



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

**Data breakdown for
The Example School**

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Demographic profile of respondents

In total, 229 students from The Example School aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2016. Overall, 153 (68%) respondents were female and 72 (32%) were male. A total of 7 (3.1%) students from The Example School identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Overall, 42 (18.5%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 41 (18.2%) students 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, 97.7% of students from The Example School 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 (5.8% compared with 0.7%). Students 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 students surveyed, 16.2% 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 The Example School (74.3%), although a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they planned to do so (78.8% compared with 65.2%). Many students also planned to travel or go on a gap year (32.6%) or to get a job (28%) after school, while 6% planned to attend TAFE or college and 4.6% 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, 24.7% of students from The Example School indicated that they had experienced unfair treatment or discrimination and 47.3% 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 (25.5% compared with 21.4%). A greater proportion of females than males also indicated that they had witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination over the last year (48.4% compared with 43.5%). 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 students from The Example School for their reported experience of unfair treatment and discrimination were Gender (48.2%), Race/cultural background (23.2%) and Age (23.2%). 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 (26.7% compared with 23.1%). The top three reasons cited for the unfair treatment and discrimination witnessed by students from The Example School were Race/cultural background (61.7%), Sexuality (43.9%) and Gender (43%).

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 (78.1%), the Internet (72.2%) and Other family members (69.1%) were the three most commonly cited influences on young people's post-school plans. Overall, 60.3% of respondents indicated that a Career fair or expo helped them make a decision about their post-school plans while 58.2% indicated that Friends 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. Students from The Example School 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 The Example School, the top three issues of concern were Coping with stress, School or study problems and Body Image. Following this, it was found that students from The Example School were either extremely concerned or very concerned about Depression and Personal safety.

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 students from The Example School were Friend/s, Parent/s and Relative/family friend (85.6%, 73.2% and 56.7% respectively). A majority of respondents indicated that they would go to their Brother/sister (55.9%) and the Internet (44.1%) for help with important issues, followed by their Teacher or School counsellor (37.8% and 22.9% 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 students at The Example School were positive about their family relationships, with 25.8% rating their family's ability to get along as excellent, and 32.9% as very good. However, some students did not have such a positive experience of family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either fair (9.3%) or poor (5.8%).

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 students at The Example School were Alcohol and drugs (34.2%), Equity and discrimination (28.1%) and Crime, safety and violence (22.1%). For females, the top national issue was Equity and discrimination (35.1%), followed by Alcohol and drugs (33.6%) and then Mental health (25.4%). For males, the most important issue was Alcohol and drugs (36.1%), followed by Crime, safety and violence (21.3%) and then Politics (18%).

The future

Young people were asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. Overall, students from The Example School were quite confident about their future with the majority of students feeling either very positive (13.3%) or positive (44%) about the future. In total, 32.4% of students felt neither positive nor negative about the future, while 7.6% felt negative and 2.7% felt very negative.

This report is based on the responses of 229 students at The Example School.

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

Table 1: Gender profile

	Example	Example %	VIC %
Female	153	68.0	62.9
Male	72	32.0	37.1

Table 2: Identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

	Example	Example %	VIC %
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	7	3.1	2.0
Non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	219	96.9	98.0

Table 3: Country of birth

	Example	Example %	VIC %
Australia	185	81.5	84.8
Other	42	18.5	15.2

Table 4: Language background other than English

	Example	Example %	VIC %
Language other than English	41	18.2	22.0
English	184	81.8	78.0

Table 5.1: Plans to complete Year 12

	Example %	VIC %
Yes	97.7	98.2
No	2.3	1.8

Table 5.2: Plans to complete Year 12

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Yes	99.3	94.2
No	0.7	5.8

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

	Example %	VIC %
Yes	16.2	17.4
No	83.8	82.6

Table 7.1: Satisfaction with studies

	Example %	VIC %
Very satisfied	11.8	18.9
Satisfied	52.0	57.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	26.7	19.0
Dissatisfied	7.7	3.8
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.2

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Very satisfied	13.5	8.6
Satisfied	56.1	44.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21.6	37.1
Dissatisfied	8.1	5.7
Very dissatisfied	0.7	4.3

Table 8.1: Plans after leaving school

	Example	Example
Go to university	74.3	75.1
Travel/gap year	32.6	29.3
Get a job	28.0	27.4
Go to TAFE or college	6.0	7.3
Get an apprenticeship	4.6	4.6
Other	4.1	4.0
No choices are available to me	0.9	0.6

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

Table 8.2: Plans after leaving school, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Go to university	78.8	65.2
Travel/gap year	33.6	29.0
Get a job	28.1	27.5
Go to TAFE or college	6.2	4.3
Get an apprenticeship	1.4	11.6
Other	3.4	5.8
No choices are available to me	0.0	2.9

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

Table 9: Influences on post-school plans

	Example %	VIC %
Parent/s	78.1	84.1
Internet	72.2	73.6
Other family members	69.1	71.9
Career fair or expo	60.3	50.5
Friends	58.2	66.5
Work experience/internship	54.6	44.3
Teacher	47.5	53.6
Career advisor	32.0	52.6
Year advisor/other school staff	23.7	28.5
Mentor/coach	20.7	25.5
Part-time work	19.9	22.4
Vocational Education and Training (VET) course	12.8	12.0
Traineeship	4.7	5.8

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

Table 10: What young people value

Example %	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Slightly important	Not at all important
Family relationships	44.0	40.4	9.3	3.6	2.7
Friendships (other than family)	36.7	46.9	12.4	2.2	1.8
Physical and mental health	35.6	30.7	24.0	6.2	3.6
School or study satisfaction	26.5	38.1	26.0	5.4	4.0
Financial security	14.2	29.3	35.6	14.7	6.2
Getting a job	9.7	31.4	30.1	13.7	15.0

Table 11: Issues of concern to young people

Example %	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned
Coping with stress	22.4	24.2	30.9	10.8	11.7
School or study problems	14.9	19.9	35.3	14.9	14.9
Body Image	11.7	18.0	32.4	20.7	17.1
Depression	11.7	10.8	22.5	18.5	36.5
Personal safety	7.7	12.3	25.9	15.9	38.2
Family conflict	7.7	11.8	18.1	19.9	42.5
Discrimination	5.4	12.7	20.8	17.2	43.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.8	10.8	21.5	16.6	45.3
Suicide	5.4	6.8	10.8	11.7	65.3
Drugs	3.6	4.5	10.4	12.2	69.2
Alcohol	1.8	4.0	18.8	17.0	58.3
Gambling	1.4	2.7	6.3	7.7	81.9

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

	Example %	VIC %
Friend/s	85.6	84.4
Parent/s	73.2	76.0
Relative/family friend	56.7	59.6
Brother/sister	55.9	51.9
Internet	44.1	51.9
Teacher	37.8	36.0
School counsellor	22.9	32.3
Online counselling website	15.5	17.3
Telephone hotline	11.2	10.7
Community agency	9.2	7.8
Magazines	8.8	7.2

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

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

	Example %	VIC %
Arts/cultural/music activities	46.6	55.9
Environmental groups or activities	27.6	25.0
Religious groups or activities	25.5	27.1
Political groups or organisations	9.2	9.9
Sport (as a participant)	70.6	78.7
Sport (as a spectator)	64.8	69.2
Student leadership activities	32.8	41.9
Volunteer work	43.7	53.2
Youth groups and clubs	30.7	28.4

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

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Arts/cultural/music activities	52.9	31.3
Environmental groups or activities	29.8	21.3
Religious groups or activities	31.3	14.5
Political groups or organisations	3.8	19.7
Sport (as a participant)	68.3	78.3
Sport (as a spectator)	60.0	77.3
Student leadership activities	36.0	24.6
Volunteer work	48.1	33.3
Youth groups and clubs	28.8	34.4

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

Table 14.1: Family's ability to get along

	Example %	VIC %
Excellent	25.8	31.2
Very good	32.9	32.4
Good	26.2	20.2
Fair	9.3	10.5
Poor	5.8	5.6

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

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Excellent	29.8	18.6
Very good	34.4	31.4
Good	23.2	31.4
Fair	7.3	14.3
Poor	5.3	4.3

Table 15.1: Feelings about the future

	Example %	VIC %
Very positive	13.3	17.9
Positive	44.0	49.3
Neither positive nor negative	32.4	24.4
Negative	7.6	6.3
Very negative	2.7	2.2

Table 15.2: Feelings about the future, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Very positive	11.2	18.8
Positive	48.7	34.8
Neither positive nor negative	33.6	30.4
Negative	5.9	11.6
Very negative	0.7	4.3

Table 16.1: How happy young people are

	Example %	VIC %
100	13.7	12.5
90	9.3	16.2
80	18.1	24.8
70	16.8	15.5
60	12.4	8.3
50	12.8	9.7
40	5.8	4.7
30	4.9	3.4
20	2.7	2.0
10	1.8	0.9
0	1.8	1.9

Table 16.2: How happy young people are, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
100	11.8	18.6
90	12.5	2.9
80	16.4	22.9
70	17.1	17.1
60	13.2	11.4
50	13.2	11.4
40	6.6	1.4
30	5.3	4.3
20	1.3	5.7
10	2.0	1.4
0	0.7	2.9

Table 17.1: Most important issues in Australia today

	Example %	VIC %
Alcohol and drugs	34.2	25.3
Equity and discrimination	28.1	30.6
Crime, safety and violence	22.1	15.6
Mental health	20.1	18.4
Population issues	16.6	20.7

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

Table 17.2: Most important issues in Australia today, females

	Example % females
Equity and discrimination	35.1
Alcohol and drugs	33.6
Mental health	25.4
Crime, safety and violence	21.6
Population issues	18.7

Table 17.3: Most important issues in Australia today, males

	Example % males
Alcohol and drugs	36.1
Crime, safety and violence	21.3
Politics	18.0
International relations	16.4
The economy and financial matters	16.4

Table 18.1: Experienced unfair treatment or discrimination

	Example %	VIC %
Yes	24.7	23.5
No	75.3	76.5

Table 18.2: Experienced unfair treatment or discrimination, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Yes	25.5	21.4
No	74.5	78.6

Table 19.1: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; experienced

	Example %	VIC %
Gender	48.2	41.9
Race/cultural background	23.2	31.5
Age	23.2	21.6
Sexuality	17.9	16.0
Other	17.9	16.0
Physical health or ability	17.9	17.0
Mental health	16.1	16.3
Religion	12.5	13.2

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

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

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Gender	46.2	53.3
Race/cultural background	23.1	26.7
Age	23.1	20.0
Other	17.9	13.3
Physical health or ability	17.9	20.0
Sexuality	10.3	26.7
Mental health	12.8	20.0
Religion	10.3	20.0

Table 20.1: Witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination

	Example %	VIC %
Yes	47.3	46.1
No	52.7	53.9

Table 20.2: Witnessed unfair treatment or discrimination, by gender

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Yes	48.4	43.5
No	51.6	56.5

Table 21.1: Reasons for unfair treatment or discrimination; witnessed

	Example %	VIC %
Race/cultural background	61.7	56.9
Sexuality	43.9	41.3
Gender	43.0	36.3
Physical health or ability	35.5	29.0
Religion	29.0	32.5
Age	24.3	17.1
Mental health	20.6	23.8
Other	1.9	6.2

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

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

	Example Female %	Example Male %
Race/cultural background	58.1	66.7
Sexuality	41.9	43.3
Gender	39.2	46.7
Physical health or ability	36.5	26.7
Religion	29.7	23.3
Age	21.6	26.7
Mental health	18.9	16.7
Other	0.0	3.3