecting the lowest rating, compared to 12% of those aged between 12-17 years.
- The main factors respondents felt would improve mental health orbited around resolving impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. These included wanting more social interaction and being able to resume interest activities. Other main factors included self-care and receiving support from others (general support from peers, family or professional support).
- When young people need support or help with a problem, most often they go to friends (74.7%) or parents (65.8%).
- The overwhelming consensus about what would make respondents feel their opinion is valued was to be actively listened to, with their point of view acknowledged without judgement.

### BULLYING:

- A quarter of all respondents have experienced bullying in the previous year. In the 12-17 age group, 28% had experienced bullying compared to 16% in the 18-25 age group.
- School was the most likely place for bullying to occur (71.5% of occurrences), followed by online bullying which accounted for 39.6% of occurrences.
- When asked what helped with the bullying 20.4% of all respondents felt talking to friends helped the most, followed by 19.1% who indicated distracting themselves with other activities helped.

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

- While there was widespread use across all social media platforms, Instagram (85%), TikTok (66%) and Snapchat (64%) were the most popular. More young people were Discord users in 2021 compared to 2020 (51% and 3%).

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### MAIN ISSUES

The top issues that young people see in Wyndham today are:

1. Youth Health (mental health, drugs & alcohol) – 32.4%
2. Crime, safety, violence – 24.9%
3. COVID19 – 9.9%
4. Traffic congestion and unsafe driving – 8.8
5. Environment, conservation and public areas – 8.6
6. Services and infrastructure (PT and for population growth) – 7.3%
7. Inequality, bullying and discrimination – 6.7%
8. Youth unemployment – 1.4%

### THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Young people mostly felt safe in their neighbourhood (67%), while 11.8% did not feel safe 20.2% were unsure. These results were consistent for both age groups, 12-17 and 18-25 years.
- When asked what makes them feel unsafe in their neighbourhood, *Crime* was the most significant factor, followed by *Gangs* and *The people in my neighbourhood*.
- The overwhelming response to what could make respondents feel safer was *Improved lighting* across a range of community locations, and greater *surveillance* (cameras and increased police presence).
- Less mentioned but no less significant themes to feel safer were prevention strategies, such as *Neighbourhood Watch* or similar programs; *activities for older teenagers and self-defence education for young people*.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERNS:

- In the top 3 topics that young people were most concerned about, *stress* was the topic of most concern, 55% of respondents felt concerned or very concerned. The second top issue of concern was *Mental Health*, (44%) followed by *School disengagement* (11.8%).
- The strongest theme about how the biggest concerns can be helped, resulted in an overarching theme of additional *Support* - more mental health support; from schools in relation to bullying and school work; and support to gain employment
- An open comment question revealed the top concern for young people was the widespread impacts and consequences of *COVID-19* - respondents expressed concerns for the future, isolation and mental health.
- The second top concern was *School and workload stress* and the third was *Mental Health*. Significant but less mentioned themes mentioned were concerns about *Family health, relationships and violence*.

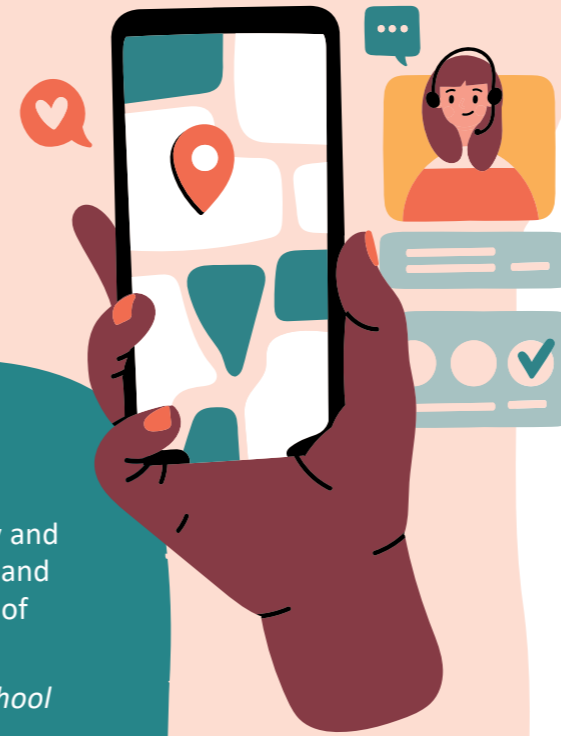


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### WORK AND STUDY:

- The vast majority of respondents were studying full time (72%) and part time (10%).
- 17.4% of respondents were not studying.
- 31% of young people were in paid work. Expectedly a higher percentage of the 18-25 age group were engaged in full time work (59.3% compared to 18.5% in the 12-17 age group).
- 8% of young people in the survey were fully disengaged i.e. neither studying nor working. This is lower than the most recent Census (11.2%) but higher than the 3.3% recorded in the 2020 Youth Survey.
- The majority of respondents (64.4%) experienced at least one barrier impacting their ability to work or study, and just over a third did not (32.8%). The main impacts on study and work were issues relating to mental health and wellbeing (36%) transport (18.8%) and lack of jobs (16.2%).
- The Top issue at their place of study the *School or study environment*, including wanting to return to onsite learning, and more student support. This was closely followed by the issue of *Discrimination and Inequality*, with bullying prevention was the most prominent issue, followed by issues of sexuality and gender discrimination.
- When asked what one thing they would change about their place of study, the strongest response was about having *positive social environments*, with inclusivity and acceptance, strong leadership and space for talking about mental health.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### FOODBANK

Wyndham City Youth Services food bank service is available for people of all ages who are struggling and need assistance.  
86 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing during 9am-5pm

#### YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICE

Children and Youth counselling service offered by Wyndham City Council Youth Services is a free and voluntary service for people over 8 years old who live, work or recreate in Wyndham.

Counselling can provide children and young people with an opportunity to discuss and receive support on issues that may be affecting them.

If you are feeling like you are unable to keep yourself safe, please contact any of the following services immediately:

#### KIDS HELPLINE

(for 5-25 year olds) **1800 55 1800**

#### LIFELINE

(all ages) **13 11 14**

If you are worried about unhealthy, abusive or violent behaviour in any of your relationships, you can contact **1800RESPECT** on **1800 737 732** or through online chat [www.1800respect.org.au/](http://www.1800respect.org.au/)

If in immediate danger, please contact **000** for urgent support.

### TO KEEP INFORMED ON ALL OF THE THINGS HAPPENING IN YOUTH SERVICES, WHY NOT JOIN THE YOUTH SERVICES MAILING LIST?

We can send you our program and service information via the post or email. Subscribe [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/youth-register-form](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/youth-register-form)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram [www.instagram.com/youthinwyndham/](http://www.instagram.com/youthinwyndham/)

#### MORE INFORMATION

To read the full report at [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services/networks-committees/wyndham-youth-survey-findings-report](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services/networks-committees/wyndham-youth-survey-findings-report)

For more information on our annual youth survey and findings report, contact [YouthProjects@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:YouthProjects@wyndham.vic.gov.au)

Email [youthinwyndham@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthinwyndham@wyndham.vic.gov.au)

Telephone 8734 1355

### YOUTH SERVICES:

- Most young people know where their nearest community or youth space is (71.9%) though almost one in four do not (28.1%).
- Counselling services are the most widely known service, with more than half of all respondents aware of this (55)