



Full Project Title:	Mission Australia Youth Survey 2019
Principal Researcher:	Dr Joann Fildes (Head of Research and Evaluation)
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Key dates:	Survey opens in early April and closes on 31 st of July 2019

Thank you for your interest in the Mission Australia Youth Survey 2019. This document provides an overview of the research project in plain language so that you can decide if you would like to participate in this study.

Please take time to read this information carefully. Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part or change your mind, you don't have to. You can withdraw from the survey at any time.

Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation that works to help create a fairer Australia. Part of our work is helping to create pathways through a successful youth and in 2016-17 we helped over 6,000 young people through our youth programs and services.

What is the Mission Australia Youth Survey?

Mission Australia has conducted the Youth Survey with young people around Australia every year since 2002. It is Australia's largest annual survey of young people of its kind. With over 28,000 respondents in 2018, the Youth Survey offers important insights into the lives of young Australians and an understanding of their values, concerns, challenges and ambitions. It is an authoritative source of information that helps to equip schools, community organisations, governments and NGOs with evidence to support programs for young people in their transition into adulthood.

Why am I being asked to take part and what will I be asked to do?

We are looking to hear from all young Australians between the ages of 15 and 19. Regardless of your background, ability, gender or where you live, we want to hear from you!

You are invited to complete an online questionnaire that will ask you about some personal characteristics, some of your education, work, and social activities, as well as your experiences in social groups. There are a number of questions that ask you about your personal wellbeing, as well as issues you might be personally concerned about.

Participation is entirely voluntary. The study will take at most 15 minutes to complete. The majority of the questions require you to check a box to indicate your response (such as yes/no questions or scales that rate the response from 1 to 5) and there are a small number of questions that allow for you to write down your response to the question.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

Although you will not directly benefit from participating in this study, sharing your thoughts and experiences with us will help Mission Australia to develop reports that are widely used by governments, community organisations, policy makers and NGOs across the country to develop programs that support young people in the future. Your school may also request a report based on school-level data. These reports may help your school to develop programs that respond the needs of you and your peers.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

All information that you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. The survey is conducted through SurveyGizmo, which is a survey tool based in the USA. Data provided through this survey is encrypted and transferred to SurveyGizmo's server in the USA. By completing this survey, participants agree to this transfer. All data will be stored securely on a password protected drive at Mission Australia, accessible only to the Research team.

You will not be identified in any reports resulting from the study. However, Mission Australia has a duty of care to the young people who take part in this study. If your response to the wellbeing question (Q24) indicates probable serious mental distress, we are ethically obliged by the Department of Education and Training within your State/Territory and/or the Catholic Diocese in your region to report identifiable information back to your school principal. They may then wish to identify you to offer you support. Additionally, if any responses indicate risk of abuse, neglect or harm, we are legally obliged to report this information to your school principal and/or regulatory body. No other information about participants or their responses will be shared with the school principal.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved in this study?

We anticipate few risks for your involvement in this study. We have been careful to make sure that the questions in the survey cause little distress. If you begin to feel anxious about any of the questions, you do not need to answer them.

If the questions raise any concerns for you and you feel you need someone to talk with, we recommend contacting a number of sources for support, in addition to your parent/caregiver or school counsellor:

- ♦ Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelp.com.au
- ♦ headspace – 1800 650 890 or www.eheadspace.org.au, or
- ♦ Lifeline – 13 11 14 or <https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/online-services/crisis-chat>

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary: it is your choice to take part or not. You do not have to agree if you do not want to. If you decide to take part and then change your mind, that is okay, you can withdraw from the project without consequence. To do this, simply exit the survey before completion. Your data will not be used if you choose to withdraw from the study; it will be removed and destroyed to protect your information.

By clicking the 'I agree' box to move the online survey forward, you are telling us that you understand what you have read and what has been discussed about this survey. By clicking the 'I agree' box, it indicates to us that you agree to be in the research project and have your responses used as described.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Yes, we anticipate that you will hear about the results of this project across news platforms and through your school. Following its publication in late November, the *Mission Australia Youth Survey Report* is widely referenced across online, print and television media. Your involvement makes an important contribution to this report and shapes the way that social commentators, politicians, NGOs and community organisations advocate for young people across Australia.

Where can I get more information?

You can find out more about the Mission Australia Youth Survey by going to our website:

<https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/research-impact-policy-advocacy/youth-survey>. You can also contact the Research Team by emailing youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au or giving us a call at (08) 8218 2851. We will happily answer any questions you have about the Youth Survey.

Who can I contact if I have concerns about this project?

This research has been approved by the Mission Australia Research Ethics Committee and the research ethics committees of the ACT, NSW, NT, SA, TAS, QLD and VIC Departments of Education and Training and the Catholic Education Offices of Bathurst, Broken Bay, Canberra and Goulburn, Maitland-Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney, the NT, Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, SA, Tasmania, Ballarat, Melbourne, Sale, Sandhurst and WA.

If you have any concerns about this research project, you should contact Dr Joann Fildes via (08) 8218 2826 or research@missionaustralia.com.au. All correspondence will be treated confidentially.