

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

MISSION AUSTRALIA'S 2018 YOUTH SURVEY

Mission Australia is conducting a research project, the Youth Survey 2018, which aims to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people. The Youth Survey is an annual survey now in its 17th year. In 2018 the survey is available online and seeks to obtain socio-demographic information and investigate some of the social inclusion/exclusion dimensions from the perspective of young people.

We would like to invite your child to take part in the survey, which in 2018 is seeking young people aged 15 to 19 years across Australia to participate. Participating in the 2018 Youth Survey would involve your child spending 15 minutes completing an online survey. Participation is voluntary and the decision to take part or not will be respected. Your decision will not affect your family's relationship with your school.

The information gathered will be used to produce a report that is distributed widely each year. Results assist with the development of programs and services that meet the needs of young people, are a key resource for policy makers in the youth space, and are a valuable resource for young people, their families and those who support them, including schools and communities.

The privacy and confidentiality of participants is assured. Individuals will not be identified in any reports. However, it is an ethical requirement, that if the results indicate a student has a probable serious mental illness we are obliged to report this to the school principal, who may then wish to identify the student and provide support. No other information about participants or their responses will be shared with the school principal.

Data is stored securely on a password-protected network drive at Mission Australia, accessible only to the research team. Data is aggregated and no analysis is undertaken at the individual level. The survey is being conducted using SurveyGizmo which is a survey tool based in the USA. Information you provide on this survey will be transferred to SurveyGizmo's server in the USA.

The survey has undergone appropriate ethical review process and Mackay State High School has approved us to approach your school's principal about the survey. There is no contact between researchers and participants or parents.

If your child wished to complete survey on line, Mackay State High School's unique code is: 44452. Don't forget to click on *submit* at the end of the survey.

If you have any further questions please contact Joann Fildes at youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au or on (08) 8218 2851, or see our website www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey, where results from previous years are also available.

Yours sincerely



Joann Fildes

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