

# youth survey report 2019



MISSION  
AUSTRALIA



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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of lands throughout Australia, and we pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the culture and dreams of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continual relationship with the land and we recognise the importance of the young people who are the future leaders.

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# CEO's message

This year we are pleased to celebrate the 18th birthday of our *Youth Survey*. We had 25,126 young people who participated in the 2019 *Youth Survey*. I'd like to thank every young person who participated, as well as every school, parent and sector colleague who continues to encourage young people to respond to our survey

It's often said that with increased age comes increased responsibility. Our *Youth Survey* has come of age this year and we take very seriously our responsibility and commitment to elevating the voices of young people who come from all across Australia. So that NGOs, social commentators, decision makers and policy makers have access to current evidence on what young people are thinking, feeling and hoping in 2019. The *Youth Survey* gives us the vital evidence needed to advocate with young people, and for them, for the services and policy responses that they need.

The results also show that young people are facing a plethora of challenges and barriers. For the third year running, mental health is the top national issue. Young people's top four personal concerns also relate to mental health, which include coping with stress, school or study problems, mental health and body image.

We also included a new question to learn whether young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues. Disappointingly, less than one in 10 young people feel they have a voice when it comes to public affairs. It's vital that all young people have opportunities and the forums available to them so they can speak up and shape public matters and policy.

Tellingly, 'the environment' soared from eighth place in 2018 to second place in 2019 of the topics that young people say are important issues in Australia – tripling in significance since last year. The growing public dialogue and experience of issues, such as extreme weather events and drought, are clearly affecting young people's view of the world.

These results taken together clearly indicate that young people in Australia feel disenfranchised and deeply concerned. The apparent inability to have their voices heard through formal channels is perhaps causing them to engage in informal ways to get heard, such as climate strikes.

We know from this year's survey that the majority of young people are engaged in education, confident in their ability to achieve their study and work goals, are happy with their family

relationships and are involved in a range of activities. Many young people are also optimistic about their lives and futures.

For the first time, we asked young people whether they had experienced bullying, finding that more than one in five young people reported being bullied in the past 12 months – mostly at school, TAFE or university, with some facing bullying either online or on social media, or at home.

Our survey confirms a disturbing level of bullying being experienced by young people. It's unacceptable. It can cause and exacerbate mental distress, with potentially harmful and lasting effects on young people's lives.

Young people are acutely aware of mental health issues and they recognise it as an important issue across Australia. Appropriate and timely supports and responses are required for young people who are grappling with mental health concerns or who are being bullied. Over the past couple of years, there has been significant government investment into youth mental health. Yet there remains significant gaps in the service system, particularly in rural and regional areas. Whatever a young person's background, location or experience, access to suitable support at the right time can make a critical difference.

Young people are asking for change. We owe it to young people to not only listen, but to also take action. We must stand alongside them to advocate for the changes they want to see, provide opportunities to have a say and better support them with the services they need as they tread their path to adulthood.

Young people have a vital role in shaping our tomorrow. If we ensure young people have the right supports and opportunities to be heard, the future will be brighter for everyone. Through this survey, once again, they are speaking to us, speaking to people who need to listen to them and respond to their very real concerns and aspirations.

**James Toomey**  
CEO, Mission Australia



# Executive summary

## Demographic profile of respondents

A total of 25,126 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 responded to Mission Australia's 2019 *Youth Survey*. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales (26.2%), Queensland (23.6%) and Victoria (17.7%). Close to six in ten (56.3%) respondents were female, and one in seven (14.3%) respondents were born overseas. Just under one in five (17.8%) young people spoke a language other than English at home. The level of reported disability in 2019 was 6.5%, marginally higher than in 2018 (6.0%). The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (93.3%), which is consistent with the result of 94.0% in 2018. Over four in ten (43.0%) respondents were working part-time and more than one in three (34.4%) indicated that they were looking for work, which is again consistent with previous years.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

1,579 (6.4%) respondents to Mission Australia's 2019 *Youth Survey* identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,310 (5.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 149 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). Half (49.6%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents identified as female and 42.7% identified as male, and 13.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they are living with a disability. Nearly one in five (19.2%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported speaking a language other than English at home; the most common were Indigenous languages, Chinese, Spanish, Kriol and Japanese.

The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were studying full-time (83.1%), intended to complete year 12 (89.7%), and indicated that they were either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (56.5%). Four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported plans to *go to university* (40.1%) or to *get a job* (39.9%) after finishing school. A further breakdown of results can be found in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary.

## Young people and plans for study and training

Young people were asked about their future plans for education and training following school. Of those who were still at school, 95.8% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. More than double the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.3% compared with 2.4% respectively).

When asked what they were planning to do after school, *go to university* was the most frequent option indicated by young people (64.8%). Many respondents planned to *get a job* (33.6%) or had *travel/gap year* plans (28.0%) for after school, while 11.7% planned to *go to TAFE or college* and 11.3% planned to *get an apprenticeship*. While a greater proportion of females indicated that they planned to *go to university* after school (72.4% compared with 55.0% of males), more than four times the proportion of males indicated that they were intending to *get an apprenticeship* (20.3% compared with 4.6% of females).

## Confidence in achieving study/work goals after school

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. Almost half (47.0%) of respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 10.0% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 37.0% indicated they were *very confident*. Over four in ten (42.2%) reported feeling *somewhat confident*. However, one in ten (10.8%) young people were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.2% reported feeling *slightly confident* and 2.6% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A notably higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely* or *very confident* (53.9% compared with 42.5% respectively).

## Barriers to achieving goals after finishing school

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Nearly half (48.9%) of respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers to achieving their post-school aspirations, with a much greater proportion of females (54.5%) than males (40.5%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were then asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that they felt would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Nationally, the top three barriers young people considered to be impacting their goals after finishing school were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* (20.2%, 16.6% and 12.4% respectively). Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw *admission/job requirements* and *family responsibilities* as barriers to achieving their post-school goals (11.2% and 8.4% respectively). Compared with males, a greater proportion of females indicated each of the items were barriers to achieving their aspirations after school.

## What young people value

Young people were asked to indicate how important a number of items have been in their lives over the past year. The three most highly valued items nationally were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction* (82.5%, 81.5% and 69.0% respectively). Around seven in ten respondents also placed a high value upon *mental health* and *physical health* (66.6% and 65.6% respectively).

## Issues of personal concern

Young people were asked to rank how concerned they had been about a number of issues over the past year. The responses for the top three concerns were consistent with 2018: *coping with stress* (44.7%), *school or study problems* (34.3%) and *mental health* (33.2%). Three in ten respondents indicated that they were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (31.0%). One in four young people were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health* (25.1%), while around one in five were highly concerned about *family conflict* (18.2%) and *financial security* (17.8%). The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

## Young people's experiences of bullying

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Just over one in five (21.0%) young people reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A slightly higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (21.8% compared with 18.8% respectively). Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked a number of related questions: where the bullying took place; kind/s of bullying that they had experienced; and what helped them to deal with the experience of bullying.

For the 21.0% of respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (79.9%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*, while close to one in three (34.0%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*. While similar proportions of males (82.4%) and females (79.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*, a much higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (37.3% compared with 27.3% of males).

Out of the 21.0% of respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, more than seven in ten (71.3%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*). Over six in ten (61.2%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being embarrassed or excluded*), while more than one third (36.5%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*). Around one in five (21.6%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*). There were notable differences in the results by gender: greater proportions of females reported experiencing *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being excluded*) and *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful*

*messages, pictures or comments*), whereas a much higher proportion of males reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*) over the past year.

For the 21.0% of respondents who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods of dealing with the experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (46.0%), *removing myself from the situation* (37.0%) and *talking to close friends or family* (34.3%). Just under one third (32.6%) indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*. One in five (20.0%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying, along with talking to a support person (17.6%). Nearly one in seven (13.4%) respondents stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying. Compared with males, female respondents were more likely to report *talking to close friends or family* helped; conversely, compared with females, higher proportion of males reported that *confronting the bully/ies* assisted them in dealing with bullying.

Young people were also asked for the first time in 2019 whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly half (47.7%) of young people reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past year. Of the 47.7% of young people who reported witnessing bullying over the past year, the vast majority (85.2%) reported that they witnessed *bullying at school/TAFE/university*, while more than four in ten (42.4%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*. A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (48.2% compared with 34.2% of males).

## 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. As in previous years, *friend/s* (83.0%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (75.2%) and *relative/family friend* (57.6%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (50.8%), the *internet* (46.1%) or a *GP or health professional* (45.5%) for support with important issues in their lives. Results were generally similar for females and males across the majority of items, although higher proportions of females would turn to the *internet* or a *GP or health professional* for support with important issues in their lives.

## Most important issues in Australia today

Young people were asked to list the three issues that they considered were the most important in Australia today. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*. Close to four in ten young people indicated that *mental health* (36.2%) is an important issue in Australia today. Just over one third of respondents reported that *the environment* (34.2%) is an important national issue, while one quarter cited *equity and discrimination* (24.8%). Since 2018, the proportion of those reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 9.2% to 34.2%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* have decreased since 2018.

Compared with males, a greater proportion of female respondents identified *mental health* (41.0% compared with 30.3% of males) and *the environment* (38.8% compared with 28.2%) as important issues facing Australia today. Conversely, higher proportions of males regarded *politics* (14.6% compared with 8.2% of females), *alcohol and drugs* (23.4% compared with 19.1%) and *the economy and financial matters* (16.9% compared with 13.1%) as key issues in Australia.

## Young people's voice

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Just under half of young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (45.2%) and *with my family* (44.2%). Nearly one in six (15.0%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while less than one in ten (7.2%) felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*. More than half (52.4%) of young people felt they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs*. Around three in ten (28.8%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Higher proportions of males felt they have a say *all of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university* (17.1% compared with 13.4% of females) and *in public affairs* (9.7% compared with 5.1%). Conversely, a greater proportion of females indicated feeling they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (55.4% compared with 48.0% of males).

## Activities young people were involved in

The top three activities for young people in 2019 were *sports (as a participant)* (68.0%), *sports (as a spectator)* (56.3%) and *volunteer work* (46.7%). Compared with females, males were more likely to report participating in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* over the past year. Conversely, compared with males, females were more likely to have participated in *volunteer work* and *arts/cultural/music activities* in the past year.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. The majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 22.6% rated it as *excellent* and 31.7% rated it as *very good*. More than one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships, as they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (14.1%) or *poor* (7.7%).

## Happiness and the future

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole. The majority of young people (60.7%) indicated that they felt *very happy/happy* with their lives overall. Responses were similar for both males and females, although a greater proportion of males reported feeling *very happy/happy* with their lives as a whole (66.6% compared with 57.6% of females).

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Nearly six in ten (58.3%) felt either *very positive* (13.3%) or *positive* (45.0%) about the future. Three in ten (29.5%) young people felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future, while one in eight (12.2%) young people felt either *negative* (8.8%) or *very negative* (3.4%) about the future.



# Mission Australia's Youth Survey

**In order to assess young people's journey into independence and the types of support they may require, the following discussion of the Youth Survey's findings is structured according to the outcomes Mission Australia services strive to achieve with the individuals, families and communities we work alongside. With the expectation that they can progress towards independence, Mission Australia provides services that aim to achieve the following outcomes for young people:**

- 1 Developing and achieving** – young people need to be skilled and confident, in education and with access to tertiary education, training or employment. All young people should have the best foundation for learning and development and be able to participate as valued members of society.
- 2 Economic wellbeing** – young people should have access to the essentials in life and have good financial management skills. They should have pathways to economic participation, fulfilling employment and independent living.
- 3 Healthy** – being healthy is a significant contributor to overall wellbeing and this includes participating in activities such as sport. Health incorporates both physical and mental health and Mission Australia believes that for young people to transition successfully into adulthood all aspects of health are important.
- 4 Housed** – a supportive and stable home environment is a particularly important aspect of a young person's life; it is essential for good physical and mental health and has positive impacts on educational outcomes. Stable housing also provides a platform for other supports in the community, through schools or neighbours.
- 5 Inclusive and cohesive** – having a strong sense of being included, having mutual support and feeling you have someone to call on at a time of need are critically important for young people. Having these bonds with the people around them plays an important part in transitioning to adulthood. Diversity needs to be respected and supported, with the benefits of this being seen as both strength building and protective.
- 6 Supported and resourced** – young people and those around them such as their peers, family and relatives must have access to services to meet their needs. Mission Australia believes support is essential for young people, whether this be universal or more targeted support. These need to be quality services which are holistic and improve outcomes over time. A holistic approach considers all life domains including: housing, recreation, social participation, employment, finances, legal, education, child and family relationships, physical and mental health, alcohol and other drug use, cultural and personal identity. Services should produce evidence which helps improve service delivery. This includes listening to young people and including their opinions in service development.
- 7 Safe** – feeling safe and keeping young people safe is a responsibility of the whole of society. Young people need to feel safe in their families, neighbourhoods and schools. All young people should have a safe, secure and stable home and be protected from bullying and discrimination at school and in their community.
- 8 Connected and participating** – it is important that young people have a sense of belonging, feel part of the community and are given opportunities to participate in activities and events that allow them to develop relationships with others. Young people should have their voices heard and be actively involved in decisions affecting their lives.

# About the survey

## About the survey

The Mission Australia *Youth Survey* is the largest annual survey of young Australians of its kind. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the *Youth Survey* aims to identify the values, aspirations and issues of concern to young people. The *Youth Survey* was developed by Mission Australia to strengthen Mission Australia's capacity to support and advocate for young Australians in need.

## Participation

In 2019, 25,126 young Australians aged 15 to 19 years participated in the *Youth Survey*. Of these, 23,357 participants completed the survey online (93.0%) and 1,769 completed the survey on paper (7.0%).

## Areas of focus

As well as collecting valuable socio-demographic data, the 2019 *Youth Survey* sought to capture the views and perspectives of young people on a broad range of issues. Topics covered by the survey include education and employment, perceived barriers to achieving post-school plans, participation in community activities, general wellbeing, values and concerns, preferred sources of support, as well as feelings about the future. New focus questions were added to explore young people's voice within their community, their experiences of bullying, perceptions of disability support, as well as their housing circumstances.

## Methodology

Young people were engaged via schools, community organisations, through Mission Australia services and at youth events. Following approval from State and Territory Education Departments, as well as Catholic Education Offices, all secondary school principals were approached via email with information about the survey and how to get involved. Information about the *Youth Survey* was also distributed to Mission Australia services, local government organisations and networks, Commonwealth, State/Territory departments, youth organisations and peak bodies.

As in previous years, participating schools, organisations and local councils were able to receive a tailored *Youth Survey* report if 100 or more young people from their programs responded to the survey. In order to do this, a pre-arranged code needed to be allocated to the school or organisation, which young people were to enter into the survey prior to completion.

Mission Australia is committed to child and youth safety and has extended this responsibility to the young people who participated in the 2019 *Youth Survey*. In line with the approvals obtained from State and Territory Education Departments and Catholic Education Offices, Mission Australia reported re-identifiable information to participating schools if

a young person's responses to the Kessler 6 question indicated probable serious mental distress, or if any free-text response/s indicated that a young person was at potential risk of harm, abuse or neglect. To implement this reporting mechanism, date of birth was made a mandatory item in the survey. For any survey respondents whose responses indicated potential risk of harm or psychological distress, the date of birth, gender and postcode (as well as respondent initials in Queensland) (where provided) were reported back to school Principals on a weekly basis as required. Principals were then able to re-identify the young person (where possible) and provide support or services, as necessary. More than 60 cases of potential risk of harm were reported to participating schools and more than 270 psychological distress reports were forwarded to schools in 2019. These two forms of reporting were not required by the Western Australian Department of Education; as such, the collection of date of birth and this reporting method were not implemented for responses from this state.

Every five years, the Research and Evaluation team conducts a comprehensive review of the free-text responses and the coding frame for the question asking respondents to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. New or existing terms are identified and/or re-classified through the review, which enables responses to be analysed and reported more accurately. This process supports us to best reflect young people's concerns in our reporting, policy and advocacy.

## Survey design and changes in 2019

Mission Australia seeks external advice on the survey design each year. In particular, this year we received feedback from SNAICC, the National Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, which influenced a number of the items in the questionnaire.

A small number of amendments were made to the survey this year:

- The options for gender identity were expanded beyond male/female/other to improve inclusiveness for non-cisgender identifying respondents.
- Young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which may impact upon the achievement of their post-school goals. If they responded 'yes', respondents were prompted to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. The items included: *academic ability, admission/job requirements, cultural responsibilities, discrimination, family responsibilities, financial difficulty, lack of family support, lack of information, lack of jobs, lack of school support, mental health, physical health, transport and where you live*. The item *cultural responsibilities* was added to this list of options for the first time in 2019.



- In 2019, *culture* was offered in the list of items for the first time within the question, 'what do young people value?'
- The list of items for the question around sources of support was amended this year. The list of items now included: *brother/sister, community service, friend/s, GP or health professional, internet, parent/s or guardian/s, relative/family friend, school counsellor, social media and teacher.*

New focus questions were also added this year:

- A question was included to understand young people's voice. The question asked the extent to which young people felt they have a say about important issues across four categories: *with my family, with my friends, at school/TAFE/university and in public affairs.*
- A series of focus questions on bullying were included that asked respondents whether they had experienced and/or witnessed bullying in the past 12 months. If the response was 'yes' they had experienced bullying in the past 12 months, respondents were asked to identify: where they were bullied, what kind/s of bullying they experienced, and what helped them most to deal with it. If the response was 'yes' they had witnessed bullying in the past 12 months, respondents were asked to identify from a list of location/s where they witnessed bullying taking place.
- A cluster of questions focussed on disability. Two questions were directed to all survey respondents to capture perceptions of community support for people who live with a disability and general perceptions of unfair treatment of people living with disability. An additional question was directed specifically to respondents who identify as having a disability that asked about challenges they may face around access, independence and inclusion.
- Respondents were asked whether they had any caring responsibilities for an immediate family member or close relative.
- Respondents were asked a range of questions to understand their housing circumstances. These included time spent away from home because they felt they could not go back (including age and frequency of experiences), their current residential setting and the adequacy of their housing in relation to access to services, distance to family/friends, comfort and number of bedrooms.

Please note that not all questions that were included in the survey questionnaire are presented in this report. These questions will inform other research publications to be released throughout 2020.

## This report

This report contains an executive summary, the policy context, a national summary, a summary of findings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and a summary of findings for each State and Territory.

Each State/Territory summary compares the state-level findings against the national data; contains a breakdown of key data by gender; and, where appropriate, compares 2019 findings with results from previous years. In addition, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary compares the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with those from non-Indigenous respondents.

Please note that the percentages in all tables, figures and text throughout the report are rounded to one decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%. Not all respondents answered all survey questions; the data presented for each question are for those who responded. Care needs to be taken when interpreting and generalising the results for certain States and/or Territories due to the small sample size and the imbalance between the number of females and males who participated in the survey.

Young people – each with their own background, experiences, culture and values – are behind the numbers, words and figures in this report. We recognise that the measures in this report reflect only part and not the whole story of these young people's lives.

# Policy context

Over 25,000 young people across Australia voiced their hopes and concerns in Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey. It is important that we listen to these voices when formulating the policies that impact their lives now and in the future.

While encouragingly the majority of young people felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future and *happy* or *very happy* about their life as a whole, their responses also point to challenges facing some young people which highlight the need for further supports as they transition into adulthood.

Mental health continued to be reported as the most important issue facing Australia today by the young people surveyed. Their personal concerns are also closely related to this theme with *coping with stress, school or study problems, mental health and body image* the top four issues of personal concern this year, as in previous years. *Mental health* was also cited as one of the top three barriers to young people achieving their post-school goals.

For the first time, this year's Youth Survey included a focus on bullying and found that one in five (21.0%) young people surveyed had experienced bullying in the last 12 months. This included multiple forms of bullying in various locations as discussed in more detail below and in the report. Bullying has a direct impact on young people's mental health and needs to be addressed to improve young people's wellbeing.

In this year's Youth Survey, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues: with their families, friends, in education settings and in public affairs. The results show that more than half (52.4%) of young people felt they have a say *none of the time in public affairs*. Around three in ten (28.8%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time while at school/TAFE/university*.

It is important for young people to have a voice in issues impacting their lives, both for their own confidence and for more informed policy-making. In addition, *mental health, the environment and equity and discrimination* were ranked as the three most important issues in Australia today in 2019. If we are to listen to young people, we must give more attention to all of these issues.

There were differences in Youth Survey results by gender that require further examination, including post-school plans, confidence, personal concerns, experiences of bullying, the most important issues in Australia today and having a say on important issues.

Differences in Youth Survey results were also evident for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Compared with non-Indigenous respondents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander young people were more likely to report feeling they had a say *all of the time when at school/TAFE/University* and in *public affairs* and were also more likely to be involved in environmental and political groups or activities. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people also reported experiencing bullying at higher rates over the past 12 months and were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to report feeling *sad* or *very sad* about their life as a whole. These findings underline that more needs to be done to combat bullying and improve the wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Recommendations:

- Young people should be supported to remain engaged in education and to transition to further education and employment;
- Investment is required in improved mental health supports for young people with a focus on prevention and early intervention;
- Family supports are required to build cohesion and prevent homelessness;
- Schools need to be resourced to prevent and combat bullying;
- Young people's voices need to be included when forming evidence-based policies and in the co-design of programs for young people; and
- Policy responses should build on the strengths of and address the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, including the higher levels of bullying experienced.

## Developing and achieving

The majority of respondents (93.3%) were studying full-time. Positively, the majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.3%) or *satisfied* (55.2%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were either *dissatisfied* (5.7%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.8%).

Of those that were still at school, 95.8% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. More than double the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (6.3% compared with 2.4% of females).

A lower proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time (83.1% compared with non-Indigenous young people 94.1%) and the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (10.8%) or *satisfied* (45.7%) with their studies. Around one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated they were either *dissatisfied* (5.9%) or *very dissatisfied* (5.4%).

Of those that were still at school, 89.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared with 96.4% of non-Indigenous respondents). More than twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (14.0% compared with 6.3% of females).

It is important that young people at risk of disengaging with education are able to access holistic supports to prevent early school leaving and where young people do disengage that they are provided with alternative pathways to further education and employment.

**"I think I need to establish some form of motivation which gives me a reason to work hard, rather than the sake of passing."**

**(M, 16, SA)**

**"The lack of support for younger people leaving school with regards to finding work and just getting through their studies."**

**(M, 17, QLD)**

### **Second Step Shepparton (VIC)**

Second Step Shepparton is an evidence-based early intervention program proven to increase children's educational engagement and success, improve peer relationships and decrease problem behaviours through promoting social, emotional competence and self-regulation. Second Step is delivered to children in Years 6 and 7 who are identified by their schools as being vulnerable to not making a successful transition from primary to secondary school and be at increased risk of school disengagement and early school leaving.

### **Kempsey School Transition Program (NSW)**

The Kempsey School Transition program – or as it is known locally, Gurulgural Dhalayi Warra – offers a range of activities aimed at supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and engaging families in their child's education. Activities include: family fun days, culture camps, information and orientation sessions, health screening, referral to specialist supports, homework support and one-on-one case management.

## **Economic wellbeing**

More than four in ten (43.0%) respondents reported that they were employed part-time. Nearly six in ten (56.2%) respondents indicated that they were not in paid employment: over one in three (34.4%) stated that they were looking for work, while around one in five (21.8%) were neither working nor looking for work.

Work experience is important in equipping young people for future work opportunities. Those not in paid work but looking for work may benefit from the hands-on learning that part-time work offers. Some young people also need the income from employment to support themselves or their family to meet their needs. However, balancing study and work can be challenging for some young people and can add pressure at a stressful time in their lives.

**"I am waiting to get a job, but there is only so much I can do. I'm trying to save as much power and water as possible and cut back to minimal expenses, since I know my mum is really struggling but we are both putting up a brave front."**

**(F, 15, VIC)**

Nearly two thirds (64.8%) of respondents planned to go to university after school. One in three (33.6%) respondents reported plans to get a job after school and just over one in ten young people planned to go to TAFE or college (11.7%) or to get an apprenticeship (11.3%).

Compared with non-Indigenous respondents, a smaller proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported plans to go to university after finishing school (40.1% compared with 66.7% of non-Indigenous respondents). Conversely, higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents planned to get a job (39.9% compared with 33.3% of non-Indigenous respondents), to get an apprenticeship (19.3% compared with 10.6%) and to go to TAFE or college (15.6% compared with 11.5%).

A range of post-school pathways need to be available to all young people to meet their different preferences. Early supports and career guidance need to be put in place so that young people can make informed choices about their future and successfully navigate the post-school transition.

**"I live in a rural community and I found it extremely hard to find a job after finishing Year 12. I undertook a Cert III in Business Admin and worked part-time throughout year 11 & 12, and at the end of my traineeship, I did find it quite hard to find a job nearby. I believe there needs to be community lead/sponsored support system put in place to ensure school leavers have the right skills to help them transition into the workplace."**

**(F, 18, VIC)**

Academic ability, mental health and financial difficulty were the top barriers that young people saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school.

To ensure more equitable outcomes for young people, the barrier of financial difficulty should be addressed by increasing the adequacy of Youth Allowance to allow ongoing study and through the provision of fee-free or scholarship opportunities for university, TAFE and apprenticeships.



In addition to the top three barriers of *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*, one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they saw *family responsibilities* (10.1%) and *where you live* (9.7%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals (compared with 8.3% and 8.1% of non-Indigenous respondents).

Education and employment programs that work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people need to provide flexible supports that take family responsibilities into account, and that are tailored to the diverse locations in which young people live.

### Charcoal Lane (VIC)

Charcoal Lane is a social enterprise in Melbourne that combines a restaurant specialising in native flavours with a comprehensive training program for young people who have experienced vocational and non-vocational barriers to employment. Charcoal Lane enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other young people to gain both accredited hospitality qualifications and professional experience within a supportive developmental environment. On completing traineeships at the restaurant, young people are well prepared to move into careers in hospitality or other industries.

## Healthy

Mental health concerns were raised across a number of areas of the *Youth Survey*. More than one third (36.2%) of young people indicated that *mental health* is an important issue in Australia today, making it the top national concern for young people. The top four issues of personal concern for young people are also closely linked with mental health; these were: *coping with stress*, *school or study problems*, *mental health* and *body image*. Two thirds of young people also valued *mental health* (66.6%) as *extremely important* or *very important*, while *mental health* was the second-most cited barrier to achieving study/work goals after finishing school.

Mental health is a significant issue for young people, which requires a strong response from the community and policy-makers. Poor mental health has repercussions for other areas of young people's lives and can negatively effect journeys into adulthood.

It is encouraging that mental health has been increasingly recognised in public and policy debates and some further investments have been made to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people at both a Commonwealth and State and Territory government level.

However, more could be done, including shifting the focus to prevention and early intervention, resourcing schools to support young people's mental health and wellbeing, providing strategies to support young people to cope with stress, boost self-esteem, improve mental health literacy and reduce stigma.

As young people generally turn to their parents and friends as sources of support, they need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise mental health issues and to provide assistance or seek help referrals when needed. Young people,

especially those in regional areas, also need improved access to health professionals including general practitioners, psychologists and psychiatrists, as well as youth-focussed mental health services such as headspace.

**"More accessible resources, counsellors and therapists. The wait lines and need for prioritisation of patients makes it very difficult for me to want to seek help."**

(F, 17, NSW)

**"Better access to mental health services for the socioeconomically challenged and better part-time pathways for students who do not have family support."**

(M, 18, SA)

Gender-sensitive mental health services are important in responding to the concerns, challenges and support preferences of young females and males. Compared with males, notably higher proportions of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* (58.3% compared with 26.1% of males), *body image* (42.8% compared with 14.5%), *school or study problems* (43.3% compared with 21.9%) and *mental health* (41.9% compared with 20.6%). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female respondents who were concerned about these issues was also much higher than the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males.

Initiatives to promote mental health and wellbeing therefore need to address social pressures contributing to higher levels of concern for young females across a range of areas.

**"Lately I have been very hard on myself, whether it's my body image (even though I have been trying so hard), or thinking I'm not good enough and I need to work harder."**

(F, 15, QLD)

### Family Mental Health Support Service

Family Mental Health Support Service provides early intervention support to assist children and young people (up to the age of 18 years), as well as their families, who are at risk of, or affected by, mental illness. These services support parents to reduce family stress and enable children and young people to reach their potential. This program is funded by the Department of Social Services and is delivered by Mission Australia in several locations nationally.

## Housed

Family conflict and mental illness are key contributors to youth homelessness.<sup>1</sup> As noted above, mental health concerns were reported by many young people throughout this year's *Youth Survey*. Additionally, more than one in five (21.8%) young people indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor*, with a higher proportion of females rating their family's ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (23.5% compared with 18.5% of males). Almost one in five respondents were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* (18.2%) and indicated they had experienced *bullying at home* (18.1%) over the past year.

Three in ten (29.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor*, while more than twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females rated their family's ability to get along as *fair* (22.5% compared with 10.8% of males). Around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* (23.3%) and a much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated they experienced *bullying at home* in the past year (30.1% compared with 16.9% of non-Indigenous respondents).

Early intervention is particularly crucial for young people at risk of homelessness by facilitating family reconciliation through programs such as Reconnect. Where a young person cannot remain with their family, safe, secure and affordable housing is crucial.

### Reconnect

Reconnect supports young people aged 12–18 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The aim is to improve family relationships so the young person may be able to return to the family home. If this is not possible, the young person will be supported to obtain alternative housing. In addition, the young person will be supported to remain engaged at school and to address their other needs, such as mental health, addiction issues and life skills. Mission Australia runs Reconnect services across seven sites in NSW, SA, QLD and WA.

Mission Australia conducted an outcomes evaluation from March to October 2016 across all of its seven Reconnect sites. Overall, improvements were found in clients' wellbeing, sense of control and support, housing permanency, family cohesion and financial condition of the family. The evaluation also found that Reconnect services fill a significant gap in existing regional service systems, including a central role in supporting schools to connect young people to other services in the community.

## Inclusive and cohesive

Young people highly value their friendships and family, with both *friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* considered *extremely* or *very important* by over eight in ten young people. It is important that programs that work with young people also have the flexibility to work with their families and social networks.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander respondents to this year's *Youth Survey* also placed a high value on *culture*, with 47.4% considering it *extremely* or *very important* to them (compared to 26.8% of non-Indigenous respondents). Connection to culture can be a protective factor and promote social and emotional wellbeing for young people and should be fostered within relevant youth programs.

Young people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds were also well represented in the *Youth Survey*, as well as young people living with a disability. Over 1,600 (6.5%) respondents to this year's *Youth Survey* identified as living with a disability, and further analysis of these results is planned for later release in a snapshot report in 2020. One in seven (14.3%) respondents this year were born overseas and close to one in five (17.8%) spoke a language other than English at home. Policies and programs that seek to benefit young people must recognise their diversity and take an inclusive and strengths-based approach.

### Bullying

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced or witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Just over one in five (21.0%) young people reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months, while nearly half (47.7%) reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. This aligns with other research that demonstrates the prevalence of bullying and the need for further action.<sup>2</sup>

Bullying involves ongoing, repeated, unwanted, targeted aggressive behaviour(s) over time that causes psychological, physical, social or educational harm, often characterised by an imbalance of power and peer victimization.<sup>3</sup> Such behaviours include 'overt' bullying (visible verbal or physical bullying), 'covert' bullying (such as spreading rumours), or the more recent form of 'cyberbullying'.<sup>4</sup> Each of these forms of bullying often overlap. Experiencing bullying at such a formative time as adolescence can have long-term negative impacts upon self-esteem, mental health and wellbeing; for this reason, bullying is increasingly being re-framed as a public health issue.<sup>5</sup>

Young people who reported bullying stated that the bullying most commonly occurred *at school/TAFE/university* (79.9%). Relationships Australia's 2018 online survey found that half (50%) of parents and guardians would seek help from the school if they were concerned about their child being bullied. However, more than 50% of respondents were not confident that schools deal effectively with bullying.<sup>6</sup>

All schools need to be adequately resourced and equipped to prevent and combat bullying. This includes commitment at a leadership level, scope for a whole of school response, implementation of evidence based anti-bullying programs, training for teachers and wellbeing staff and an ability to intervene in highly traumatic cases where complex needs may arise.

<sup>1</sup> Roche, Barker, and Turton 2017; Roche and Barker 2017

<sup>2</sup> Cross et al. 2009, xxi; ReachOut Australia 2017, 5; Alannah and Madeline Foundation 2018, 1; Thomas et al. 2017

<sup>3</sup> Alannah and Madeline Foundation 2018, 7; Goldblum et al. 2014, 6

<sup>4</sup> Relationships Australia 2018

<sup>5</sup> Goldblum et al. 2014, 4; Nixon 2014; Hinduja and Patchin 2014, 10

<sup>6</sup> Relationships Australia 2018. See also Rigby 2017a

"Schools, work and families need to pay more attention to young people and do something about the bullying and harassment teenagers experience."

(F, 17, VIC)

"At my old school. Things need to be done about bullying. I was not bullied myself but witnessed many incidents over social media and verbal abuse."

(F, 16, VIC)

"Bullying in schools and outside of schools. It is making young children take their own lives!"

(M, 16, VIC)

"Bullying caused me to have anxiety when coming to school."

(M, 15, SA)

"For school to help more and enforce more rules and follow them and to not tolerate bullying. To take action against bullying and actually do stuff about it. Get a guest speaker in to talk about bullying and the effects it has later in life and now."

(F, 15, TAS)

### STEPS – Steps to examine programs and approaches for schools

STEPS<sup>7</sup> is a decision-making tool from 'Bullying No Way!' that helps schools select appropriate and evidence-based anti-bullying programs and approaches. The STEPS tool has a wide range of frameworks, strategies, resources and programs which aim to counter bullying. The STEPS decision-making tool supports school staff to examine these various programs and resources and identify the most appropriate approaches to address bullying.

According to this year's *Youth Survey*, *online/on social media* (34.0%) was the second most reported place in which young people experienced bullying in the last 12 months, after *school/TAFE/university* (79.9%).

Of the survey respondents who had been bullied over the past year, more than seven in ten (71.3%) experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*) and over six in ten (61.2%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being embarrassed or excluded*). More than one third (36.5%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*), while more than one fifth (21.6%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*). Respondents could choose multiple forms of bullying in the survey questionnaire, and those experiencing verbal and social forms of bullying may be experiencing these forms and cyberbullying concurrently. Research has shown that cyberbullying usually occurs in conjunction with traditional forms of bullying.<sup>8</sup>

A notably higher proportion of females reported they had experienced bullying *online/on social media* (37.3% compared with 27.3% of males). Similarly, when considering the kinds of bullying experienced, more females experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*) (39.6% compared with 29.9% of males). Yet, concerningly, double the proportion of males reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*) over the past year (29.7% compared with 14.8% of females).

Cyberbullying has a sense of immediacy as technology can be used to disseminate images or words quickly and widely with the intention of causing harm, and it occurs on a forum where others can easily witness it.<sup>9</sup> More than four in ten (42.4%) of the young people who had witnessed bullying reported they saw it take place *online/on social media*. With the frequent and increasing use of technology by young people, cyberbullying is an important issue which needs to be addressed in a targeted way alongside traditional forms of bullying.

### eSmart

eSmart is a cultural, behaviour-change program.<sup>10</sup> It is a roadmap that schools can use to support improvements to student wellbeing and has been designed to create a positive and inclusive culture that reduces bullying and cyber bullying, and increases awareness around cyber safety.

Developed by experts, it encourages positive online behaviours and works to reduce exposure to cyber risks. eSmart provides schools with a framework to assist with the review of policies, practices and whole-school change processes to support a cyber safe or an 'eSmart' environment.

<sup>7</sup> Bullying No Way! 2019a

<sup>8</sup> Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce and Queensland Government 2018, 29; Hinduja and Patchin 2014

<sup>9</sup> Bullying No Way! 2019b; Hinduja and Patchin 2014, 13

<sup>10</sup> Alannah and Madeline Foundation 2019a



Concerningly, three in ten (29.9 %) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months (compared with 20.3% of non-Indigenous respondents). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were also more likely to experience bullying *at home*, *in my neighbourhood* and *at work* than their non-Indigenous peers, and they were more likely to experience *physical bullying* (39.2% compared to 19.7%).

Particular policy attention should be paid to students who are most vulnerable to being bullied, including students who might be at risk of bullying due to discrimination around race, disability, obesity, gender, homophobia and material deprivation.<sup>11</sup>

Research also shows that adolescents involved in bullying in any way ('victim', 'bully-victim', or 'bully') have worse mental health outcomes than those who were not — including increased risk of depression and suicidal ideation<sup>12</sup> — and the group who were often most vulnerable were the 'bully-victims': those adolescents who bullied others and were also bullied themselves.<sup>13</sup>

Young people need to be equipped to respond to or know how to seek support if they are experiencing or witnessing bullying. For the 21.0% of respondents who reported they had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (46.0%), *removing myself from the situation* (37.0%) and *talking to close friends or family* (34.3%).

A much higher proportion of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (42.3% compared with 24.1% of males) while a higher proportion of males reported that *confronting the bully/ies* (23.9%) assisted them in dealing with bullying (compared with 17.7% of females).

Stigma around seeking help for bullying can deter young people from reaching out.<sup>14</sup> However, speaking to a trusted adult can be a crucial part of getting support. Parents and guardians need support in having crucial conversations with children around bullying, as do friends and young people themselves.<sup>15</sup>

Disturbingly, nearly one in seven (13.4%) respondents stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying. There is therefore much more that we can do as a community to support young people experiencing bullying and support their wellbeing.

## Dolly's Dream

At the beginning of 2018, the country was devastated by the untimely death of 14 year old Amy 'Dolly' Everett. Dolly was the victim of relentless bullying.

Following her death, Dolly's parents Kate and Tick and her sister Meg established *Dolly's Dream* as a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves and to prevent the lives of other children being lost to bullying.

Dolly's Dream:<sup>16</sup>

- raises awareness about the serious issue of bullying and its devastating effects
- provides help and supports young people affected by bullying
- educates about bullying issues and advocates for bullying laws and regulations
- delivers information on ways to help prevent bullying and cyber bullying
- works to change cultures and prevent bullying through a variety of educational approaches.

Key achievements of Dolly's Dream to date have included:

- Dolly's Dream Parent Hub - a website with bullying and cyber bullying resources for parents
- Co-funding the Northern Territory and Queensland Governments' introduction of eSmart Schools to reduce bullying
- Delivering cyber safety workshops in rural and remote parts of Australia
- Lobbying for introduction of new laws with tougher penalties for cyber bullies in NSW (known as Dolly's Law) and Tasmania
- Reaching more than 8 million Australians with Dolly's story
- Inspiring 350+ fundraising activities
- Contributing to policy discussions with all governments

Kate and Tick were awarded the 2019 Australian of the Year 'Local Heroes' award.

## Safe

It is essential for young people's wellbeing that they feel safe in their homes, schools and communities. However, almost one in five (17.8%) respondents to the 2019 *Youth Survey* were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *personal safety*. This was higher for females than males (20.6% compared with 13.3%) and higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (22.4% compared with 17.5% of non-Indigenous respondents).

*Crime, safety and violence* also ranked among the top ten most important issues in Australia today, reported by 12.2% of young people. This was higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people than non-Indigenous young people (14.4% compared to 12.1% respectively).

<sup>11</sup> Rigby, Ken and Johnson 2016; Gunn and Goldstein 2017

<sup>12</sup> Hinduja and Patchin 2014, 10; Goldblum et al. 2014, 7

<sup>13</sup> Goldblum et al. 2014, 7-8; Ford et al. 2017; Thomas et al. 2017

<sup>14</sup> ReachOut Australia 2017, 4, 7; Rigby 2017b

<sup>15</sup> The Royal Children's Hospital 2018

<sup>16</sup> See Dolly's Dream 2019; Alannah and Madeline Foundation 2019b

More needs to be done to build feelings of safety both at home and in the community for all young people, with particular regard to the higher concerns about safety raised by young females and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

“...when I walk somewhere, even in the middle of the day, I feel as if I am constantly keeping an eye out on everyone around me, worried that something could happen to me because you don’t know people. I feel as well in the present time it’s something that is quite predominant and girls are always being told you have to watch yourself and be cautious about where you go and when.”

(F, 19, SA)

## Supported and resourced

Young people need to feel confident in seeking help and know whom they can speak to and trust.

Friend/s (83.0%), parent/s or guardian/s (75.2%), relative/family friend (57.6%) and brother/sister (50.8%) were the four most frequently cited sources of help for young people. We therefore need to equip these informal sources of help that young people most frequently turn to with the knowledge and skills to support young people with important issues in their lives, and refer them to formal supports when necessary.

“I find that I stress over school and personal issues so the main way to deal with it is to have a supportive network of family.”

(F, 15, VIC)

Around half of young people indicated that they would go to the internet (46.1%) or a GP or health professional (45.5%) for support with important issues in their lives. More than one third (36.0%) of young people would turn to a teacher as a source of help with important issues and three in ten (30.4%) would turn to a school counsellor.

Health and education professionals also need to be aware of appropriate services that they can link young people to in times of need and be confident discussing the range of concerns that young people have including concerns around their mental health. The internet is also an important source of support for young people which can be used to provide information and deliver evidence-based programs.

“More talk about mental health issues in school and the community. Easier access to mental health services without 3 month wait-times to get through. More advertising about programs at-risk people can text rather than call or met face to face, a lot of people don’t like to talk and would rather write.”

(F, WA)

Encouragingly, six in ten (60.7%) young people were *very happy* or *happy* with their lives as a whole, and nearly six in ten (58.3%) reported feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future. However, around one in ten (11.1%) young people indicated that they were either *sad* or *very sad* with their lives as a whole, and one in eight (12.2%) felt *negative* or *very negative* about the future. This could be an indication of a range of personal challenges that young people experience. It is imperative that community services, supports and youth programs are easily accessible and navigable for young people and cater to their specific needs as and when they arise.

## Connected and participating

The top three activities identified by young people nationally were *sports (as a participant)* (68.0%), *sports (as a spectator)* (56.3%) and *volunteer work* (46.7%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had higher involvement in *arts/cultural and music activities, youth groups/activities, environmental groups and political groups/organisations* than their non-Indigenous peers, demonstrating strong connection and participation in the community. Participating in community activities helps young people to develop social networks and interpersonal skills, and should be encouraged.

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, in order to understand young people’s voice.

Just under half of young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when with *my friends* (45.2%) and *with my family* (44.2%). Just under one in six young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (15.0%), while less than one in ten felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (7.2%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (18.0%) and *in public affairs* (12.8%) at higher rates than their non-Indigenous peers (14.6% and 6.7% respectively).

More than half (52.4%) of young people felt they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* and a higher proportion of females indicated feeling they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (55.4% compared with 48.0% of males).

Policy-makers have a responsibility to include the voices of young people, particularly on issues which most effect and concern them.<sup>17</sup> The Australian Survey of Social Attitudes indicated nearly three quarters (72%) of Australian respondents *agreed* or *strongly agreed* that 15 to 18 year olds should be given opportunities to influence government decisions.<sup>18</sup>

According to the young people responding to the 2019 *Youth Survey*, the most important issues facing Australia today are *mental health, the environment and equity and discrimination*.

While males and females shared the same top two issues, females indicated *equity and discrimination* was the third most important issue, while males reported *alcohol and drugs* was the third most important issue facing Australia today.

Young people's concern for the environment has significantly increased from previous years. This includes concerns around climate change and other environmental issues. This aligns with other research showing growing concern for the environment, particularly among young people.<sup>19</sup>

In 2018-2019, thousands of young people participated in youth-led climate strikes and protests across the country,<sup>20</sup> which linked with efforts in other international locations. As future generations will be increasingly affected by climate change, pollution and other environmental issues, young people have been finding ways to make their views known to decision-makers and to take actions to conserve the environment.<sup>21</sup> This indicates that many young people are looking to have a voice in issues that matter to them, and to influence policy decisions.

### Youth Parliament

YMCA NSW's Youth Parliament is an empowerment and advocacy program that provides a platform for young people to have their voices heard through legislative debate and decision-making.<sup>22</sup> Aimed at young people in years 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent age throughout the state, YMCA NSW Youth Parliament highlights the power of young people speaking on issues that are important to them.

Every participant's potential to lead, learn and connect is nurtured through parliamentary education, community engagement, confidence building and teamwork. They develop their skills in creating social impact and positive change in a safe and supportive environment. Since its beginning in 2002, approximately six pieces of YMCA NSW Youth Parliament youth legislation have been passed into NSW Law, including the recent Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

**“Young people feel that people in power i.e. our schools, teachers, principals, governments are not listening to them. Governments don't listen to our concern for climate change. Many young people I converse with feel helpless on the issue. That also reduces our mental health because our future seems bleak. To improve this we need people who seem to represent to us to empower to speak on our own behalf and feel listened to.”**

**(F, 18, VIC)**

**“Politicians need to take action and young people need to be reminded their voice is powerful and therefore needs to be listened to.”**

**(F, 17, NSW)**

<sup>17</sup> United Nations OHCHR 2017, Article 12

<sup>18</sup> Blunsdon et al. 2018; Perales, Ritchie, and Phillips 2017

<sup>19</sup> Lowy Institute 2019; Unicef Australia 2019, 1; ABC RN Breakfast 2019; United Nations 2019

<sup>20</sup> “School Strike 4 Climate Australia” 2019

<sup>21</sup> O'Brien, Selboe, and Hayward 2018

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# National summary



## Profile of respondents

### State and territory distribution

A total of 25,126 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 *Youth Survey*. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and proportion of responses from each Australian state and territory.

### Gender breakdown

Around six in ten (56.3%) respondents were female and 40.7% were male. There were 1.3% of respondents who identified as other and 1.8% who preferred not to say.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 1,579 (6.4%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,310 (5.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 149 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.7% compared with 5.6% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 3,526 (14.3%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 4,347 (17.8%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the more than 100 languages other than English spoken at home, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Arabic and Italian.

### Disability

A total of 1,623 (6.5%) respondents identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (7.7%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.4% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disabilities and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 1.1, 93.3% of respondents were studying full-time, which is similar to the 94.0% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A slightly higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (95.2% compared with 91.8% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males reported they were studying part-time (3.5% compared with 1.9% of females) or were not studying (4.8% compared with 2.9% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.3%) or *satisfied* (55.2%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (5.7%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.8%). As shown in Table 1.2, a higher proportion of females reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (69.1% compared with 66.5% of males), while a slightly higher proportion of males indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (8.2% compared with 6.5% of females).

Of those that were still at school, 95.8% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. More than double the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (6.3% compared with 2.4% of females).

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory

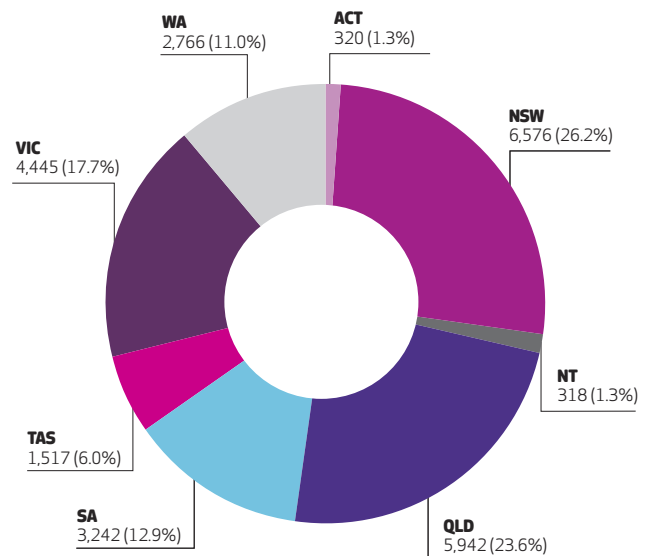


Table 1.1: Participation in education

	National %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	95.2	91.8
Studying part-time	2.7	1.9	3.5
Not studying	4.0	2.9	4.8

Table 1.2: Satisfaction with studies

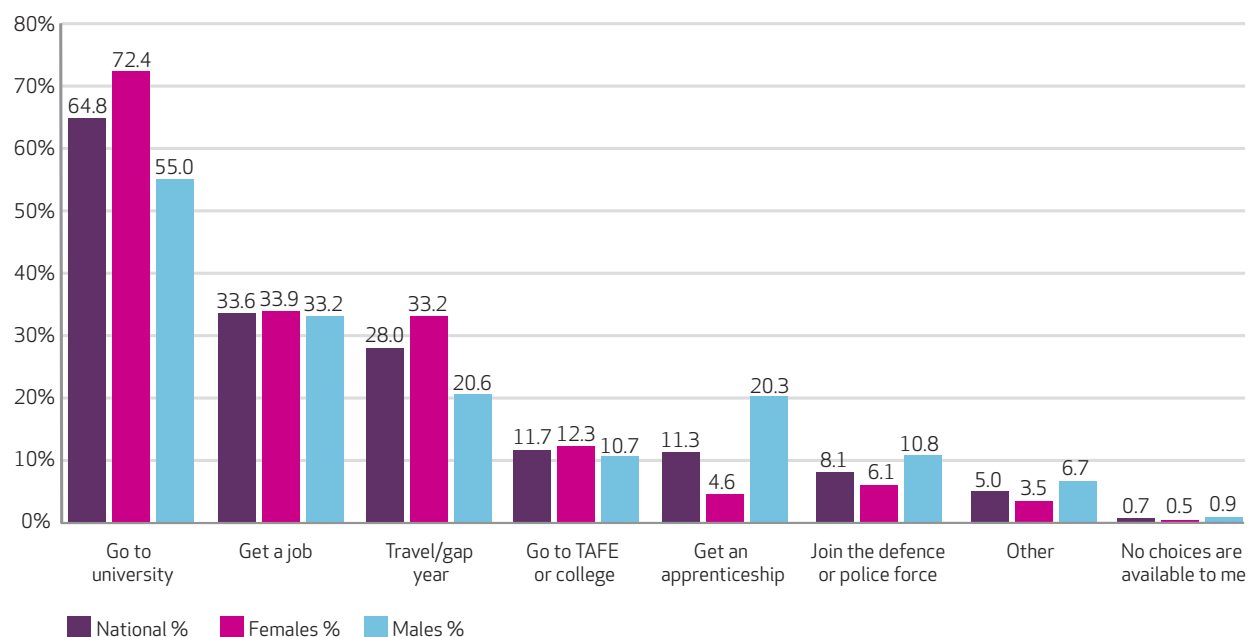
	National %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	11.7	13.0
Satisfied	55.2	57.4	53.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	24.4	25.2
Dissatisfied	5.7	5.3	5.9
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.2	2.3

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 1.2 shows that nearly two thirds (64.8%) of respondents planned to *go to university* after school. One in three (33.6%) respondents reported plans to *get a job* after school and around three in ten (28.0%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, just over one in ten young people planned to *go to TAFE or college* (11.7%) and to *get an apprenticeship* (11.3%), while 8.1% reported plans to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (0.7%) of respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (72.4% compared with 55.0% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (33.2% compared with 20.6% of males). Conversely, more than four times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (20.3% compared with 4.6% of females).

Figure 1.2: Plans after leaving school



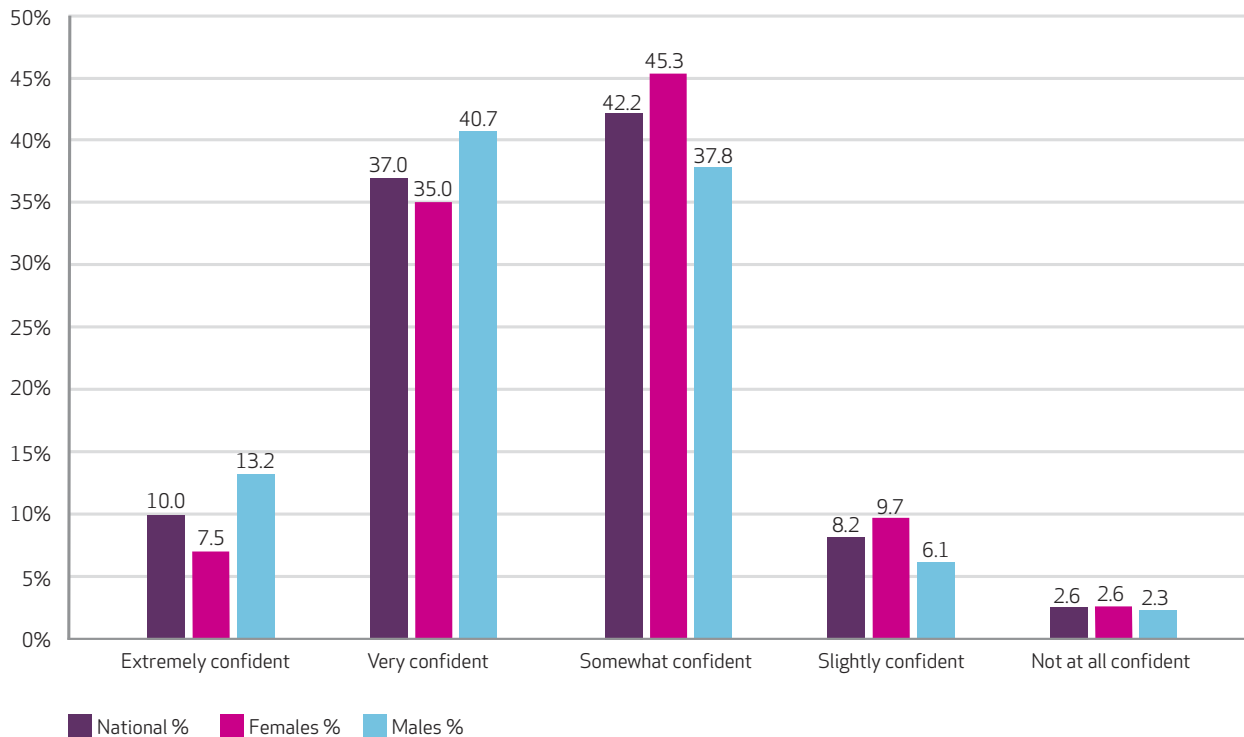
Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.



## How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 1.3, nearly half (47.0%) indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 10.0% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 37.0% stated that they were *very confident*. However, one in ten (10.8%) young people were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.2% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 2.6% were *not at all confident*. A notably higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (53.9% compared with 42.5% of females).

Figure 1.3: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people's study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Nearly half (48.9%) of respondents indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a notably greater proportion of females (54.5%) than males (40.5%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 1.4 shows the percentage of respondents who reported each item was a barrier.

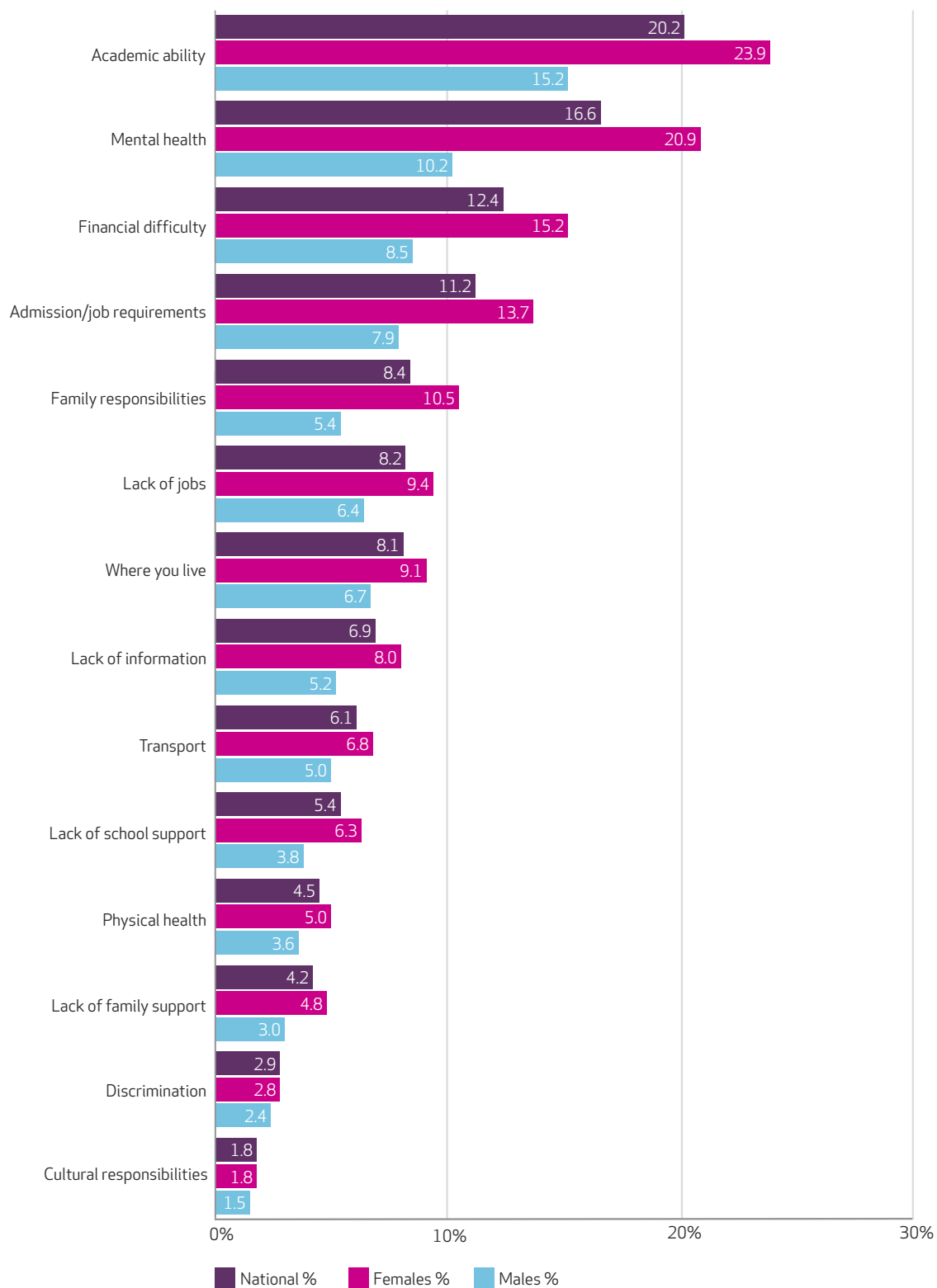
- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (20.2%, 16.6% and 12.4% respectively).
- Just over one in ten (11.2%) respondents reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* as a barrier impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.4, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females indicated that each of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- Close to one in four (23.9%) female respondents saw *academic ability* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school (compared with 15.2% of males).
- Notably higher proportions of females reported *mental health* (20.9% compared with 10.2% of males) and *financial difficulty* (15.2% compared with 8.5%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.

Figure 1.4: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 1.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents nationally. A very small proportion of young people who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.8%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. More than four in ten (43.0%) respondents reported that they were employed part-time. Nearly six in ten (56.2%) respondents indicated that they were not in paid employment: over one in three (34.4%) stated that they were looking for work, while around one in five (21.8%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in 2019 is comparable to 2018 findings (43.0% compared with 42.1% respectively).

### Gender differences

A slightly higher proportion of male respondents reported full-time employment (1.0% and 0.5% of females). A notably higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (47.4% compared with 37.7% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (37.1% compared with 32.3% of females).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.5	1.0
Employed part-time	43.0	47.4	37.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	32.3	37.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	19.8	24.2

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 1.5, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items nationally were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- *Friendships (other than family)* were considered *extremely* or *very important* by 82.5% of respondents (*extremely important*: 42.3%; *very important*: 40.2%).
- More than eight in ten (81.5%) respondents rated *family relationships* as *extremely* or *very important* to them (*extremely important*: 48.5%; *very important*: 33.0%).
- Nearly seven in ten respondents placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (69.0%), while two in three rated *mental health* (66.6%) and *physical health* (65.6%) as *extremely* or *very important*.

Figure 1.5: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

## Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males, as shown in Table 1.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Friendships (other than family)* were rated *extremely* or *very important* by more than eight in ten females (84.5%) and males (80.7%).
- Notably higher proportions of females placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (75.1% compared with 62.3%) and *mental health* (72.0% compared with 59.9%).

Table 1.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>38.8</b>	11.2	3.0	1.4
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>	10.7	3.5	1.3
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>39.5</b>	18.6	4.4	1.9
Mental health	40.0	32.0	17.7	7.1	3.2
Physical health	30.9	35.5	23.3	7.7	2.7
Financial security	20.1	37.2	29.9	8.5	4.3
Getting a job	18.1	29.9	28.3	14.0	9.6
Culture	9.4	18.6	33.0	20.5	18.4



Table 1.4: What young people value by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>42.7</b>	13.9	3.3	2.1
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>36.5</b>	14.3	4.0	2.6
School or study satisfaction	23.5	38.8	25.8	7.3	4.5
Mental health	29.8	30.1	22.7	9.5	7.9
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>35.8</b>	22.6	7.1	4.4
Financial security	18.4	34.2	29.9	10.8	6.8
Getting a job	18.5	27.2	26.6	15.8	11.9
Culture	8.4	16.5	31.7	19.9	23.5

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

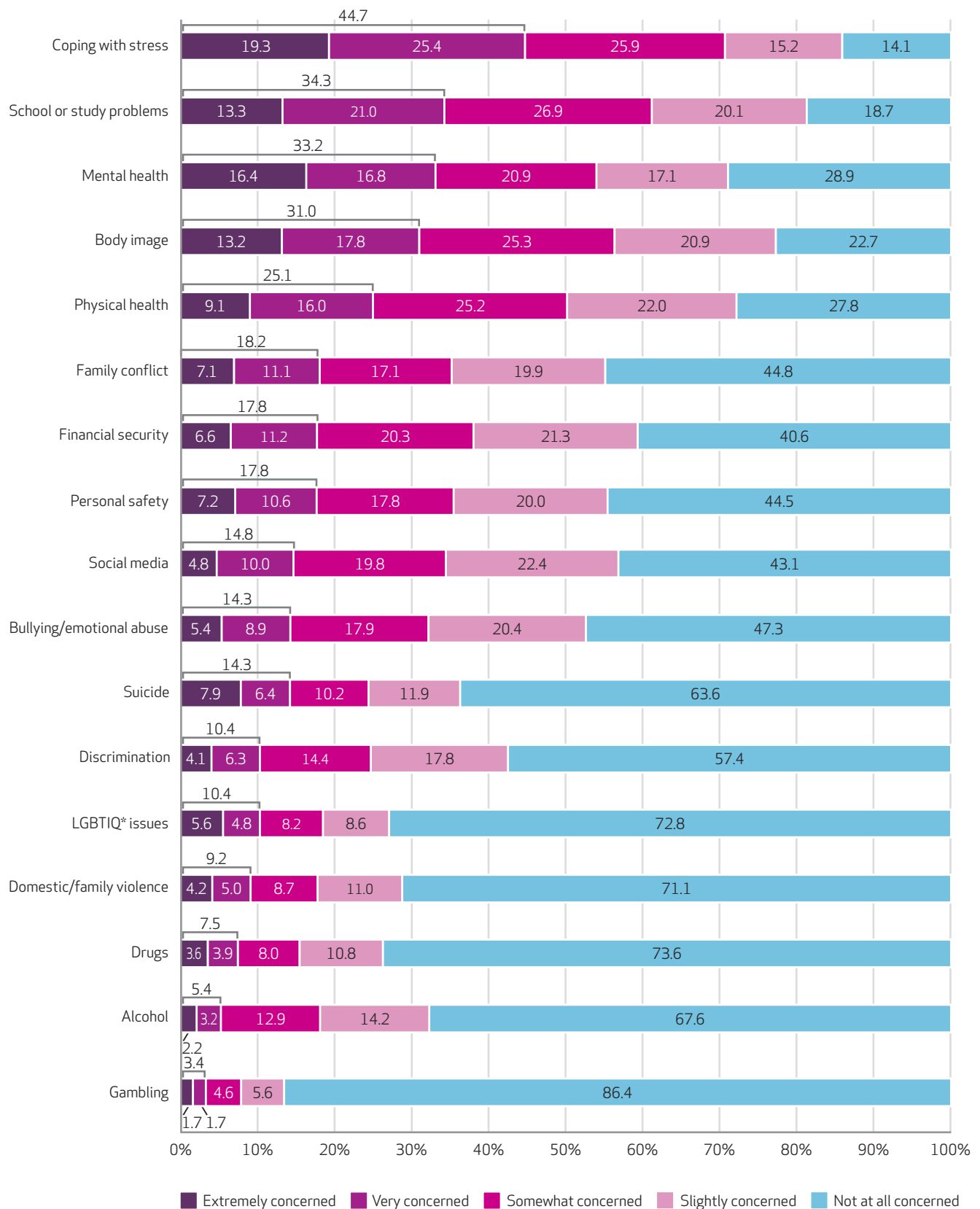
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 1.6. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

As in 2018, the top three issues of personal concern for young people were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with more than four in ten (44.7%) respondents indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- Around one third of respondents were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (34.3%) and *mental health* (33.2%).
- Over three in ten (31.0%) respondents were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image*.

Figure 1.6: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for extremely concerned and very concerned for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of personal concern for both females and males, as shown in Table 1.5. The third most concerning personal issue for females was *body image*, while for males it was *mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major issue of concern for around six in ten (58.3%) females, compared with around one in four (26.1%) males.
- Notably higher proportions of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (42.8% compared with 14.5% of males), *school or study problems* (43.3% compared with 21.9%) and *mental health* (41.9% compared with 20.6%).
- More than double the proportion of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *social media* (19.1% compared with 8.4% of males).

Table 1.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>31.7</b>	25.0	10.8	5.8
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>25.9</b>	27.1	18.1	11.4
Mental health	21.2	20.7	22.7	16.0	19.4
<b>Body image</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>24.2</b>	27.9	17.9	11.4
Physical health	10.2	19.0	27.6	22.2	21.1
Family conflict	8.8	13.5	19.6	21.5	36.6
Financial security	7.4	13.3	22.4	22.3	34.5
Personal safety	8.1	12.5	19.3	21.0	39.0
Social media	6.0	13.1	23.2	23.6	34.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.3	10.9	20.4	21.6	40.7
Suicide	8.8	7.5	11.3	13.4	58.9
Discrimination	4.1	7.1	16.0	19.6	53.1
LGBTIQ* issues	5.4	6.1	9.6	10.6	68.3
Domestic/family violence	4.5	5.7	9.1	12.2	68.6
Drugs	3.1	4.1	8.4	11.5	72.9
Alcohol	1.7	3.6	14.4	15.4	64.8
Gambling	1.0	1.6	4.1	5.1	88.2

Table 1.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>17.2</b>	27.7	21.6	24.8
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>14.5</b>	26.9	23.4	27.8
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>11.6</b>	18.8	19.0	41.6
Body image	5.2	9.3	22.3	25.6	37.6
Physical health	7.3	12.3	22.0	22.0	36.4
Family conflict	4.1	7.9	13.9	17.9	56.2
Financial security	4.9	8.6	17.6	20.2	48.8
Personal safety	5.3	8.0	15.5	19.1	52.2
Social media	2.6	5.8	15.1	21.1	55.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.6	6.3	14.2	19.3	56.6
Suicide	5.7	4.8	8.2	10.0	71.3
Discrimination	3.2	4.8	12.1	15.7	64.3
LGBTIQ* issues	3.9	2.6	6.2	6.0	81.2
Domestic/family violence	3.2	3.9	8.0	9.5	75.3
Drugs	3.7	3.7	7.4	9.8	75.3
Alcohol	2.3	2.6	10.8	12.7	71.6
Gambling	2.0	1.8	5.1	6.3	84.8

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.  
\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Just over one in five (21.0%) young people reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A slightly higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (21.8% compared with 18.8% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 1.6 shows that, of the 21.0% of respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (79.9%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Just over one third (34.0%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while around one fifth (18.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Smaller proportions of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (8.6%) or *in my neighbourhood* (6.5%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 1.6. Of the 21.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around eight in ten male (82.4%) and female (79.1%) respondents had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (37.3% compared with 27.3% of males).
- A higher proportion of females also reported that they had experienced bullying *at home* (18.5% compared with 14.5% of males).



Table 1.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>82.4</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>27.3</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>
At work	8.6	8.1	7.3
Other	7.9	5.8	8.4
In my neighbourhood	6.5	4.1	8.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 21.0% of respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 1.7 shows that more than seven in ten (71.3%) young people reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Over six in ten (61.2%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while more than one in three (36.5%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). Around one in five (21.6%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

## Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males were *verbal*, *social* and *cyberbullying*, there were considerable differences in the results, as shown in Table 1.7. Of the 21.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Three quarters (74.9%) of male respondents had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing), compared with 69.2% of females.
- Notably higher proportions of females reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (68.2% compared with 49.9% of males) and *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (39.6% compared with 29.9%).
- Conversely, double the proportion of males reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) over the past year (29.7% compared with 14.8% of females).

Table 1.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>74.9</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>49.9</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	14.8	29.7
Other	5.6	4.3	5.5

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

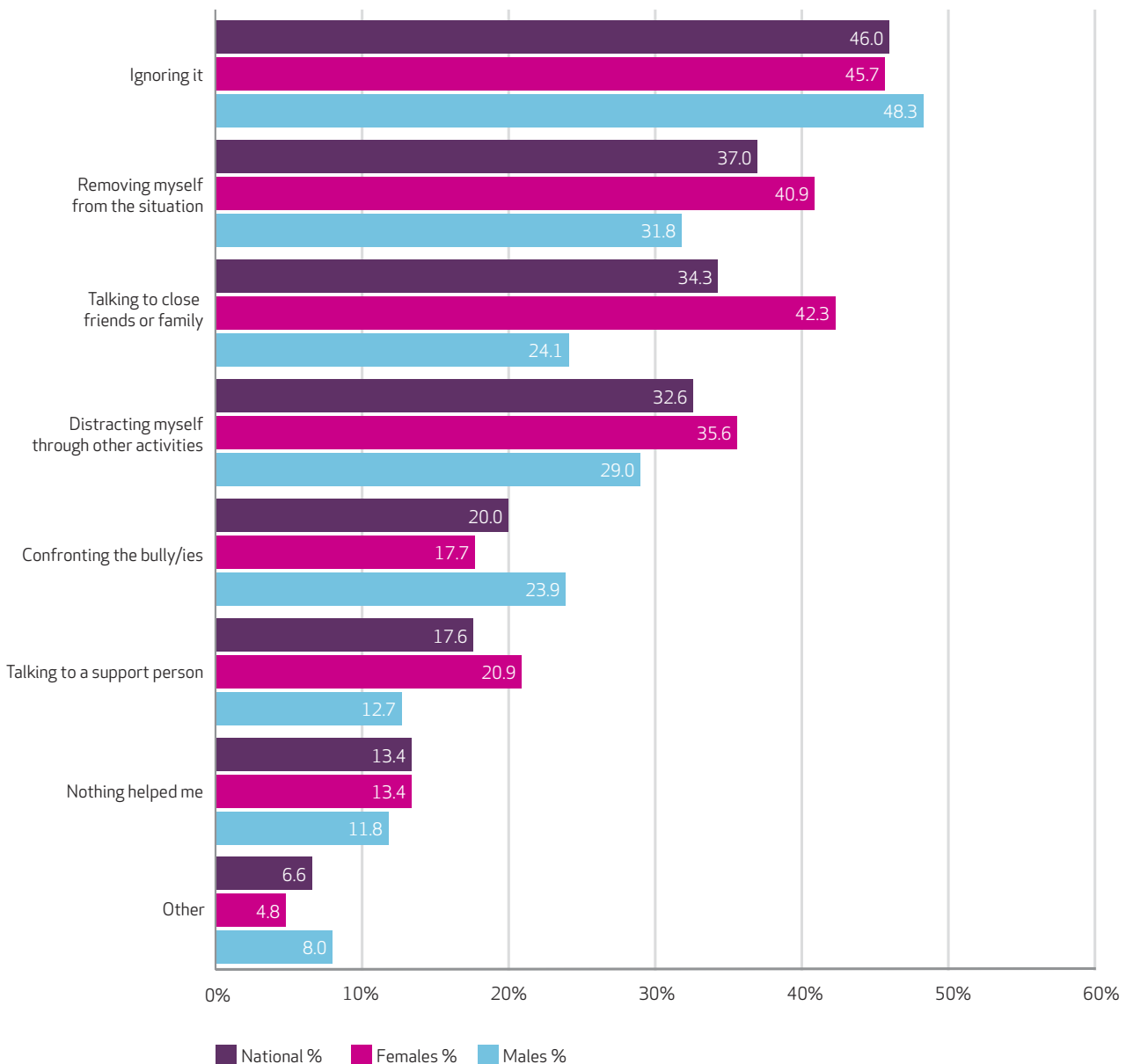
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 1.7. For the 21.0% of respondents who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (46.0%), *removing myself from the situation* (37.0%) and *talking to close friends or family* (34.3%). Just under one third (32.6%) indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*. One in five (20.0%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying, while around one in six (17.6%) reported *talking to a support person* helped. Nearly one in seven (13.4%) respondents stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 1.7. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (45.7%), *talking to close friends or family* (42.3%) and *removing myself from the situation* (40.9%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (48.3%), followed by *removing myself from the situation* (31.8%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (29.0%).

- A much higher proportion of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (42.3% compared with 24.1% of males).
- While a greater proportion of females reported *talking to a support person* helped (20.9% compared with 12.7% of males), a higher proportion of males reported that *confronting the bully/ies* assisted them in dealing with bullying (23.9% compared with 17.7% of females).

Figure 1.7: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly half (47.7%) of young people reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. Similar proportions of females and males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (47.7% compared with 47.3% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 1.8 shows that, of the 47.7% of respondents who had witnessed bullying in the past year, 85.2% reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. More than four in ten (42.4%) indicated they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media*. Much smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at work* (7.4%), *in my neighbourhood* (7.3%) or *at home* (7.2%).

## Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 1.8.

- More than eight in ten male (86.1%) and female (85.3%) respondents had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year. A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (48.2% compared with 34.2% of males). Conversely, a higher proportion of males reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (8.9% compared with 5.4% of females).

Table 1.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>86.1</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>34.2</b>
<b>At work</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	6.4
In my neighbourhood	7.3	5.4	<b>8.9</b>
At home	7.2	<b>7.7</b>	5.7
Other	4.7	3.4	5.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 1.8 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

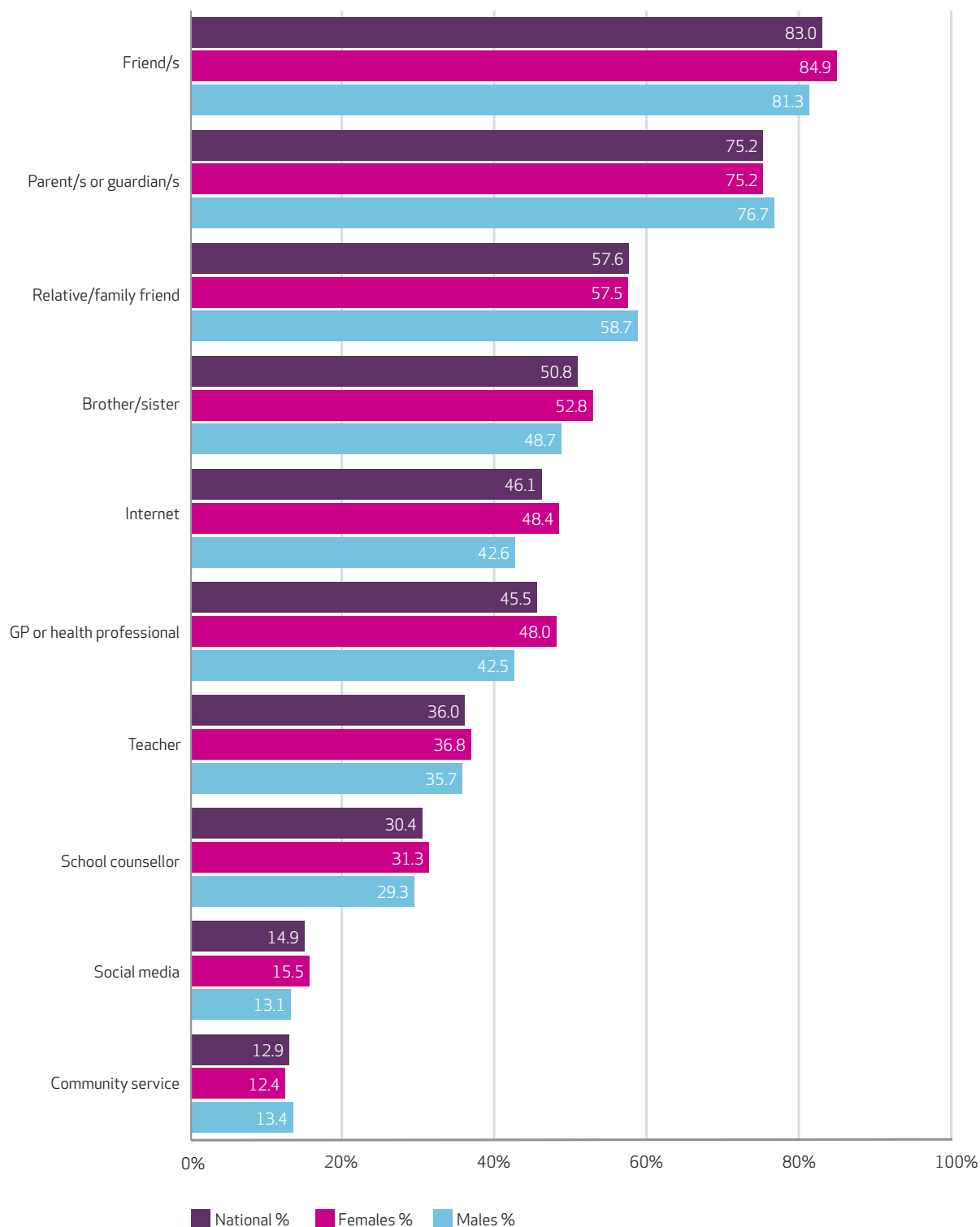
*Friend/s* (83.0%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (75.2%) and *relative/family friend* (57.6%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (50.8%), the *internet* (46.1%) or a *GP or health professional* (45.5%) for support with important issues in their lives. More than one third (36.0%) of young people would turn to a *teacher* as a source of help with important issues.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.8, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the national results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females indicated that they would turn to their *friend/s* for help with important issues (84.9% compared with 81.3% of males), whereas a slightly higher proportion of males stated they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (76.7% compared with 75.2% of females).
- A higher proportion of females would turn to the *internet* (48.4% compared with 42.6% of males), a *GP or health professional* (48.0% compared with 42.5%) and to their *brother/sister* (52.8% compared with 48.7%) for support with important issues in their lives.

Figure 1.8: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 1.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Close to four in ten (36.2%) young people indicated that *mental health* is an important issue in Australia today.
- Just over one third of respondents reported that *the environment* (34.2%) is an important national issue, while one quarter cited *equity and discrimination* (24.8%).



- Since 2018, the proportion of those reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 9.2% to 34.2%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* have decreased since 2018.

## Gender differences

In line with national results, *mental health* and *the environment* were the top two most important issues for both females and males. While *equity and discrimination* was the third most important issue for females, *alcohol and drugs* was the third most important issue for males.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents identified *mental health* (41.0% compared with 30.3% of males) and *the environment* (38.8% compared with 28.2%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males regarded *politics* (14.6% compared with 8.2% of females), *alcohol and drugs* (23.4% compared with 19.1%) and *the economy and financial matters* (16.9% compared with 13.1%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 1.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	Females %	Males %	National 2018 %	National 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>28.2</b>	9.2	10.9
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>26.9</b>	21.8	<b>23.4</b>	<b>27.3</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	19.1	<b>23.4</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>32.0</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	13.1	16.9	11.6	12.7
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	12.6	11.8	13.5	11.3
Bullying	11.8	13.1	10.3	17.4	10.6
Politics	10.9	8.2	14.6	5.3	6.8
Education	9.1	9.0	9.1	8.2	13.0
Health	8.3	8.2	8.4	11.4	8.3

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 1.10 shows that just under half of young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (45.2%) and *with my family* (44.2%). Just under one in six young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (15.0%), while less than one in ten felt they have a say *all of the time in public affairs* (7.2%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (52.4%) of young people felt they have a say *none of the time*. Around three in ten (28.8%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 1.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.2	45.6	10.2
With my friends	45.2	47.6	7.2
At school/TAFE/university	15.0	56.3	28.8
In public affairs	7.2	40.4	52.4

## Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 1.11.

- A higher proportion of males felt they have a say *all of the time* while at school/TAFE/university (17.1% compared with 13.4% of females).
- Nearly twice the proportion of males reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in public affairs (9.7% compared with 5.1% of females).
- A higher proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (55.4% compared with 48.0% of males), whereas a slightly higher proportion of males reported feeling they have a say *none of the time* when at school/TAFE/university (30.0% compared with 27.2% of females).

Table 1.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.3	46.4	9.3
With my friends	45.8	48.1	6.1
At school/TAFE/university	13.4	59.4	27.2
In public affairs	5.1	39.5	55.4
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.8	44.9	10.3
With my friends	44.7	47.4	7.8
At school/TAFE/university	17.1	52.9	30.0
In public affairs	9.7	42.3	48.0

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 1.12.

- The top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)* (68.0%), *sports (as a spectator)* (56.3%) and *volunteer work* (46.7%).
- More than four in ten (42.5%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year.
- Around three in ten young people indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities* (32.9%) and *youth groups/activities* (29.8%).

## Gender differences

In line with national results, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for both females and males.

- Higher proportions of male respondents reported taking part in *sports (as a spectator)* (62.8% compared with 52.3%) and *sports (as a participant)* (71.9% compared with 66.1% of females) over the past year.
- Conversely, higher proportions of females participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (49.1% compared with 33.3%) and *volunteer work* (50.6% compared with 41.7% of males) in the past year.

Table 1.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

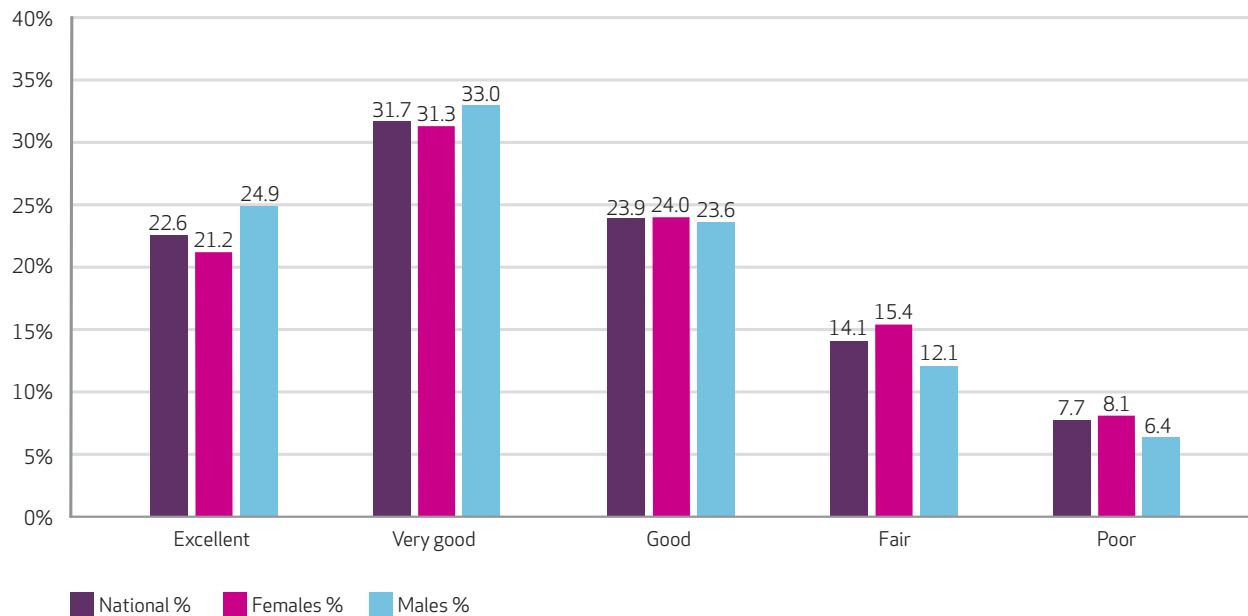
	National %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>62.8</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>41.7</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	49.1	33.3
Student leadership activities	32.9	36.3	28.7
Youth groups/activities	29.8	32.1	26.7
Religious groups/activities	23.7	25.6	21.0
Environmental groups	13.6	15.1	11.0
Political groups/organisations	7.3	7.6	6.2

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

### How do young people rate their family’s ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family’s ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 1.9 shows that the majority of respondents rated their family’s ability to get along very positively: 22.6% rated it as *excellent* and 31.7% rated it as *very good*. However, more than one in five (21.8%) young people indicated their family’s ability to get along was either *fair* (14.1%) or *poor* (7.7%). A higher proportion of males rated their family’s ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (57.9% compared with 52.5% of females), while a higher proportion of females rated their family’s ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (23.5% compared with 18.5% of males).

Figure 1.9: Family’s ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 1.13 shows, the majority (60.7%) of young people responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. A notably higher proportion of males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (66.6% compared with 57.6% of females), whereas a slightly greater proportion of females indicated they felt *very sad/sad* (11.8% compared with 8.6% of males).

Table 1.13: How happy young people are

	National %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	57.6	66.6
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	30.6	24.8
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	11.8	8.6

## How do young people feel about the future?

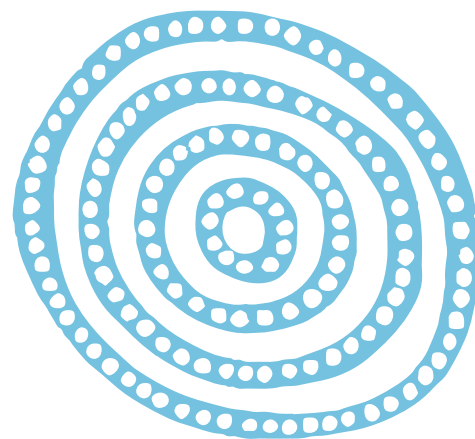
Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 1.14 shows that the majority of young people felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Nearly six in ten (58.3%) felt *very positive* (13.3%) or *positive* (45.0%) about the future.
- One in eight (12.2%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (8.8%) or *very negative* (3.4%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males reported feeling *very positive* about the future (16.3% compared with 11.3% of females).

Table 1.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	Females %	Males %	National 2018 %	National 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	11.3	16.3	15.5	15.8
Positive	45.0	45.5	45.6	46.7	46.6
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	31.2	27.0	27.9	27.5
Negative	8.8	9.4	7.8	6.8	7.1
Very negative	3.4	2.7	3.3	3.1	3.1

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary



## Profile of respondents

A total of 1,579 (6.4%) respondents to Mission Australia's 2019 *Youth Survey* identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,310 (5.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 149 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both).

### Gender breakdown

Nearly half (49.6%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were female and 42.7% were male.

### Language background other than English

A total of 173 (11.1%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they were born overseas and 298 (19.2%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 43 languages other than English spoken at home by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents, the most common were (in order of frequency): Indigenous languages, Chinese, Spanish, Kriol and Japanese.

### Disability

A total of 216 (13.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents identified as living with a disability. Twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (14.4%) identified they were living with a disability (compared with 7.0% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, anxiety disorder and deafness or hearing impairment.

## Education

As indicated in Table 2.1, 83.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time, which is similar to the 83.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents studying full-time in 2018. A slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported studying full-time (86.8% compared with 82.3% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported they were not studying (11.6% compared with 8.1% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (10.8%) or *satisfied* (45.7%) with their studies. Around one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated they were *dissatisfied* (5.9%) or *very dissatisfied* (5.4%). As shown in Table 2.2, a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling *very satisfied* (12.7% compared with 8.6% of females), yet a much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated they felt *satisfied* (52.2% compared with 41.2% of males).

Of those that were still at school, 89.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared with 96.4% of non-Indigenous respondents). More than twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (14.0% compared with 6.3% of females).



Table 2.1: Participation in education

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Studying full-time	94.1	83.1	86.8	82.3
Studying part-time	2.4	5.8	5.0	6.2
Not studying	3.5	11.0	8.1	11.6

Table 2.2: Satisfaction with studies

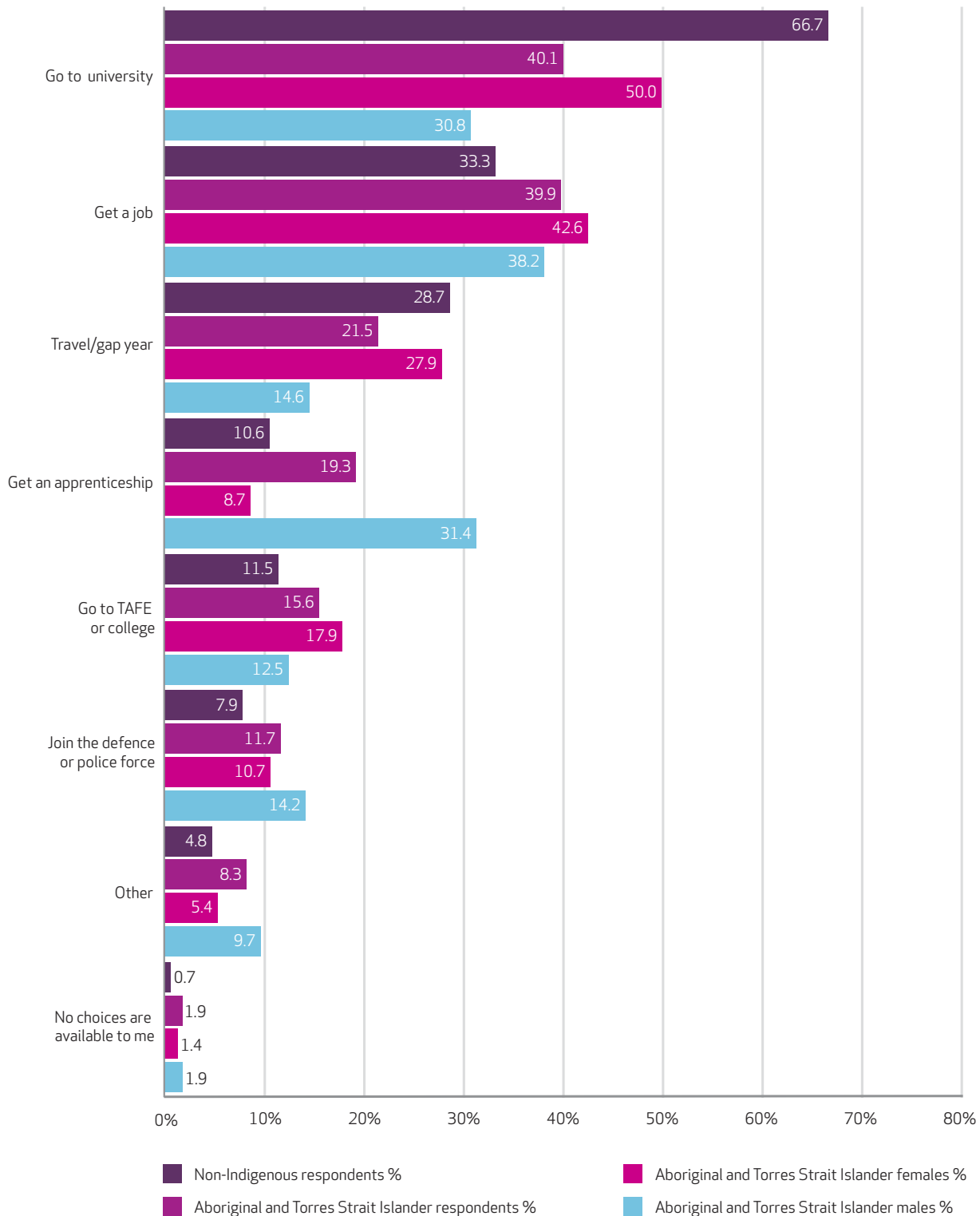
	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Very satisfied	12.3	10.8	8.6	12.7
Satisfied	56.1	45.7	52.2	41.2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.4	32.3	30.3	34.2
Dissatisfied	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.3
Very dissatisfied	1.6	5.4	3.0	6.6

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 2.1 shows that four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents planned to *go to university* (40.1%) or to *get a job* (39.9%) after school. Around one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated *travel/gap year* plans (21.5%) or plans to *get an apprenticeship* (19.3%) after school. Overall, 15.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people planned to *go to TAFE or college*, while 11.7% reported plans to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (1.9%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

The most frequently reported plan among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was to *go to university* after finishing school, while for males it was to *get a job*. A higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to *go to university* (50.0% compared with 30.8% of males) and to *get a job* after leaving school (42.6% compared with 38.2%). While nearly twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated *travel/gap year* plans (27.9% compared with 14.6% of males), more than three times the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (31.4% compared with 8.7% of females).

Figure 2.1: Plans after leaving school

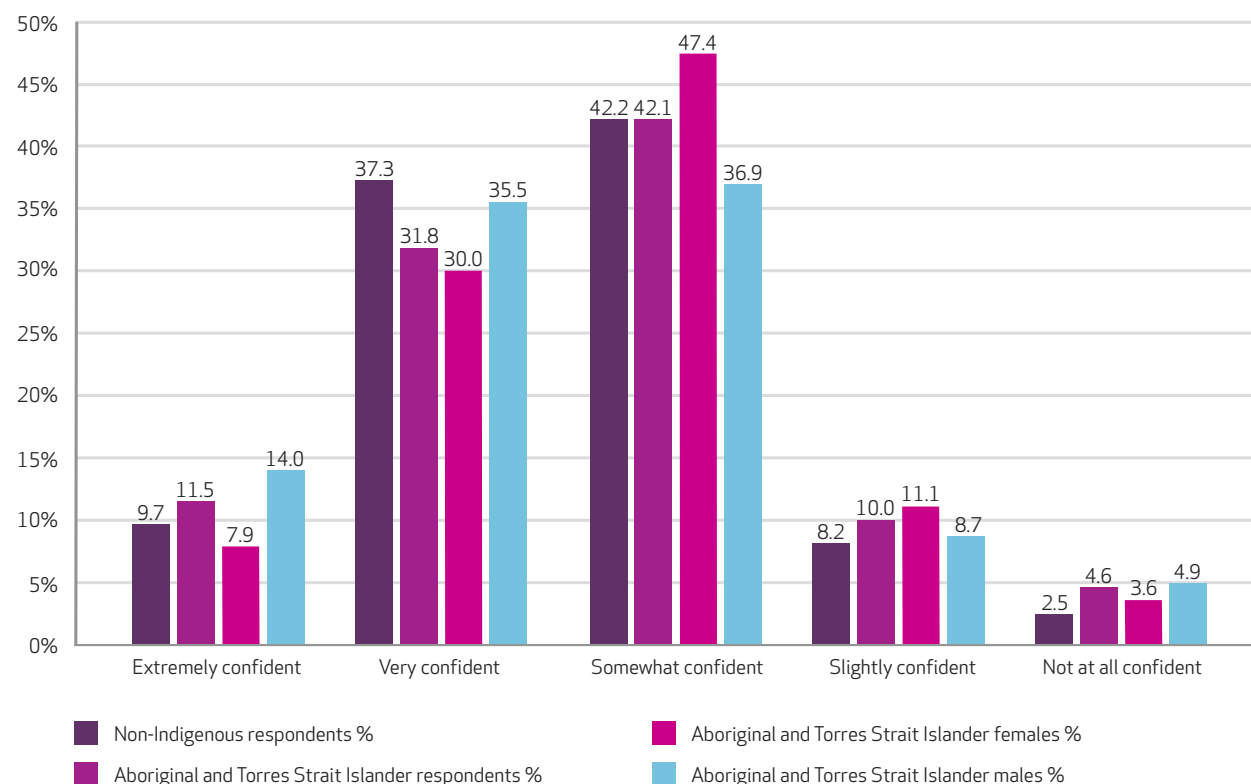


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 2.2, over four in ten (43.3%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 11.5% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 31.8% stated that they were *very confident*. However, close to one in seven (14.6%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 10.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 4.6% were *not at all confident*. A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (49.5% compared with 37.9% of females).

Figure 2.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people's study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Over half (53.1%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals (compared with 48.7% of non-Indigenous respondents), with a notably greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (58.8%) than males (47.1%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 2.3 shows the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who reported each item was a barrier.

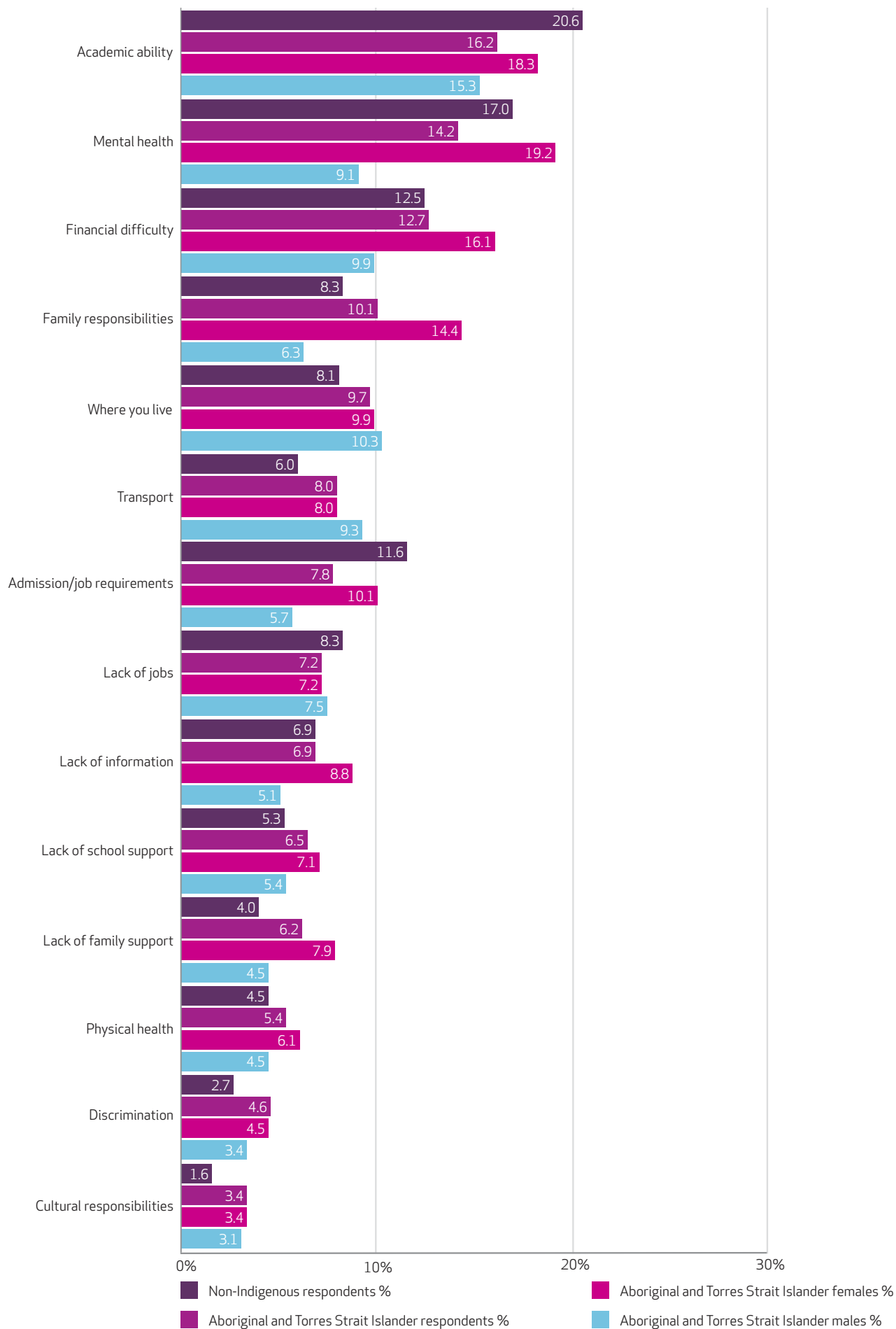
- *Academic ability, mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top three barriers that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (16.2%, 14.2% and 12.7% respectively).
- One in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they saw *family responsibilities* (10.1%) and *where you live* (9.7%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

There were some notable differences in the barriers to achieving study/work goals reported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males. As shown in Figure 2.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were *mental health*, *academic ability* and *financial difficulty*, while for males the top barriers were *academic ability*, *where you live* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated that most of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- Over twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported *mental health* (19.2% compared with 9.1% of males) and *family responsibilities* (14.4% compared with 6.3%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.
- A total of 18.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females saw *academic ability* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school (compared with 15.3% of males).

Figure 2.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 2.3 shows participation in paid employment among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous respondents. In line with national results, only a small minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time (2.3% compared with 0.7% of non-Indigenous respondents). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Over one in three (35.1%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they were employed part-time. Over six in ten (62.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they were not in paid employment: more than four in ten (43.0%) stated that they were looking for work, while one in five (19.7%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who indicated that they were looking for work was much higher than for non-Indigenous respondents (43.0% compared with 33.8%).

### Gender differences

A slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported full-time employment (2.5% compared with 0.7% of females). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were employed part-time (38.1% compared with 31.5% of males). Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males reported they were looking for work (43.7% and 43.9%, respectively).

Table 2.3: Participation in paid employment

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Employed full-time	0.7	2.3	0.7	2.5
Employed part-time	43.7	35.1	38.1	31.5
Not in paid employment, looking for work	33.8	43.0	43.7	43.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.9	19.7	17.5	22.0

Note: Part-time is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

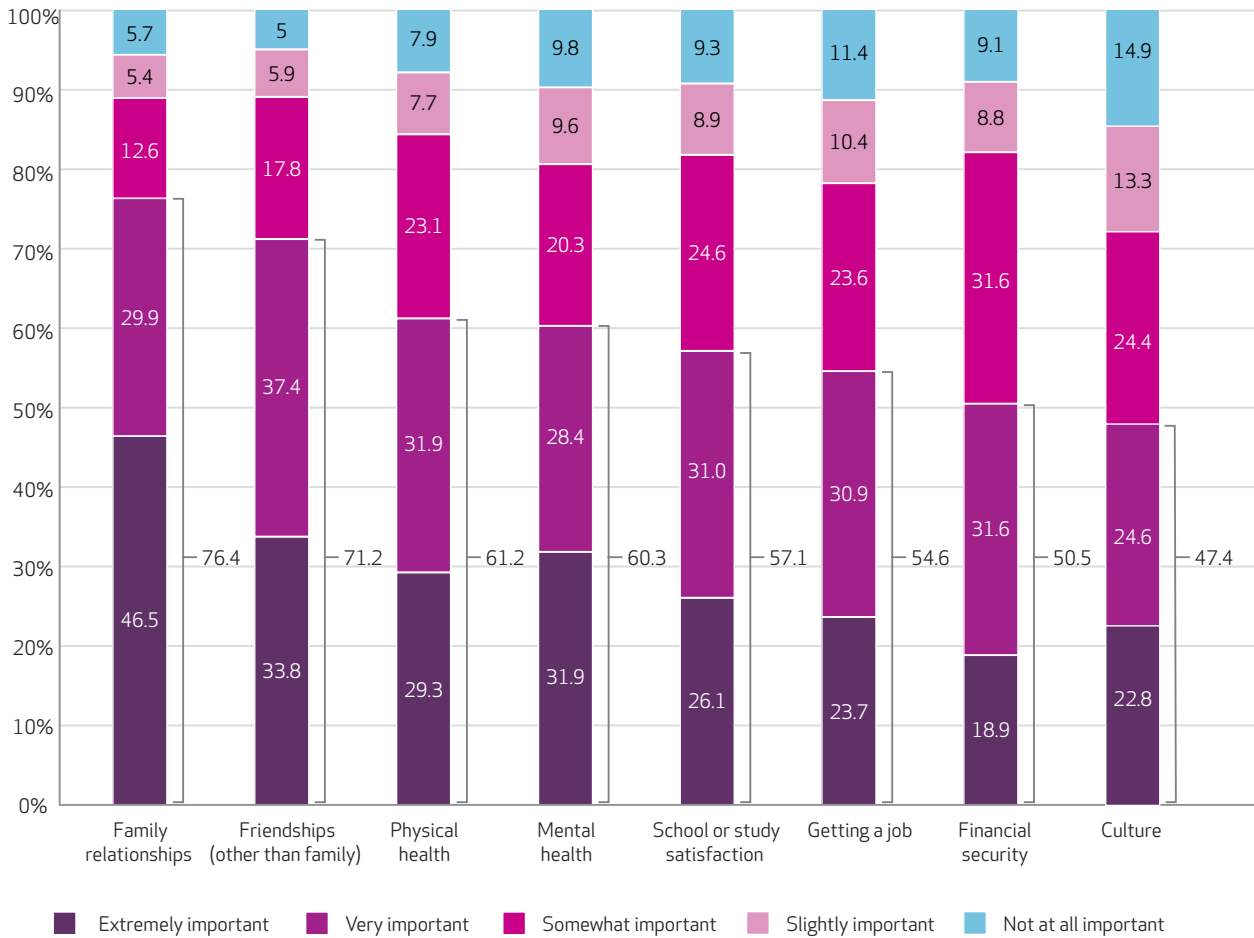
Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 2.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *physical health*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *school or study satisfaction*.

- *Family relationships* were rated as *extremely* or *very important* by more than three quarters (76.4%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely important*: 46.5%; *very important*: 29.9%).
- Over seven in ten (71.2%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents highly valued *friendships (other than family)* (*extremely important*: 33.8%; *very important*: 37.4%).
- Around six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people rated *physical health* (61.2%) and *mental health* (60.3%) as *extremely* or *very important* to them.



Figure 2.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Family relationships* and *friendships (other than family)* were rated as the two most important items by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males, as shown in Table 2.4. The third top item for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was *mental health*, while for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males it was *physical health*. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female respondents who placed a high value upon these and the majority of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were rated as *extremely* or *very important* by 82.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, compared with 74.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males.
- Notably greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (67.8% compared with 49.5% of males), *mental health* (68.5% compared with 53.9%) and *culture* (53.5% compared with 43.3%).
- Conversely, a marginally higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males rated *getting a job* as *extremely* or *very important* (56.7% compared with 54.9% of females).

Table 2.4: What young people value by gender

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>31.9</b>	11.3	4.0	2.1
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>38.5</b>	18.4	6.3	1.8
Physical health	30.3	33.3	23.7	8.0	4.7
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>30.3</b>	18.3	8.2	5.0
School or study satisfaction	33.2	34.6	21.5	6.7	4.0
Getting a job	23.6	31.3	26.5	10.6	8.0
Financial security	18.9	32.9	32.5	9.9	5.7
Culture	26.1	27.4	25.2	12.6	8.8
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>29.0</b>	13.9	6.0	6.0
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>38.4</b>	18.4	5.2	4.9
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>32.3</b>	23.3	7.4	7.5
Mental health	25.6	28.3	23.1	11.6	11.4
School or study satisfaction	19.2	30.3	29.2	10.7	10.7
Getting a job	23.8	32.9	21.5	10.5	11.4
Financial security	18.7	33.1	31.7	7.9	8.6
Culture	20.0	23.3	25.2	14.5	17.1

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

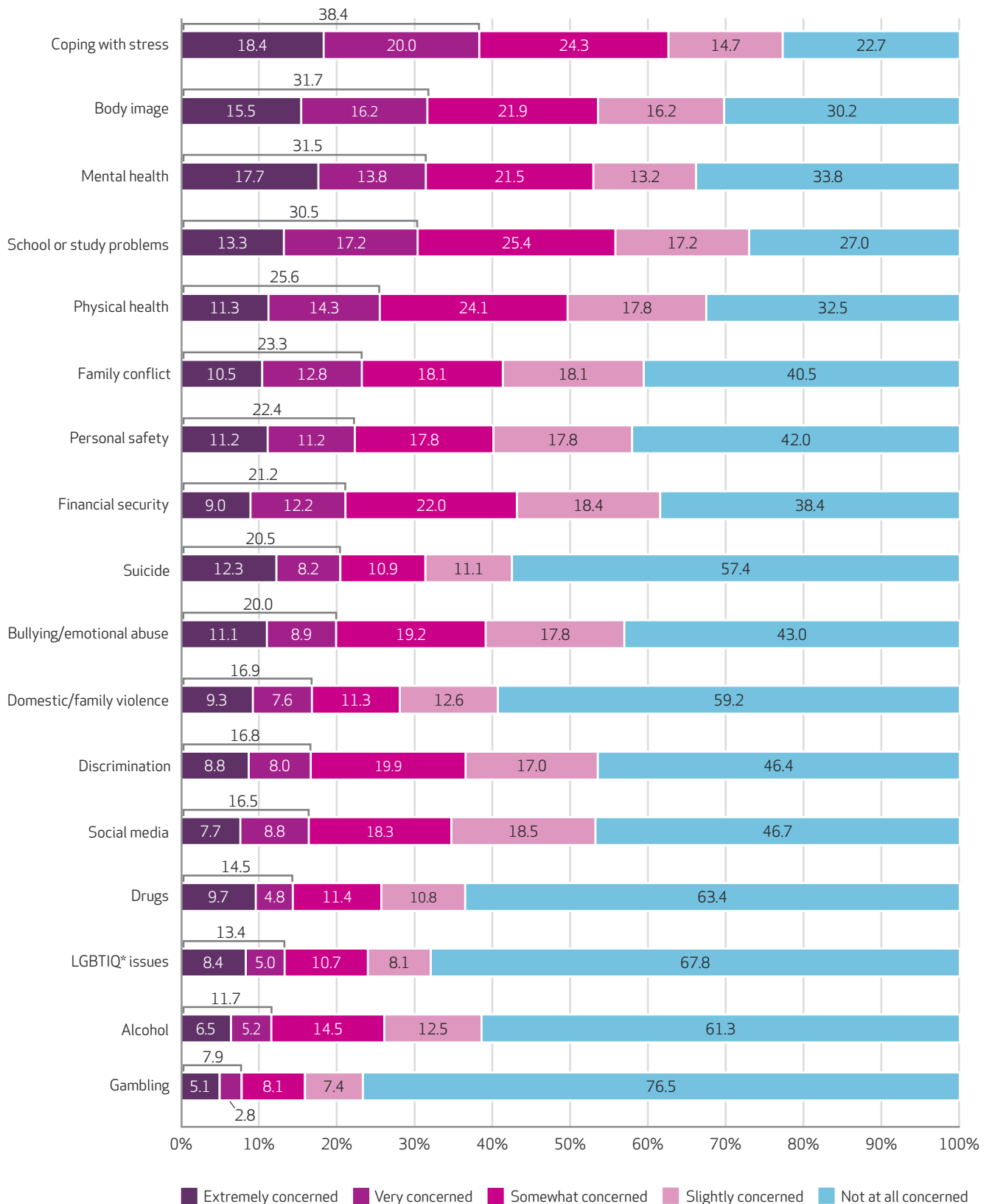
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 2.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *coping with stress*, *body image* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues were *school or study problems* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with nearly four in ten (38.4%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- Around three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (31.7%), *mental health* (31.5%) and *school or study problems* (30.5%).
- Around one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health* (25.6%) and *family conflict* (23.3%).

Figure 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* was the top issue of personal concern for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males, as shown in Table 2.5. The second most concerning personal issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was *body image*, ahead of *mental health*. Conversely, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males the second most concerning personal issue was *physical health*, followed by *school or study problems*. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- More than half (51.9%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were *extremely or very concerned* about *coping with stress*, compared with less than one quarter (23.0%) of males.
- Around twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were *extremely or very concerned* about *body image* (42.9% compared with 18.7% of males), *mental health* (42.7% compared with 18.8%), *school or study problems* (40.0% compared with 19.3%) and *family conflict* (29.7% compared with 14.8%).
- Conversely, slightly higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were *extremely or very concerned* about *gambling* (7.9% compared with 5.0% of females) and *alcohol* (12.0% compared with 9.8%).

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>28.3</b>	26.5	12.0	9.6
<b>Body image</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>22.5</b>	25.3	16.1	15.8
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>19.0</b>	24.1	12.1	21.1
School or study problems	16.4	23.6	26.4	16.4	17.1
Physical health	11.3	17.8	28.4	19.1	23.5
Family conflict	11.1	18.6	20.7	20.4	29.3
Personal safety	11.0	15.2	20.1	19.4	34.2
Financial security	9.1	15.2	24.9	20.4	30.3
Suicide	14.6	10.8	11.4	14.2	48.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	11.4	12.3	21.7	22.3	32.3
Domestic/family violence	9.0	9.0	12.4	16.6	52.9
Discrimination	6.2	10.7	25.4	19.0	38.7
Social media	7.9	12.6	21.7	21.8	35.9
Drugs	7.9	6.2	11.9	11.9	62.1
LGBTIQ* issues	4.8	7.1	12.4	11.5	64.2
Alcohol	3.4	6.4	16.9	14.2	59.1
Gambling	2.1	2.9	8.2	7.5	79.3

Table 2.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	23.6	18.2	35.2
Body image	8.2	10.5	19.6	17.9	43.8
Mental health	10.2	8.6	19.8	15.4	46.0
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>	26.1	19.9	34.7
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>	20.9	18.2	39.8
Family conflict	7.4	7.4	15.8	16.7	52.7
Personal safety	8.7	7.9	15.7	17.7	50.0
Financial security	7.1	9.7	20.0	17.8	45.5
Suicide	7.0	6.3	9.8	8.7	68.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.5	5.5	16.6	14.6	54.7
Domestic/family violence	6.9	6.0	10.5	8.9	67.7
Discrimination	7.7	5.4	15.0	15.3	56.6
Social media	5.2	5.4	15.2	15.6	58.7
Drugs	8.4	3.5	10.2	10.2	67.7
LGBTIQ* issues	6.8	3.1	8.2	4.8	77.2
Alcohol	7.6	4.4	12.2	12.2	63.6
Gambling	5.0	2.9	7.8	6.7	77.6

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents. \*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Three in ten (29.9%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months (compared with 20.3% of non-Indigenous respondents). A much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (33.4% compared with 22.0% of males).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 2.6 shows that, of the 29.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, nearly three quarters (72.5%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Four in ten (40.9%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while three in ten (30.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Around one in six reported that they experienced this *in my neighbourhood* (16.8%) or *at work* (15.8%). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who reported they had experienced bullying across the majority of locations was much higher than the proportion of non-Indigenous respondents.

### Gender differences

There were differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 2.6. Of the 29.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around three quarters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (74.8%) and males (72.6%) experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (43.0% compared with 33.6% of males).
- Conversely, more than three times the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that they had experienced bullying *in my neighbourhood* (23.3% compared with 7.4% of females).



Table 2.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>72.6</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>33.6</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>27.4</b>
In my neighbourhood	5.5	16.8	7.4	23.3
Other	7.0	16.4	6.6	19.2
At work	7.8	15.8	9.3	17.8

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 29.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 2.7 shows that nearly three quarters (72.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*). Close to six in ten (56.9%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being embarrassed or excluded*), while 46.3% reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*). Nearly four in ten (39.2%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*).

### Gender differences

There were notable differences in the most frequently reported kinds of bullying experienced among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males, as shown in Table 2.7. Of the 29.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who had experienced bullying over the past year:

- Just over three quarters (76.0%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males had experienced verbal bullying (e.g. *name calling, teasing*) over the past year, compared with 70.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females.
- Notably higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being excluded or embarrassed*) (60.9% compared with 49.3% of males) or *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*) (49.6% compared with 35.6%).
- Conversely, more than double the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*) over the past year (55.5% compared with 26.0% of females).

Table 2.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>76.0</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>49.3</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>49.6</b>	35.6
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	19.7	39.2	26.0	<b>55.5</b>
Other	5.0	11.7	3.9	13.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

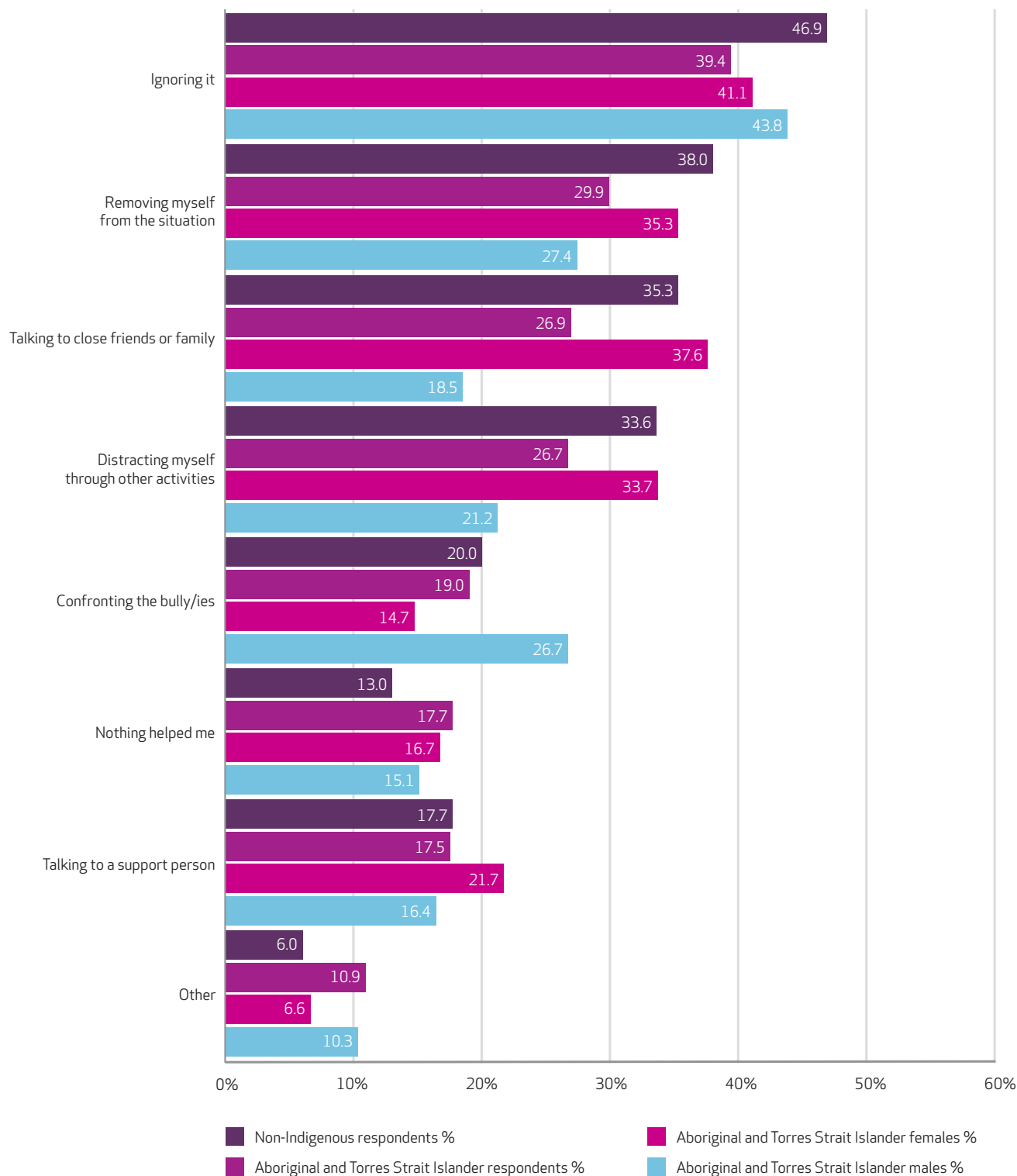
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 2.6. For the 29.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (39.4%), *removing myself from the situation* (29.9%) and *talking to close friends or family* (26.9%). Over one in four (26.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*, while just under one in five (19.0%) reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them. More than one in six (17.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 2.6. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (41.1%), *talking to close friends or family* (37.6%) and *removing myself from the situation* (35.3%). Conversely, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (43.8%), followed by *removing myself from the situation* (27.4%) and *confronting the bully/ies* (26.7%).

- Over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (43.8%) and females (41.1%) reported that *ignoring it* helped them to deal with bullying.
- Twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (37.6% compared with 18.5% of males).
- While greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported that *removing myself from the situation* (35.3% compared with 27.4% of males) and *talking to a support person* (21.7% compared with 16.4%) helped, a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that *confronting the bully/ies* assisted them in dealing with bullying (26.7% compared with 14.7% of females).

Figure 2.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Close to six in ten (55.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months (compared with 47.2% of non-Indigenous respondents). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (59.3% compared with 51.4% of males).

Young people who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 2.8 shows that, of the 55.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who had witnessed bullying in the past year, just over three quarters (76.1%) reported that they witnessed bullying at

school/TAFE/university. More than four in ten (42.3%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*, while one in six (16.4%) stated they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood*. Over one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at home* (14.6%) or *at work* (11.4%).

## Gender differences

There were some notable differences in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 2.8.

- Around eight in ten (80.4%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year, compared with 73.9% of males.
- A notably higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (50.8% compared with 31.2% of males).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported that they had witnessed bullying take place *in my neighbourhood* (19.9% compared with 11.4% of females)..

Table 2.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>73.9</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>31.2</b>
<b>In my neighbourhood</b>	6.6	<b>16.4</b>	11.4	<b>19.9</b>
At home	6.6	14.6	<b>12.7</b>	14.5
At work	<b>7.1</b>	11.4	8.5	12.8
Other	4.3	9.2	4.5	11.3

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 2.7 shows the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

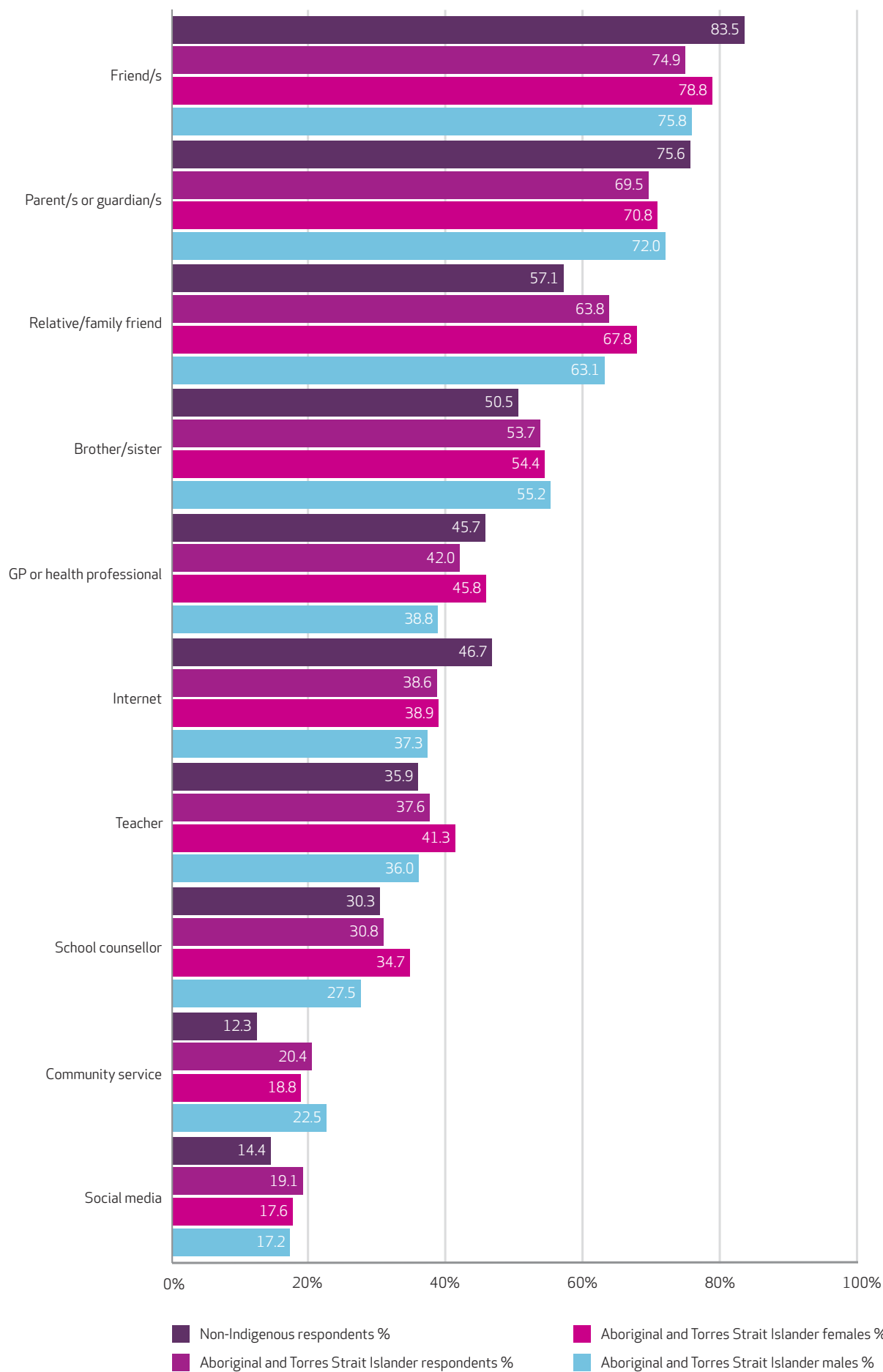
*Friend/s* (74.9%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (69.5%) and *relative/family friend* (63.8%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. More than half (53.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for support with important issues in their lives. Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people would turn to a *GP or health professional* (42.0%), the *internet* (38.6%) or a *teacher* (37.6%) as a source of help with important issues.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 2.7, the top three sources of help for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males were *friend/s*, *parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend*.

- Higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated that they would turn to a *school counsellor* (34.7% compared with 27.5% of males), a *GP or health professional* (45.8% compared with 38.8%) or a *teacher* (41.3% compared with 36.0%) for help with important issues.
- A slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males would turn to a *community service* for support (22.5% compared with 18.8% of females).

Figure 2.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.



## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 2.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Nearly three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that *mental health* (28.9%) and *alcohol and drugs* (28.1%) are important issues in Australia today.
- Around one in four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that *equity and discrimination* (24.3%) and *the environment* (23.7%) are important national issues.
- Since 2018, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 6.8% to 23.7%. Conversely, concerns about *mental health* and *bullying* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

As highlighted in Table 2.9, the top three most important issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were *mental health*, *equity and discrimination* and *the environment*. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* were the top two most important issues in Australia, ahead of *equity and discrimination* and *the environment* in equal third position.

- Notably higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females identified *mental health* (35.7% compared with 25.3% of males), *equity and discrimination* (28.1% compared with 21.5%) and *the environment* (27.3% compared with 21.5%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males regarded *alcohol and drugs* (31.2% compared with 26.6% of females) and *politics* (11.9% compared with 7.9%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 2.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2019 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2018 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>27.6</b>
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	20.3	<b>28.1</b>	26.6	<b>31.2</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>41.0</b>
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>
The environment	<b>35.0</b>	23.7	<b>27.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>	6.8	5.6
Crime, safety and violence	12.1	14.4	17.1	13.1	14.6	11.6
Bullying	11.7	13.4	17.3	10.7	18.0	12.7
The economy and financial matters	14.8	10.5	9.9	11.7	11.4	10.2
Politics	11.0	10.1	7.9	11.9	4.9	6.9
Education	9.1	8.5	9.4	7.9	6.6	10.1
Homelessness/ housing	7.9	8.0	10.2	6.2	7.8	6.4

Note: Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 2.10 shows that four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my family* (39.6%) and *with my friends* (39.5%). Just over one in six (18.0%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while one in eight (12.8%) felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*.

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (51.2%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt they have a say *none of the time*. One third (33.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 2.10: Young people's voice on important issues

<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents</b>	<b>All of the time %</b>	<b>Some of the time %</b>	<b>None of the time %</b>
With my family	39.6	46.0	14.5
With my friends	39.5	49.1	11.4
At school/TAFE/university	18.0	48.3	33.7
In public affairs	12.8	36.0	51.2
<b>Non-Indigenous respondents</b>	<b>All of the time %</b>	<b>Some of the time %</b>	<b>None of the time %</b>
With my family	44.5	45.5	10.0
With my friends	45.7	47.5	6.8
At school/TAFE/university	14.6	57.0	28.4
In public affairs	6.7	40.7	52.6

### Gender differences

There were some differences in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 2.11.

- A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males felt they have a say *all of the time* while at school/TAFE/university (20.3% compared with 15.4% of females).
- Twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in public affairs (15.9% compared with 7.9% of females).
- A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females felt they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (55.5% compared with 46.7% of males), whereas a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling they have a say *none of the time* when at school/TAFE/university (34.7% compared with 31.0% of females).

Table 2.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females</b>	<b>All of the time %</b>	<b>Some of the time %</b>	<b>None of the time %</b>
With my family	38.5	50.2	11.3
With my friends	39.3	52.9	7.8
At school/TAFE/university	15.4	53.6	31.0
In public affairs	7.9	36.6	55.5
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males</b>	<b>All of the time %</b>	<b>Some of the time %</b>	<b>None of the time %</b>
With my family	41.3	44.1	14.6
With my friends	41.0	46.7	12.3
At school/TAFE/university	20.3	45.0	34.7
In public affairs	15.9	37.4	46.7

## What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 2.12.

The top three activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *sports (as a participant)* (64.5%), *sports (as a spectator)* (53.8%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (46.0%). Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported that they had participated in *volunteer work* (43.0%) and *youth groups/activities* (38.6%) over the past year. Almost one third (32.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had been involved in *student leadership activities*.

### Gender differences

As highlighted in Table 2.12, *sports (as a participant)* was the top activity for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males. The second top activity for females was *arts/cultural/music activities*, ahead of *sports (as a spectator)*. Conversely, the second top activity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males was *sports (as a spectator)*, followed by *volunteer work*.

- Notably higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female respondents reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (55.3% compared with 36.7% of males) and *youth groups/activities* (45.0% compared with 33.3%) over the past year.
- Conversely, higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* (59.4% compared with 50.0% of females) and *sports (as a participant)* (68.2% compared with 62.4%) in the past year.

Table 2.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

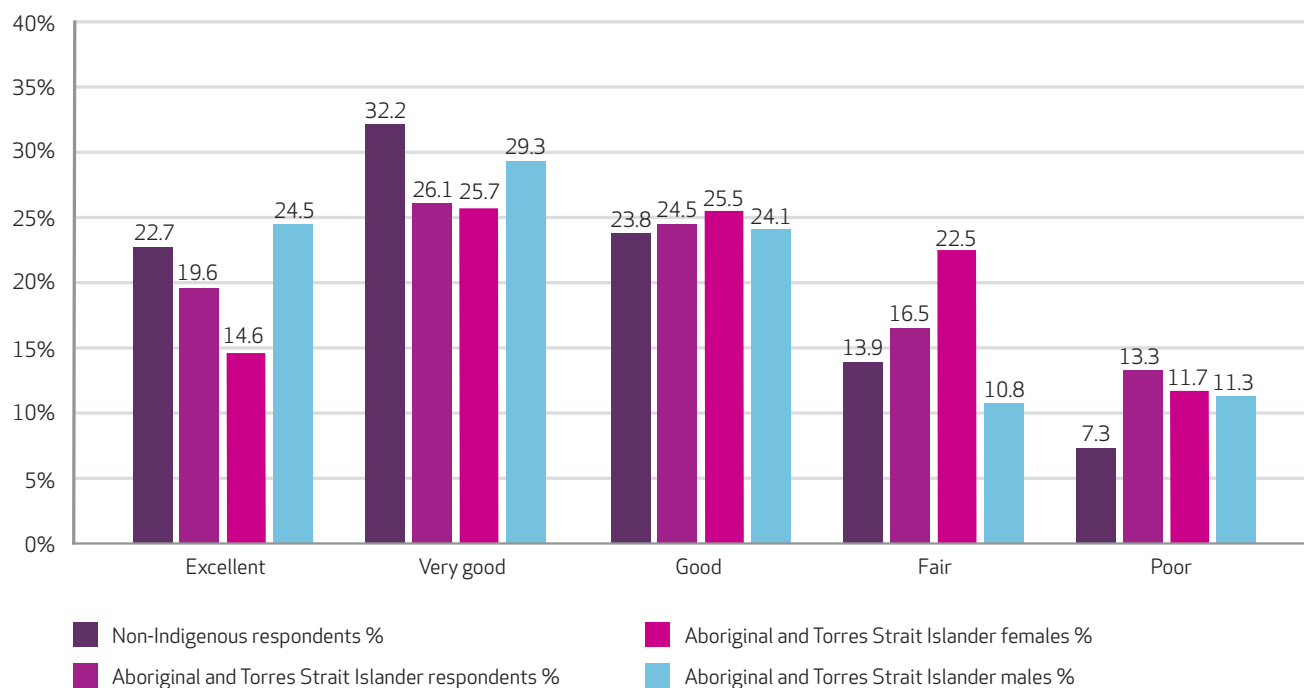
	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>68.2</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>59.4</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	42.5	<b>46.0</b>	<b>55.3</b>	36.7
Volunteer work	<b>47.2</b>	43.0	46.4	<b>40.2</b>
Youth groups/activities	29.4	38.6	45.0	33.3
Student leadership activities	33.2	32.5	34.9	31.0
Religious groups/activities	23.9	22.4	24.4	17.7
Environmental groups	13.4	16.7	17.1	14.5
Political groups/organisations	7.0	10.6	9.5	9.9

Note: Items are listed in order of frequency among all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

## How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 2.8 shows that almost half (45.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 19.6% rated it as *excellent* and 26.1% rated it as *very good*. However, three in ten (29.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (16.5%) or *poor* (13.3%). A much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* (24.5% compared with 14.6% of females), whereas around twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females rated their family's ability to get along as *fair* (22.5% compared with 10.8% of males).

Figure 2.8: Family's ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 2.13 shows, the majority (51.4%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt happy overall with their lives (compared with 61.4% of non-Indigenous young people). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (59.2% compared with 47.8% of females).

Table 2.13: How happy young people are

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	61.4	51.4	47.8	59.2
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.0	30.5	33.4	28.7
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.6	18.0	18.8	12.1

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 2.14 shows that the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- More than half (52.1%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt *very positive* (13.1%) or *positive* (39.0%) about the future.
- One in six (16.3%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated they felt *negative* (8.5%) or *very negative* (7.8%) about the future.
- Higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling *very positive* (15.3% compared with 9.9% of females) or *very negative* (8.0% compared with 3.4%) about the future.

Table 2.14: Feelings about the future

	<b>Non-Indigenous respondents %</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2019 %</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2018 %</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2017 %</b>
Very positive	13.3	13.1	9.9	15.3	18.1	17.2
Positive	45.4	39.0	43.5	39.3	38.2	41.7
Neither positive nor negative	29.4	31.6	33.5	29.8	29.0	28.3
Negative	8.9	8.5	9.7	7.7	7.0	5.5
Very negative	3.0	7.8	3.4	8.0	7.8	7.4

# Australian Capital Territory



## Profile of respondents

A total of 320 young people from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Six in ten (59.7%) respondents from the ACT were female and 36.9% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 16 (5.1%) respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (5.4% compared with 3.7% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 37 (11.9%) respondents from the ACT stated that they were born overseas and 48 (15.5%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 24 languages other than English spoken at home in the ACT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog, Chinese, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

### Disability

A total of 22 (6.9%) respondents from the ACT identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (8.5%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 3.7% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in the ACT were (in order of frequency): autism, physical disabilities, learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

## Education

As indicated in Table 3.1, 94.4% of respondents from the ACT were studying full-time, which is slightly lower than the 97.9% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A marginally higher proportion of males reported studying full-time (96.6% compared with 94.8% of females). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of females reported they were not studying (3.7% compared with 1.7% of males).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from the ACT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (9.0%) or *satisfied* (58.8%) with their studies. Around one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (7.3%) or *very dissatisfied* (2.1%). As shown in Table 3.2, a slightly higher proportion of females from the ACT reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (69.6% compared with 65.4% of males), while nearly double the proportion of males indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (12.4% compared with 6.5% of females).

Of those that were still at school in the ACT, 97.5% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. No female respondents from the ACT indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (compared with 5.4% of males).

Table 3.1: Participation in education

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	94.4	94.8	96.6
Studying part-time	2.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
Not studying	4.0	4.1	3.7	1.7



Table 3.2: Satisfaction with studies

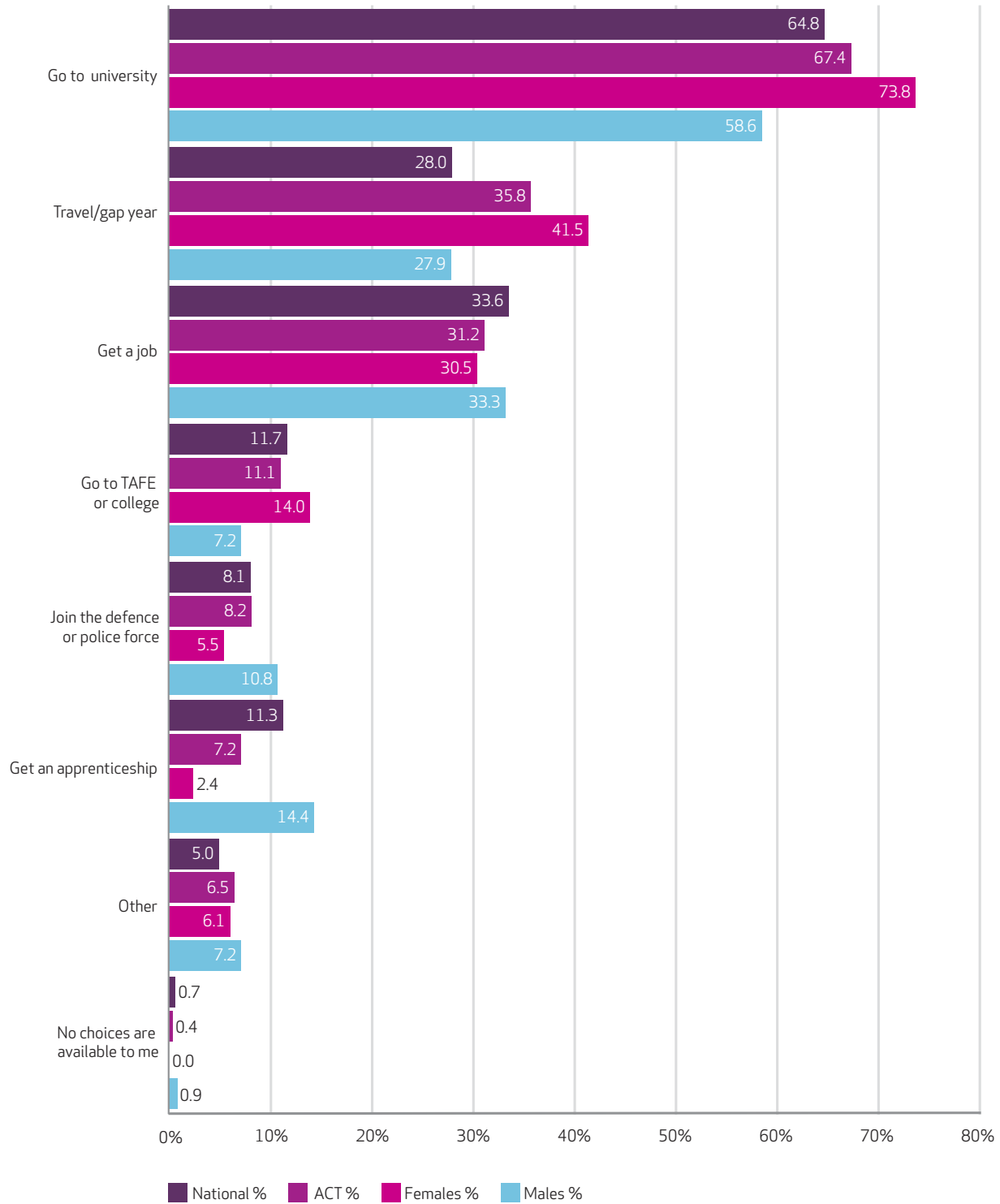
	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	9.0	8.2	8.8
Satisfied	55.2	58.8	61.4	56.6
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	22.8	24.0	22.1
Dissatisfied	5.7	7.3	5.3	10.6
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.8

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 3.1 shows that over two thirds (67.4%) of respondents from the ACT planned to *go to university* after school. Over one in three respondents reported *travel/gap year* plans (35.8%) after school and three in ten (31.2%) indicated plans to *get a job*. Overall, around one in ten young people from the ACT planned to *go to TAFE or college* (11.1%), to *join the defence or police force* (8.2%) and to *get an apprenticeship* (7.2%). A small minority (0.4%) of ACT respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from the ACT was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (73.8% compared with 58.6% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (41.5% compared with 27.9% of males). Conversely, six times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (14.4% compared with 2.4% of females).

Figure 3.1: Plans after leaving school

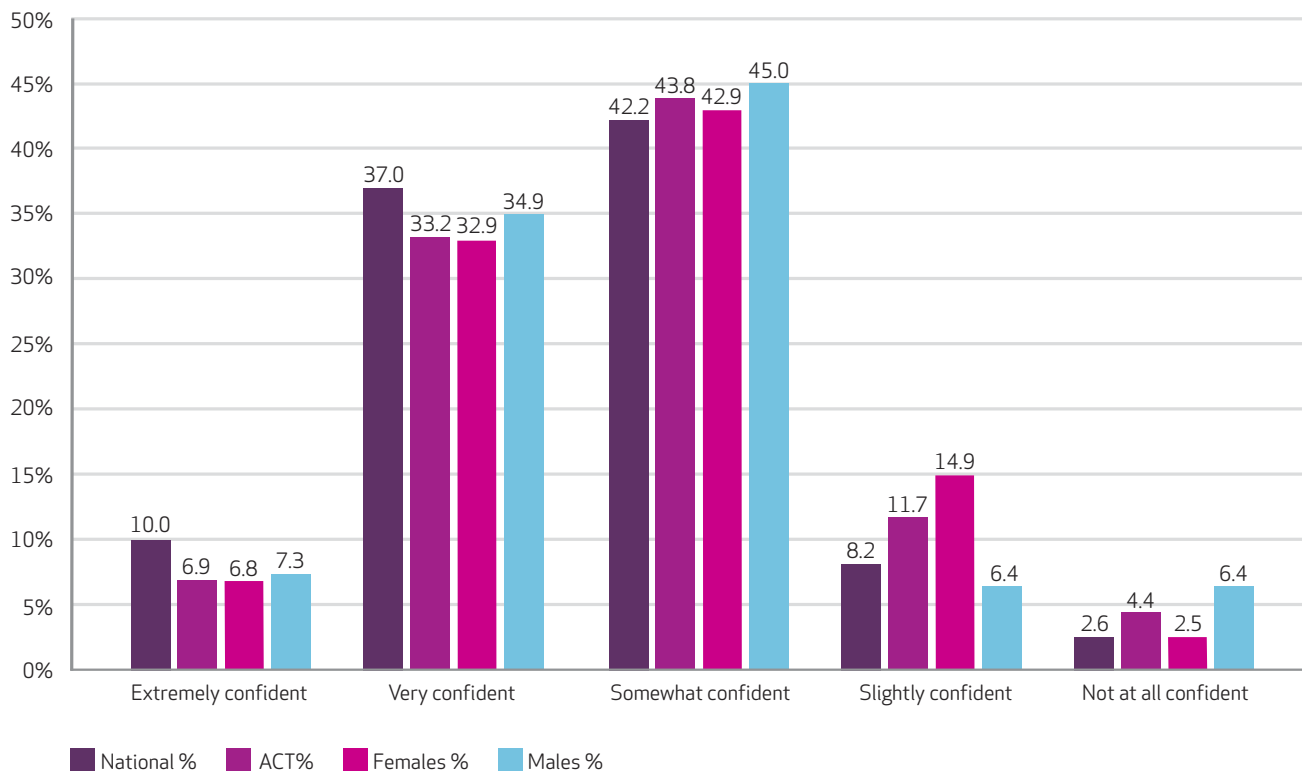


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 3.2, four in ten (40.1%) respondents from the ACT indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 6.9% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 33.2% stated that they were *very confident*. However, around one in six (16.1%) young people from the ACT were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 11.7% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 4.4% were *not at all confident*. A higher proportion of female respondents reported that they were *slightly* or *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (17.4% compared with 12.8% of males).

Figure 3.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. More than half (54.3%) of respondents from the ACT indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a greater proportion of females (57.3%) than males (50.0%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 3.3 shows the percentage of respondents from the ACT who reported each item was a barrier.

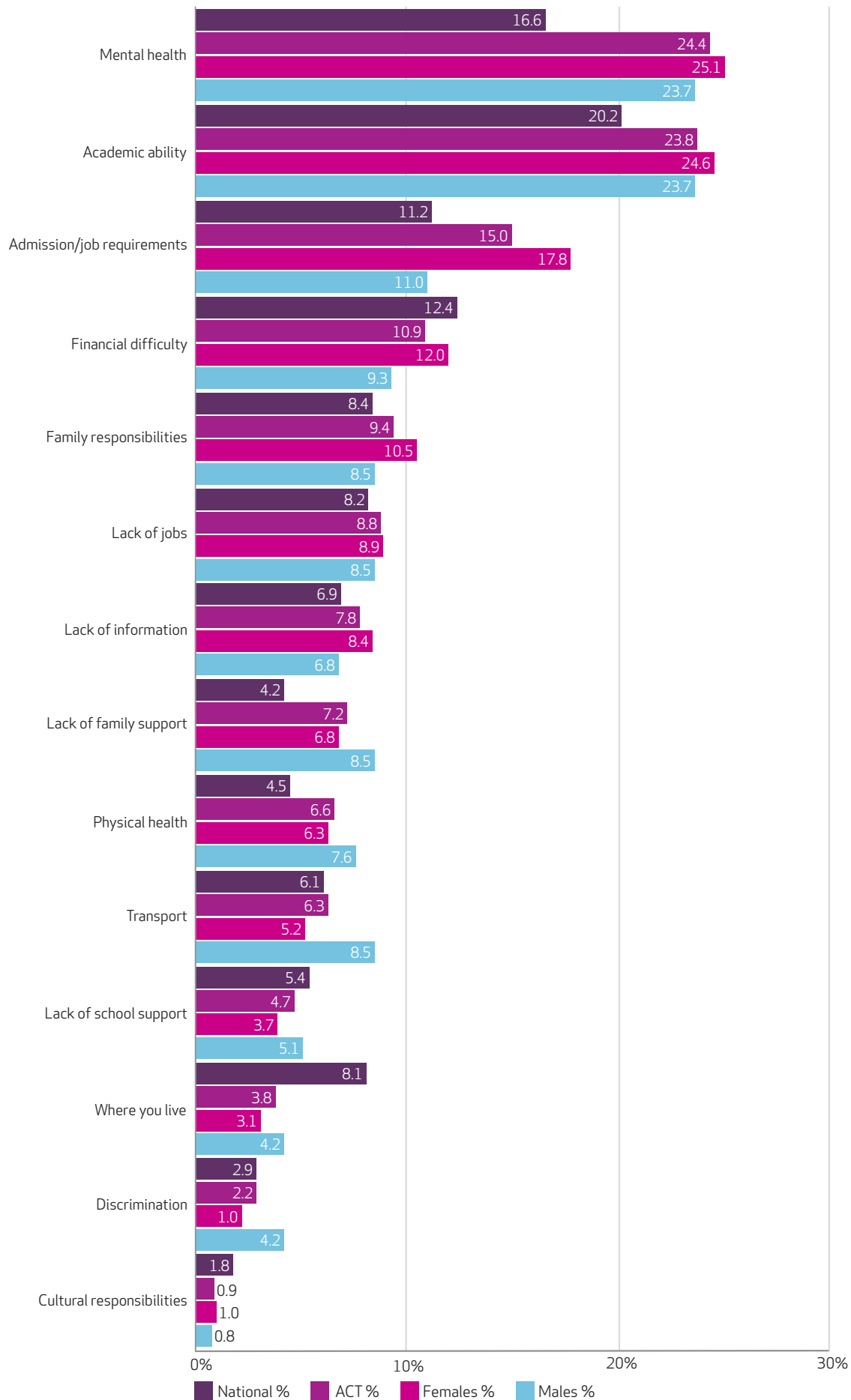
- *Mental health, academic ability* and *admission/job requirements* were the top barriers that young people from the ACT saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (24.4%, 23.8% and 15.0% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents from the ACT reported that they saw *financial difficulty* (10.9%), *family responsibilities* (9.4%) and *lack of jobs* (8.8%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from the ACT were *mental health, academic ability* and *admission/job requirements*.

- A notably higher proportion of females from the ACT reported *admission/job requirements* as a barrier to achieving their post-school goals (17.8% compared with 11.0% of males).
- Conversely, slightly higher proportions of males from the ACT cited *transport* (8.5% compared with 5.2% of females) and *discrimination* (4.2% compared with 1.0%) as barriers to achieving their post-school goals.

Figure 3.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 3.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from the ACT. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from the ACT who reported paid employment were employed full-time (1.0%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Around six in ten (55.8%) respondents from the ACT reported that they were employed part-time. Over four in ten (43.3%) respondents from the ACT indicated that they were not in paid employment: almost three in ten (27.9%) stated that they were looking for work, while around one in six (15.4%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in the ACT in 2019 is notably higher compared to 2018 findings (55.8% compared with 46.3% respectively).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from the ACT reported full-time employment (0.9% and 0.5% respectively). A much higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (62.4% compared with 49.6% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (32.2% compared with 24.2% of females).

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.9
Employed part-time	43.0	55.8	62.4	49.6
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	27.9	24.2	32.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	15.4	12.9	17.4

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

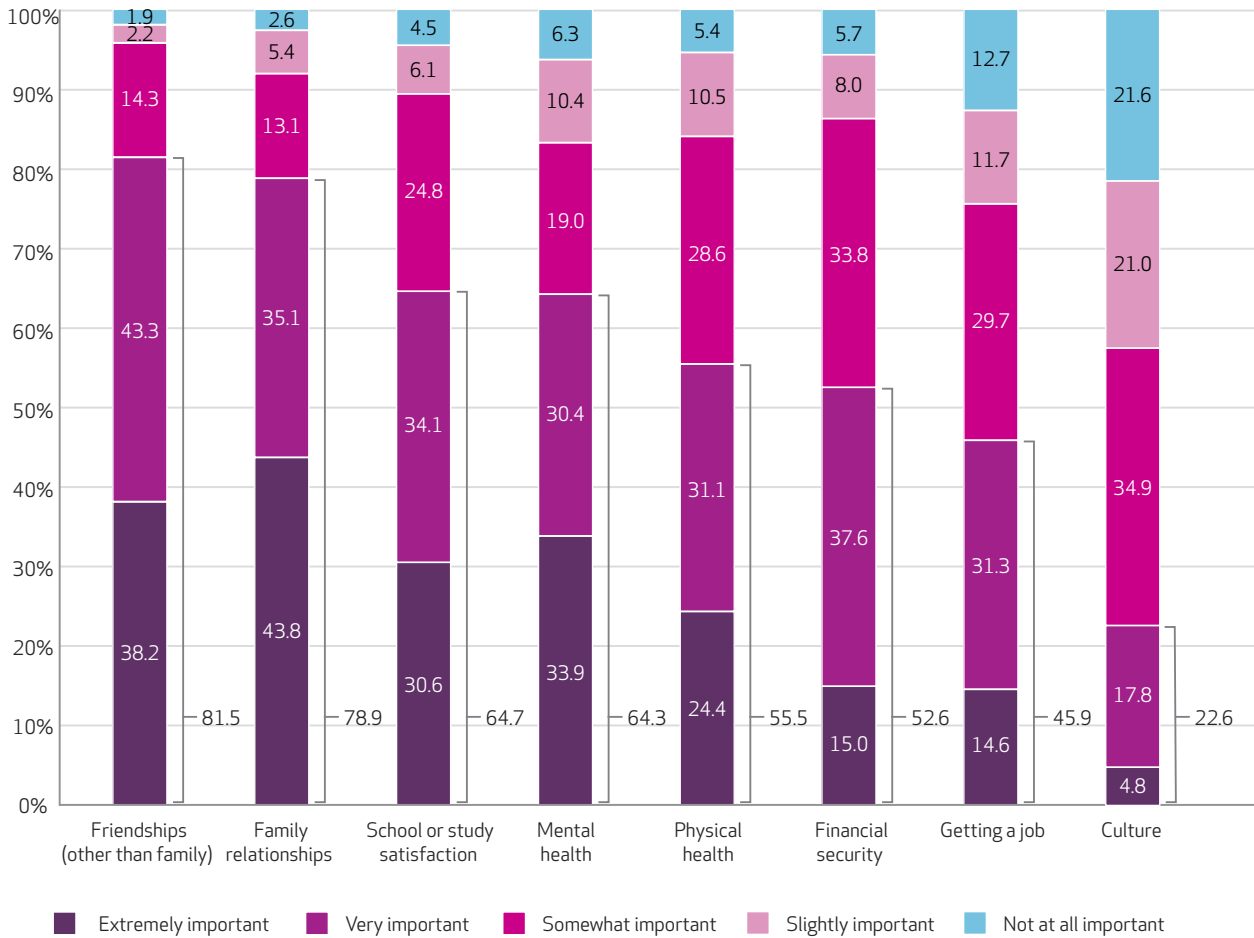
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from the ACT were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- Around eight in ten respondents from the ACT reported *friendships (other than family)* (81.5%) and *family relationships* (78.9%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Almost two thirds of respondents indicated *school or study satisfaction* (64.7%) and *mental health* (64.3%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- More than half of respondents from the ACT placed a high value upon *physical health* (55.5%) and *financial security* (52.6%).

Figure 3.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from the ACT, as shown in Table 3.4; however, for females the order of the top two items was reversed. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and the majority of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably higher proportions of females indicated *school or study satisfaction* (72.0% compared with 54.3% of males), *mental health* (71.8% compared with 56.0%) and *physical health* (61.2% compared with 48.7%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Over eight in ten females (83.8%) from the ACT reported *family relationships* were *extremely* or *very important*, compared with 75.7% of males.



Table 3.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>44.0</b>	15.7	0.5	0.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>33.0</b>	10.5	4.2	1.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>	22.8	4.2	1.1
Mental health	39.3	32.5	16.2	8.4	3.7
Physical health	27.7	33.5	26.2	7.9	4.7
Financial security	14.2	41.1	36.3	5.8	2.6
Getting a job	14.7	31.9	30.4	12.0	11.0
Culture	4.2	18.4	40.0	18.9	18.4
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>43.5</b>	12.2	2.6	2.6
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>40.9</b>	16.5	5.2	2.6
School or study satisfaction	23.3	31.0	30.2	8.6	6.9
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	24.1	12.1	7.8
Physical health	19.1	29.6	33.0	13.9	4.3
Financial security	15.7	33.9	31.3	10.4	8.7
Getting a job	15.5	31.9	28.4	10.3	13.8
Culture	6.1	18.3	28.7	22.6	24.3

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

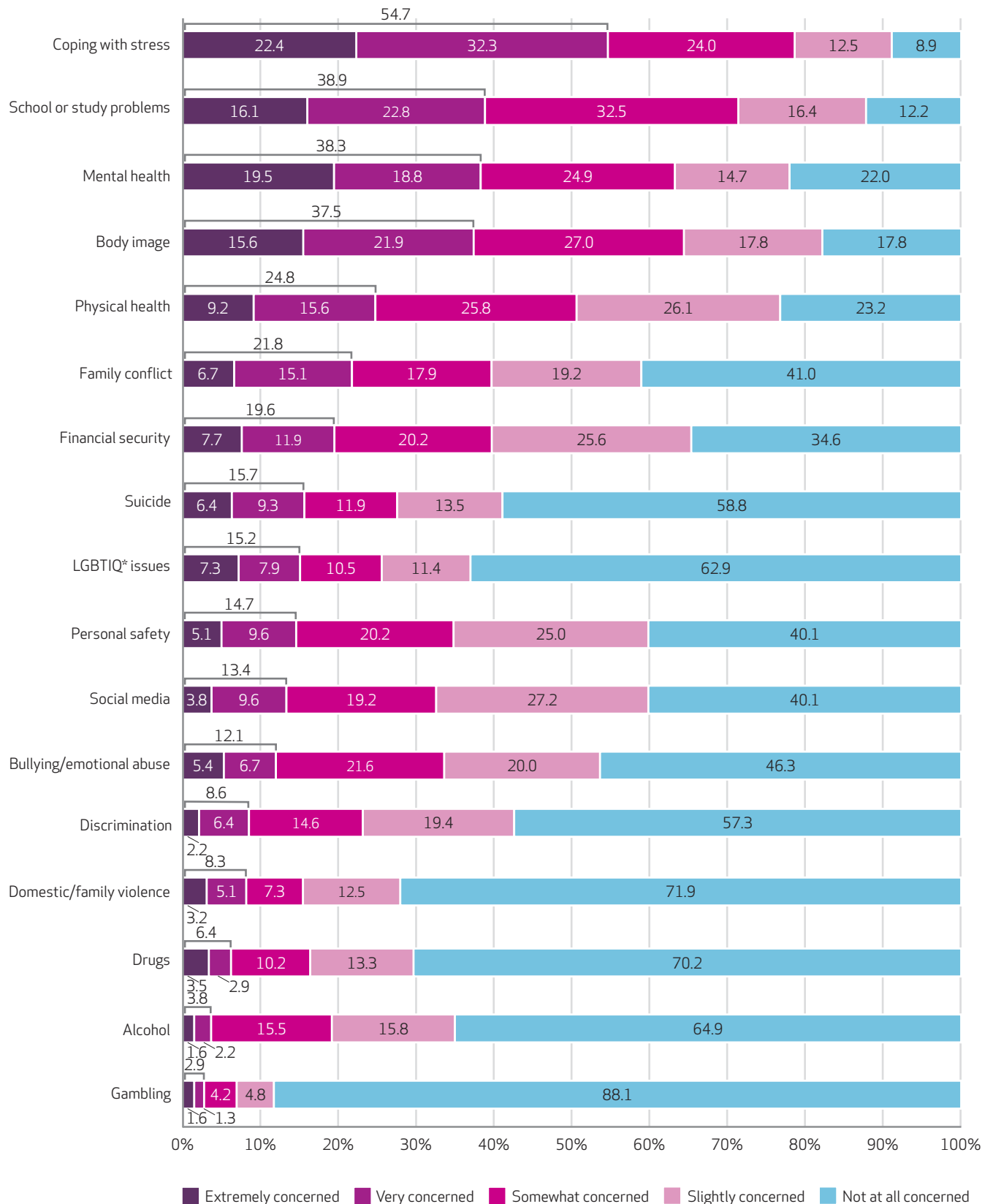
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 3.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from the ACT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with more than half (54.7%) of respondents from the ACT indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- Nearly four in ten respondents from the ACT were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (38.9%), *mental health* (38.3%) and *body image* (37.5%).
- *Physical health* was a major personal concern for one quarter (24.8%) of young people from the ACT, while just over one fifth (21.8%) of respondents were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *family conflict*.

Figure 3.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from the ACT, as shown in Table 3.5. The second most concerning personal issue for females was *body image*, ahead of *school or study problems*, while for males it was *mental health*, followed by *school or study problems*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- More than three times the proportion of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (50.8% compared with 14.8% of males), while almost twice the proportion of females were also *extremely* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* (65.8% compared with 37.4% of males).
- *School or study problems* was a major issue of concern for more than four in ten (45.3%) females from the ACT, compared with just under three in ten (28.5%) males.
- Much higher proportions of females from the ACT were also *extremely* or *very concerned* about *family conflict* (26.5% compared with 14.1% of males), *personal safety* (18.9% compared with 8.0%) and *mental health* (41.9% compared with 32.8%).

Table 3.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	22.6	7.4	4.2
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>25.3</b>	33.7	15.3	5.8
Mental health	23.6	18.3	28.8	12.6	16.8
<b>Body image</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>	27.2	15.7	6.3
Physical health	8.9	18.9	25.8	28.9	17.4
Family conflict	9.0	17.5	18.0	18.0	37.6
Financial security	7.4	13.2	19.0	27.0	33.3
Suicide	4.2	10.1	14.3	12.7	58.7
LGBTIQ* issues	5.8	9.9	11.5	12.6	60.2
Personal safety	6.3	12.6	18.9	25.8	36.3
Social media	3.7	11.6	23.8	29.6	31.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.8	7.9	24.2	22.6	38.4
Discrimination	2.6	4.7	13.6	25.7	53.4
Domestic/family violence	3.7	4.7	6.3	15.7	69.6
Drugs	3.1	2.1	9.4	15.7	69.6
Alcohol	1.0	2.6	17.3	16.2	62.8
Gambling	0.0	1.6	3.2	4.2	91.0

Table 3.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>27.8</b>	27.0	21.7	13.9
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>19.6</b>	31.3	18.8	21.4
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>20.4</b>	17.7	19.5	30.1
Body image	5.2	9.6	27.0	22.6	35.7
Physical health	8.7	10.4	26.1	21.7	33.0
Family conflict	1.8	12.3	16.7	22.8	46.5
Financial security	6.1	10.5	22.8	23.7	36.8
Suicide	8.0	8.0	7.1	14.2	62.8
LGBTIQ* issues	6.1	4.3	7.8	10.4	71.3
Personal safety	2.7	5.3	20.4	25.7	46.0
Social media	1.8	5.3	12.3	25.4	55.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	2.6	4.3	18.1	16.4	58.6
Discrimination	0.9	9.6	15.8	7.9	65.8
Domestic/family violence	0.9	5.3	8.8	7.9	77.2
Drugs	3.5	4.3	9.6	10.4	72.2
Alcohol	1.7	1.7	11.3	16.5	68.7
Gambling	1.8	0.9	5.3	5.3	86.8

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Over one in four (26.0%) young people from the ACT reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (26.7% compared with 21.9% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 3.6 shows that, of the 26.0% of respondents from the ACT who had experienced bullying in the past year, three quarters (74.4%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Three in ten (30.5%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while close to one in five (18.3%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Smaller proportions of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (15.9%) or *in my neighbourhood* (4.9%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 3.6. Of the 26.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around three quarters of female (74.5%) and male (72.0%) respondents from the ACT had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- Nearly twice the proportion of females reported they had been bullied *at work* (15.7% compared with 8.0% of males).
- Similar proportions of males (28.0%) and females (27.5%) from the ACT reported that they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*.

Table 3.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>72.0</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>28.0</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>
At work	8.6	15.9	15.7	8.0
Other	7.9	12.2	11.8	4.0
In my neighbourhood	6.5	4.9	0.0	0.0

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 26.0% of respondents from the ACT who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 3.7 shows that nearly eight in ten (78.0%) young people from the ACT reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*). Around six in ten (57.3%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being embarrassed or excluded*), while four in ten (41.5%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. *hurtful messages, pictures or comments*). One in five (20.7%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*).

### Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males from the ACT were *verbal, social* and *cyberbullying*, there were differences in the results. Of the 26.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Nearly nine in ten (88.2%) female respondents from the ACT had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. *name calling, teasing*), compared with 64.0% of males.
- A higher proportion of females from the ACT reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. *rumours, being embarrassed or excluded*) (58.8% compared with 52.0% of males).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from the ACT reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. *hitting, punching*) over the past year (24.0% compared with 17.6% of females).

Table 3.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>64.0</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>52.0</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>44.0</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	20.7	17.6	24.0
Other	5.6	9.8	7.8	4.0

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 3.6. For the 26.0% of respondents from the ACT who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (40.2%), *talking to close friends or family* (39.0%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (37.8%). Nearly one in three (32.9%) young people from the ACT indicated they dealt with bullying by *removing myself from the situation*, while one in five (20.7%) reported *talking to a support person* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. One in seven (14.6%) respondents from the ACT stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

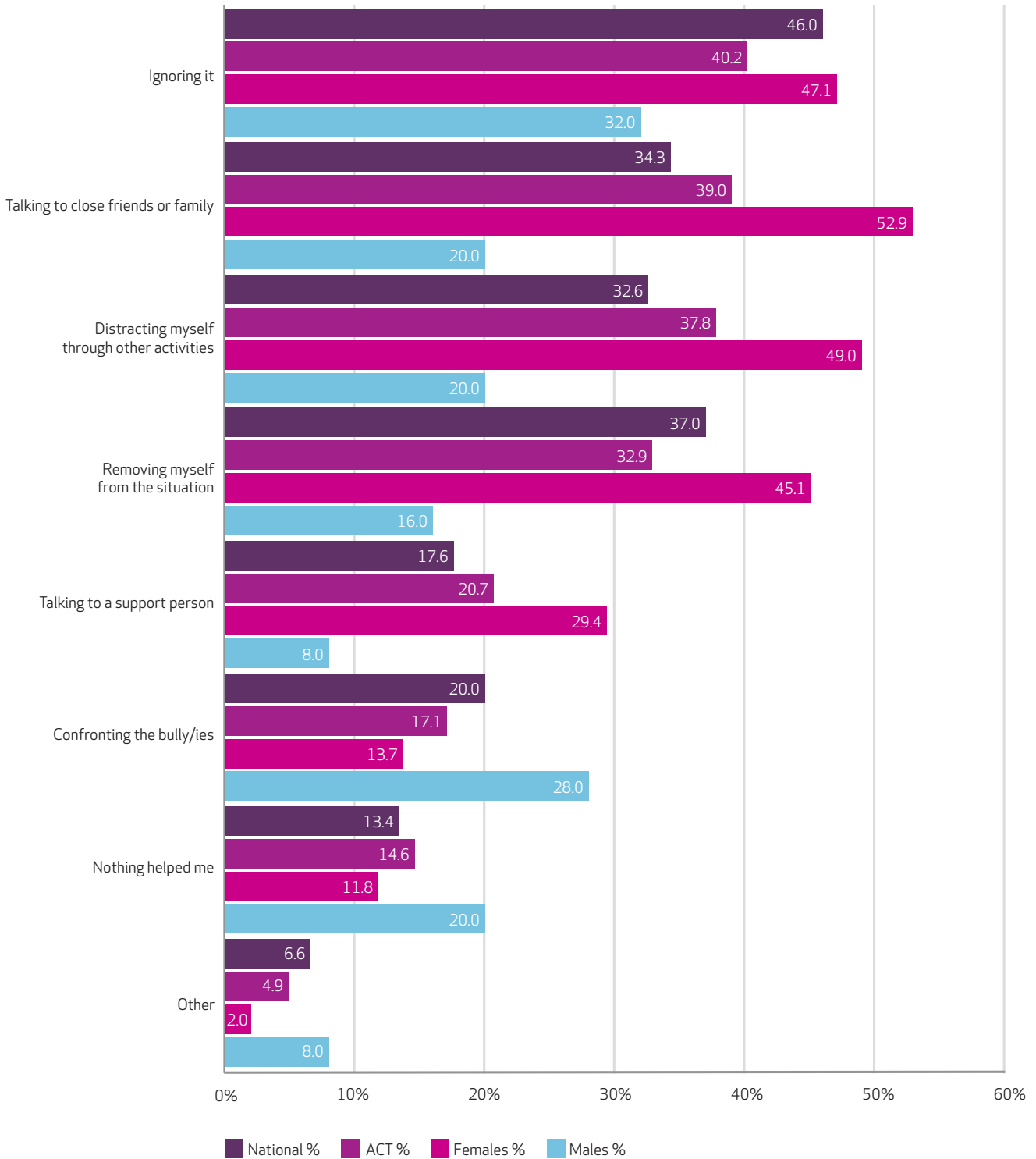
## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents from the ACT to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 3.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them to deal with their experience of bullying were *talking to close friends or family* (52.9%), *distracting myself through other activities* (49.0%) and *ignoring it* (47.1%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (32.0%), *confronting the bully/ies* (28.0%), *talking to close friends or family* (20.0%) or by *distracting myself through other activities* (20.0%). One in five males also reported that *nothing helped me* (20.0%).

- More than double the proportion of female respondents from the ACT reported that *talking to close friends or family* (52.9% compared with 20.0% of males) and *distracting myself through other activities* (49.0% compared with 20.0%) helped them deal with bullying.
- Around three times the proportion of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to a support person* (29.4% compared with 8.0% of males) or *removing myself from the situation* (45.1% compared with 16.0%).
- A much higher proportion of males from the ACT reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them (28.0% compared with 13.7% of females), yet a notably greater proportion of males also reported that *nothing helped me* (20.0% compared with 11.8%).



Figure 3.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

### Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Over four in ten (45.2%) young people from the ACT reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. A greater proportion of females than males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (47.1% compared with 40.2% respectively).

Young people from the ACT who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 3.8 shows that, of the 45.2% of respondents from the ACT who had witnessed bullying in the past year, more than eight in ten (83.7%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. Over four in ten (43.3%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*, while close to one in five (17.7%) stated they had witnessed bullying take place *at work*. Smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at home* (12.8%) or *in my neighbourhood* (6.4%).

## Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 3.8.

- Around eight in ten female (85.6%) and male (80.0%) respondents from the ACT had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (47.8% compared with 35.6% of males).
- Conversely, ten times the proportion of males from the ACT reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (11.1% compared with 1.1% of females).

Table 3.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>80.0</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>At work</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>15.6</b>
At home	7.2	12.8	12.2	8.9
In my neighbourhood	7.3	6.4	1.1	11.1
Other	4.7	4.3	3.3	2.2

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 3.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

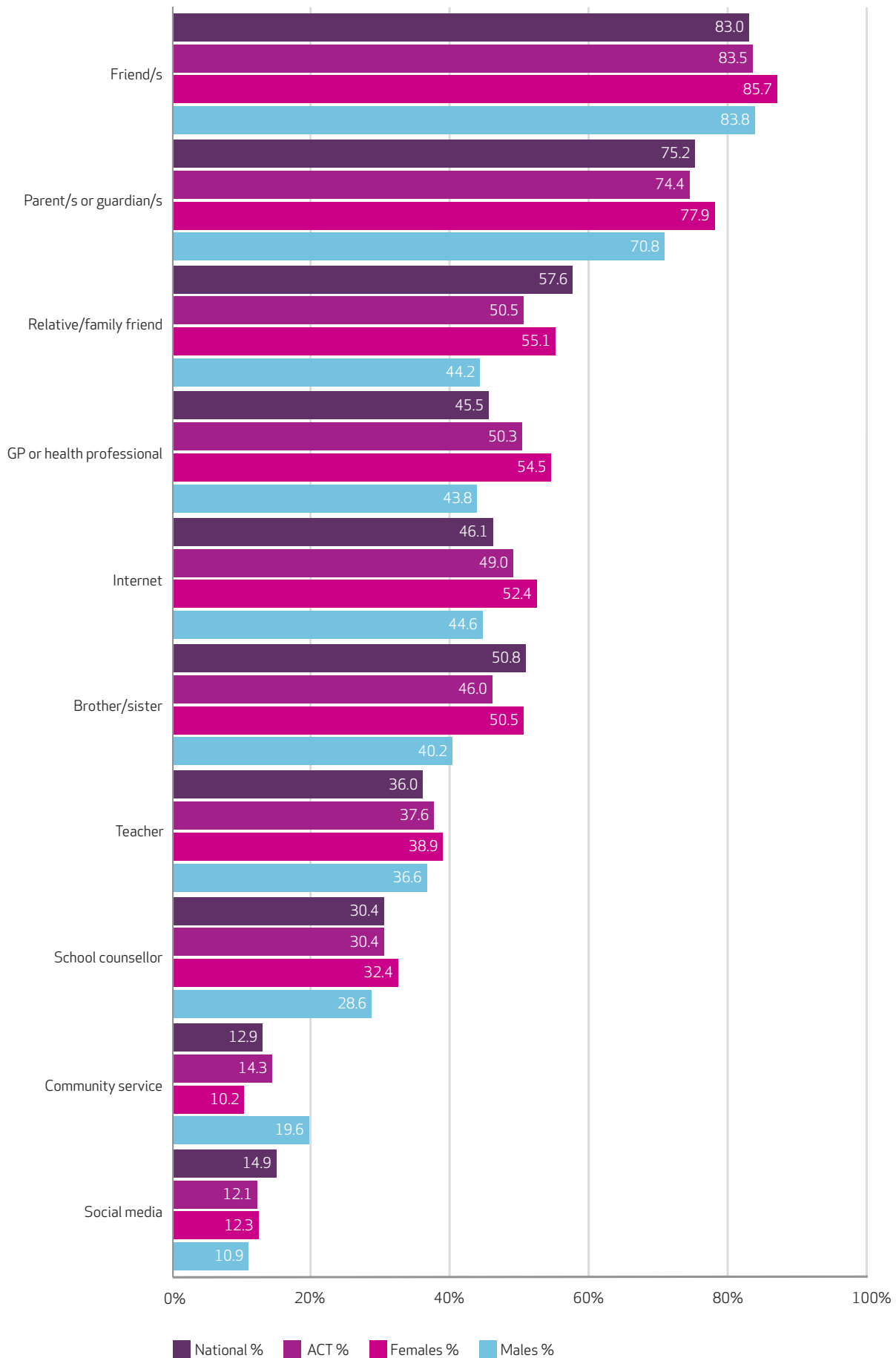
*Friend/s* (83.5%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (74.4%) and *relative/family friend* (50.5%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from the ACT. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (50.3%), the *internet* (49.0%) or their *brother/sister* (46.0%) for support with important issues in their lives.

## Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.7, the top two sources of help for both genders were consistent with the ACT results. The third most frequently cited source of help for females from the ACT was *relative/family friend*, whereas for males it was the *internet*.

- Much higher proportions of females from the ACT reported they would go to a *relative/family friend* (55.1% compared with 44.2% of males), a *GP or health professional* (54.5% compared with 43.8%) or their *brother/sister* (50.5% compared with 40.2%) for support.
- Conversely, around twice the proportion of males would turn to a *community service* for support with important issues in their lives (19.6% compared with 10.2% of females).

Figure 3.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 3.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from the ACT were *the environment*, *mental health* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Over half (53.1%) of young people from the ACT indicated that *the environment* is an important issue in Australia today.
- More than one in three (35.0%) respondents from the ACT reported that *mental health* is an important national issue, while one in five cited *equity and discrimination* (20.6%).
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from the ACT reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has increased more than fivefold, from 10.0% to 53.1%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs*, *mental health* and *homelessness/housing* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with the ACT results, *the environment* and *mental health* were the top two most important issues for both females and males. While *equity and discrimination* was the third most reported issue for females, *the economy and financial matters* and *politics* were the equal third top issues for males.

- Much higher proportions of female respondents from the ACT identified *mental health* (40.8% compared with 24.8% of males) and *equity and discrimination* (24.7% compared with 13.9%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, notably higher proportions of males from the ACT regarded *politics* (21.8% compared with 10.3% of females) and *the economy and financial matters* (21.8% compared with 12.6%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 3.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	ACT 2019 %	Females %	Males %	ACT 2018 %	ACT 2017 %
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>51.5</b>	10.0	16.2
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>30.1</b>
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>24.7</b>	13.9	<b>19.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	15.7	12.6	<b>21.8</b>	10.4	11.3
Politics	10.9	14.3	10.3	<b>21.8</b>	6.7	10.0
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	11.9	13.2	10.9	<b>23.4</b>	<b>23.9</b>
Population issues	8.0	11.5	10.3	13.9	10.4	14.1
Homelessness/housing	7.9	10.8	12.1	9.9	16.7	8.9
Education	9.1	9.4	11.5	6.9	11.2	11.5
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	8.4	10.9	5.0	13.5	8.8

Note: Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 3.10 shows that nearly half of young people from the ACT felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (47.1 %) and over four in ten have a say *all the time* when *with my family* (43.5%). Around one in six (16.1%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while only around one in twenty (5.5%) young people from the ACT felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*.

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, over half (53.9%) of young people from the ACT felt they have a say *none of the time*. Around one quarter (23.9%) of young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 3.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	43.5	44.2	12.3
With my friends	47.1	45.1	7.8
At school/TAFE/university	16.1	60.0	23.9
In public affairs	5.5	40.6	53.9

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 3.11.

- A higher proportion of females from the ACT indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while with my family (47.1% compared with 40.7% of males), whereas a greater proportion of males felt they have a say *all of the time* when with my friends (52.7% compared with 46.0% of females).
- Nearly twice the proportion of males from the ACT reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in public affairs (7.1% compared with 3.7% of females).
- Similar proportions of females and males indicated feeling they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (54.8% compared with 53.1% respectively), yet a much greater proportion of males reported feeling they have a say *none of the time* when at school/TAFE/university (31.0% compared with 18.1% of females).

Table 3.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	47.1	42.3	10.6
With my friends	46.0	49.2	4.8
At school/TAFE/university	14.4	67.6	18.1
In public affairs	3.7	41.5	54.8
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	40.7	46.0	13.3
With my friends	52.7	37.5	9.8
At school/TAFE/university	20.4	48.7	31.0
In public affairs	7.1	39.8	53.1

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 3.12.

The top three activities for young people from the ACT were *sports (as a participant)* (64.4%), *sports (as a spectator)* (56.3%) and *volunteer work* (50.0%). Four in ten (40.3%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Around one quarter of young people from the ACT indicated that they had taken part in *youth groups/activities* (25.0%) and *student leadership activities* (23.1%).

## Gender differences

In line with the ACT results, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for both females and males.

- Higher proportions of female respondents from the ACT reported taking part in *volunteer work* (53.4% compared with 44.9% of males), *environmental groups* (22.0% compared with 13.6%) and *sports (as a participant)* (68.1% compared with 61.0%) over the past year.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males participated in *youth groups/activities* (28.0% compared with 22.5% of females) and *religious groups/activities* (20.3% compared with 15.2%) in the past year.

Table 3.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>61.0</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>58.5</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>44.9</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	40.3	42.4	35.6
Youth groups/activities	29.8	25.0	22.5	28.0
Student leadership activities	32.9	23.1	26.2	19.5
Environmental groups	13.6	19.4	22.0	13.6
Religious groups/activities	23.7	17.5	15.2	20.3
Political groups/organisations	7.3	10.9	11.5	9.3

Note: Items are listed in order of ACT frequency.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 3.8 shows that almost half (46.0%) of respondents from the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 17.4% rated it as *excellent* and 28.6% rated it as *very good*. However, nearly three in ten (28.9%) young people from the ACT indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (18.0%) or *poor* (10.9%). A slightly higher proportion of male respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (47.7% compared with 45.2% of females).

Figure 3.8: Family's ability to get along with one another





## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 3.13 shows, just over half (51.1%) of young people responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from the ACT felt happy overall with their lives. While a higher proportion of females from the ACT reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (54.3% compared with 49.6% of males), a much higher proportion of males indicated they felt *very sad/sad* (20.9% compared with 11.2% of females).

Table 3.13: How happy young people are

	National %	ACT %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	51.1	54.3	49.6
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	32.3	34.6	29.6
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	16.6	11.2	20.9

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 3.14 shows that almost half of young people from the ACT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Nearly half (45.2%) of respondents from the ACT felt *very positive* (8.7%) or *positive* (36.5%) about the future.
- Almost one quarter (23.1%) of young people indicated they felt *negative* (18.3%) or *very negative* (4.8%) about the future.
- While a higher proportion of males from the ACT reported feeling *very positive* about the future (10.6% compared with 6.3% of females), a greater proportion of males also indicated feeling *very negative* (7.1% compared with 2.6%).

Table 3.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	ACT 2019 %	Females %	Males %	ACT 2018 %	ACT 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	8.7	6.3	10.6	15.5	16.8
Positive	45.0	36.5	37.6	37.2	46.7	44.8
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	31.7	36.0	24.8	27.9	23.7
Negative	8.8	18.3	17.5	20.4	6.8	9.9
Very negative	3.4	4.8	2.6	7.1	3.1	4.8

# New South Wales



## Profile of respondents

A total of 6,576 young people from New South Wales (NSW) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Almost two thirds (65.0%) of respondents from NSW were female and 32.5% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 583 (9.1%) respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 538 (8.4%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 20 (0.3%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.4% identified as both). A higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (11.8% compared with 7.2% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 551 (8.6%) respondents from NSW stated that they were born overseas and 1,154 (18.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 80 languages other than English spoken at home in NSW, the most common were (in order of frequency): Arabic, Filipino/Tagalog, Chinese, Cantonese and Mandarin.

### Disability

A total of 398 (6.1%) respondents from NSW identified as living with a disability. Twice the proportion of males (8.2%) identified they were living with a disability (compared with 4.1% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in NSW were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, anxiety disorder and physical disabilities.

## Education

As indicated in Table 4.1, 93.3% of respondents from NSW were studying full-time, which is similar to the 94.3% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (95.7% compared with 89.7% of males). Conversely, more than twice the proportion of males reported they were studying part-time (3.5%) or not studying (6.7%) (compared with 1.2% and 3.1% of females respectively).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from NSW reported that they were either *very satisfied* (10.9%) or *satisfied* (53.1%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (6.6%) or *very dissatisfied* (2.2%). As shown in Table 4.2, a notably higher proportion of females from NSW reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (67.5% compared with 59.0% of males), whereas a greater proportion of males indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (11.3% compared with 7.3% of females).

Of those that were still at school in NSW, 94.0% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. More than three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (11.6% compared with 3.1% of females).

Table 4.1: Participation in education

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	93.3	95.7	89.7
Studying part-time	2.7	2.2	1.2	3.5
Not studying	4.0	4.6	3.1	6.7

Table 4.2: Satisfaction with studies

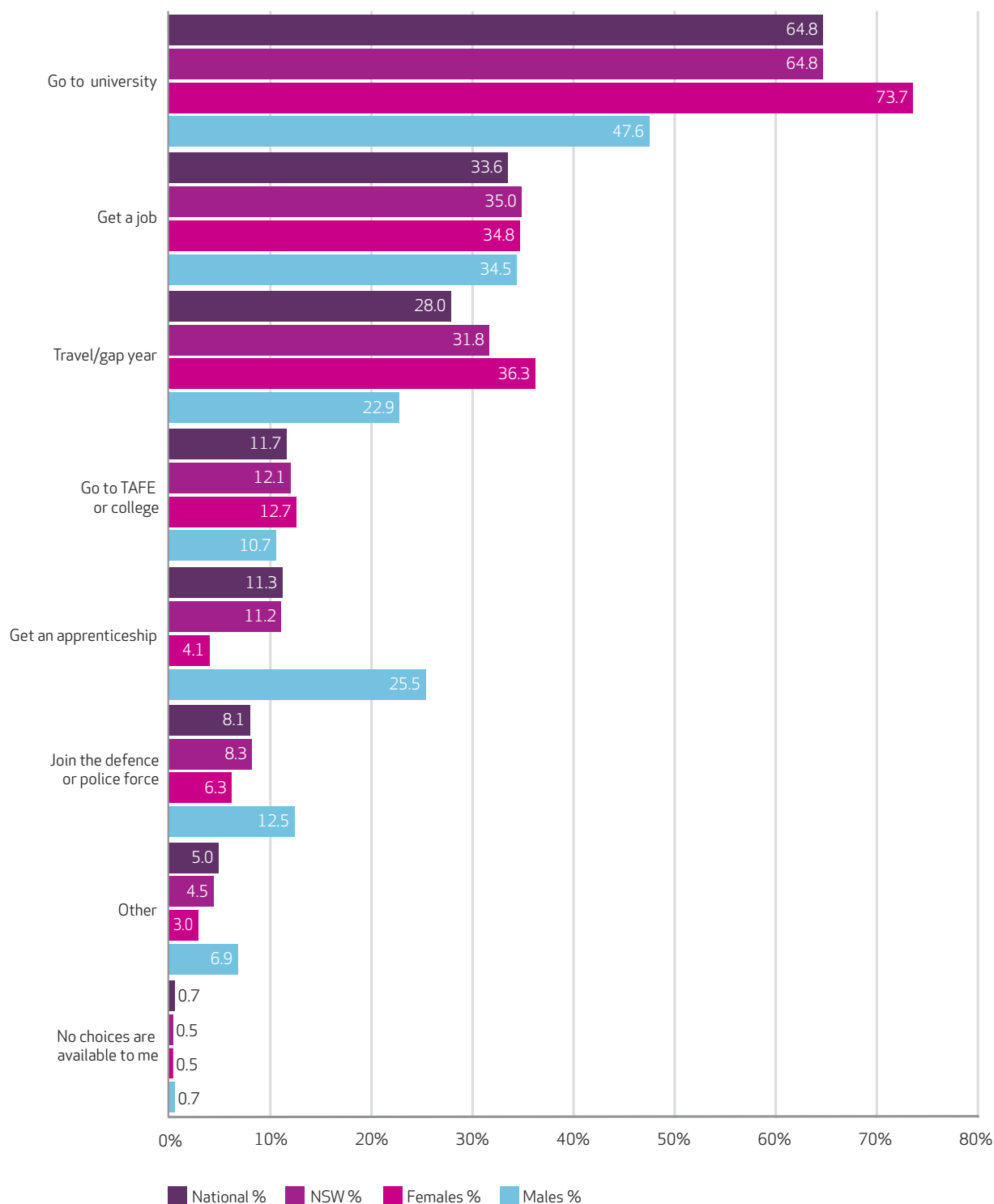
	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	10.9	11.2	10.2
Satisfied	55.2	53.1	56.3	48.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	27.1	25.3	29.7
Dissatisfied	5.7	6.6	6.0	7.5
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.2	1.3	3.8

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 4.1 shows that around two thirds (64.8%) of respondents from NSW planned to *go to university* after school. Just over one in three NSW respondents reported plans to *get a job* (35.0%) after school and over three in ten (31.8%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, 12.1% of young people from NSW planned to *go to TAFE or college*, 11.2% reported plans to *get an apprenticeship* and 8.3% indicated they planned to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (0.5%) of NSW respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from NSW was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (73.7% compared with 47.6% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (36.3% compared with 22.9% of males). Conversely, more than six times the proportion of males from NSW indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (25.5% compared with 4.1% of females).

Figure 4.1: Plans after leaving school

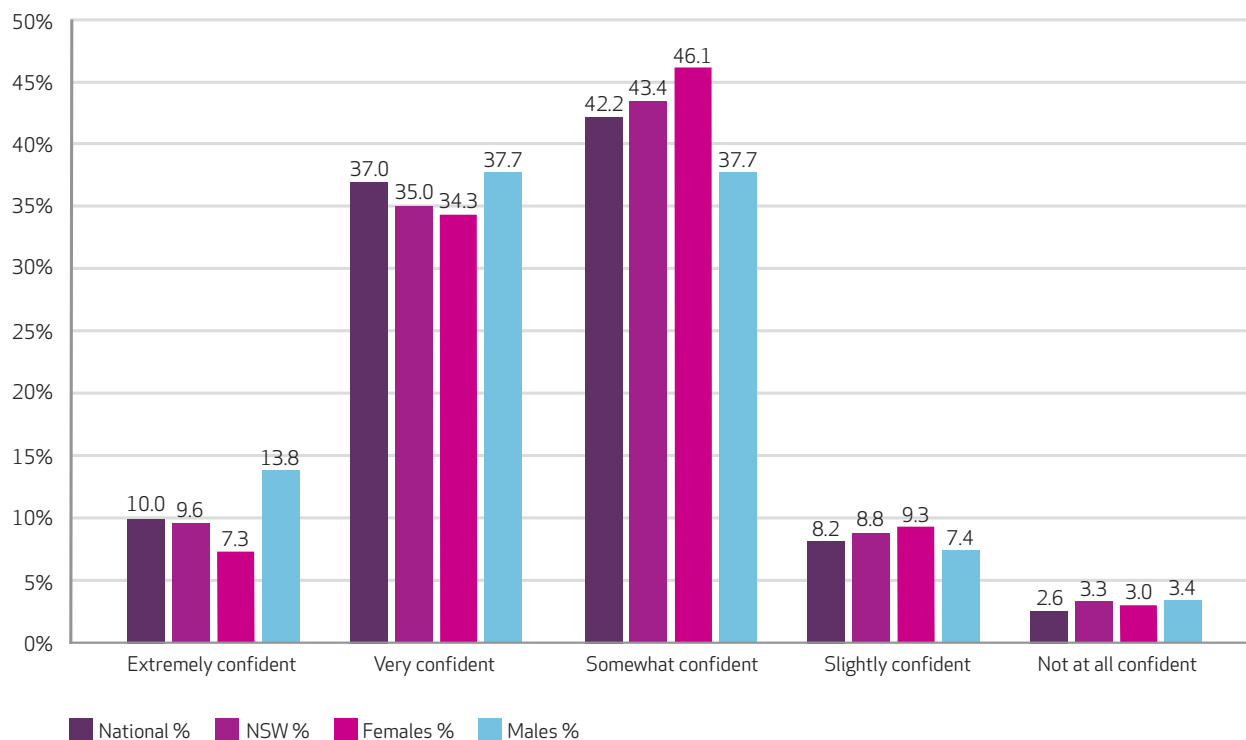


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 4.2, more than four in ten (44.6%) respondents from NSW indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 9.6% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 35.0% stated that they were *very confident*. However, around one in eight (12.1%) young people from NSW were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.8% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 3.3% were *not at all confident*. A notably higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely or very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (51.5% compared with 41.6% of females).

Figure 4.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Over half (52.0%) of respondents from NSW indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a notably greater proportion of females (56.2%) than males (42.7%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 4.3 shows the percentage of respondents from NSW who reported each item was a barrier.

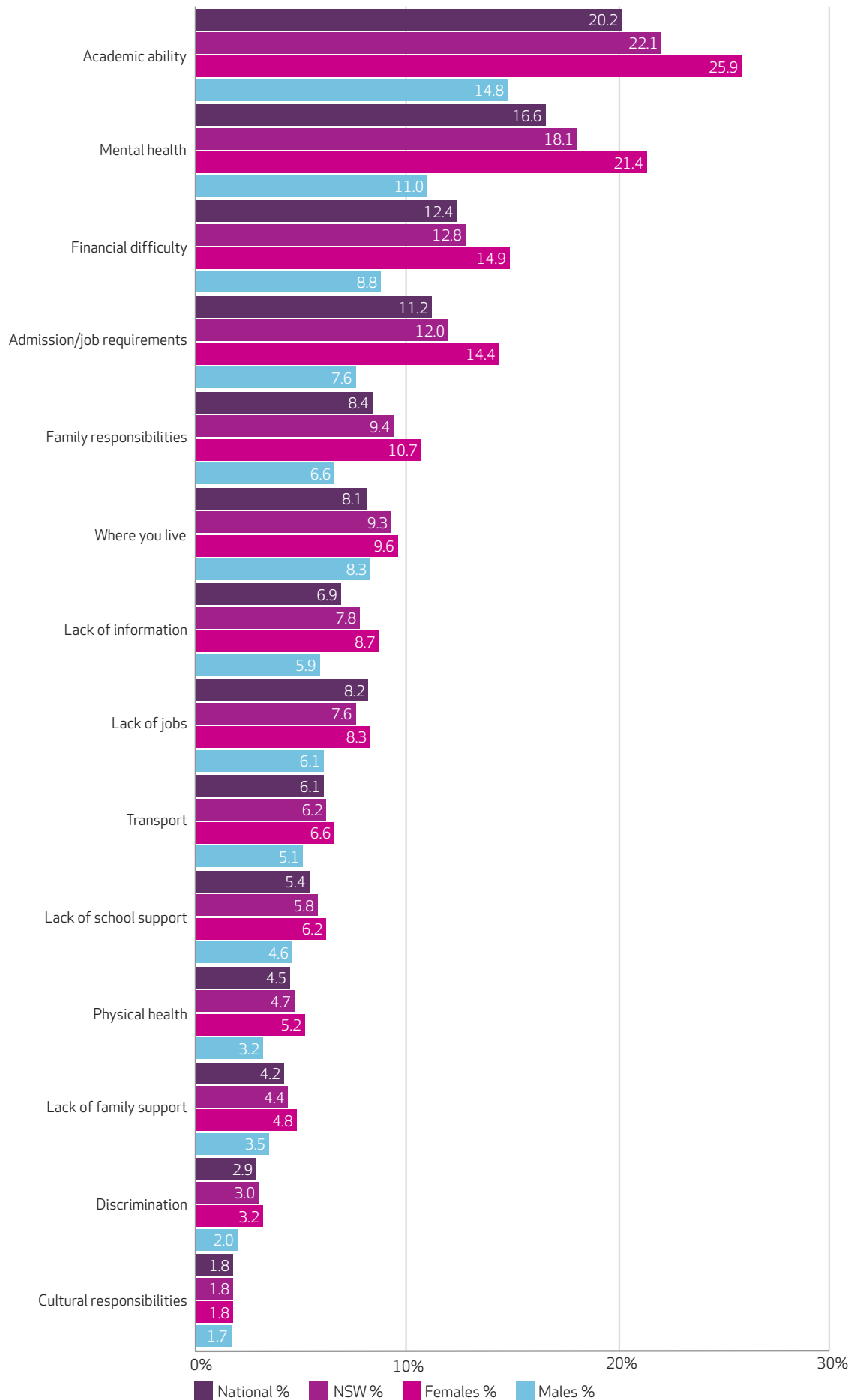
- *Academic ability, mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from NSW saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (22.1%, 18.1% and 12.8% respectively).
- Nearly one in eight young people from NSW saw *admission/job requirements* (12.0%) as a barrier impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals, while almost one in ten cited *family responsibilities* (9.4%) and *where you live* (9.3%) as barriers.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from NSW were *academic ability, mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from NSW indicated that each of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- Over one in four (25.9%) female respondents saw *academic ability* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school (compared with 14.8% of males).
- Higher proportions of females from NSW reported *mental health* (21.4% compared with 11.0% of males) and *financial difficulty* (14.9% compared with 8.8%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.

Figure 4.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 4.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from NSW. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from NSW who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.9%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Over four in ten (44.7%) respondents from NSW reported that they were employed part-time. More than half (54.4%) of respondents from NSW indicated that they were not in paid employment: 30.6% stated that they were looking for work, while 23.8% were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in NSW in 2019 is slightly higher compared to 2018 findings (44.7% compared with 42.2% respectively).

### Gender differences

A slightly higher proportion of male respondents from NSW reported full-time employment (1.4% compared with 0.5% of females). A higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (47.2% compared with 40.5% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (34.0% compared with 28.8% of females).

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.9	0.5	1.4
Employed part-time	43.0	44.7	47.2	40.5
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	30.6	28.8	34.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	23.8	23.5	24.1

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

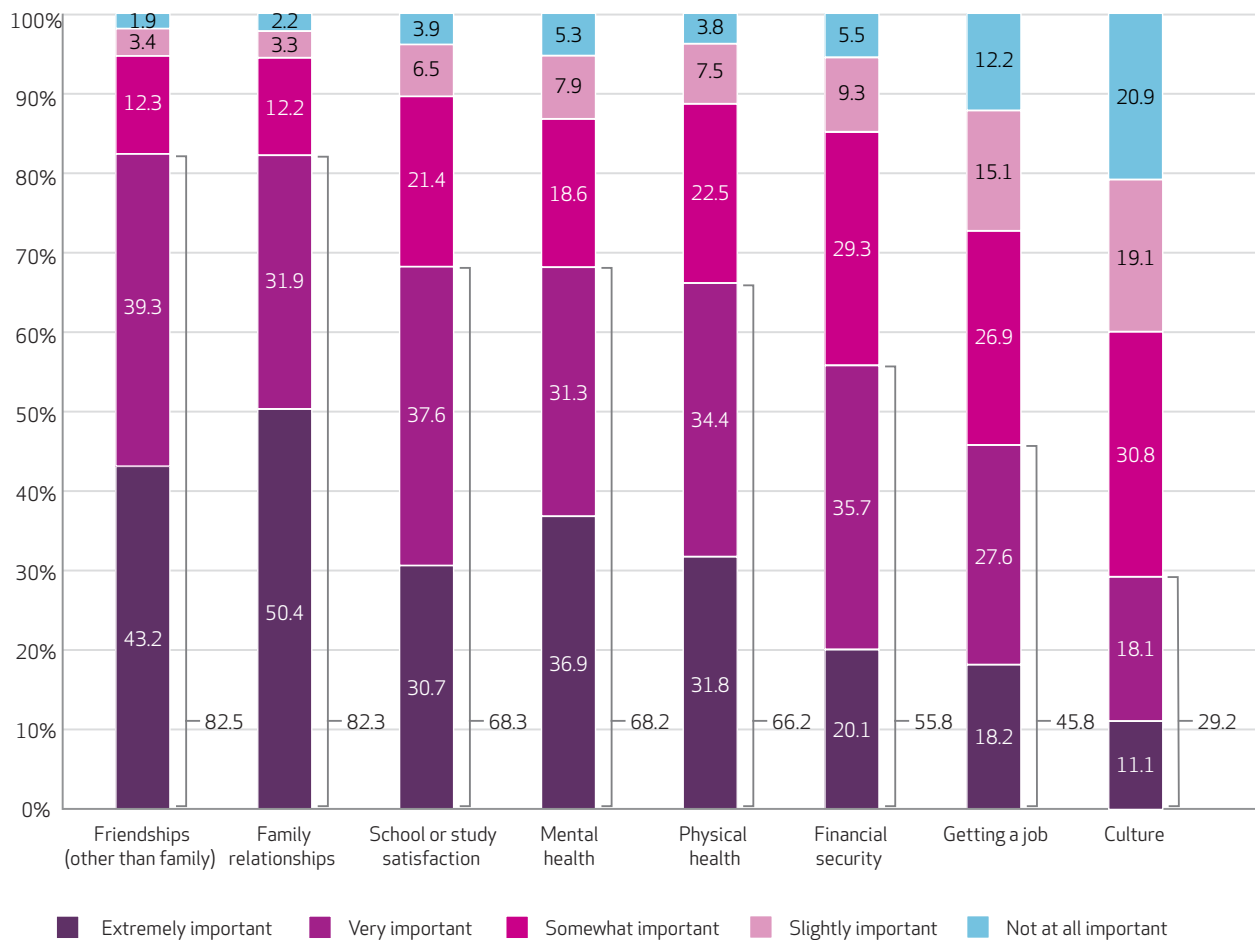
Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 4.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from NSW were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- *Friendships (other than family)* were rated as *extremely* or *very important* by 82.5% of respondents from NSW (*extremely important*: 43.2%; *very important*: 39.3%).
- Over eight in ten (82.3%) respondents rated *family relationships* as *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Nearly seven in ten respondents from NSW placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (68.3%), *mental health* (68.2%) and *physical health* (66.2%).



Figure 4.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from NSW as shown in Table 4.4, although among females the order was reversed. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and most of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were rated as *extremely* or *very important* by 85.5% of females from NSW, compared with 77.2% of males.
- Notably greater proportions of females placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (74.4% compared with 57.6% of males) and *mental health* (72.7% compared with 59.8%).

Table 4.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	11.2	3.1	1.3
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>30.6</b>	10.2	2.9	1.4
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>38.9</b>	18.6	5.0	2.0
Mental health	40.2	32.5	17.4	7.0	3.0
Physical health	32.4	35.0	22.8	7.4	2.5
Financial security	20.1	37.0	30.1	8.5	4.3
Getting a job	16.7	28.0	28.4	15.4	11.6
Culture	11.3	19.1	32.3	19.6	17.7
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>41.1</b>	14.6	3.7	2.3
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>34.5</b>	16.0	3.9	3.0
School or study satisfaction	21.7	35.9	27.0	8.9	6.6
Mental health	30.3	29.5	21.2	9.9	9.0
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>	22.2	7.5	5.5
Financial security	20.0	33.6	28.4	11.0	7.0
Getting a job	20.7	27.4	24.4	14.4	13.1
Culture	10.3	16.2	28.2	18.4	27.1

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

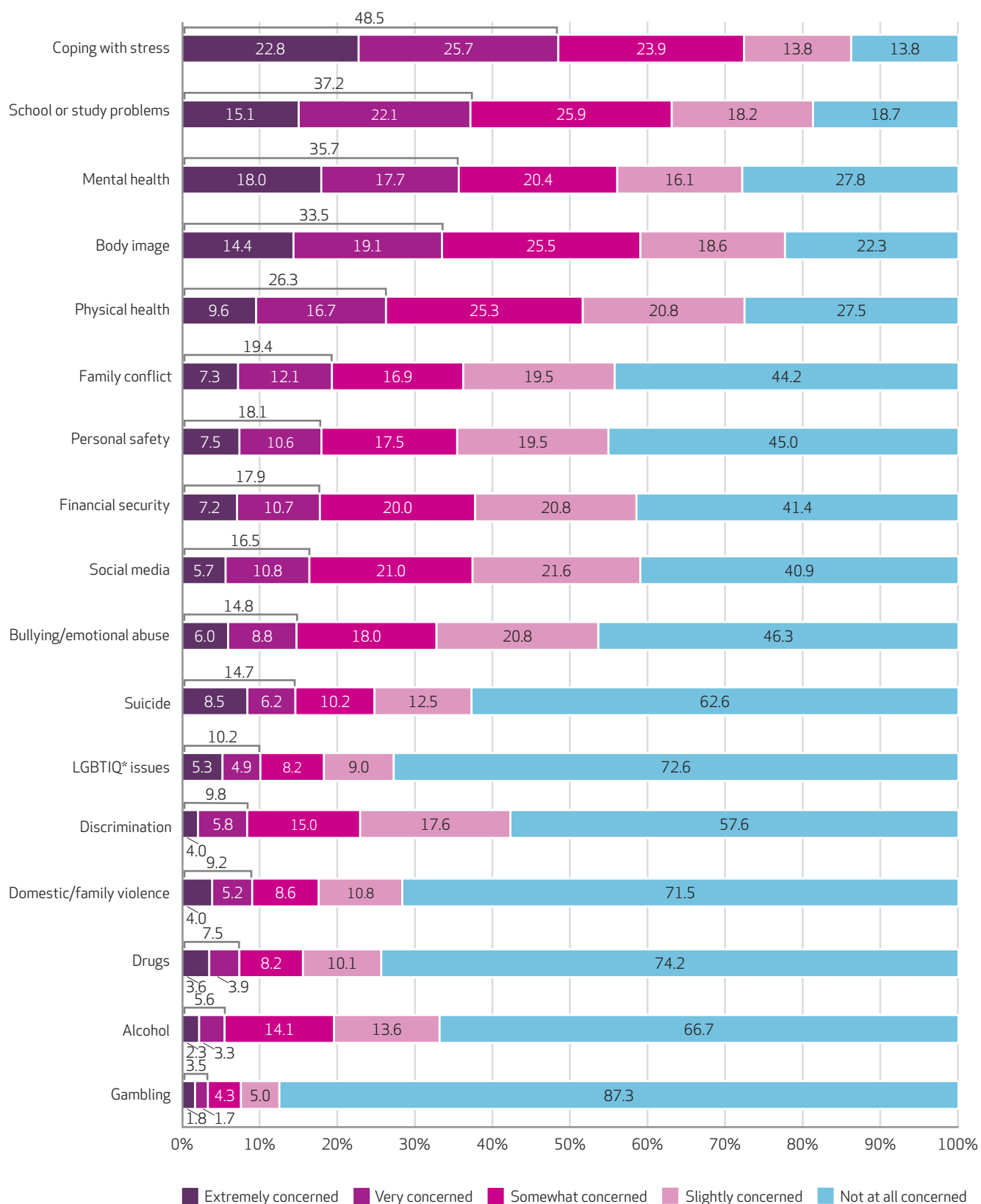
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 4.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from NSW were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with just under half (48.5%) of respondents from NSW indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- More than one third of young people from NSW were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (37.2%), *mental health* (35.7%) and *body image* (33.5%).
- More than one in four (26.4%) respondents from NSW were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health*.

Figure 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.  
 \*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress, school or study problems and mental health* were the top three issues of personal concern for both females and males from NSW, as shown in Table 4.5. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- More than double the proportion of females from NSW were *extremely or very concerned* about *coping with stress* (59.3% compared with 27.0% of males).
- Notably higher proportions of females were *extremely or very concerned* about *body image* (42.7% compared with 15.0% of males), *school or study problems* (44.9% compared with 21.6%) and *mental health* (42.9% compared with 20.8%).
- One in five (20.4%) females from NSW were *extremely or very concerned* about *social media*, compared with less than one in ten males (8.2%).

Table 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>30.6</b>	23.6	10.8	6.3
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>26.7</b>	26.2	17.1	11.7
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	22.1	16.1	19.0
Body image	18.6	24.1	27.7	17.4	12.2
Physical health	10.4	19.6	27.3	21.2	21.4
Family conflict	8.6	13.9	18.6	20.8	38.1
Personal safety	7.9	12.1	18.9	20.7	40.4
Financial security	7.6	12.0	21.5	21.9	37.1
Social media	6.7	13.7	23.4	23.5	32.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.4	10.4	20.1	22.5	40.6
Suicide	9.0	6.9	11.1	14.2	58.8
LGBTIQ* issues	4.7	6.0	9.2	10.9	69.2
Discrimination	3.5	6.2	16.6	19.2	54.5
Domestic/family violence	3.9	5.7	8.6	11.4	70.3
Drugs	3.1	4.0	8.0	10.7	74.2
Alcohol	1.8	3.6	15.1	14.6	64.9
Gambling	0.9	1.6	3.4	4.5	89.5

Table 4.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>	25.1	19.8	28.1
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	25.6	21.4	31.4
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	17.5	16.6	45.1
Body image	5.3	9.7	21.5	21.8	41.7
Physical health	7.4	11.7	21.3	20.3	39.4
Family conflict	4.0	8.3	13.8	17.2	56.8
Personal safety	5.9	7.3	14.7	17.4	54.7
Financial security	5.5	8.2	17.3	19.0	50.0
Social media	3.2	5.0	16.1	18.4	57.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.4	5.7	14.0	18.0	57.9
Suicide	6.6	4.7	8.0	9.2	71.6
LGBTIQ* issues	4.3	2.5	6.0	5.5	81.7
Discrimination	3.3	4.7	11.8	15.1	65.1
Domestic/family violence	3.5	3.8	8.1	9.5	75.1
Drugs	3.8	3.5	8.3	8.8	75.6
Alcohol	2.4	2.6	11.9	12.1	71.0
Gambling	2.7	1.9	5.3	5.7	84.4

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Just over one in five (21.2%) young people from NSW reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. Similar proportions of males and females reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (20.8% compared with 20.6% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Figure 4.6 shows that, of the 21.2% of respondents from NSW who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (80.2%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Nearly one third (32.9%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*. More than one in six (17.3%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*, while almost one in ten (9.3%) young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work*.

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Figure 4.6. Of the 21.2% of young people who had been bullied in the past year:

- Eight in ten female (80.7%) and male (80.4%) respondents from NSW had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (34.9% compared with 27.7% of males).
- Conversely, nearly three times the proportion of males from NSW reported that they had experienced bullying *in my neighbourhood* (9.2% compared with 3.2% of females).

Table 4.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>80.4</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>27.7</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>15.5</b>
At work	8.6	9.3	8.0	10.4
Other	7.9	8.3	5.5	10.9
In my neighbourhood	6.5	6.0	3.2	9.2

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 21.2% of respondents from NSW who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 4.6 shows that seven in ten (70.7%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Almost two thirds (63.8%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while more than one third (34.7%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). One in five (20.2%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

### Gender differences

There were some differences between female and male responses to the kinds of bullying they had experienced in the past year, as shown in Table 4.7. Of the 21.2% of young people from NSW who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around seven in ten male (72.7%) and female (69.5%) respondents had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing).
- A significantly higher proportion of females from NSW reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (70.6% compared with 49.2% of males).
- Conversely, more than double the proportion of males from NSW reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) over the past year (31.4% compared with 12.9% of females).

Table 4.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>72.7</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>49.2</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>36.4</b>	29.6
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	20.2	12.9	<b>31.4</b>
Other	5.6	6.0	4.5	6.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 4.6. For the 21.2% of respondents from NSW who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (43.2%), *talking to close friends or family* (37.2%) and *removing myself from the situation* (36.6%). Nearly one in three young people from NSW indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities* (32.7%), while around one in five (21.8%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. Almost one in seven (13.7%) respondents from NSW stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

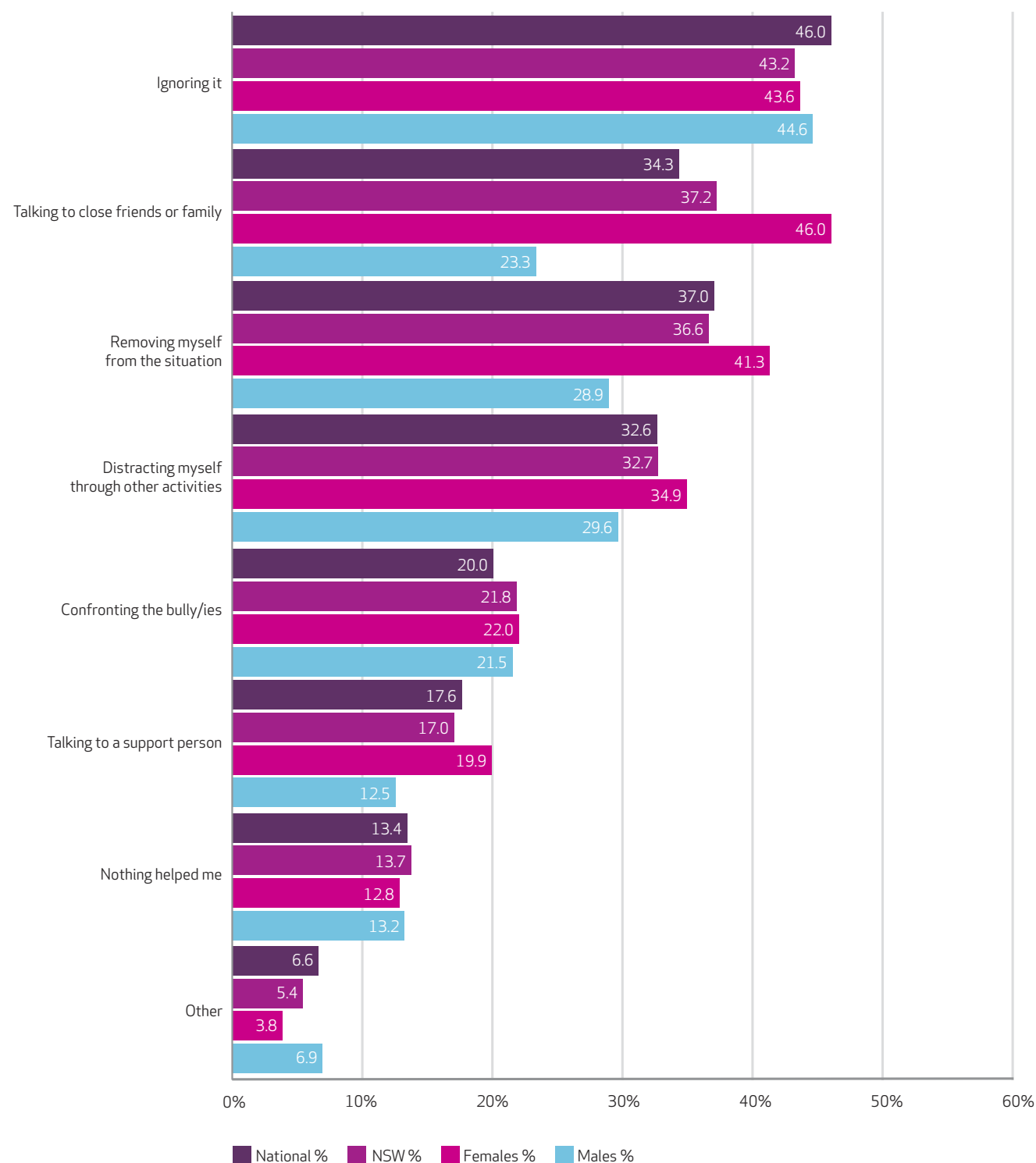
### Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents from NSW deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 4.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them deal with their experience of bullying

were talking to close friends or family (46.0%), ignoring it (43.6%) and removing myself from the situation (41.3%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by ignoring it (44.6%), by distracting myself through other activities (29.6%) and removing myself from the situation (28.9%).

- Nearly double the proportion of female respondents from NSW reported that talking to close friends or family helped them to deal with bullying (46.0% compared with 23.3% of males).
- A greater proportion of females from NSW indicated talking to a support person helped them to deal with bullying (19.9% compared with 12.5% of males).

Figure 4.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.



## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly half (49.0%) of young people from NSW reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. Similar proportions of males and females reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (48.9% compared with 48.6% respectively).

Young people from NSW who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 4.8 shows that, of the 49.0% of respondents from NSW who had witnessed bullying in the past year, nearly nine out of ten (86.5%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. More than four in ten (41.6%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*, while less than one in ten (8.4%) stated they had witnessed bullying take place *at work*. Smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at home* (7.1%) or *in my neighbourhood* (7.0%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 4.8.

- Nearly nine in ten female (87.2%) and male (86.2%) respondents from NSW had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (46.2% compared with 32.3% of males).
- Conversely, almost twice the proportion of males from NSW reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (9.4% compared with 4.8% of females).

Table 4.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>86.2</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>32.3</b>
<b>At work</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>
At home	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.0
In your neighbourhood	7.3	7.0	4.8	9.4
Other	4.7	4.5	3.2	5.9

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 4.9 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

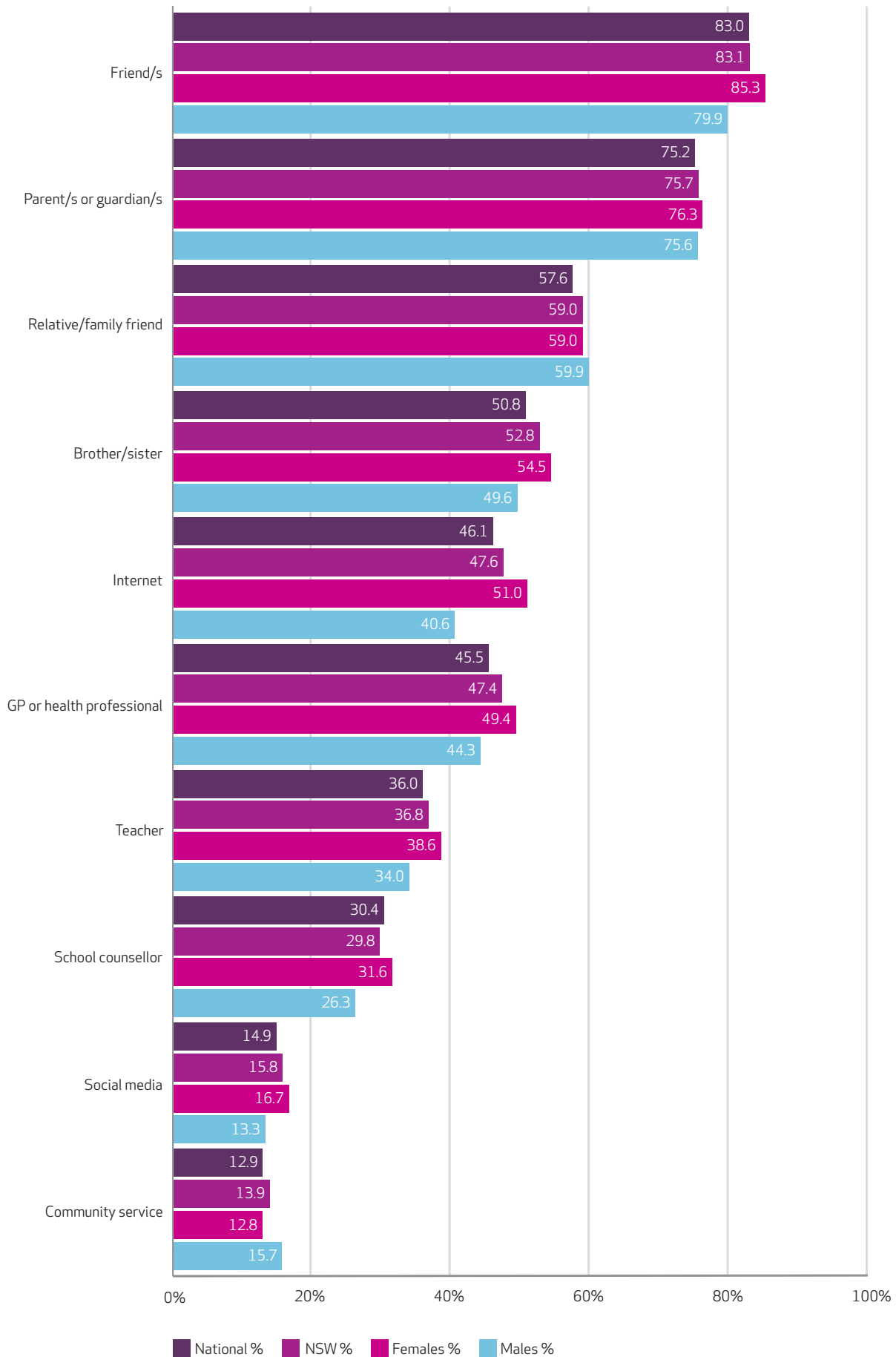
*Friend/s* (83.1%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (75.7%) and *relative/family friend* (59.0%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from NSW. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (52.8%), the *internet* (47.6%) or a *GP or health professional* (47.4%) for support with important issues in their lives. Around four in ten young people from NSW would turn to a *teacher* (36.8%) as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the NSW results.

- Higher proportions of females from NSW reported that they would turn to the *internet* (51.0% compared with 40.6% of males), their *friend/s* (85.3% compared with 79.9%) or a *school counsellor* for support (31.6% compared with 26.3%).
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males from NSW reported they would go to a *community service* for support (15.7% compared with 12.8% of females).

Figure 4.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 4.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from NSW were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Nearly four in ten young people from NSW indicated that *mental health* (38.8%) and *the environment* (36.0%) are important issues in Australia today.
- Close to one in four respondents from NSW reported that *equity and discrimination* (23.8%) is an important national issue, while one in five (19.6%) cited *alcohol and drugs*.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from NSW reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has nearly quadrupled from 9.2% to 36.0%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs* and *bullying* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with NSW results, *mental health* and *the environment* were the top two most important issues for both females and males from NSW. *Equity and discrimination* was the third most important issue for females, whereas for males it was *alcohol and drugs*.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from NSW identified *mental health* (43.7% compared with 30.1% of males) and *the environment* (40.1% compared with 28.3%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, greater proportions of males from NSW regarded *alcohol and drugs* (24.9% compared with 17.0% of females) and *politics* (14.8% compared with 8.1%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 4.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	NSW 2019 %	Females %	Males %	NSW 2018 %	NSW 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>	9.2	11.9
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>26.1</b>	19.5	<b>23.4</b>	<b>26.0</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	19.6	17.0	<b>24.9</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>31.9</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	14.6	14.0	16.4	11.6	12.3
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	12.0	12.4	11.1	13.5	10.3
Bullying	11.8	11.7	12.5	10.7	17.4	11.2
Politics	10.9	10.4	8.1	14.8	5.3	6.4
Education	9.1	9.2	9.3	8.9	8.2	13.9
Population issues	8.0	9.0	9.4	7.9	6.7	10.6

Note: Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 4.10 shows that under half of young people from NSW felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (45.6%) and *with my family* (45.2%). Just under one in six young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (15.5%), while around one in sixteen young people from NSW felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (6.9%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (53.3%) of young people from NSW felt they have a say *none of the time*. Around three in ten (28.5%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 4.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	45.2	44.6	10.2
With my friends	45.6	47.4	7.0
At school/TAFE/university	15.5	56.0	28.5
In public affairs	6.9	39.8	53.3

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 4.11.

- A higher proportion of females from NSW indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while *with my friends* (47.2% compared with 42.7% of males).
- Double the proportion of males from NSW reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (10.1% compared with 4.9% of females).
- A higher proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (55.1% compared with 49.4% of males), whereas a greater proportion of males reported feeling they have a say *none of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (32.6% compared with 26.0% of females).

Table 4.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	46.5	44.6	8.9
With my friends	47.2	47.2	5.6
At school/TAFE/university	14.4	59.6	26.0
In public affairs	4.9	39.9	55.1
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	43.4	44.9	11.7
With my friends	42.7	48.5	8.8
At school/TAFE/university	17.3	50.1	32.6
In public affairs	10.1	40.5	49.4

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 4.12.

The top three activities for young people from NSW were *sports (as a participant)* (67.4%), *sports (as a spectator)* (55.8%) and *volunteer work* (49.4%). More than four in ten (42.6%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Around one in three (36.1%) young people from NSW indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities*, while three in ten (30.3%) had been involved in *youth groups/activities*.

### Gender differences

In line with NSW results, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for both females and males, although the order of the second and third items was reversed for females.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from NSW reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (48.8% compared with 30.0% of males), *volunteer work* (55.4% compared with 38.5%) and *student leadership activities* (41.3% compared with 26.5%) over the past year.

- Conversely, a higher proportion of males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* in the past year (61.6% compared with 53.3% of females).

Table 4.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>68.3</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>61.6</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>38.5</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	42.6	48.8	30.0
Student leadership activities	32.9	36.1	41.3	26.5
Youth groups/activities	29.8	30.3	31.4	28.1
Religious groups/activities	23.7	26.9	29.4	22.4
Environmental groups	13.6	13.6	15.1	9.8
Political groups/organisations	7.3	8.0	8.6	6.4

Note: Items are listed in order of NSW frequency.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 4.8 shows that the majority of respondents from NSW rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 23.8% rated it as *excellent* and 30.9% rated it as *very good*. However, more than one in five (21.6%) young people from NSW indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (13.9%) or *poor* (7.7%). A marginally higher proportion of male respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* (25.0% compared with 23.2% of females).

Figure 4.8: Family's ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 4.13 shows, the majority (60.2%) of young people responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from NSW felt happy overall with their lives. A higher proportion of males from NSW reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (65.9% compared with 58.1% of females).

Table 4.13: How happy young people are

	National %	NSW %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	60.2	58.1	65.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	27.9	29.8	24.3
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	11.8	12.1	9.8

### How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 4.14 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of young people from NSW felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Nearly six in ten (57.9%) respondents from NSW felt *very positive* (13.3%) or *positive* (44.6%) about the future.
- One in eight (12.3%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (9.2%) or *very negative* (3.1%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from NSW reported feeling *very positive* about the future (17.2% compared with 11.3% of females).

Table 4.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	NSW 2019 %	Females %	Males %	NSW 2018 %	NSW 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	13.3	11.3	17.2	16.0	15.8
Positive	45.0	44.6	46.3	43.0	45.2	46.6
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	29.9	30.5	28.2	28.7	27.5
Negative	8.8	9.2	9.5	8.1	7.0	7.1
Very negative	3.4	3.1	2.4	3.5	3.1	3.1

# Northern Territory



## Profile of respondents

A total of 318 young people from the Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Nearly two thirds (63.6%) of respondents from the NT were female and 32.3% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 86 (28.3%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. A slightly higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (31.6% compared with 27.5% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 53 (17.4%) respondents from the NT stated that they were born overseas and 97 (31.8%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 30 languages other than English spoken at home in the NT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Indigenous languages, Filipino/Tagalog, Kriol and Bisaya.

### Disability

A total of 19 (6.0%) respondents from the NT identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (6.9%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.5% of females).

## Education

As indicated in Table 5.1, 88.0% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time, which is similar to the 89.5% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (90.5% compared with 85.3% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (9.8% compared with 6.5% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from the NT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.2%) or *satisfied* (49.3%) with their studies. Less than one in ten young people indicated they were *dissatisfied* (5.6%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.9%). As shown in Table 5.2, a higher proportion of females from the NT reported feeling *very satisfied* (13.4% compared with 8.2% of males), while a higher proportion of males indicated they felt *satisfied* (52.9% compared with 48.8% of females).

Of those that were still at school in the NT, 95.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (7.2% compared with 2.4% of females).

Table 5.1: Participation in education

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	88.0	90.5	85.3
Studying part-time	2.7	3.8	3.0	4.9
Not studying	4.0	8.2	6.5	9.8



Table 5.2: Satisfaction with studies

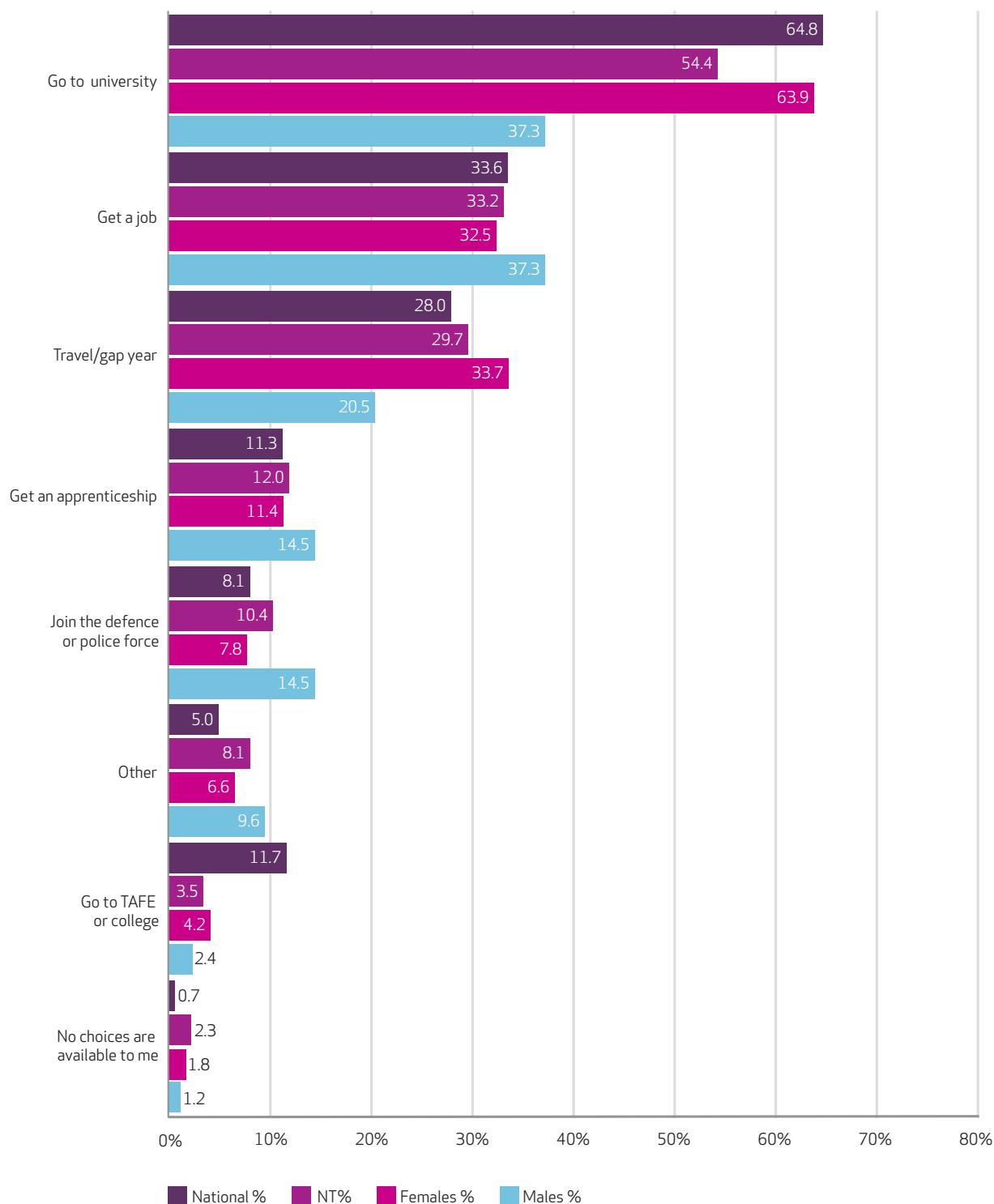
	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	11.2	13.4	8.2
Satisfied	55.2	49.3	48.8	52.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	32.1	31.4	34.1
Dissatisfied	5.7	5.6	5.2	4.7
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.9	1.2	0.0

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 5.1 shows that more than half (54.4%) of respondents from the NT planned to *go to university* after school. One in three (33.2%) respondents reported plans to *get a job* after school and three in ten (29.7%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, around one in eight (12.0%) young people from the NT planned to *get an apprenticeship* and one in ten (10.4%) reported plans to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (2.3%) of NT respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

The most frequently reported plan among females from the NT was to *go to university* after finishing school, while for males the equal first post-school plan was to *go to university* and to *get a job*. A much higher proportion of females from the NT indicated that they planned to *go to university* after school (63.9% compared with 37.3% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (33.7% compared with 20.5% of males). Conversely, around twice the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *join the defence or police force* after school (14.5% compared with 7.8% of females).

Figure 5.1: Plans after leaving school

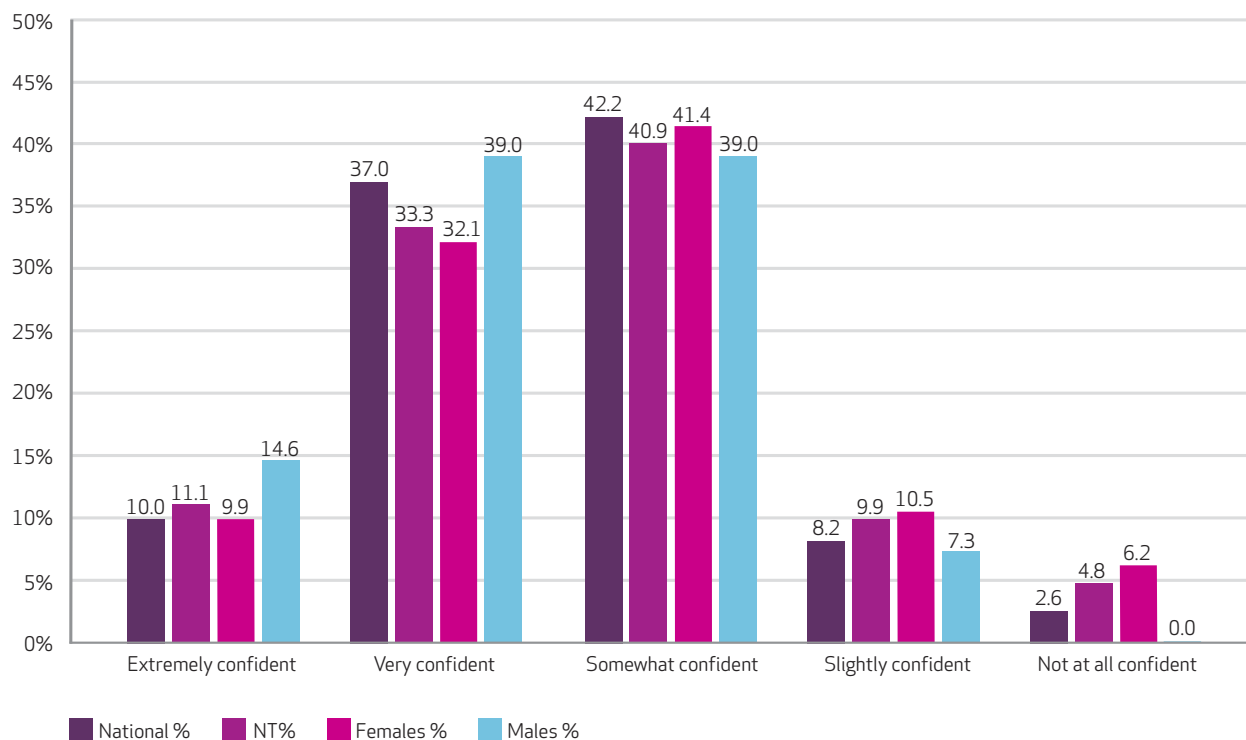


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 5.2, more than four in ten (44.4%) respondents from the NT indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 11.1% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 33.3% stated that they were *very confident*. However, one in seven (14.7%) young people from the NT were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 9.9% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 4.8% were *not at all confident*. A notably higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (53.6% compared with 42.0% of females).

Figure 5.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Over six in ten (62.2%) respondents from the NT indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a much greater proportion of females (66.9%) than males (50.6%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 5.3 shows the percentage of respondents from the NT who reported each item was a barrier.

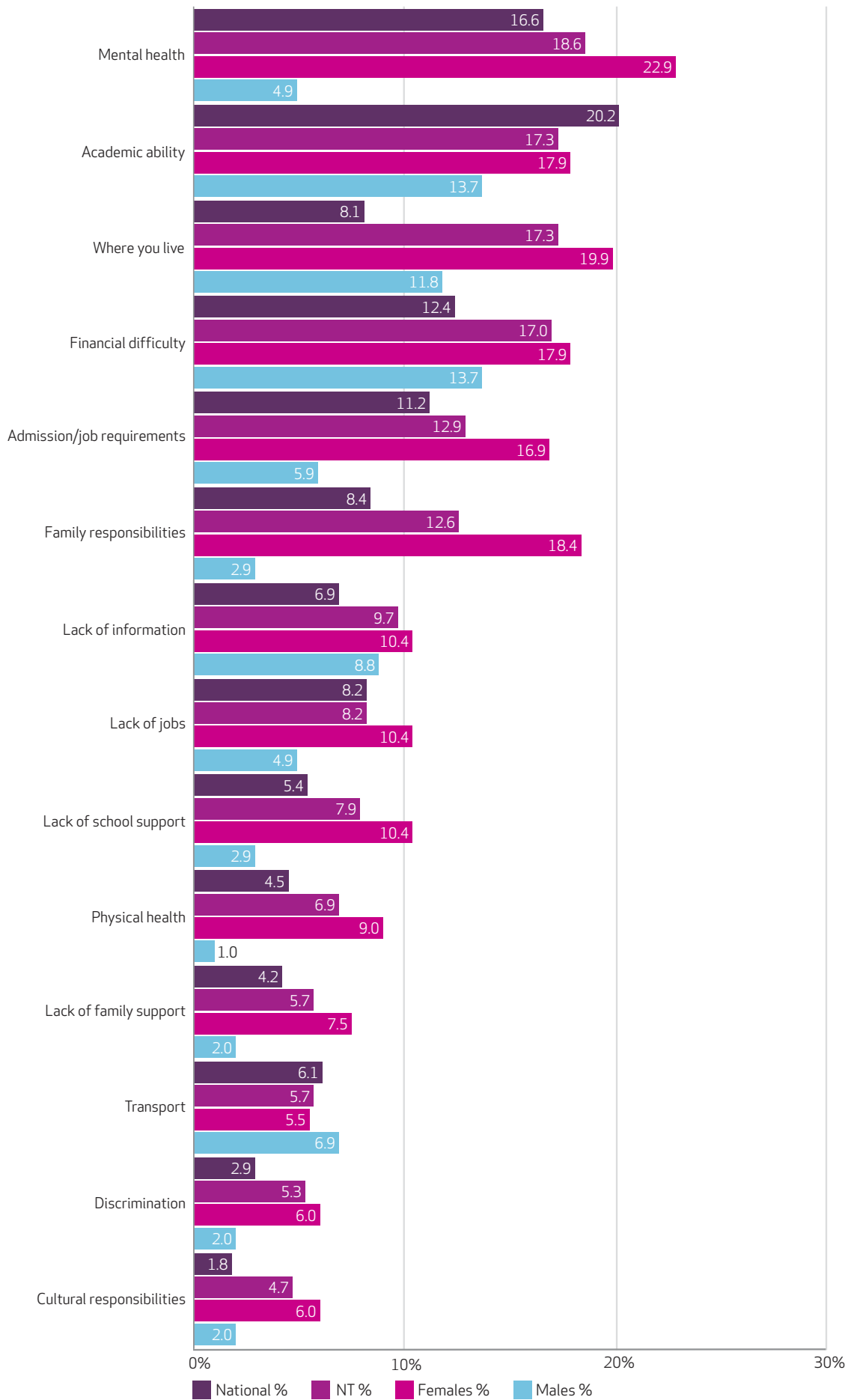
- *Mental health, academic ability* and *where you live* were the top barriers that young people from the NT saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (18.6%, 17.3% and 17.3% respectively).
- Around one in eight respondents from the NT reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* (12.9%) and *family responsibilities* (12.6%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for females from the NT were *mental health*, *where you live* and *family responsibilities*. Conversely, the top three barriers for males were *academic ability*, *financial difficulty* and *where you live*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from the NT indicated that the majority of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- More than four times the proportion of females from the NT reported *mental health* was a barrier to achieving their post-school goals (22.9% compared with 4.9% of males), while over six times the proportion of females cited *family responsibilities* as a barrier (18.4% compared with 2.9%).
- One in five female respondents from the NT saw *where you live* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school (19.9% compared with 11.8% of males).

Figure 5.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 5.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from the NT. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from the NT who reported paid employment were employed full-time (2.6%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Over four in ten (45.5%) respondents from the NT reported that they were employed part-time. Just over half (51.9%) of respondents from the NT indicated that they were not in paid employment: around one third (34.4%) stated that they were looking for work, while just under one fifth (17.5%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in the NT in 2019 is higher compared to 2018 findings (45.5% compared with 38.2% respectively).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from the NT reported full-time employment (3.0% and 2.6% respectively). A higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (49.7% compared with 38.0% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were neither in paid employment nor looking for work (24.0% compared with 13.3% of females).

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	2.6	2.6	3.0
Employed part-time	43.0	45.5	49.7	38.0
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	34.4	34.4	35.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	17.5	13.3	24.0

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

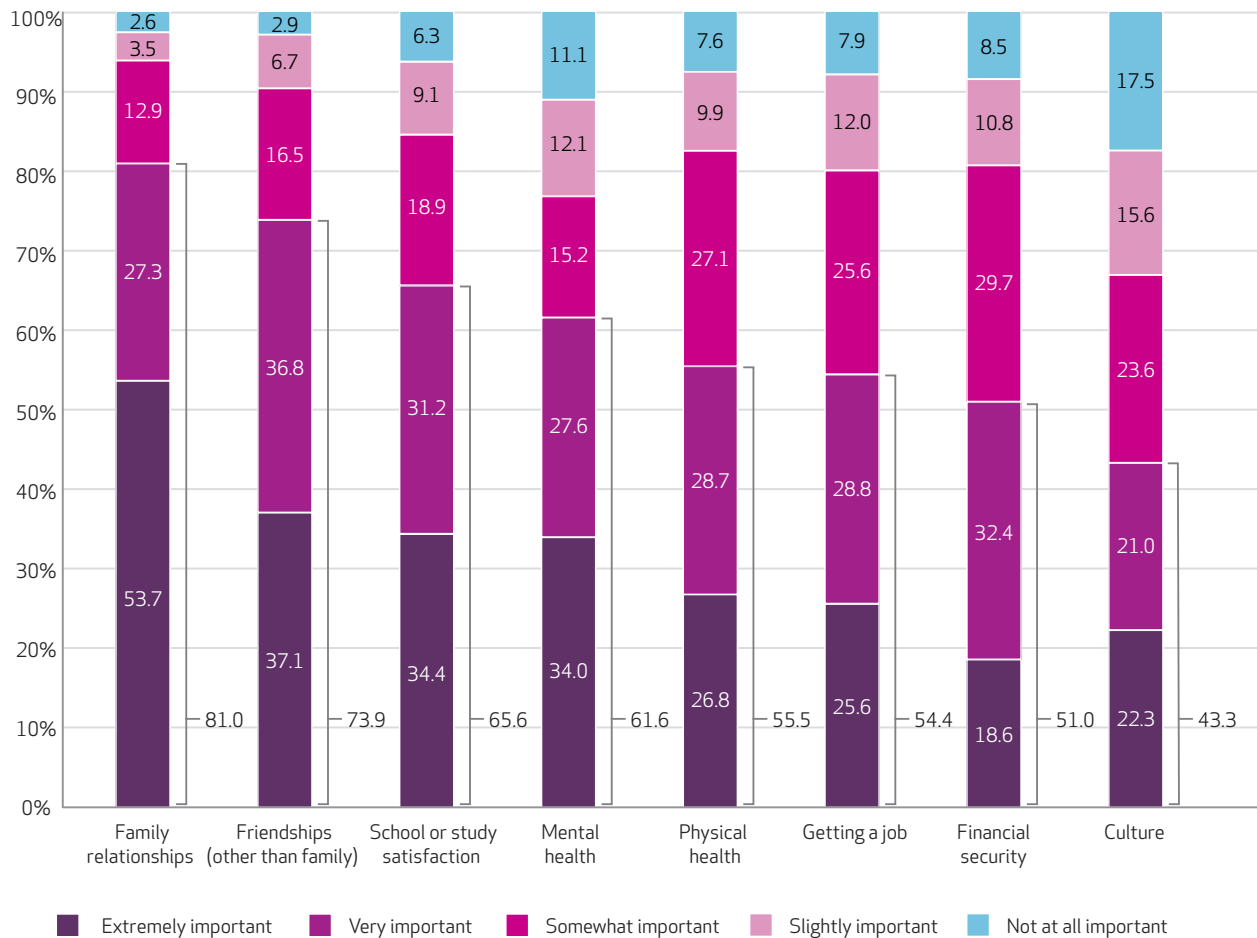
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 5.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from the NT were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- Just over eight in ten (81.0%) respondents from the NT reported *family relationships* were considered *extremely* or *very important* to them (*extremely important*: 53.7%; *very important*: 27.3%).
- Nearly three quarters (73.9%) of respondents placed a high value upon *friendships (other than family)* (*extremely important*: 37.1%; *very important*: 36.8%).
- Over six in ten respondents from the NT indicated *school or study satisfaction* (65.6%) and *mental health* (61.6%) were *extremely* or *very important*.

Figure 5.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Family relationships* and *friendships (other than family)* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from the NT, as shown in Table 5.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and each of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably greater proportions of females indicated *school or study satisfaction* (71.5% compared with 53.9% of males), *culture* (48.8% compared with 33.3%) and *mental health* (66.3% compared with 51.5%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- A higher proportion of females from the NT also rated *getting a job* as *extremely* or *very important* (58.5% compared with 49.5% of males).

Table 5.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>21.8</b>	10.2	4.6	3.0
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>35.7</b>	16.1	5.0	3.5
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>28.5</b>	15.0	8.0	5.5
Mental health	42.2	24.1	12.1	11.1	10.6
Physical health	31.8	25.3	25.8	9.6	7.6
Getting a job	27.5	31.0	23.0	11.5	7.0
Financial security	19.9	33.5	30.9	8.4	7.3
Culture	24.9	23.9	22.8	12.7	15.7
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	18.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>40.6</b>	17.8	9.9	2.0
School or study satisfaction	17.6	36.3	27.5	12.7	5.9
Mental health	16.8	34.7	20.8	15.8	11.9
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>35.6</b>	28.7	10.9	5.0
Getting a job	23.8	25.7	29.7	13.9	6.9
Financial security	16.0	30.0	31.0	15.0	8.0
Culture	17.6	15.7	27.5	22.5	16.7

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

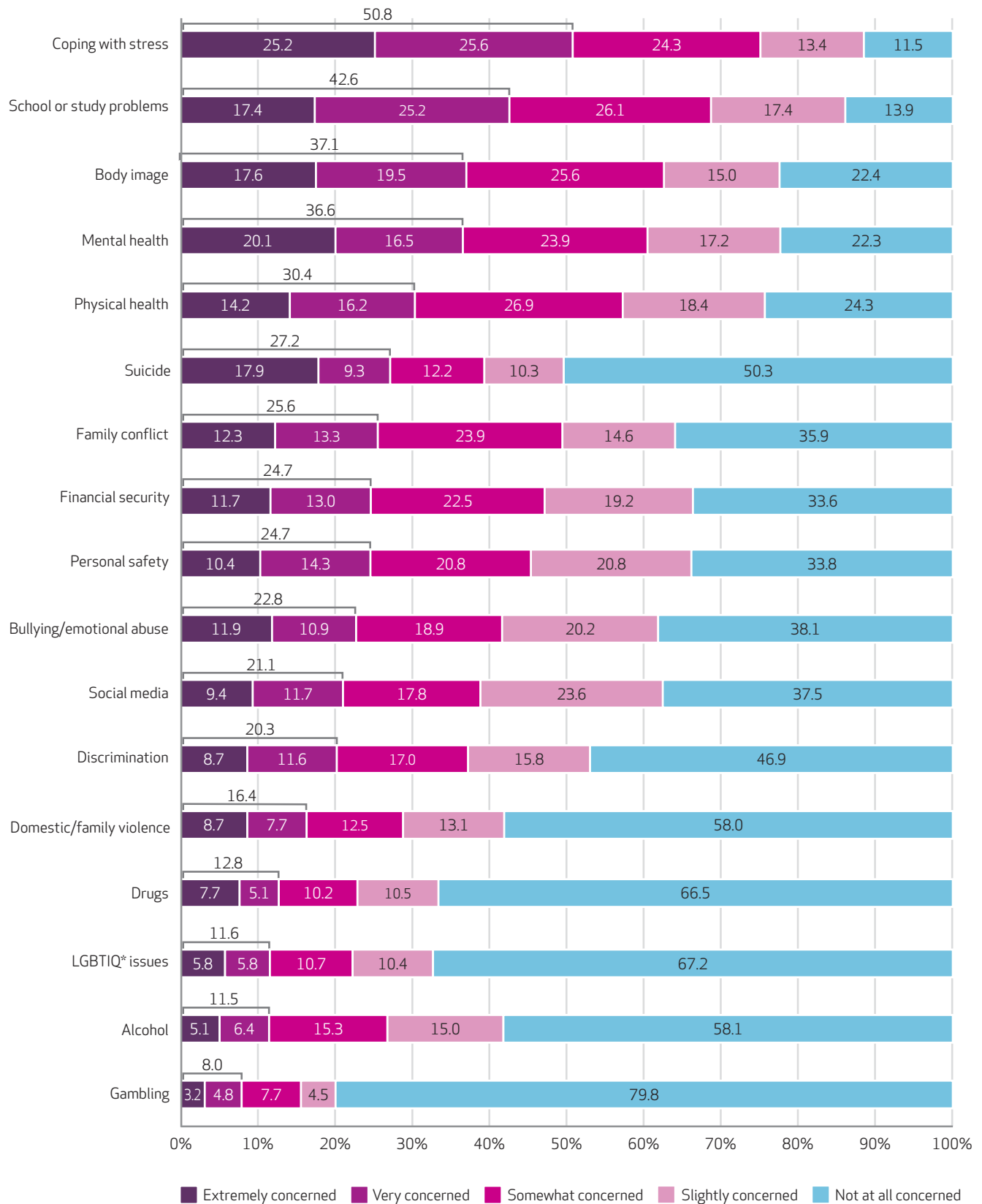
Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 5.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from the NT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. The next most personally concerning issues were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with half (50.8%) of respondents from the NT indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major personal concern for over four in ten (42.6%) young people from the NT, while just under four in ten NT respondents were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (37.1%) and *mental health* (36.6%).
- Three in ten (30.4%) respondents from the NT were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health*.



Figure 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from the NT, as shown in Table 5.5. The second most concerning personal issue for females was *school or study problems*, ahead of *body image*. Conversely, the second most concerning personal issue for males was *physical health*, followed by *school or study problems*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- Nearly double proportion of females from the NT were *extremely or very concerned* about *coping with stress* (60.6% compared with 31.0% of males).
- *School or study problems* was a major issue of concern for half (50.8%) of females from the NT, compared with around one quarter (24.0%) of males.
- More than twice the proportion of females were *extremely or very concerned* about *body image* (47.5% compared with 18.0% of males), *mental health* (44.1% compared with 19.2%) and *social media* (24.7% compared with 11.0%).

Table 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>27.8</b>	20.2	13.6	5.6
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>30.3</b>	23.6	14.9	10.8
<b>Body image</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	25.8	13.1	13.6
Mental health	24.6	19.5	25.1	11.8	19.0
Physical health	16.4	16.9	28.7	18.5	19.5
Suicide	18.9	10.7	13.3	9.2	48.0
Family conflict	13.8	15.4	21.5	15.4	33.8
Financial security	13.0	14.5	19.2	19.2	34.2
Personal safety	10.3	16.5	21.6	20.1	31.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	14.7	13.7	20.8	18.3	32.5
Social media	9.8	14.9	16.0	27.3	32.0
Discrimination	8.1	14.2	16.8	16.8	44.2
Domestic/family violence	7.6	9.1	13.7	15.7	53.8
Drugs	7.6	6.1	10.1	11.1	65.2
LGBTIQ* issues	6.6	5.6	10.7	10.7	66.3
Alcohol	3.5	7.1	17.2	15.7	56.6
Gambling	2.5	5.1	6.6	5.6	80.2

Table 5.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	34.0	13.0	22.0
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	33.0	24.0	19.0
Body image	7.0	11.0	24.0	19.0	39.0
Mental health	10.1	9.1	24.2	28.3	28.3
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>17.2</b>	24.2	18.2	32.3
Suicide	11.9	7.9	9.9	11.9	58.4
Family conflict	8.1	10.1	28.3	13.1	40.4
Financial security	6.1	11.1	30.3	19.2	33.3
Personal safety	8.0	12.0	19.0	23.0	38.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.0	5.0	18.0	25.0	48.0
Social media	5.0	6.0	21.0	18.0	50.0
Discrimination	7.1	7.1	17.2	13.1	55.6
Domestic/family violence	9.0	6.0	12.0	9.0	64.0
Drugs	7.0	4.0	12.0	11.0	66.0
LGBTIQ* issues	2.1	5.2	10.3	11.3	71.1
Alcohol	6.0	6.0	14.0	13.0	61.0
Gambling	2.0	5.0	11.0	3.0	79.0

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of NT frequency. \*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly three in ten (27.7%) young people from the NT reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A greater proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (29.1% compared with 21.0% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 5.6 shows that, of the 27.7% of respondents from the NT who had experienced bullying in the past year, three quarters (75.6%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Close to half (46.5%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*. Around one in five (22.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*, while one in six (16.3%) indicated they were bullied *at work*. A smaller proportion of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *in my neighbourhood* (11.6%).

### Gender differences

There were notable differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 5.6. Of the 27.7% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Eight in ten (81.0%) male respondents and seven in ten (71.9%) female respondents from the NT had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (47.4% compared with 33.3% of males).
- Conversely, much higher proportions of males from the NT reported that they had experienced bullying *in my neighbourhood* (23.8% compared with 5.3% of females) and *at home* (28.6% compared with 17.5%).

Table 5.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>81.0</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>33.3</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>28.6</b>
At work	8.6	16.3	12.3	19.0
In my neighbourhood	6.5	11.6	5.3	23.8
Other	7.9	8.1	3.5	9.5

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 27.7% of respondents from the NT who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 5.7 shows that three quarters (75.6%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Almost six in ten (58.1%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while over four in ten (45.3%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). Close to one quarter (24.4%) of NT respondents had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

## Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males from the NT were *verbal*, *social* and *cyberbullying*, there were some differences in the results, as shown in Table 5.7. Of the 27.7% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Three quarters of male (76.2%) and female respondents (75.6%) from the NT had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing).
- Much higher proportions of females from the NT reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (47.4% compared with 28.6% of males) and *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (59.6% compared with 47.6%).
- Around one quarter of males (23.8%) and females (22.8%) from the NT reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) over the past year.

Table 5.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>76.2</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>47.6</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>28.6</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	24.4	22.8	23.8
Other	5.6	4.7	3.5	4.8

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

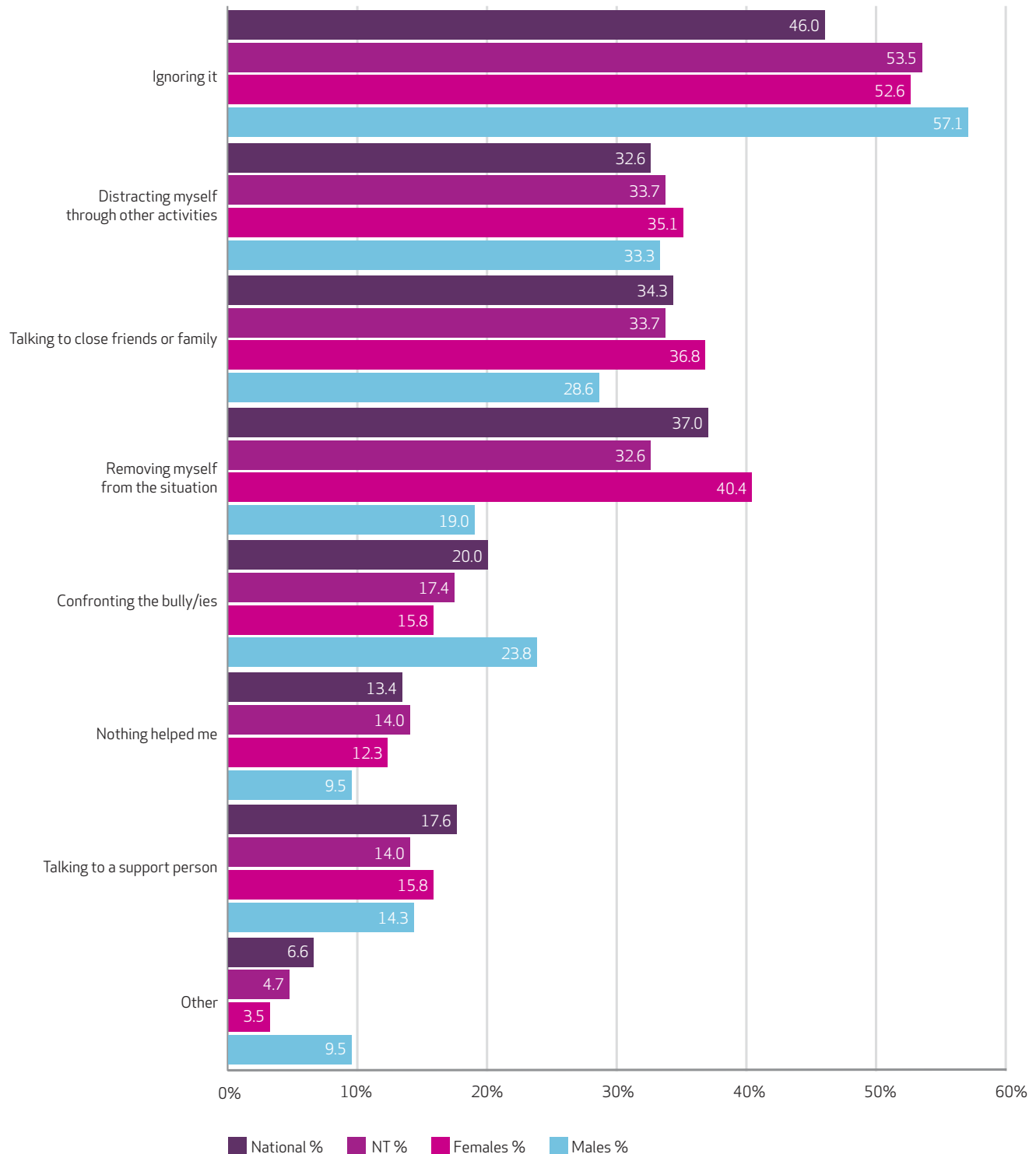
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 5.6. For the 27.7% of respondents from the NT who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (53.5%), *distracting myself through other activities* (33.7%) and *talking to close friends or family* (33.7%). Around one in three (32.6%) young people from the NT indicated they dealt with bullying by *removing myself from the situation*, while just over one in six (17.4%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. One in seven (14.0%) respondents from the NT stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents from the NT to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 5.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them to deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (52.6%), *removing myself from the situation* (40.4%) and *talking to close friends or family* (36.8%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (57.1%), followed by *distracting myself through other activities* (33.3%) and *talking to close friends or family* (28.6%).

- Just over double the proportion of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *removing myself from the situation* (40.4% compared with 19.0% of males).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from the NT reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them to deal with bullying (23.8% compared with 15.8% of females).

Figure 5.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly six in ten (56.2%) young people from the NT reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. Similar proportions of females and males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (56.3% compared with 56.0% respectively).

Young people from the NT who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 5.8 shows that, of the 56.2% of respondents from the NT who had witnessed bullying in the past year, more than eight in ten (81.4%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. Half (50.0%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*. Around one in six (16.3%) stated they had witnessed bullying take place *in my neighbourhood*, while around one in ten young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at home* (11.0%) or *at work* (9.9%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 5.8.

- Over eight in ten male (82.1%) and female respondents (81.5%) from the NT had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A significantly higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (58.3% compared with 32.1% of males).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from the NT reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (21.4% compared with 13.9% of females).

Table 5.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>82.1</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>32.1</b>
<b>In my neighbourhood</b>	7.3	<b>16.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>21.4</b>
At home	7.2	11.0	11.1	12.5
At work	<b>7.4</b>	9.9	11.1	3.6
Other	4.7	4.7	5.6	3.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 5.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

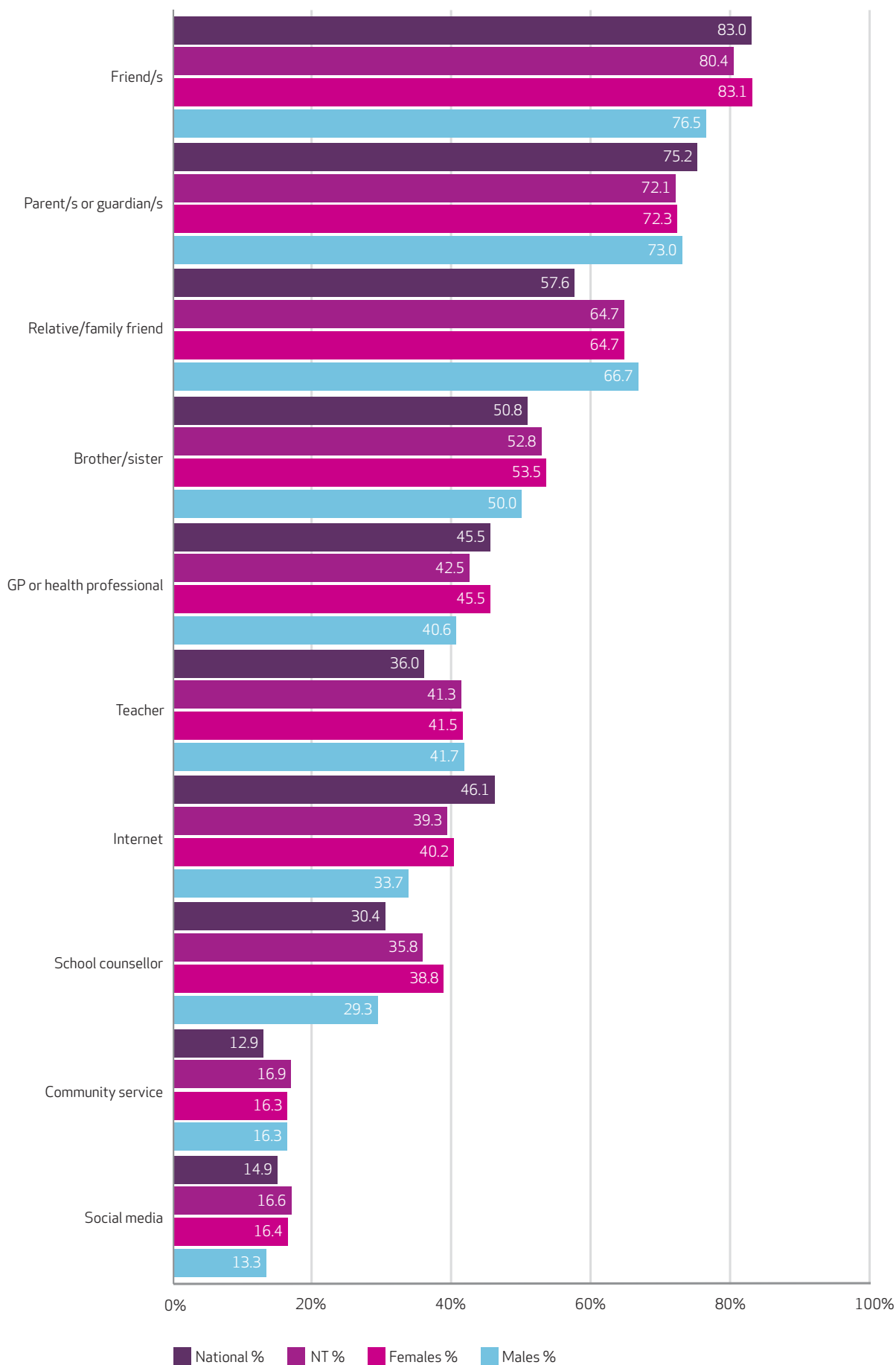
*Friend/s* (80.4%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (72.1%) and *relative/family friend* (64.7%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from the NT. Just over half (52.8%) of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for support with important issues in their lives. Around four in ten young people from the NT would turn to a *GP or health professional* (42.5%), their *teacher* (41.3%) or the *internet* (39.3%) as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the NT results.

- Higher proportions of females from the NT indicated that they would turn to a *school counsellor* (38.8% compared with 29.3% of males), their *friend/s* (83.1% compared with 76.5%) or *the internet* (40.2% compared with 33.7%) for help with important issues.
- A slightly higher proportion of males indicated they would turn to a *relative/family friend* for support with important issues in their lives (66.7% compared with 64.7% of females).

Figure 5.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 5.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from the NT were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination* (equal third).

- Nearly three in ten young people from the NT indicated that *mental health* (29.5%) and *alcohol and drugs* (28.1%) are important issues in Australia today.
- Just over one quarter of respondents from the NT reported that *the environment* (27.3%) and *equity and discrimination* (27.3%) are important national issues.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from NT reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than doubled from 10.3% to 27.3%. Conversely, concerns about *mental health* and *alcohol and drugs* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

*Mental health* was the top most important issue for females from the NT, ahead of *the environment*. For males from the NT, *alcohol and drugs* was the most important issue in Australia, followed by *mental health*. *Equity and discrimination* was the third most reported issue by both female and male respondents.

- Much higher proportions of female respondents from the NT identified *the environment* (31.4% compared with 20.2% of males) and *bullying* (19.4% compared with 6.7%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males from the NT regarded *alcohol and drugs* (38.2% compared with 22.9% of females) and *crime, safety and violence* (23.6% compared with 16.6%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 5.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	NT 2019 %	Females %	Males %	NT 2018 %	NT 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>34.2</b>
<b>Alcohol and drugs</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>28.1</b>	22.9	<b>38.2</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>31.4</b>	20.2	10.3	7.3
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	24.8	<b>27.3</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>27.4</b>
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	18.3	16.6	23.6	16.4	8.1
Bullying	11.8	14.7	19.4	6.7	17.2	8.5
The economy and financial matters	14.5	14.7	14.3	16.9	10.3	10.3
Politics	10.9	9.4	7.4	13.5	5.2	4.7
Education	9.1	7.6	8.6	5.6	11.2	10.7
Homelessness/housing	7.9	7.6	8.0	7.9	6.9	6.0

Note: Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 5.10 shows that around four in ten young people from the NT felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (42.0%) and *with my family* (38.1%). Close to one in eight (12.9%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while around one in sixteen (6.9%) young people from the NT felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*.

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (54.5%) of young people from the NT felt they have a say *none of the time*. Just over three in ten (31.1%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.



Table 5.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	38.1	47.9	14.0
With my friends	42.0	48.5	9.5
At school/TAFE/university	12.9	56.0	31.1
In public affairs	6.9	38.6	54.5

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 5.11.

- A notably higher proportion of females from the NT indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while *with my family* (42.9% compared with 30.9% of males).
- A higher proportion of females from the NT indicated feeling they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (55.4% compared with 51.0% of males).
- A greater proportion of males felt they have a say *none of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (32.6% compared with 29.5% of females).

Table 5.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	42.9	42.9	14.3
With my friends	42.6	48.2	9.2
At school/TAFE/university	12.4	58.0	29.5
In public affairs	6.7	37.8	55.4
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	30.9	57.7	11.3
With my friends	40.6	50.0	9.4
At school/TAFE/university	13.7	53.7	32.6
In public affairs	6.3	42.7	51.0

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 5.12.

The top three activities for young people from the NT were *sports (as a participant)* (55.3%), *arts/cultural/music activities* (51.9%) and *sports (as a spectator)* (50.0%). Just under half of respondents reported that they had participated in *volunteer work* (48.1%) and *youth groups/activities* (46.2%) over the past year. Close to four in ten (38.4%) young people from the NT indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities* in the past year.

### Gender differences

*Arts/cultural/music activities*, *sports (as a participant)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for females from the NT. Conversely, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *youth groups/activities* were the top three activities for male respondents from the NT.

- Much higher proportions of female respondents from the NT reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (57.2% compared with 42.2% of males), *volunteer work* (51.2% compared with 41.2%) and *student leadership activities* (40.8% compared with 32.4%) over the past year.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males participated in *political groups/organisations* (18.6% compared with 11.4% of females), *sports (as a spectator)* (54.9% compared with 49.3%) and *sports (as a participant)* (59.8% compared with 54.7%) in the past year.

Table 5.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

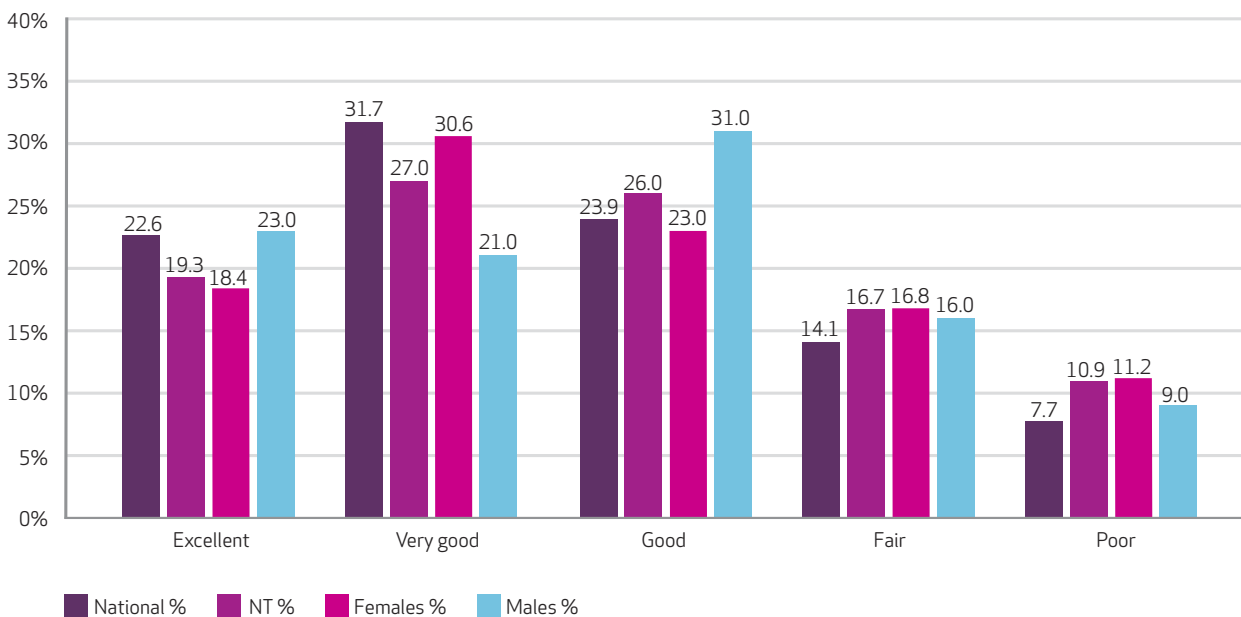
	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>59.8</b>
<b>Arts/cultural/music activities</b>	42.5	<b>51.9</b>	<b>57.2</b>	42.2
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>50.0</b>	49.3	<b>54.9</b>
Volunteer work	<b>46.7</b>	48.1	<b>51.2</b>	41.2
Youth groups/activities	29.8	46.2	46.3	<b>45.1</b>
Student leadership activities	32.9	38.4	40.8	32.4
Religious groups/activities	23.7	32.7	33.3	31.4
Environmental groups	13.6	16.4	16.9	12.7
Political groups/organisations	7.3	13.8	11.4	18.6

Note: Items are listed in order of NT frequency.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 5.8 shows that around half (46.3%) of respondents from the NT rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 19.3% rated it as *excellent* and 27.0% rated it as *very good*. However, close to three in ten (27.6%) young people from the NT indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (16.7%) or *poor* (10.9%). A higher proportion of male respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* (23.0% compared with 18.4% of females), while a higher proportion of females rated their family's ability to get along as *very good* (30.6% compared with 21.0% of males).

Figure 5.8: Family's ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 5.13 shows, the majority of young people (52.1%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from the NT felt happy overall with their lives. More than eight times the proportion of females from the NT reported feeling *very sad/sad* with their lives as a whole (17.7% compared with 2.0% of males).

Table 5.13: How happy young people are

	National %	NT %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	52.1	52.5	55.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	33.9	29.8	43.0
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	14.1	17.7	2.0

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 5.14 shows that the majority of young people from the NT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Over half (51.6%) of respondents from the NT felt *very positive* (11.9%) or *positive* (39.7%) about the future.
- One in ten (10.5%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (5.1%) or *very negative* (5.4%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from the NT reported feeling *positive* about the future (43.0% compared with 38.6% of females).

Table 5.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	NT 2019 %	Females %	Males %	NT 2018 %	NT 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	11.9	12.7	12.0	21.2	13.0
Positive	45.0	39.7	38.6	43.0	40.9	44.2
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	37.8	37.6	40.0	29.9	28.6
Negative	8.8	5.1	6.1	2.0	4.4	7.1
Very negative	3.4	5.4	5.1	3.0	3.6	7.1

# Queensland



## Profile of respondents

A total of 5,942 young people from QLD aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Half (50.5%) of respondents from QLD were female and 46.3% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 356 (6.1%) respondents from QLD identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 243 (4.2%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 64 (1.1%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.8% identified as both). A marginally higher proportion of female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.0% compared with 5.3% of males).

### Language background other than English

A total of 976 (16.7%) respondents from QLD stated that they were born overseas and 893 (15.3%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 81 languages other than English spoken at home in QLD, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Afrikaans, Filipino/Tagalog, Spanish and Japanese.

### Disability

A total of 392 (6.6%) respondents from QLD identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (7.4%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.8% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in QLD were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, physical disabilities and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 6.1, 92.2% of respondents from QLD were studying full-time, which is similar to the 94.3% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (94.5% compared with 90.5% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (5.0% compared with 3.8% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from QLD reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.5%) or *satisfied* (57.0%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (5.2%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.6%). As shown in Table 6.2, similar proportions of females and males from QLD reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (70.7% and 69.7% respectively).

Of those that were still at school in QLD, 97.2% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. A higher proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (3.4% compared with 1.9% of females).

Table 6.1: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	92.2	94.5	90.5
Studying part-time	2.7	3.2	1.7	4.5
Not studying	4.0	4.7	3.8	5.0

Table 6.2: Satisfaction with studies

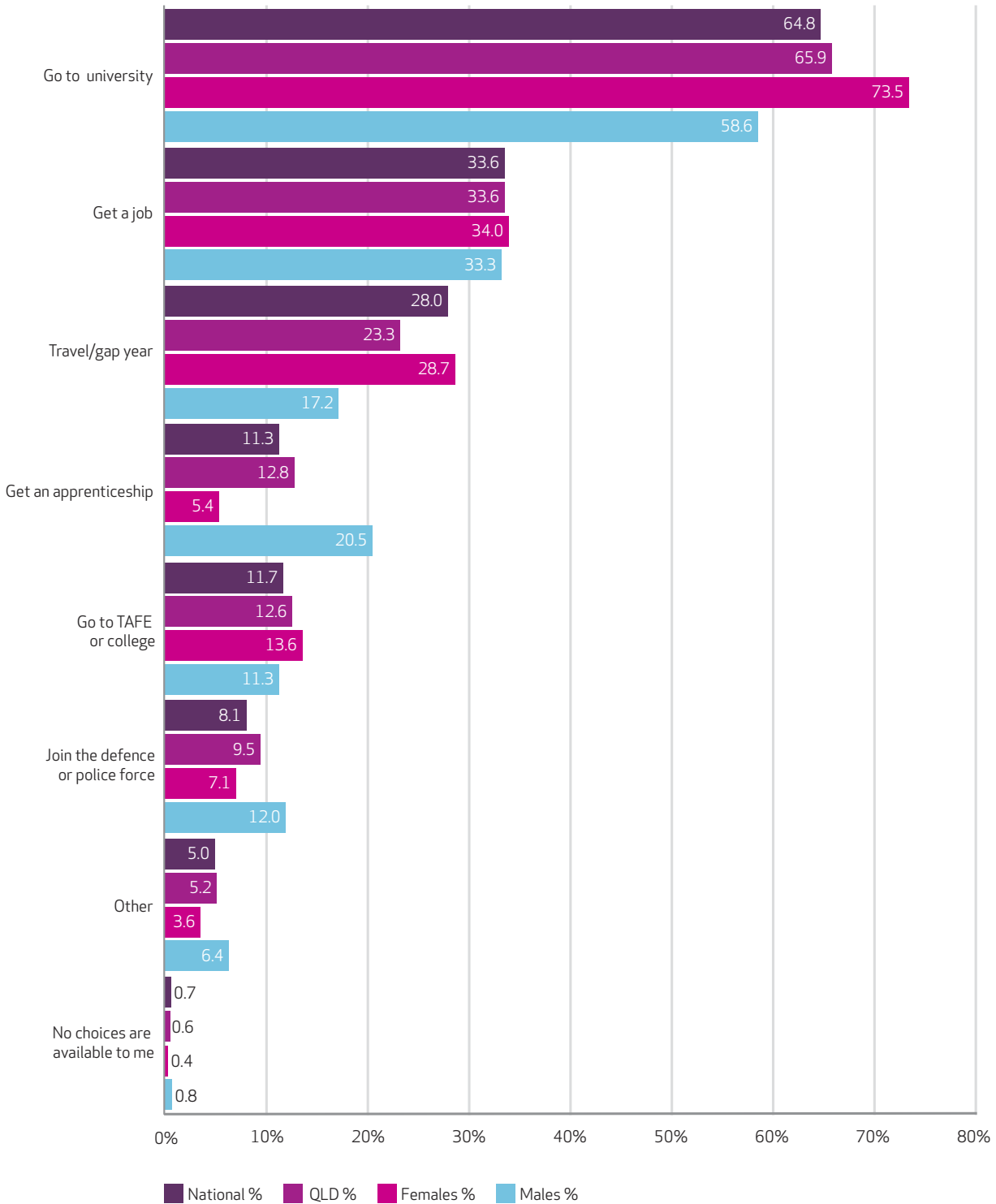
	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	12.5	11.8	13.2
Satisfied	55.2	57.0	58.9	56.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	23.7	22.9	23.8
Dissatisfied	5.7	5.2	5.3	4.8
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.8

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 6.1 shows that nearly two thirds (65.9%) of respondents from QLD planned to *go to university* after school. One third (33.6%) of respondents reported plans to *get a job* after school and around one quarter (23.3%) indicated *travel/gap year plans*. Overall, around one in eight young people from QLD planned to *get an apprenticeship* (12.8%) or to *go to TAFE or college* (12.6%), while one in ten (9.5%) planned to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (0.6%) of QLD respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from QLD was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (73.5% compared with 58.6% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year plans* after leaving school (28.7% compared with 17.2% of males). Conversely, almost four times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (20.5% compared with 5.4% of females).

Figure 6.1: Plans after leaving school

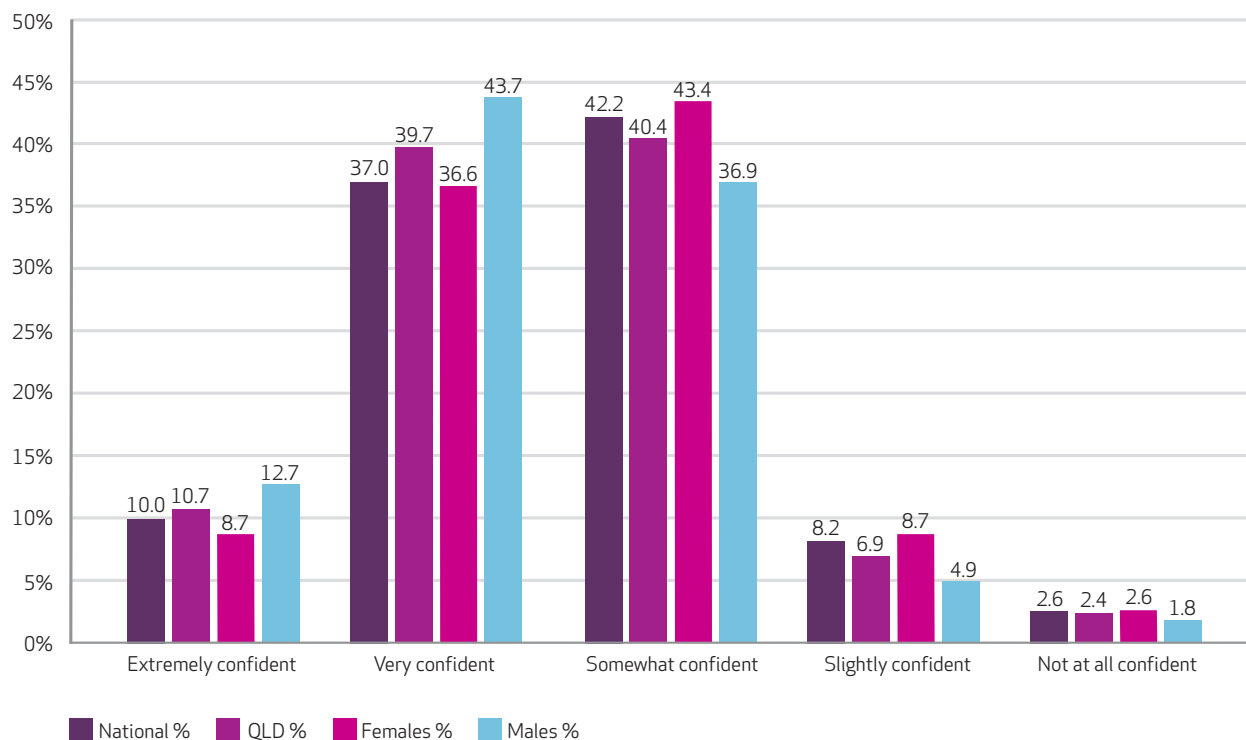


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 6.2, half (50.4%) of respondents from QLD indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 10.7% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 39.7% stated that they were *very confident*. However, almost one in ten (9.3%) young people from QLD were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 6.9% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 2.4% were *not at all confident*. A higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (56.4% compared with 45.3% of females).

Figure 6.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Nearly half (46.2%) of respondents from QLD indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a notably greater proportion of females (52.3%) than males (38.9%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 6.3 shows the percentage of respondents from QLD who reported each item was a barrier.

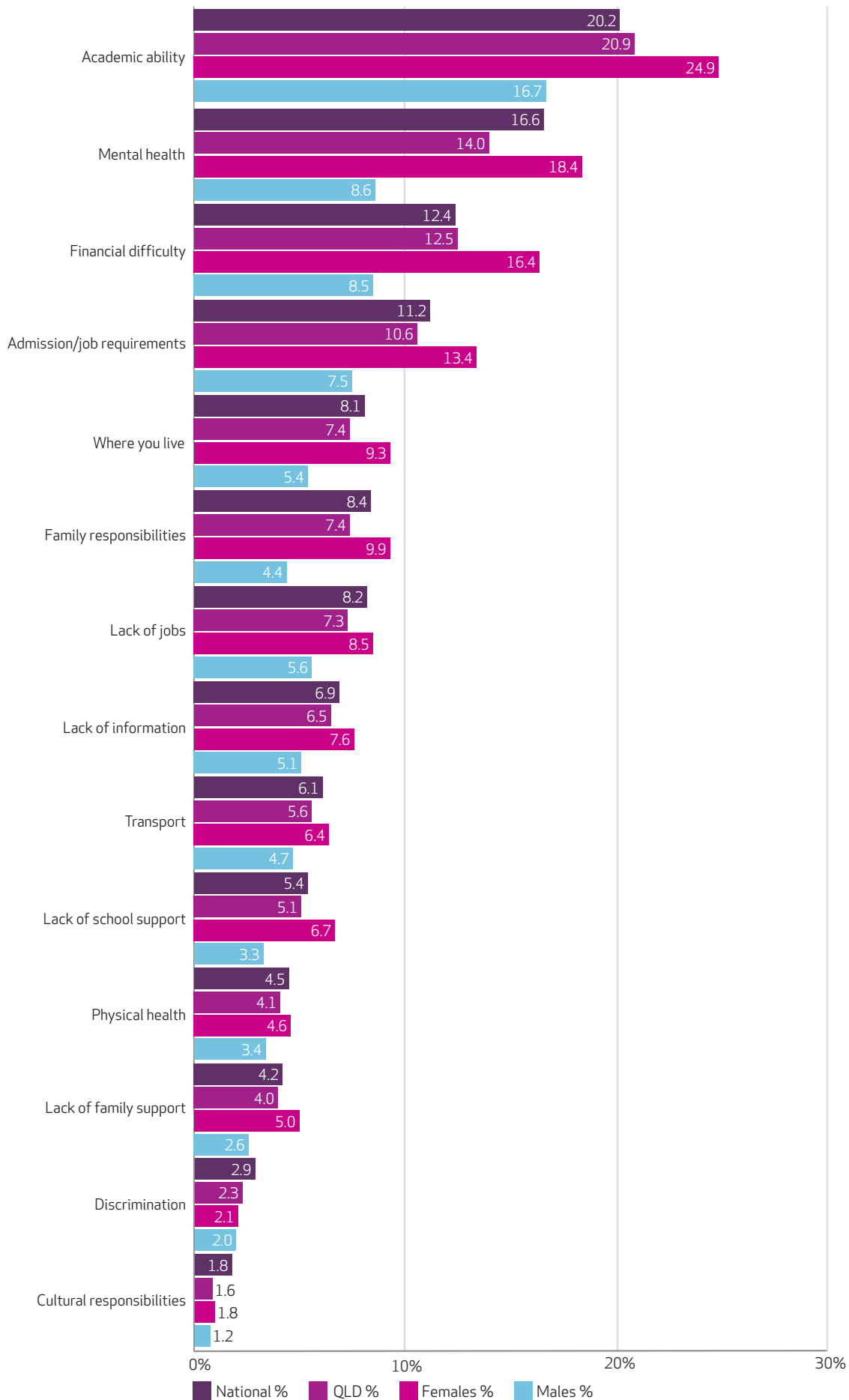
- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from QLD saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (20.9%, 14.0% and 12.5% respectively).
- One in ten (10.6%) respondents from QLD reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from QLD were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from QLD indicated that each of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- One in four (24.9%) female respondents saw *academic ability* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school, compared with one in six (16.7%) males.
- Notably higher proportions of females from QLD reported *mental health* (18.4% compared with 8.6% of males) and *financial difficulty* (16.4% compared with 8.5%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.

Figure 6.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.



## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 6.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from QLD. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from QLD who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.8%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. More than four in ten (42.1%) respondents from QLD reported that they were employed part-time. Nearly six in ten (57.1%) respondents from QLD indicated that they were not in paid employment: around four in ten (36.9%) stated that they were looking for work, while one in five (20.2%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in QLD in 2019 is marginally lower compared to 2018 findings (42.1% compared with 43.1% respectively).

### Gender differences

A slightly higher proportion of male respondents from QLD reported full-time employment (1.0% compared with 0.4% of females). A higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (45.2% compared with 39.1% of males). Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (38.5% compared with 35.3% of females).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.0
Employed part-time	43.0	42.1	45.2	39.1
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	36.9	35.3	38.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	20.2	19.0	21.3

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

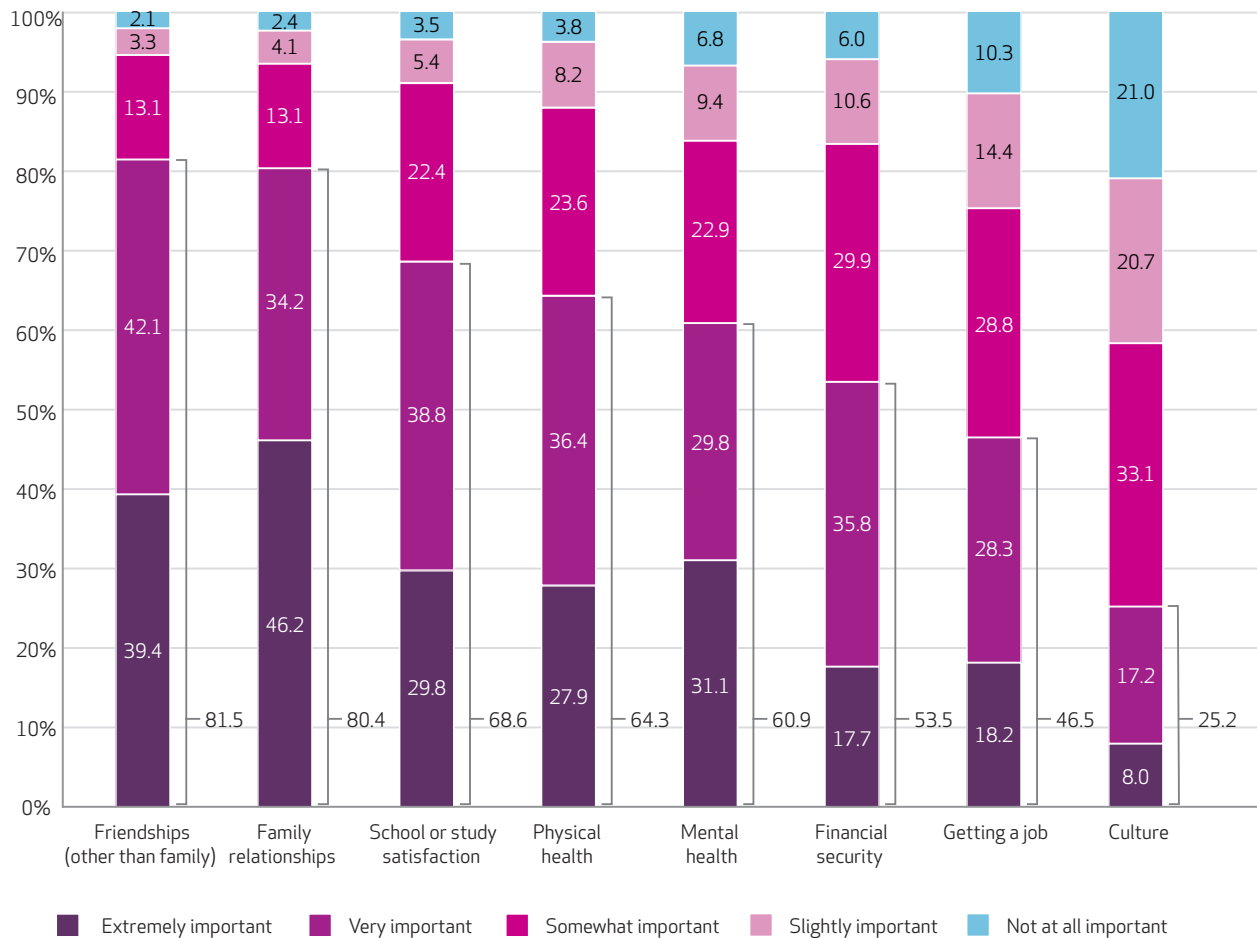
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 6.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from QLD were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- Around eight in ten respondents from QLD reported *friendships (other than family)* (81.5%) and *family relationships* (80.4%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Nearly seven in ten respondents from QLD placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (68.6%).
- *Physical health* (64.3%) and *mental health* (60.9%) were *extremely* or *very important* for over six in ten QLD respondents.

Figure 6.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from QLD, as shown in Table 6.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and most of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably greater proportions of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (75.0% compared with 63.8% of males) and *mental health* (65.9% compared with 56.4%).
- A higher proportion of females from QLD also rated *financial security* as *extremely* or *very important* (56.5% compared with 50.9% of males).

Table 6.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>40.0</b>	11.4	3.5	1.7
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>32.0</b>	11.4	4.0	1.6
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>39.7</b>	18.7	3.9	2.4
Physical health	28.4	36.4	23.4	8.5	3.3
Mental health	35.2	30.7	20.8	8.7	4.6
Financial security	19.6	36.9	29.2	9.4	4.9
Getting a job	18.8	29.1	28.8	14.2	9.1
Culture	8.4	17.9	34.5	20.3	18.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>45.1</b>	14.7	2.9	2.0
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>37.0</b>	14.8	4.0	2.2
School or study satisfaction	24.6	39.2	25.7	6.7	3.8
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>36.9</b>	23.4	7.6	3.9
Mental health	26.8	29.6	25.2	10.1	8.3
Financial security	15.7	35.2	30.6	11.9	6.5
Getting a job	17.6	27.6	28.7	15.1	11.0
Culture	7.4	16.5	32.4	21.3	22.4

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

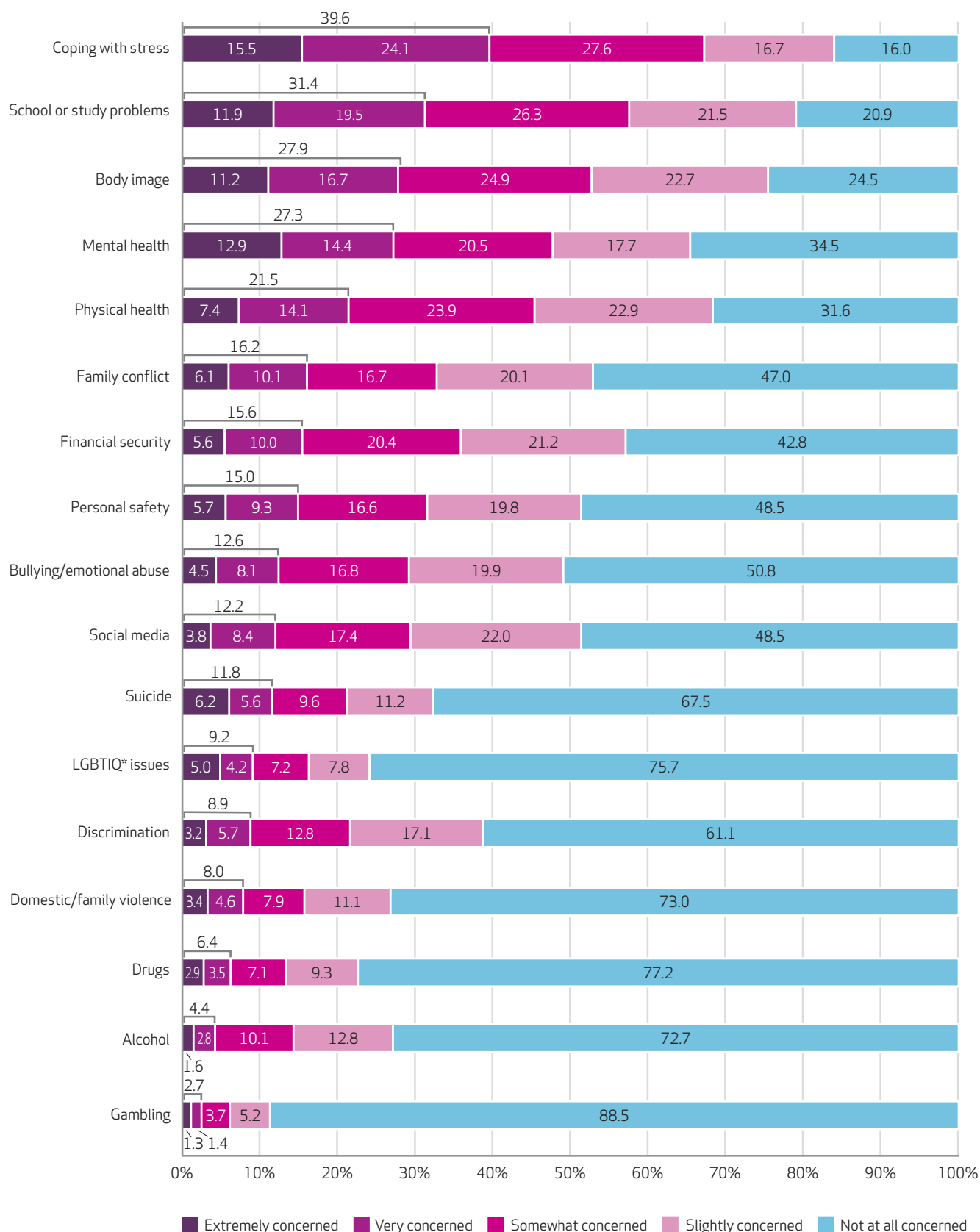
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 6.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from QLD were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *body image*. The next most personally concerning issues were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with four in ten (39.6%) respondents from QLD indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- Around three in ten young people from QLD were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (31.4%), *body image* (27.9%) and *mental health* (27.3%).
- Over one in five (21.5%) respondents from QLD were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health*.

Figure 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for extremely concerned and very concerned for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of personal concern for both females and males from QLD, as shown in Table 6.5. The third most concerning personal issue for females was *body image*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major issue of concern for over half (54.7%) of females from QLD, compared with just under one quarter (23.5%) of males.
- More than three times the proportion of females were *extremely or very concerned* about *body image* (41.0% compared with 13.0% of males).
- Around twice the proportion of females were *extremely or very concerned* about *school or study problems* (41.2% compared with 20.9% of males), *mental health* (36.3% compared with 17.0%), *family conflict* (21.3% compared with 10.2%) and *social media* (15.9% compared with 7.8%).

Table 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>32.0</b>	28.3	11.3	5.6
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>24.6</b>	26.5	19.7	12.5
<b>Body image</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	27.7	19.0	12.4
Mental health	17.9	18.4	23.6	16.9	23.3
Physical health	8.5	17.2	27.1	23.1	24.1
Family conflict	8.3	13.0	20.3	22.4	36.0
Financial security	6.8	12.4	23.6	22.0	35.1
Personal safety	6.7	11.3	18.9	21.2	41.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.4	10.6	19.9	21.0	43.1
Social media	4.8	11.1	21.7	23.0	39.4
Suicide	7.6	6.8	11.3	12.7	61.5
LGBTIQ* issues	5.2	6.0	9.1	10.7	69.0
Discrimination	3.5	6.9	15.4	19.7	54.6
Domestic/family violence	3.6	5.6	9.2	12.8	68.8
Drugs	2.4	3.8	8.3	9.6	76.0
Alcohol	1.4	3.3	11.7	14.3	69.3
Gambling	0.6	1.6	4.0	4.8	89.0

Table 6.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>16.1</b>	27.4	22.8	26.2
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>	26.2	23.8	29.0
Body image	4.4	8.6	22.5	27.5	37.0
Mental health	6.9	10.1	17.8	19.0	46.1
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>	21.0	22.7	39.1
Family conflict	3.4	6.8	13.0	18.1	58.7
Financial security	3.9	7.5	17.2	20.5	50.9
Personal safety	4.5	7.2	14.2	18.3	55.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.1	5.2	13.1	19.2	59.4
Social media	2.5	5.3	12.8	21.2	58.2
Suicide	4.0	4.1	7.6	9.5	74.8
LGBTIQ* issues	3.1	2.0	5.4	4.9	84.6
Discrimination	2.5	4.3	10.0	14.4	68.8
Domestic/family violence	2.7	3.2	6.7	9.3	78.0
Drugs	2.9	3.2	5.7	9.1	79.1
Alcohol	1.6	2.2	8.5	11.1	76.6
Gambling	1.7	1.1	3.5	5.5	88.2

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. One in five (20.2%) young people from QLD reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A slightly higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (21.0% compared with 18.1% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 6.6 shows that, of the 20.2% of respondents from QLD who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (80.4%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Just over one in three (33.8%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while around one in five (18.1%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Smaller proportions of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (7.6%) or *in my neighbourhood* (6.2%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 6.6. Of the 20.2% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- More than eight in ten (85.2%) male respondents from QLD had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*, compared with 77.8% of females.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (38.7% compared with 27.4% of males).
- A higher proportion of females from QLD also reported that they had experienced bullying *at home* (19.7% compared with 13.6% of males).

Table 6.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National	QLD %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>85.2</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>27.4</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>
At work	8.6	7.6	8.0	5.3
Other	7.9	6.8	5.1	5.7
In my neighbourhood	6.5	6.2	3.5	7.7

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 20.2% of respondents from QLD who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 6.6 shows that nearly three quarters (73.3%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Six in ten (59.4%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while more than one in three (36.0%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). Around one quarter (24.2%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

### Gender differences

There were some differences between female and male responses to the kinds of bullying they had experienced in the past year, as shown in Table 6.7. The top two most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males from QLD were *verbal* and *social bullying*. The third most reported form of bullying for females was *cyberbullying*, whereas for males it was *physical bullying*. Of the 20.2% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Three quarters (75.8%) of male respondents from QLD had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing) over the past year, compared with 70.4% of females.
- Notably higher proportions of females from QLD reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (67.0% compared with 50.2% of males) and *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (41.9% compared with 27.2%).
- Conversely, nearly twice the proportion of males from QLD reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) (31.5% compared with 16.5% of females).

Table 6.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>75.8</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>41.9</b>	27.2
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	24.2	16.5	<b>31.5</b>
Other	5.6	4.5	3.5	4.3

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

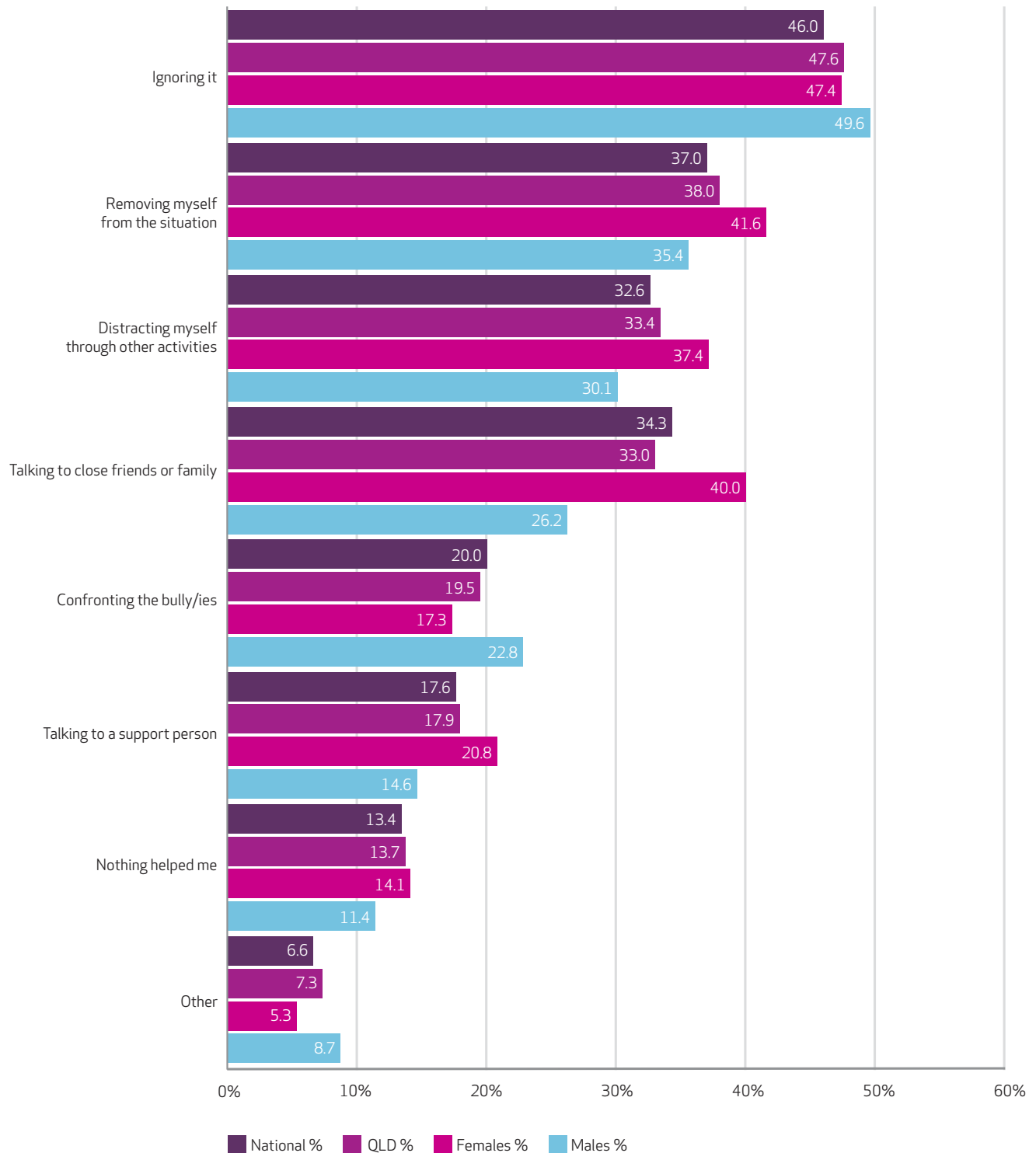
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 6.6. For the 20.2% of respondents from QLD who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (47.6%), *removing myself from the situation* (38.0%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (33.4%). One in three (33.0%) young people from QLD indicated they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family*, while close to one in five reported *confronting the bully/ies* (19.5%) or *talking to a support person* (17.9%) was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. Nearly one in seven (13.7%) respondents from QLD stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 6.6. *Ignoring it* and *removing myself from the situation* were the top two most frequently reported methods that helped both females and males from QLD to deal with their experience of bullying. For females, the third most commonly reported approach that helped them to deal with bullying was *talking to close friends or family*, while for males it was *distracting myself through other activities*.

- Notably higher proportions of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (40.0% compared with 26.2% of males) or *distracting myself through other activities* (37.4% compared with 30.1%).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from QLD reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them to deal with bullying (22.8% compared with 17.3% of females).

Figure 6.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.



## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly half (46.8%) of young people from QLD reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. A slightly higher proportion of males than females reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (48.3% compared with 45.4% respectively).

Young people from QLD who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 6.8 shows that, of the 46.8% of respondents from QLD who had witnessed bullying in the past year, over eight in ten (84.9%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. Just over four in ten (41.7%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*. Much smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *in my neighbourhood* (7.5%), *at home* (7.3%) or *at work* (6.3%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 6.8.

- Close to nine in ten male (87.9%) and over eight in ten (82.9%) female respondents from QLD had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (49.1% compared with 33.8% of males).
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males from QLD reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (8.3% compared with 5.9% of females).

Table 6.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National	QLD %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>87.9</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>33.8</b>
<b>In my neighbourhood</b>	7.3	<b>7.5</b>	5.9	<b>8.3</b>
At home	7.2	7.3	<b>8.7</b>	5.1
At work	<b>7.4</b>	6.3	6.9	5.2
Other	4.7	4.3	3.9	4.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 6.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

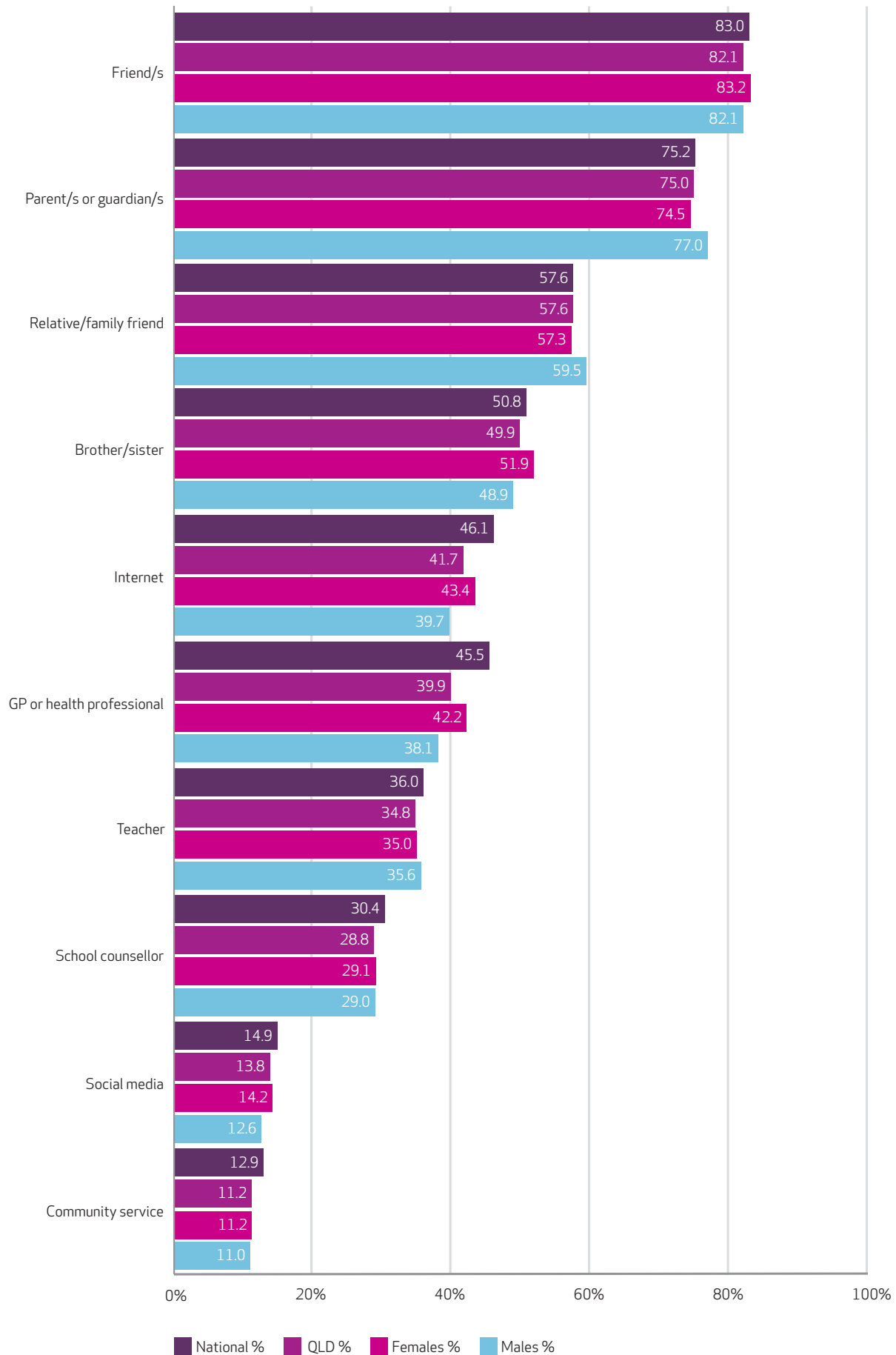
*Friend/s* (82.1%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (75.0%) and *relative/family friend* (57.6%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from QLD. Half (49.9%) of young people from QLD indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for support. Around four in ten young people would go to the *internet* (41.7%) or a *GP or health professional* (39.9%) for support with important issues in their lives.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the QLD results.

- Slightly higher proportions of females reported they would turn to a *GP or health professional* (42.2% compared with 38.1% of males) or the *internet* (43.4% compared with 39.7% of males) for support with important issues in their lives.
- Marginally higher proportions of males from QLD indicated that they would turn to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (77.0% compared with 74.5% of females) or a *relative/family friend* (59.5% compared with 57.3%) for help with important issues.

Figure 6.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 6.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from QLD were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Around one third of young people from QLD indicated that *mental health* (34.7%) and *the environment* (31.2%) are important issues in Australia today.
- More than one in five respondents from QLD reported that *equity and discrimination* (23.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (21.0%) are important national issues.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from QLD reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than tripled from 8.8% to 31.2%. Conversely, concerns about *mental health* and *alcohol and drugs* and have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with QLD results, *mental health* and *the environment* were the top two most important issues for both females and males. While *equity and discrimination* was the third most important issue for females, *alcohol and drugs* was the third most important issue for males.

- Higher proportions of female respondents from QLD identified *mental health* (39.2% compared with 30.7% of males) and *the environment* (35.2% compared with 27.5%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, greater proportions of males from QLD regarded *politics* (14.0% compared with 9.3% of females) and *alcohol and drugs* (23.1% compared with 19.6%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 6.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	QLD 2019 %	Females %	Males %	QLD 2018 %	QLD 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>33.9</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>27.5</b>	8.8	9.3
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>24.0</b>	21.4	<b>20.8</b>	<b>25.4</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	21.0	19.6	<b>23.1</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>33.4</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	14.8	13.5	16.7	11.5	13.6
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	13.7	13.1	14.7	15.7	13.0
Bullying	11.8	12.9	14.8	11.1	19.7	10.4
Politics	10.9	11.5	9.3	14.0	6.2	8.1
Education	9.1	9.8	10.1	9.6	7.1	12.7
Health	8.3	8.5	8.9	8.3	11.3	9.0

Note: Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 6.10 shows that more than four in ten young people from QLD felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (45.4%) and *with my family* (44.2%). One in seven (14.6%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while less than one in ten young people from QLD felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (7.6%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (53.2%) of young people from QLD felt they have a say *none of the time*. Close to one third (32.2%) of young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 6.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.2	46.2	9.6
With my friends	45.4	47.8	6.8
At school/TAFE/university	14.6	53.2	32.2
In public affairs	7.6	39.2	53.2

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 6.11.

- A slightly higher proportion of males from QLD indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while with my friends (46.9% compared with 44.2% of females).
- Higher proportions of males from QLD reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* when at school/TAFE/university (16.4% compared with 12.8% of females) and *in public affairs* (9.4% compared with 5.6%).
- Conversely, a notably higher proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (57.2% compared with 48.4% of males).

Table 6.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	43.6	47.2	9.2
With my friends	44.2	49.5	6.3
At school/TAFE/university	12.8	55.2	32.0
In public affairs	5.6	37.2	57.2
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	45.4	46.0	8.6
With my friends	46.9	46.5	6.7
At school/TAFE/university	16.4	52.5	31.1
In public affairs	9.4	42.2	48.4

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 6.12.

The top three activities for young people from QLD were *sports (as a participant)* (68.3%), *sports (as a spectator)* (56.5%) and *volunteer work* (46.5%). More than four in ten (44.7%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Around three in ten young people from QLD indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities* (32.1%) and *youth groups/activities* (31.4%).

### Gender differences

In line with QLD results, *sports (as a participant)* was the top activity for both females and males. The second most frequently reported activity for females was *arts/cultural/music activities*, ahead of *sports (as a spectator)*. For males, *sports (as a spectator)* was the second top activity, followed by *volunteer work*.

- A significantly higher proportion of female respondents from QLD reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year (55.0% compared with 33.2% of males).

- Conversely, higher proportions of males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* (62.4% compared with 51.7% of females) and *sports (as a participant)* (72.3% compared with 65.7%) in the past year.

Table 6.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

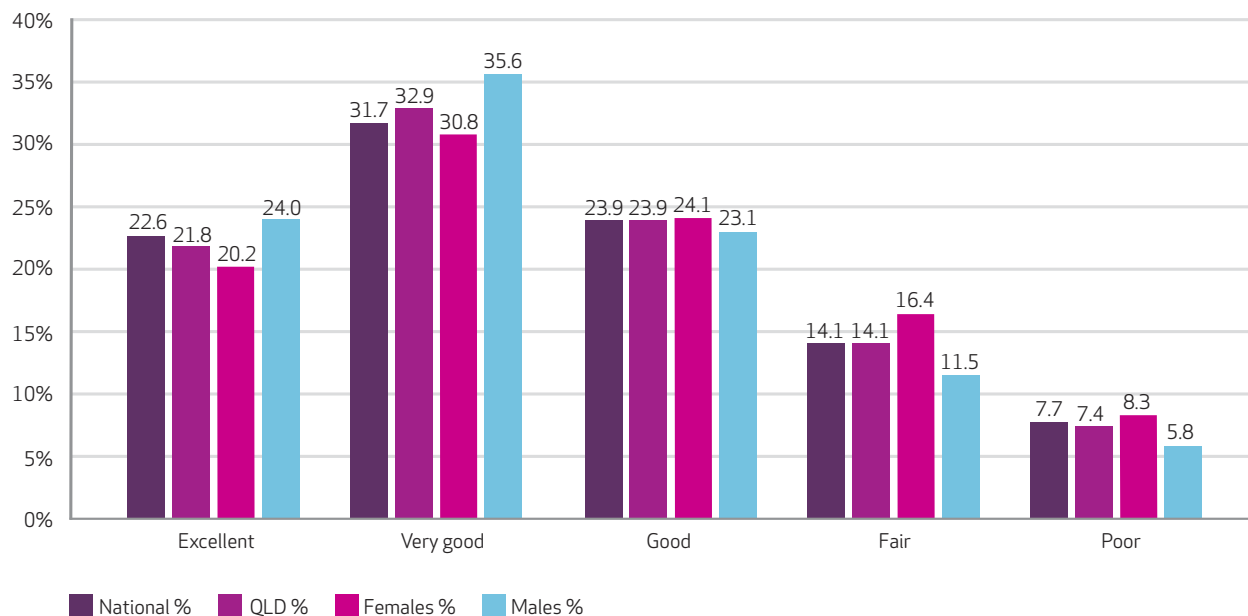
	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>72.3</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>62.4</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>46.5</b>	48.4	<b>44.6</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	44.7	<b>55.0</b>	33.2
Student leadership activities	32.9	32.1	35.7	28.5
Youth groups/activities	29.8	31.4	35.6	26.8
Religious groups/activities	23.7	25.4	27.3	23.1
Environmental groups	13.6	12.5	14.1	10.4
Political groups/organisations	7.3	6.4	6.8	5.4

Note: Items are listed in order of QLD frequency.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 6.8 shows that the majority of respondents from QLD rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 21.8% rated it as *excellent* and 32.9% rated it as *very good*. However, more than one in five (21.5%) young people from QLD indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (14.1%) or *poor* (7.4%). A slightly higher proportion of male respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (59.6% compared with 51.0% of females), while a higher proportion of females rated their family's ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (24.7% compared with 17.3% of males).

Figure 6.8: Family's ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 6.13 shows, the majority of young people (61.3%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from QLD felt happy overall with their lives. A notably higher proportion of males from QLD reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (67.3% compared with 57.3% of females).

Table 6.13: How happy young people are

	National %	QLD %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	61.3	57.3	67.3
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	29.1	32.3	25.3
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	9.6	10.4	7.4

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 6.14 shows that the majority of young people from QLD felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Six in ten (59.7%) respondents from QLD felt *very positive* (13.6%) or *positive* (46.1%) about the future.
- One in ten (10.8%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (8.0%) or *very negative* (2.8%) about the future.
- A notably higher proportion of males from QLD reported feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future (64.3% compared with 56.7% of females).

Table 6.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	QLD 2019 %	Females %	Males %	QLD 2018 %	QLD 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	13.6	11.3	16.3	16.5	17.2
Positive	45.0	46.1	45.4	48.0	48.7	47.7
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	29.5	32.3	26.1	26.2	26.2
Negative	8.8	8.0	8.6	7.2	6.0	6.1
Very negative	3.4	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.8

# South Australia



## Profile of respondents

A total of 3,242 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Just over half (51.0%) of respondents from SA were female and 46.6% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 128 (4.0%) respondents from SA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 105 (3.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 14 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.4% compared with 3.4% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 425 (13.4%) respondents from SA stated that they were born overseas and 532 (16.9%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 69 languages other than English spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Italian, Filipino/Tagalog, Greek and Cantonese.

### Disability

A total of 194 (6.0%) respondents from SA identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (7.0%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.1% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 7.1, 93.2% of respondents from SA were studying full-time, which is similar to the 93.5% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A marginally higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (94.4% compared with 92.3% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (3.7% compared with 2.0% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from SA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (15.8%) or *satisfied* (56.0%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (4.9%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.4%). As shown in Table 7.2, a higher proportion of females from SA reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* (74.2% compared with 70.0% of males), while a slightly higher proportion of males indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (7.3% compared with 5.0% of females).

Of those that were still at school in SA, 95.1% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Nearly three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (7.4% compared with 2.5% of females).

Table 7.1: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	93.2	94.4	92.3
Studying part-time	2.7	3.9	3.6	4.1
Not studying	4.0	2.9	2.0	3.7

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	15.8	15.3	16.4
Satisfied	55.2	56.0	58.9	53.6
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	21.9	20.8	22.7
Dissatisfied	5.7	4.9	4.3	5.4
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.4	0.7	1.9

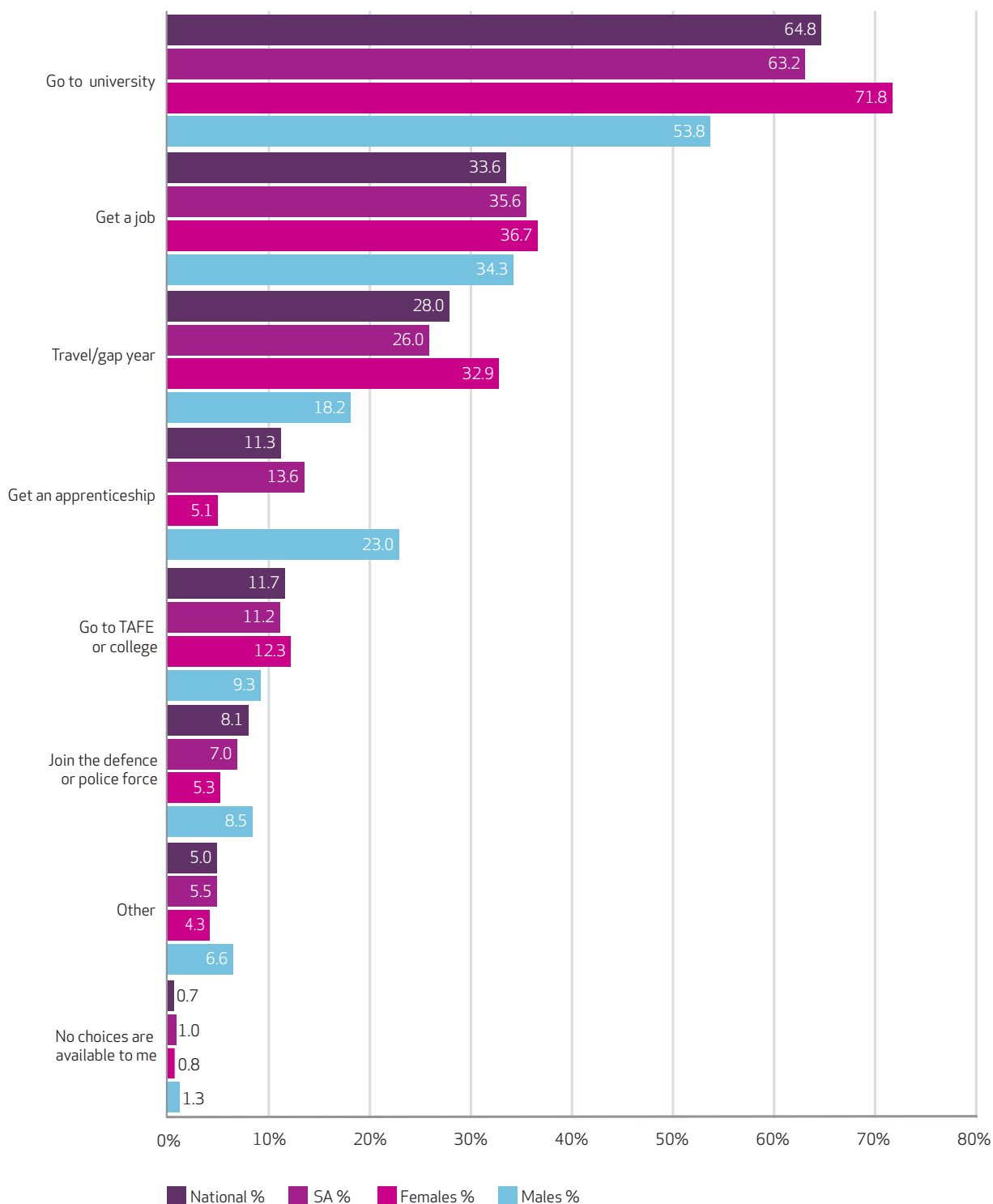
Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 7.1 shows that over six in ten (63.2%) respondents from SA planned to *go to university* after school. More than one third of respondents reported plans to *get a job* (35.6%) after school and around one quarter (26.0%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, around one in eight young people from SA planned to *get an apprenticeship* (13.6%) or to *go to TAFE or college* (11.2%), while 7.0% reported plans to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (1.0%) of SA respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from SA was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (71.8% compared with 53.8% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (32.9% compared with 18.2% of males). Conversely, more than four times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (23.0% compared with 5.1% of females).



Figure 7.1: Plans after leaving school

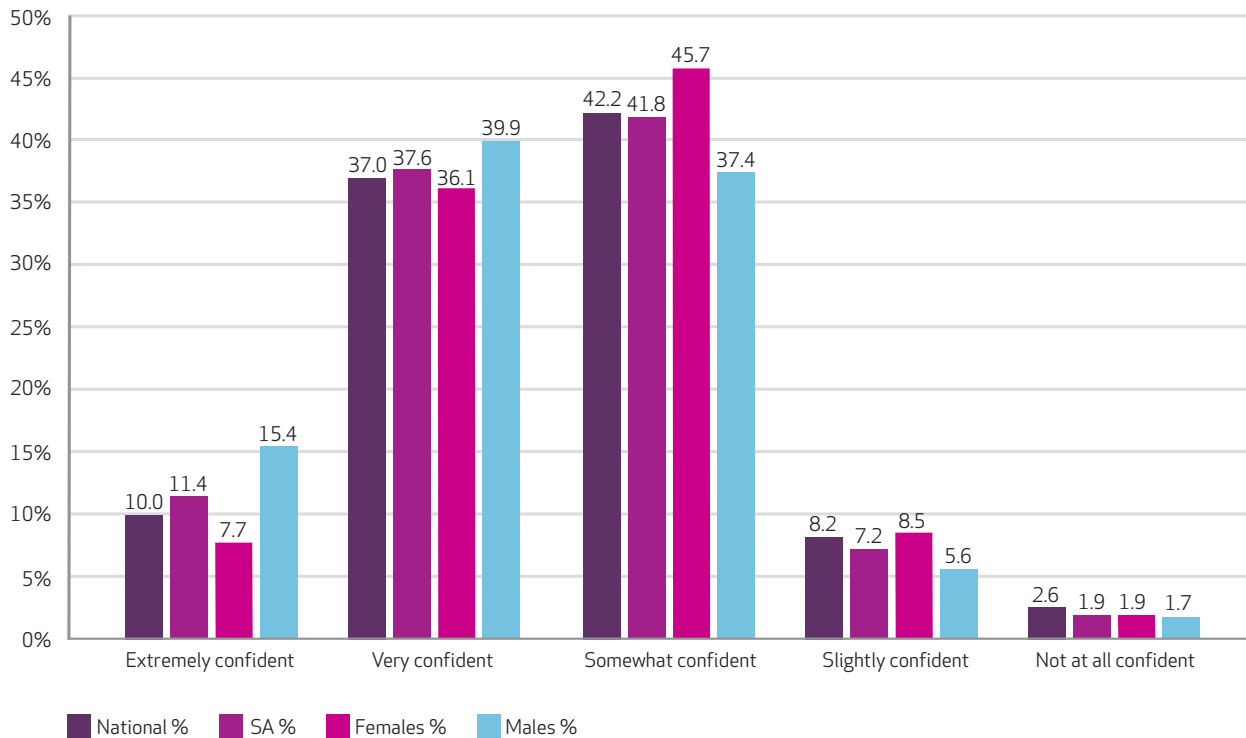


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 7.2, close to half (49.0%) of respondents from SA indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 11.4% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 37.6% stated that they were *very confident*. However, nearly one in ten (9.1%) young people from SA were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.2% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 1.9% were *not at all confident*. A higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (55.3% compared with 43.8% of females).

Figure 7.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people's study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt that there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. More than four in ten (45.1%) respondents from SA indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a notably greater proportion of females (50.2%) than males (38.6%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 7.3 shows the percentage of respondents from SA who reported each item was a barrier.

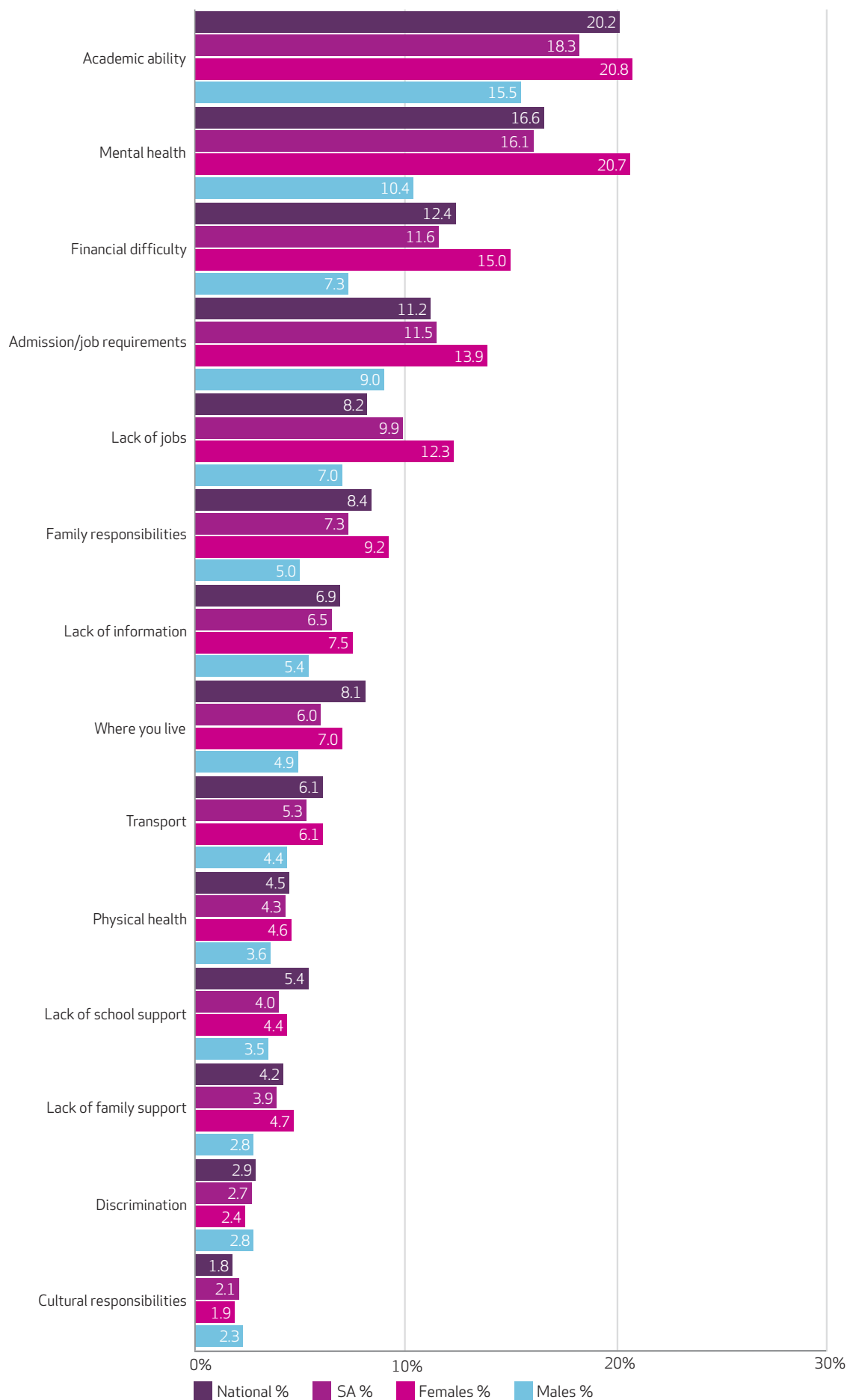
- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from SA saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (18.3%, 16.1% and 11.6% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents from SA reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* (11.5%) and *lack of jobs* (9.9%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.3, the top two barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for females and males from SA were *academic ability* and *mental health*. The third most frequently reported barrier for females was *financial difficulty*, whereas for males it was *admission/job requirements*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from SA indicated that the majority of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- Double the proportion of females from SA reported *mental health* (20.7% compared with 10.4% of males) and *financial difficulty* (15.0% compared with 7.3%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.
- Higher proportions of female respondents also saw *academic ability* (20.8% compared with 15.5% of males) and *lack of jobs* (12.3% compared with 7.0%) as barriers to achieving their study/work goals after school.

Figure 7.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 7.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from SA. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from SA who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.9%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Four in ten (40.3%) respondents from SA reported that they were employed part-time. Nearly six in ten (58.8%) respondents from SA indicated that they were not in paid employment: 37.7% stated that they were looking for work, while 21.1% were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in SA is comparable to 2018 findings (40.3% compared with 39.4%).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from SA reported full-time employment (1.0% and 0.7% respectively). A notably higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (44.0% compared with 36.7% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were neither in paid employment nor looking for work (23.5% compared with 18.8% of females).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.0
Employed part-time	43.0	40.3	44.0	36.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	37.7	36.5	38.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	21.1	18.8	23.5

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

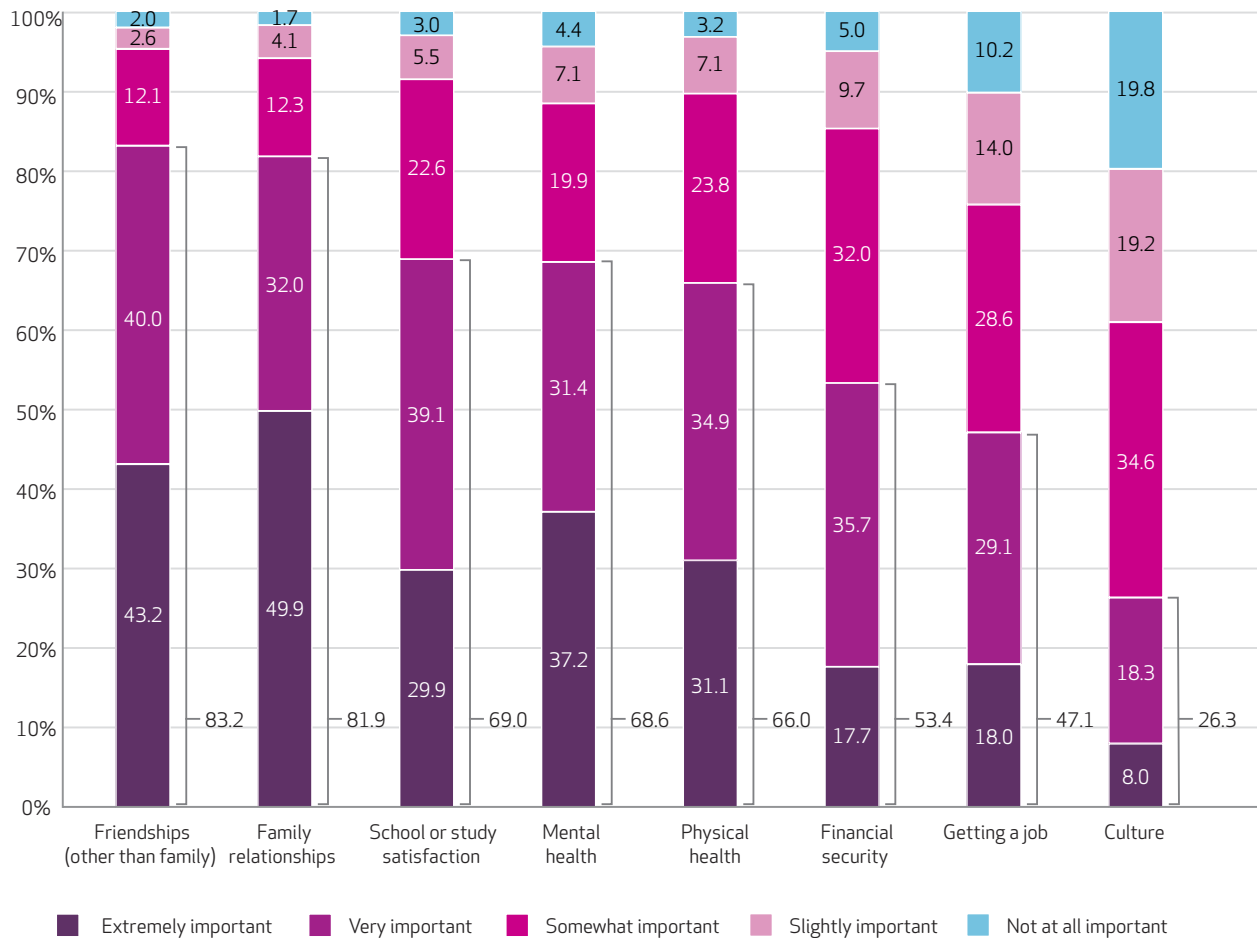
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 7.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from SA were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- Around eight in ten respondents from SA reported *friendships (other than family)* (83.2%) and *family relationships* (81.9%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Close to seven in ten respondents from SA placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (69.0%) and *mental health* (68.6%).
- Nearly two thirds (66.0%) of SA respondents indicated *physical health* was *extremely* or *very important* to them.

Figure 7.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from SA, as shown in Table 7.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and most of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably higher proportions of females placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (75.7% compared with 62.4% of males) and *mental health* (73.6% compared with 63.4%).
- Higher proportions of females from SA also reported that *culture* (38.0% compared with 24.2%) and *friendships (other than family)* (85.4% compared with 80.9% of males) were *extremely or very important*.

Table 7.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>38.0</b>	10.7	2.4	1.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>28.5</b>	12.0	3.2	0.9
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	19.0	3.7	1.6
Mental health	40.4	33.2	18.0	6.1	2.3
Physical health	30.6	35.7	24.2	7.6	2.0
Financial security	16.8	37.9	33.0	8.4	3.9
Getting a job	16.9	30.4	30.7	11.9	10.1
Culture	8.4	19.6	34.0	20.0	18.0
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>42.1</b>	13.7	2.9	2.5
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>35.4</b>	12.2	4.9	2.3
School or study satisfaction	23.9	38.5	26.0	7.4	4.2
Mental health	33.6	29.8	22.1	8.0	6.5
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>34.2</b>	23.2	6.4	4.0
Financial security	18.7	33.5	30.8	10.9	6.1
Getting a job	18.9	28.0	26.8	16.3	10.0
Culture	7.5	16.7	36.0	18.7	21.1

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

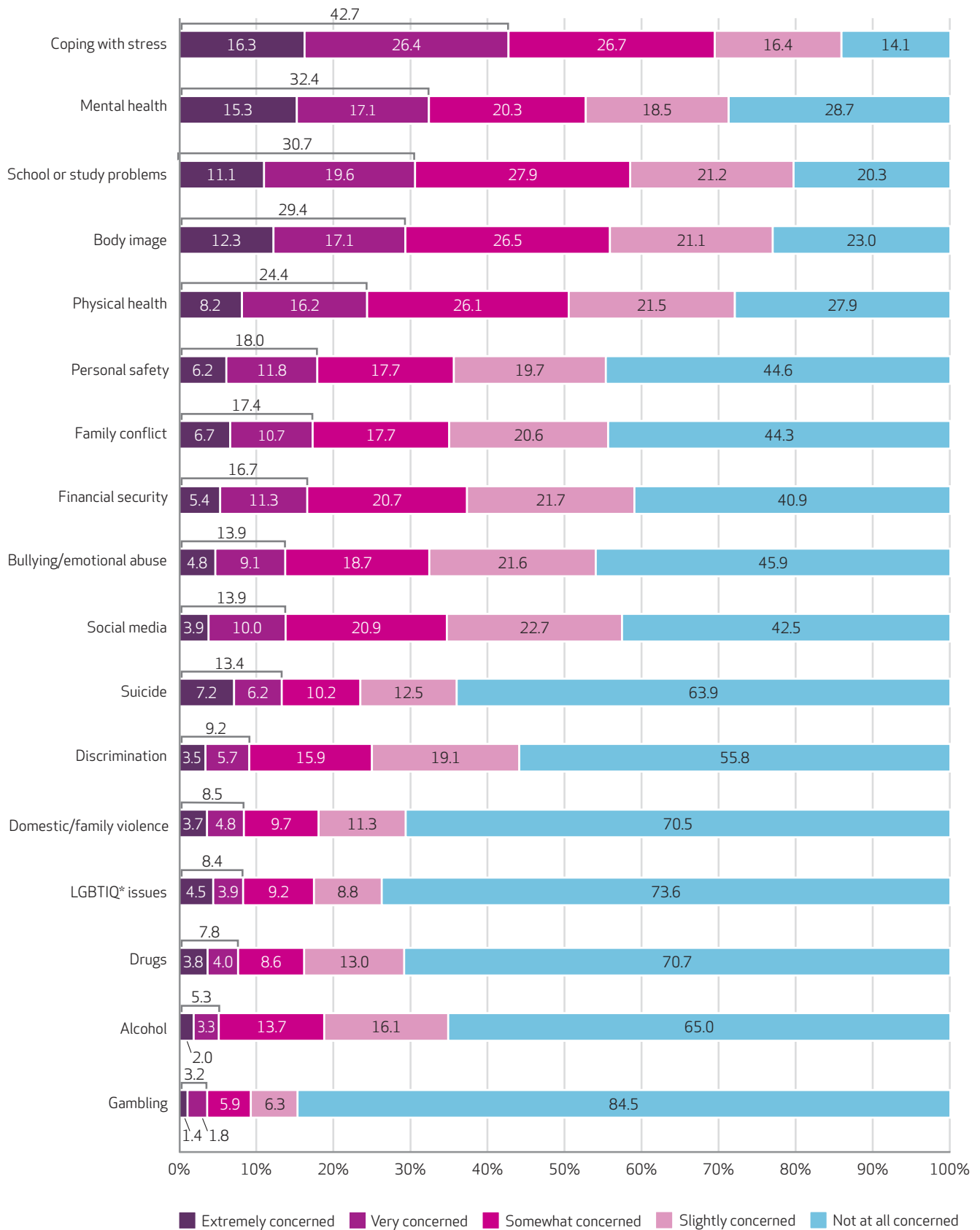
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 7.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from SA were *coping with stress*, *mental health* and *school or study problems*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with more than four in ten (42.7%) respondents from SA indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- *Mental health* was a major personal concern for nearly one third (32.4%) of young people from SA.
- Around three in ten respondents from SA were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (30.6%) and *body image* (29.4%).

Figure 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for extremely concerned and very concerned for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from SA, as shown in Table 7.5. The second most concerning personal issue for females was *body image*, ahead of *mental health*. Conversely, the second most concerning personal issue for males was *physical health*, followed by *school or study problems*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and most of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major issue of concern for around six in ten (58.0%) females from SA, compared with one in four (25.8%) males.
- Three times the proportion of females were *extremely or very concerned* about *body image* (43.0% compared with 14.3% of males).
- Around twice the proportion of females were also *extremely or very concerned* about *mental health* (43.0% compared with 21.0% of males), *school or study problems* (39.4% compared with 21.2%) and *social media* (18.7% compared with 8.5%).

Table 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>34.5</b>	25.0	11.0	6.0
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.1</b>	20.4	17.7	19.5
School or study problems	14.5	24.9	27.7	19.3	13.6
<b>Body image</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>24.3</b>	28.9	17.9	10.2
Physical health	8.8	18.6	29.3	21.2	22.0
Personal safety	7.6	13.3	18.7	20.2	40.2
Family conflict	8.5	13.1	20.1	22.4	35.9
Financial security	5.9	13.6	22.9	23.3	34.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.9	11.3	21.4	22.2	39.2
Social media	5.6	13.1	25.3	23.1	32.9
Suicide	8.3	7.3	10.8	14.4	59.2
Discrimination	3.6	6.4	17.4	20.1	52.5
Domestic/family violence	4.1	5.3	9.5	12.6	68.6
LGBTIQ* issues	4.4	4.9	10.1	10.4	70.2
Drugs	3.1	3.8	8.3	13.4	71.4
Alcohol	1.5	3.5	14.6	16.9	63.4
Gambling	0.9	1.7	4.6	5.7	87.1



Table 7.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>17.3</b>	28.9	22.5	22.9
Mental health	9.5	11.5	20.1	19.8	39.0
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	27.7	23.5	27.6
Body image	5.1	9.2	24.0	24.8	36.8
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>14.0</b>	22.2	21.9	34.4
Personal safety	4.4	10.4	16.2	19.5	49.5
Family conflict	4.4	8.2	14.6	18.6	54.2
Financial security	4.4	9.0	18.0	20.3	48.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.2	7.0	15.4	20.9	53.5
Social media	1.7	6.8	16.4	21.9	53.2
Suicide	5.8	4.8	9.2	10.2	70.0
Discrimination	2.9	4.8	13.9	18.1	60.4
Domestic/family violence	3.1	4.4	9.7	9.7	73.1
LGBTIQ* issues	3.6	2.3	8.1	7.1	78.9
Drugs	4.3	4.2	8.6	12.6	70.3
Alcohol	2.3	3.1	12.7	15.2	66.7
Gambling	1.8	2.0	7.3	7.0	81.9

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Over one in five (21.0%) young people from SA reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (24.0% compared with 17.2% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 7.6 shows that, of the 21.0% of respondents from SA who had experienced bullying in the past year, nearly eight in ten (79.2%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Just over one third (34.0%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while more than one in six (17.8%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Smaller proportions of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (8.0%) or *in my neighbourhood* (5.0%).

### Gender differences

There were differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Figure 7.6. Of the 21.0% of SA young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- More than eight in ten (83.7%) male respondents from SA had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*, compared with 76.6% of female respondents.
- Notably higher proportions of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (39.1% compared with 25.7% of males) and *at home* (21.6% compared with 8.9%).

Table 7.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>83.7</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>25.7</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>
At work	8.6	8.0	7.6	7.0
Other	7.9	8.0	6.1	10.5
In my neighbourhood	6.5	5.0	4.3	5.4

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 21.0% of respondents from SA who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 7.7 shows that close to seven in ten (69.1%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Around six in ten (56.5%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while around four in ten (37.8%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). Just over one in six (18.0%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

### Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males from SA were *verbal*, *social* and *cyberbullying*, there were considerable differences in the results. Of the 21.0% of young people from SA who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Three quarters (75.9%) of male respondents from SA had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing), compared with just under two thirds (64.7%) of females.
- Notably higher proportions of females from SA reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (63.2% compared with 46.3% of males) and *cyberbullying* (40.9% compared with 31.9%).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from SA reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) over the past year (22.6% compared with 13.7% of females).

Table 7.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>75.9</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>46.3</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>31.9</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	18.0	13.7	22.6
Other	5.6	5.2	4.1	5.8

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

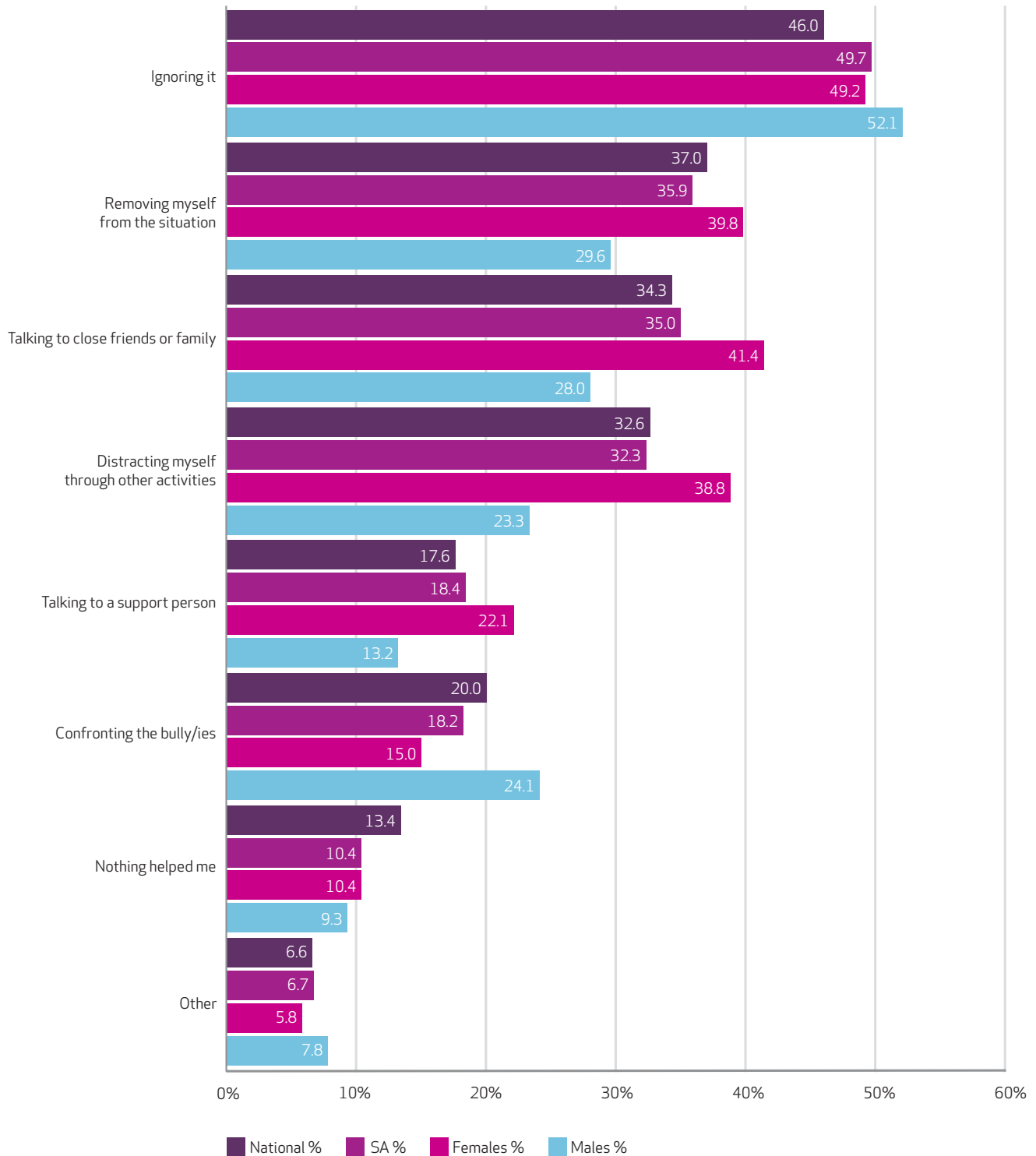
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 7.6. For the 21.0% of respondents from SA who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (49.7%), *removing myself from the situation* (35.9%) and *talking to close friends or family* (35.0%). Nearly one in three (32.3%) young people from SA indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*, around one in five reported *talking to a support person* (18.4%) or *confronting the bully/ies* (18.2%) was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. One in ten (10.4%) respondents from SA stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

### Gender differences

There were differences between what helped female and male respondents from SA to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 7.6. In line with SA results, the three most frequently reported approaches to dealing with their experience of bullying for both females and males was *ignoring it*, *removing myself from the situation* and *talking to close friends or family*, although the second and third items were reversed for females.

- Notably higher proportions of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities* (38.8% compared with 23.3% of males), by *talking to close friends or family* (41.4% compared with 28.0%) and *removing myself from the situation* (39.8% compared with 29.6%).
- While a higher proportion of females from SA reported that *talking to a support person* (22.1% compared with 13.2% of males) helped, a higher proportion of males indicated *confronting the bully/ies* assisted them in dealing with bullying (24.1% compared with 15.0% of females).

Figure 7.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Nearly half (46.2%) of young people from SA reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. A higher proportion of females than males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (48.0% compared with 44.2% respectively).

Young people from SA who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 7.8 shows that, of the 46.2% of respondents from SA who had witnessed bullying in the past year, more than eight in ten (84.7%) reported that they had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. Four in ten (40.8%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*. Much smaller proportions of young people reported that they witnessed bullying take place *at work* (7.7%), *at home* (6.3%) or *in my neighbourhood* (6.3%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 7.8.

- Over eight in ten male (85.7%) and female (83.9%) respondents from SA had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (46.7% compared with 33.4% of males).
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males from SA reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (7.5% compared with 4.7% of females).

Table 7.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>85.7</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>33.4</b>
<b>At work</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	6.9
At home	7.2	6.4	7.0	5.0
In my neighbourhood	7.3	6.3	4.7	<b>7.5</b>
Other	4.7	4.7	3.3	6.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 7.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

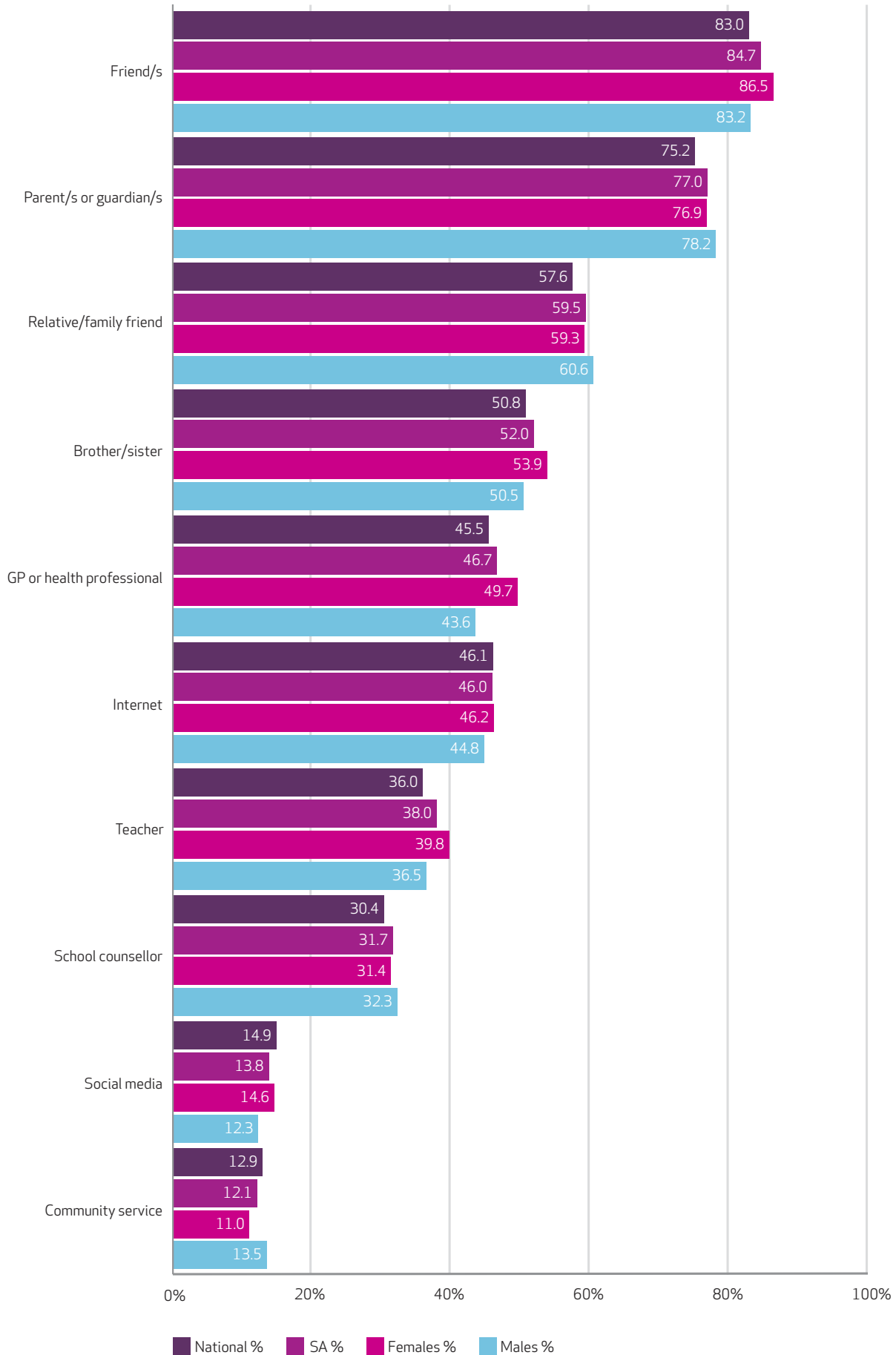
*Friend/s* (84.7%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (77.0%) and *relative/family friend* (59.5%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from SA. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (52.0%), a *GP or health professional* (46.7%) or the *internet* (46.0%) for support with important issues in their lives. Close to four in ten (38.0%) young people from SA would turn to a *teacher* as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the SA results.

- A higher proportion of females would turn to a *GP or health professional* for support with important issues in their lives (49.7% compared with 43.6% of males).
- Slightly higher proportions of females from SA indicated that they would turn to their *brother/sister* (53.9% compared with 50.5% of males) or their *friend/s* (86.5% compared with 83.2%) for help with important issues.

Figure 7.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 7.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from SA were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- More than one third (34.7%) of young people from SA indicated that *mental health* is an important issue in Australia today.
- Around three in ten respondents from SA reported that *the environment* (30.0%) and *equity and discrimination* (28.1%) are important national issues, while just over one in five (21.0%) cited *alcohol and drugs*.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from SA reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has quadrupled, from 7.4% to 30.0%. Conversely, concerns about *bullying*, *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with SA results, *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three most important issues for both females and males.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from SA identified *the environment* (34.8% compared with 24.8% of males), *mental health* (38.8% compared with 30.6%) and *equity and discrimination* (31.4% compared with 24.7%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, greater proportions of males from SA regarded *alcohol and drugs* (23.4% compared with 19.1% of females) and *politics* (12.7% compared with 8.4%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 7.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	SA 2019 %	Females %	Males %	SA 2018 %	SA 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>29.8</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>	7.4	8.1
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>25.5</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	21.0	19.1	23.4	<b>27.9</b>	<b>31.0</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	15.6	14.5	16.9	11.6	15.5
Bullying	11.8	12.4	14.7	10.4	20.0	13.1
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	11.4	12.1	10.4	12.0	9.4
Politics	10.9	10.6	8.4	12.7	5.1	7.1
Employment	7.6	10.5	9.7	11.3	11.4	16.6
Homelessness/housing	7.9	8.6	8.9	8.1	7.7	7.3

Note: Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 7.10 shows that more than four in ten young people from SA felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my family* (44.9%) and *with my friends* (44.1%). Around one in seven young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (14.9%), while around one in sixteen young people from SA felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (6.8%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, nearly half (49.0%) of young people from SA felt they have a say *none of the time*. Just over one quarter (26.3%) of young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 7.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.9	46.4	8.8
With my friends	44.1	49.3	6.6
At school/TAFE/university	14.9	58.8	26.3
In public affairs	6.8	44.3	49.0

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 7.11.

- Slightly higher proportions of males from SA reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (16.6% compared with 13.3% of females) and *in public affairs* (8.2% compared with 5.4%).
- A much greater proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (52.5% compared with 45.0% of males).

Table 7.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.5	47.5	8.0
With my friends	44.8	48.8	6.3
At school/TAFE/university	13.3	61.5	25.2
In public affairs	5.4	42.2	52.5
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	45.8	45.0	9.2
With my friends	43.4	49.9	6.7
At school/TAFE/university	16.6	56.2	27.2
In public affairs	8.2	46.8	45.0

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 7.12.

The top three activities for young people from SA were *sports (as a participant)* (66.6%), *sports (as a spectator)* (55.1%) and *volunteer work* (40.6%). Over one third (36.3%) of respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Around one quarter of young people from SA indicated that they had taken part in *youth groups/activities* (26.7%) and *student leadership activities* (24.8%).

### Gender differences

In line with SA results, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for both females and males.

- Higher proportions of female respondents from SA reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (43.2% compared with 28.7% of males), *volunteer work* (44.7% compared with 36.3%) and *youth groups/activities* (30.2% compared with 22.9%) over the past year.
- Conversely, greater proportions of males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* (62.7% compared with 48.5% of females) and *sports (as a participant)* (71.1% compared with 63.0%) in the past year.

Table 7.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

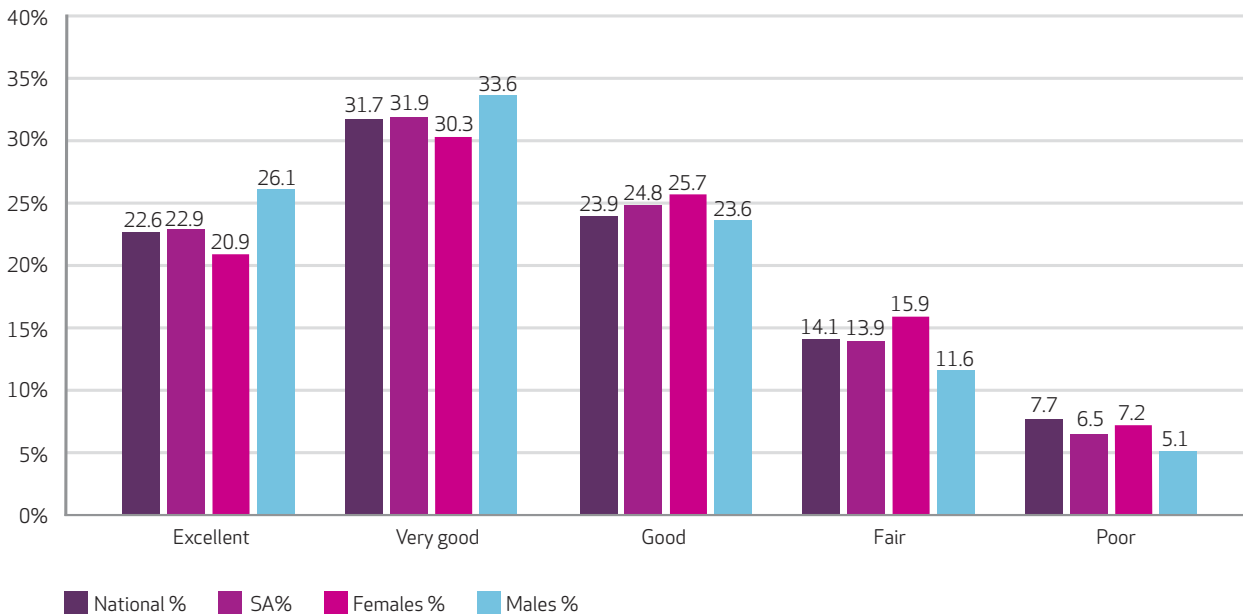
	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>71.1</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>62.7</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>36.3</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	36.3	43.2	28.7
Youth groups/activities	29.8	26.7	30.2	22.9
Student leadership activities	32.9	24.8	27.9	21.6
Religious groups/activities	23.7	22.7	24.4	21.0
Environmental groups	13.6	9.4	10.3	7.7
Political groups/organisations	7.3	4.4	3.5	4.7

Note: Items are listed in order of SA frequency.

### How do young people rate their family’s ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family’s ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 7.8 shows that the majority of respondents from SA rated their family’s ability to get along very positively: 22.9% rated it as *excellent* and 31.9% rated it as *very good*. However, one in five (20.4%) young people from SA indicated their family’s ability to get along was either *fair* (13.9%) or *poor* (6.5%). A higher proportion of male respondents rated their family’s ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (59.7% compared with 51.2% of females), while a higher proportion of females rated their family’s ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (23.1% compared with 16.7% of males).

Figure 7.8: Family’s ability to get along with one another



### How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 7.13 shows, the majority of young people (62.8%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from SA felt happy overall with their lives. A higher proportion of males from SA reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (67.9% compared with 59.3% of females).



Table 7.13: How happy young people are

	National %	SA %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	62.8	59.3	67.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	27.5	30.2	24.3
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	9.7	10.4	7.8

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 7.14 shows that the majority of young people from SA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Six in ten (60.4%) respondents from SA felt *very positive* (14.2%) or *positive* (46.2%) about the future.
- One in ten (10.4%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (7.8%) or *very negative* (2.6%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from SA reported feeling *very positive* about the future (16.6% compared with 11.9% of females).

Table 7.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	SA 2019 %	Females %	Males %	SA 2018 %	SA 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	14.2	11.9	16.6	15.6	14.9
Positive	45.0	46.2	47.3	46.1	46.2	43.9
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	29.2	31.1	26.8	28.4	29.9
Negative	8.8	7.8	7.9	7.4	6.8	6.0
Very negative	3.4	2.6	1.8	3.1	3.0	3.3

# Tasmania



## Profile of respondents

A total of 1,517 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Around six in ten (56.3%) respondents from TAS were male and 40.6% were female.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 120 (8.1%) respondents from TAS identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 100 (6.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 10 (0.7%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.7% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (8.4% compared with 6.7% of males).

### Language background other than English

A total of 161 (10.8%) respondents from TAS stated that they were born overseas and 186 (12.6%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 45 languages other than English spoken at home in TAS, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, Arabic, Cantonese, Filipino/Tagalog and German.

### Disability

A total of 105 (6.9%) respondents from TAS identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (7.0%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.6% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in TAS were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disabilities and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 8.1, 95.2% of respondents from TAS were studying full-time, which is similar to the 95.9% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. Similar proportions of females and males reported studying full-time (96.1% compared with 95.4% respectively), while a marginally higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (3.2% compared with 2.1% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from TAS reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.6%) or *satisfied* (56.1%) with their studies. Around one in twenty indicated they were *dissatisfied* (4.5%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.3%). As shown in Table 8.2, a slightly higher proportion of females from TAS reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (72.3% compared with 70.7% of males).

Of those that were still at school in TAS, 95.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Three times the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (6.5% compared with 2.2% of females).

Table 8.1: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	95.2	96.1	95.4
Studying part-time	2.7	1.8	1.8	1.4
Not studying	4.0	3.0	2.1	3.2

Table 8.2: Satisfaction with studies

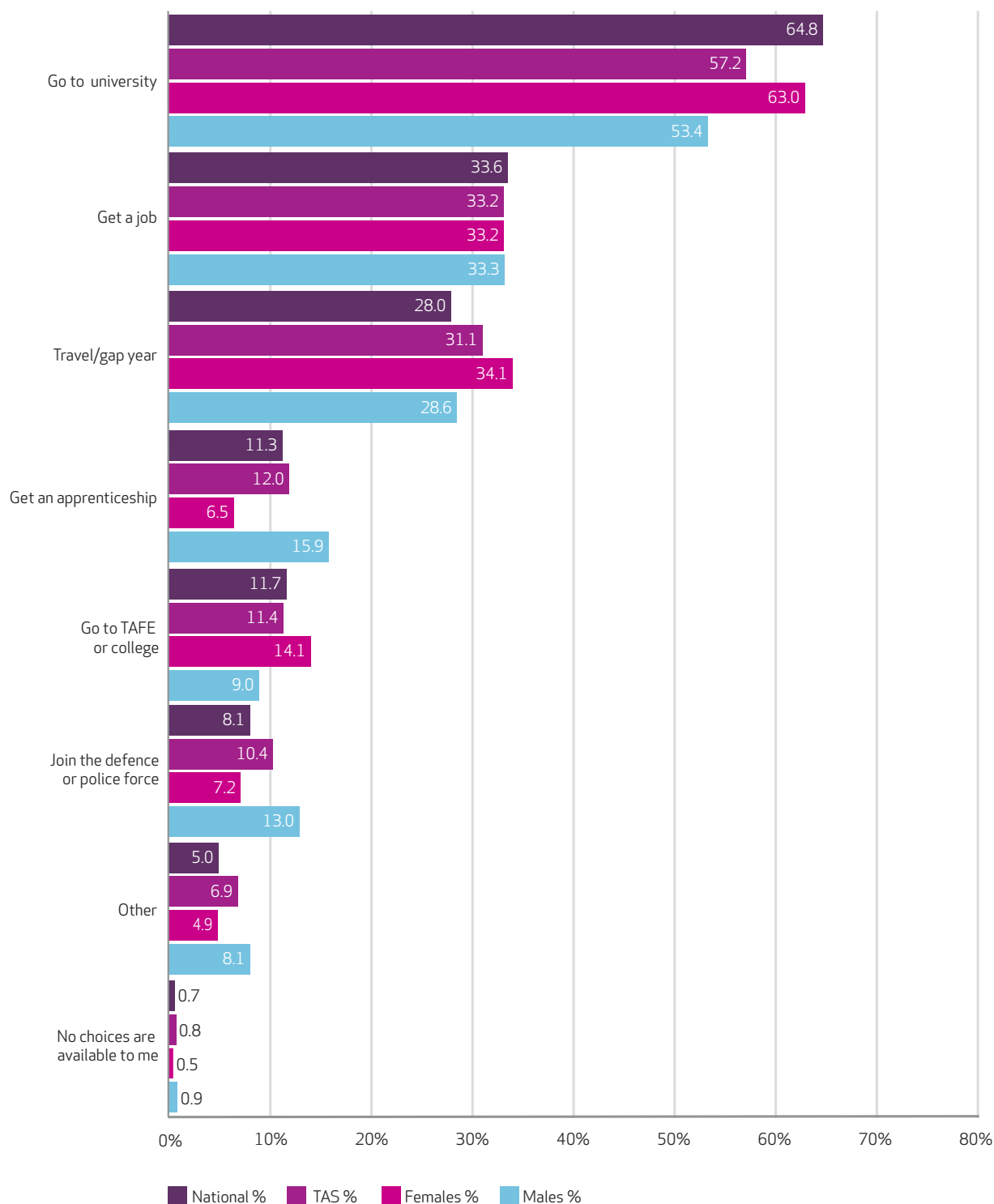
	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	14.6	15.5	13.4
Satisfied	55.2	56.1	56.8	57.3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	23.4	22.1	23.5
Dissatisfied	5.7	4.5	5.0	4.2
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.3	0.7	1.5

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 8.1 shows that nearly six in ten (57.2%) respondents from TAS planned to *go to university* after school. One in three (33.2%) respondents reported plans to *get a job* and over three in ten (31.1%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, close to one in eight (12.0%) young people from TAS planned to *get an apprenticeship*, while around one in ten reported plans to *go to TAFE or college* (11.4%) and *join the defence or police force* (10.4%). A small minority (0.8%) of TAS respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from TAS was to *go to university* after finishing school, a higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (63.0% compared with 53.4% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (34.1% compared with 28.6% of males). Conversely, around twice the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* (15.9% compared with 6.5% of females) or *join the defence or police force* (13.0% compared with 7.2%) after school.

Figure 8.1: Plans after leaving school

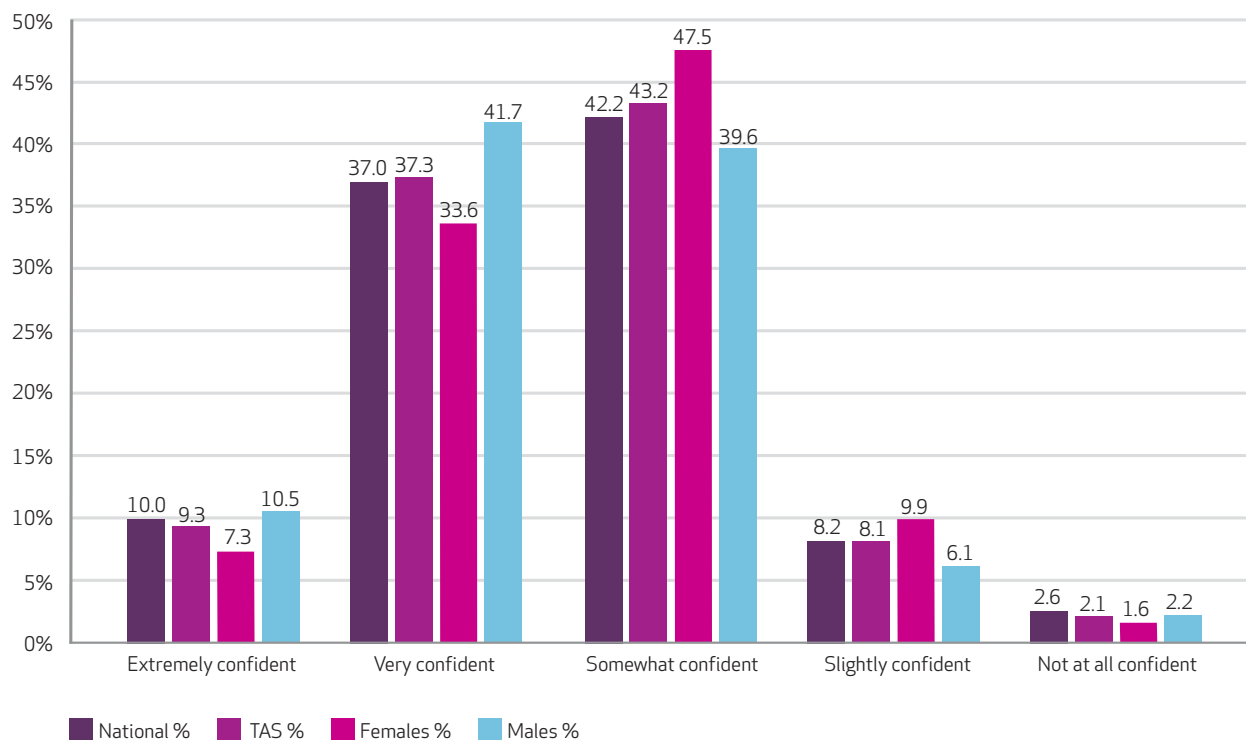


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 8.2, around half (46.6%) of respondents from TAS indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 9.3% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 37.3% stated that they were *very confident*. However, one in ten (10.2%) young people from TAS were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.1% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 2.1% were *not at all confident*. A much higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (52.2% compared with 40.9% of females).

Figure 8.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt that there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Close to half (47.5%) of respondents from TAS indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a much greater proportion of females (55.5%) than males (40.5%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 8.3 shows the percentage of respondents from TAS who reported each item was a barrier.

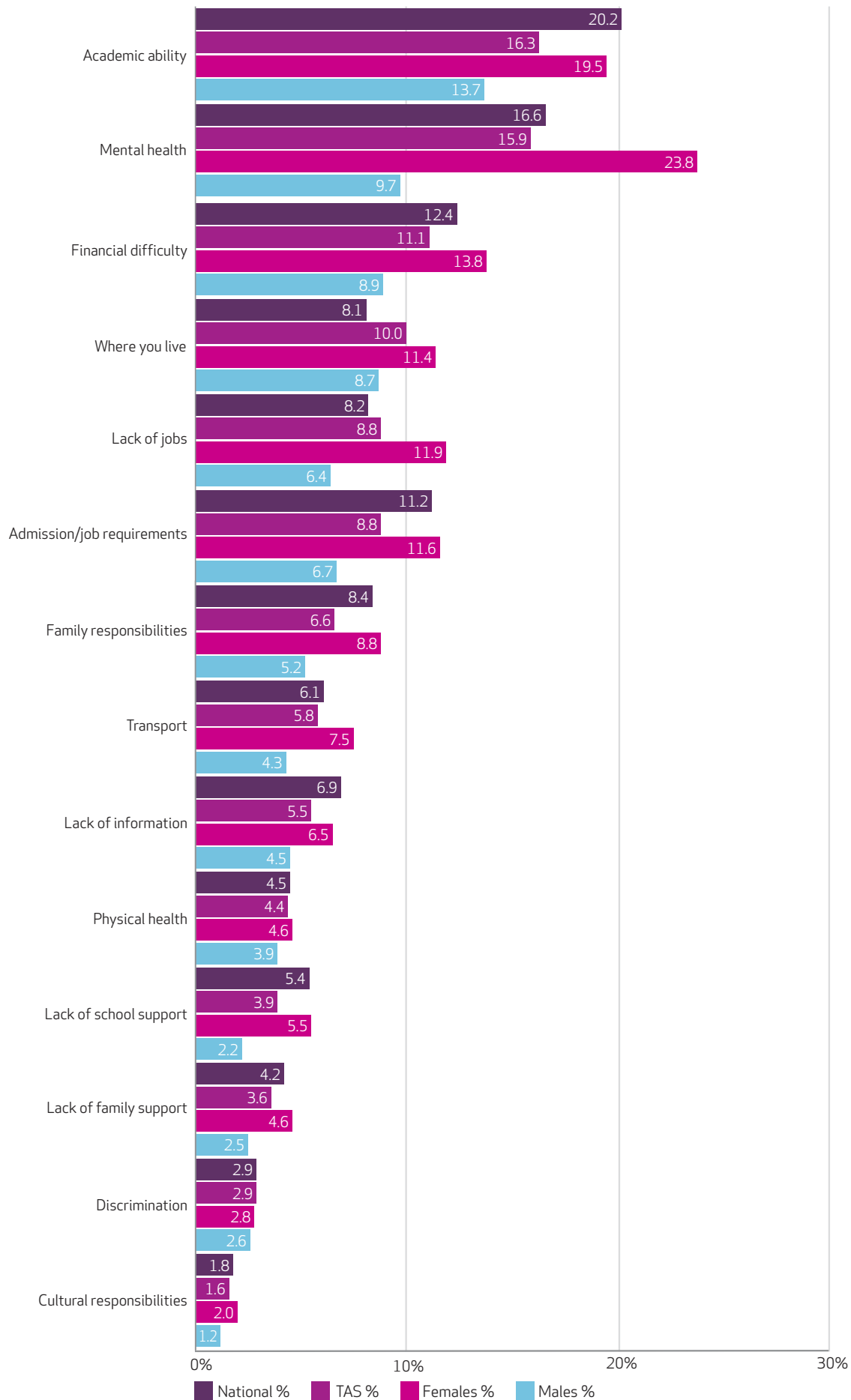
- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from TAS saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (16.3%, 15.9% and 11.1% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents from TAS reported that they saw *where you live* (10.0%), *lack of jobs* (8.8%) and *admission/job requirements* (8.8%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from TAS were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from TAS indicated that each of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- More than twice the proportion of females from TAS reported *mental health* was a barrier to achieving their post-school goals (23.8% compared with 9.7% of males).
- Higher proportions of female respondents saw *academic ability* (19.5% compared with 13.7% of males) and *lack of jobs* (11.9% compared with 6.4%) as barriers to achieving their study/work goals after school.

Figure 8.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 8.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from TAS. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from TAS who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.8%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Around four in ten (37.6%) respondents from TAS reported that they were employed part-time. Over six in ten (61.6%) respondents from TAS indicated that they were not in paid employment: more than one in three (35.9%) stated that they were looking for work, while one in four (25.7%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in TAS in 2019 is lower compared to 2018 findings (37.6% compared with 41.1%).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from TAS reported full-time employment (0.7% and 0.5% respectively). A notably higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (44.7% compared with 32.9% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were neither in paid employment nor looking for work (29.5% compared with 20.2% of females).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.7
Employed part-time	43.0	37.6	44.7	32.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	35.9	34.6	36.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	25.7	20.2	29.5

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

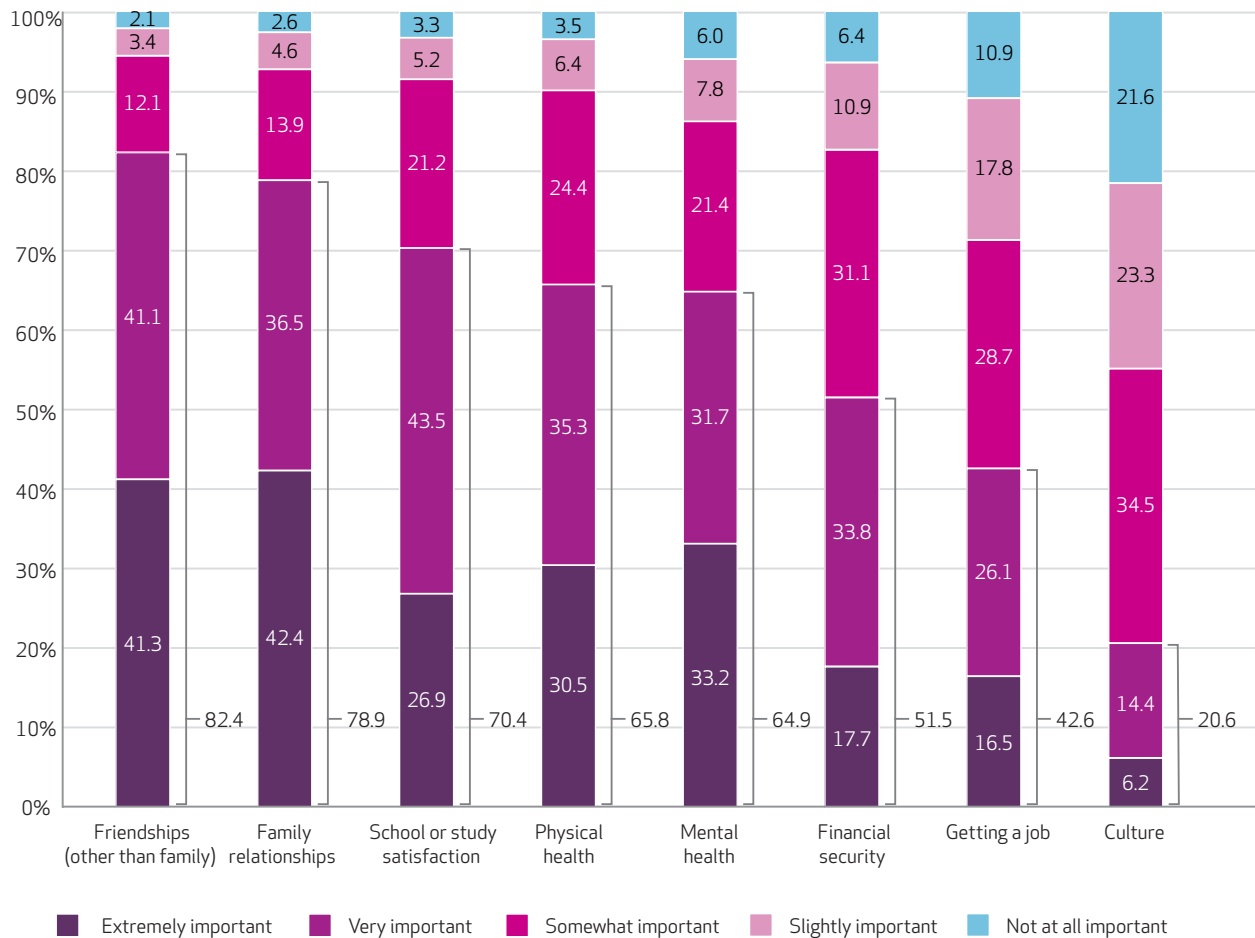
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 8.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from TAS were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- Around eight in ten respondents from TAS reported *friendships (other than family)* (82.4%) and *family relationships* (78.9%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- *School or study satisfaction* was considered *extremely* or *very important* by seven in ten (70.4%) respondents from TAS (*extremely important*: 26.9%; *very important*: 43.5%).
- Around two thirds of young people from TAS placed a high value upon *physical health* (65.8%) and *mental health* (64.9%).

Figure 8.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from TAS, as shown in Table 8.4. The third top item for females was *mental health*, while for males it was *school or study satisfaction*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Just over three quarters (77.6%) of females reported *mental health* was *extremely* or *very important* to them, compared with over half (55.7%) of males.
- Much higher proportions of females placed a high value upon *getting a job* (49.3% compared with 37.9%), *school or study satisfaction* (77.1% compared with 66.6%) and *financial security* (56.8% compared with 47.6%).



Table 8.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>39.7</b>	11.3	3.6	1.1
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>33.1</b>	11.2	5.4	1.2
School or study satisfaction	36.1	41.0	18.0	3.6	1.3
Physical health	31.6	37.4	22.5	6.3	2.2
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>36.4</b>	14.5	5.6	2.3
Financial security	18.6	38.2	29.8	10.4	3.0
Getting a job	18.9	30.4	27.8	15.4	7.6
Culture	5.4	18.2	38.8	22.8	14.9
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	12.6	3.3	2.3
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>39.0</b>	16.0	3.7	3.0
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>45.9</b>	23.7	5.7	3.9
Physical health	29.7	34.5	25.5	6.5	3.8
Mental health	27.0	28.7	26.6	9.4	8.2
Financial security	16.7	30.9	32.4	11.5	8.5
Getting a job	14.5	23.4	29.3	19.9	13.0
Culture	6.4	12.1	31.9	24.0	25.6

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

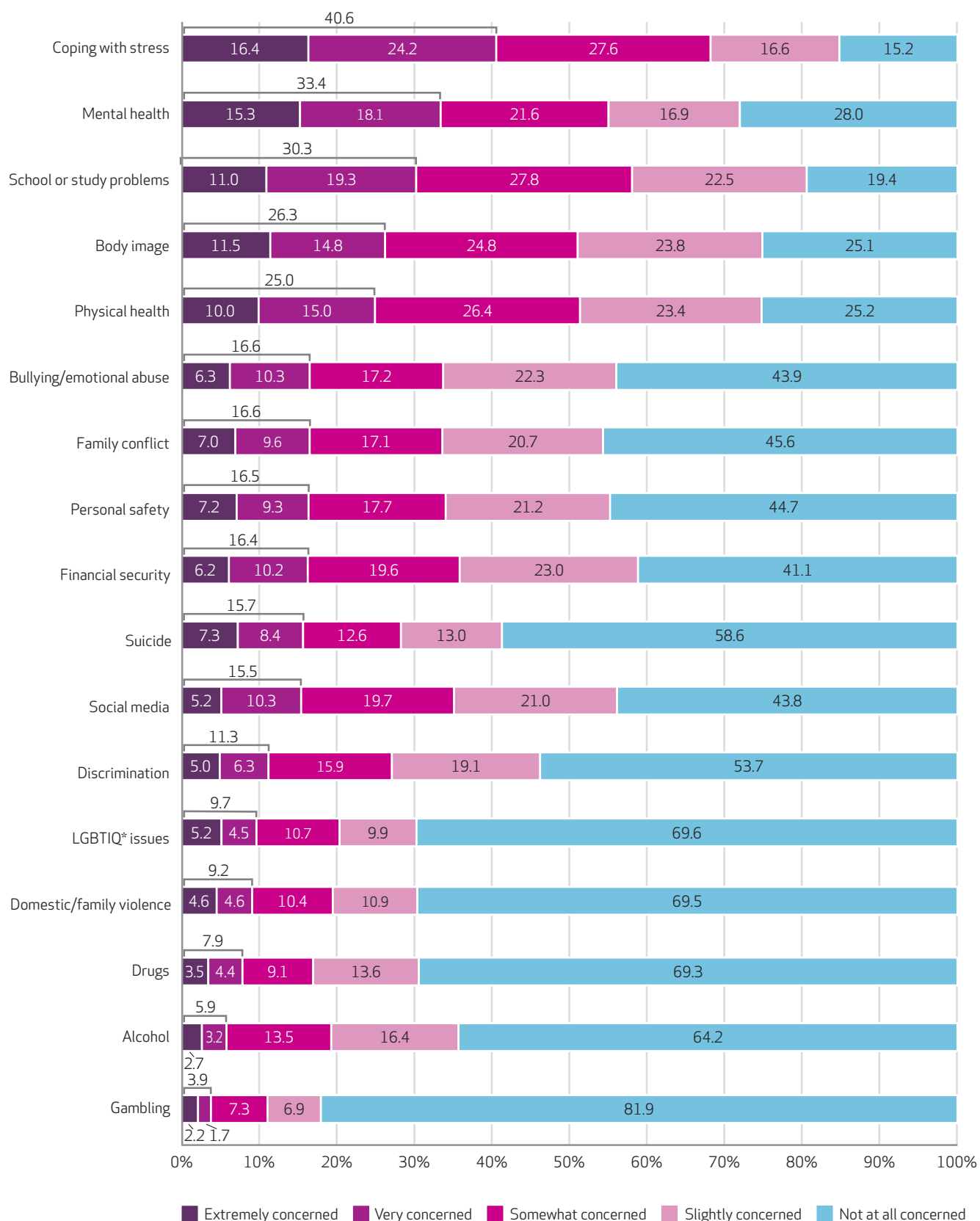
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 8.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from TAS were *coping with stress*, *mental health* and *school or study problems*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with four in ten (40.6%) respondents from TAS indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- *Mental health* was a major personal concern for one in three (33.4%) young people from TAS, while three in ten (30.3%) were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems*.
- Around one quarter of respondents from TAS were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (26.3%) and *physical health* (25.0%).

Figure 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

In line with TAS results, *coping with stress*, *mental health* and *school or study satisfaction* were the top three issues of personal concern for both females and males, as shown in Table 8.5. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and all of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- Three times the proportion of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *body image* (44.4% compared with 12.8% of males).
- More than double the proportion of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* (61.1% compared with 25.5% of males), *school or study problems* (45.3% compared with 19.3%) and *mental health* (47.4% compared with 22.6%).
- Around one in four females from TAS reported they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *social media* (24.4%), *suicide* (22.5%), *personal safety* (22.5%) and *family conflict* (22.3%), compared with around one in ten males (8.7%, 10.2%, 10.9% and 11.9% respectively).

Table 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>34.2</b>	26.1	8.9	4.0
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>25.7</b>	25.2	12.9	14.5
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>27.9</b>	27.6	17.5	9.6
Body image	20.2	24.2	31.0	16.4	8.3
Physical health	12.5	20.8	30.8	22.3	13.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.4	13.8	20.0	25.1	32.7
Family conflict	9.1	13.2	20.2	25.2	32.3
Personal safety	9.6	12.9	21.7	22.4	33.4
Financial security	7.0	13.7	24.2	24.8	30.3
Suicide	9.5	13.0	14.6	14.6	48.3
Social media	7.1	17.3	26.4	20.5	28.7
Discrimination	5.8	9.3	18.9	21.9	44.0
LGBTIQ* issues	6.3	6.9	14.2	13.2	59.3
Domestic/family violence	5.3	7.4	10.7	11.7	65.0
Drugs	3.3	6.7	9.5	15.6	64.8
Alcohol	2.9	4.6	17.2	19.5	55.8
Gambling	2.0	2.0	8.1	7.3	80.6

Table 8.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	29.3	22.3	22.8
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	19.4	20.4	37.7
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>13.4</b>	28.3	26.6	25.9
Body image	4.3	8.5	21.0	29.4	36.8
Physical health	7.7	11.1	23.8	24.0	33.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.0	8.2	15.4	20.5	51.8
Family conflict	4.8	7.1	14.9	17.9	55.4
Personal safety	4.4	6.5	15.1	20.6	53.3
Financial security	4.8	7.6	16.6	21.6	49.5
Suicide	4.8	5.4	10.9	12.3	66.7
Social media	3.1	5.6	14.9	21.7	54.6
Discrimination	3.6	4.1	13.6	17.5	61.2
LGBTIQ* issues	3.2	2.6	8.0	7.8	78.4
Domestic/family violence	3.1	2.6	10.3	10.3	73.7
Drugs	3.1	2.9	8.9	12.1	73.0
Alcohol	1.9	2.4	11.2	14.1	70.5
Gambling	1.8	1.6	6.6	6.6	83.5

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Close to one quarter (23.6%) of young people from TAS reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A notably higher proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (27.8% compared with 19.9% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 8.6 shows that, of the 23.6% of respondents from TAS who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (79.5%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. Four in ten (39.5%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while close to one in five (18.8%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Around one in ten young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *in my neighbourhood* (9.4%) or *at work* (8.8%).

### Gender differences

There were some notable differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 8.6. Of the 23.6% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Around eight in ten male (80.8%) and female (79.3%) respondents from TAS had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (45.0% compared with 32.3% of males).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from TAS reported that they had experienced bullying *in my neighbourhood* (10.2% compared with 5.9% of females).

Table 8.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>80.8</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>32.3</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>17.4</b>
Other	8.6	9.9	7.1	9.0
In my neighbourhood	7.9	9.4	5.9	10.2
At work	6.5	8.8	7.7	7.2

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 23.6% of respondents from TAS who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 8.7 shows that nearly three quarters (72.7%) of young people reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Over six in ten (61.4%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while over four in ten (43.2%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). One quarter (25.3%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

### Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males from TAS were *verbal*, *social* and *cyberbullying*, there were considerable differences in the results, as shown in Table 8.7. Of the 23.6% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Three quarters (76.0%) of male respondents from TAS had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing), compared with 69.2% of females.
- Much higher proportions of females from TAS reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (68.0% compared with 53.9% of males) and *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (49.1% compared with 37.1%).
- Conversely, more than double the proportion of males from TAS reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) (32.9% compared with 14.2% of females).

Table 8.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>76.0</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>53.9</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>37.1</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	25.3	14.2	32.9
Other	5.6	6.0	3.6	4.8

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

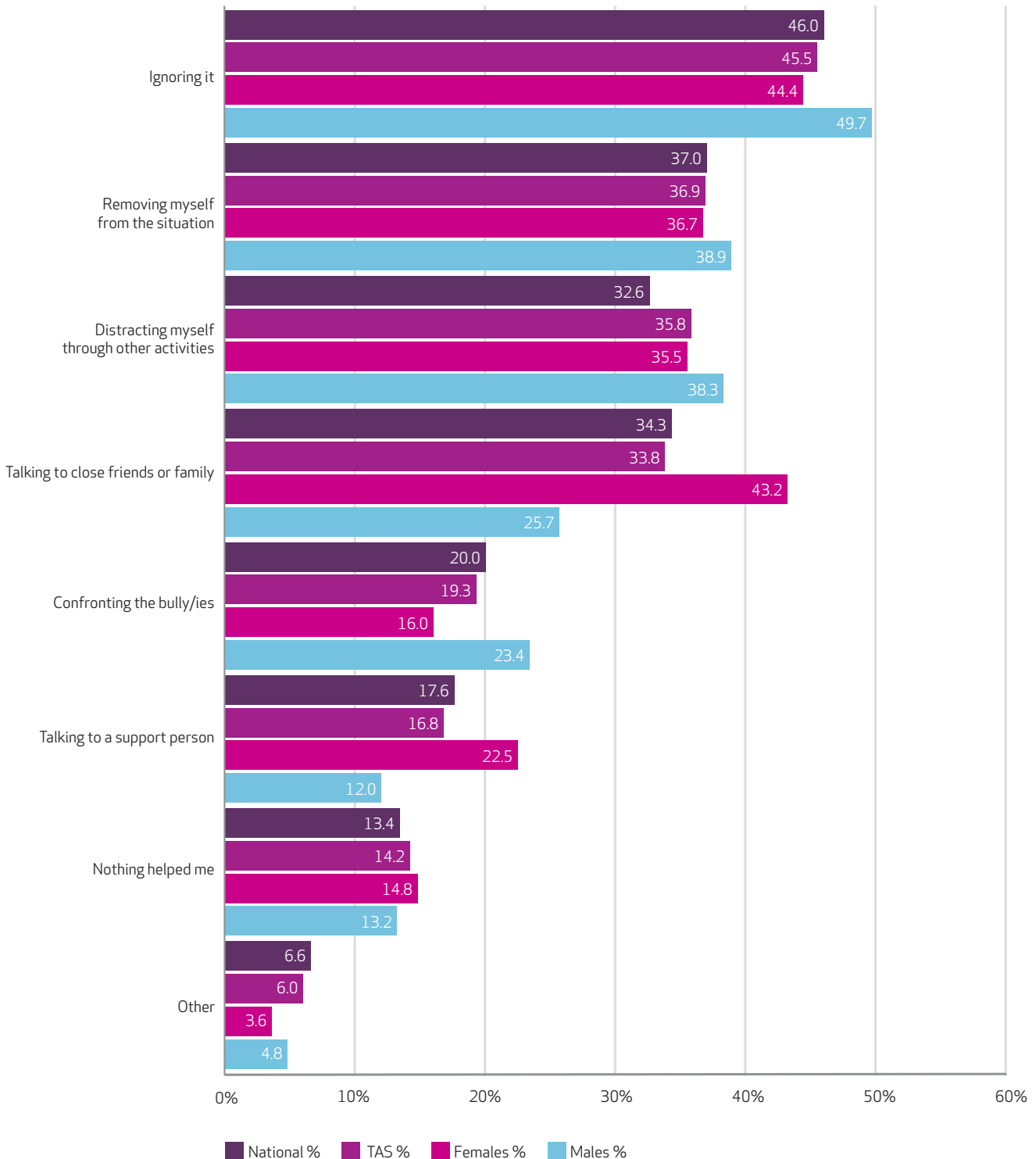
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 8.6. For the 23.6% of respondents from TAS who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (45.5%), *removing myself from the situation* (36.9%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (35.8%). One in three (33.8%) young people from TAS indicated they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family*, while around one in five (19.3%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. One in seven (14.2%) respondents from TAS stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were considerable differences between what helped female and male respondents from TAS to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 8.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them to deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (44.4%), *talking to close friends or family* (43.2%) and *removing myself from the situation* (36.7%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (49.7%), followed by *removing myself from the situation* (38.9%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (38.3%).

- More than four in ten (43.2%) female respondents from TAS reported that *talking to close friends or family* helped them best to deal with bullying, compared with one in four (25.7%) males.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males from TAS reported that *confronting the bully/ies* (23.4% compared with 16.0% of females) and *ignoring it* (49.7% compared with 44.4%) helped them to deal with bullying.

Figure 8.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Over half (53.8%) of young people from TAS reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. A higher proportion of females than males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (58.0% compared with 51.0% respectively).

Young people from TAS who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 8.8 shows that, of the 53.8% of respondents from TAS who had witnessed bullying in the past year, nearly nine in ten (88.7%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. Close to half (46.3%) indicated they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media*. Smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *in my neighbourhood* (9.7%), *at work* (7.5%) or *at home* (6.9%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 8.8.

- Nearly nine in ten male (89.2%) and female respondents (87.9%) from TAS had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (54.8% compared with 38.8% of males).

Table 8.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>89.2</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>In my neighbourhood</b>	7.3	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.6</b>
At work	<b>7.4</b>	7.5	7.1	7.1
At home	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.4
Other	4.7	5.2	2.5	6.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 8.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

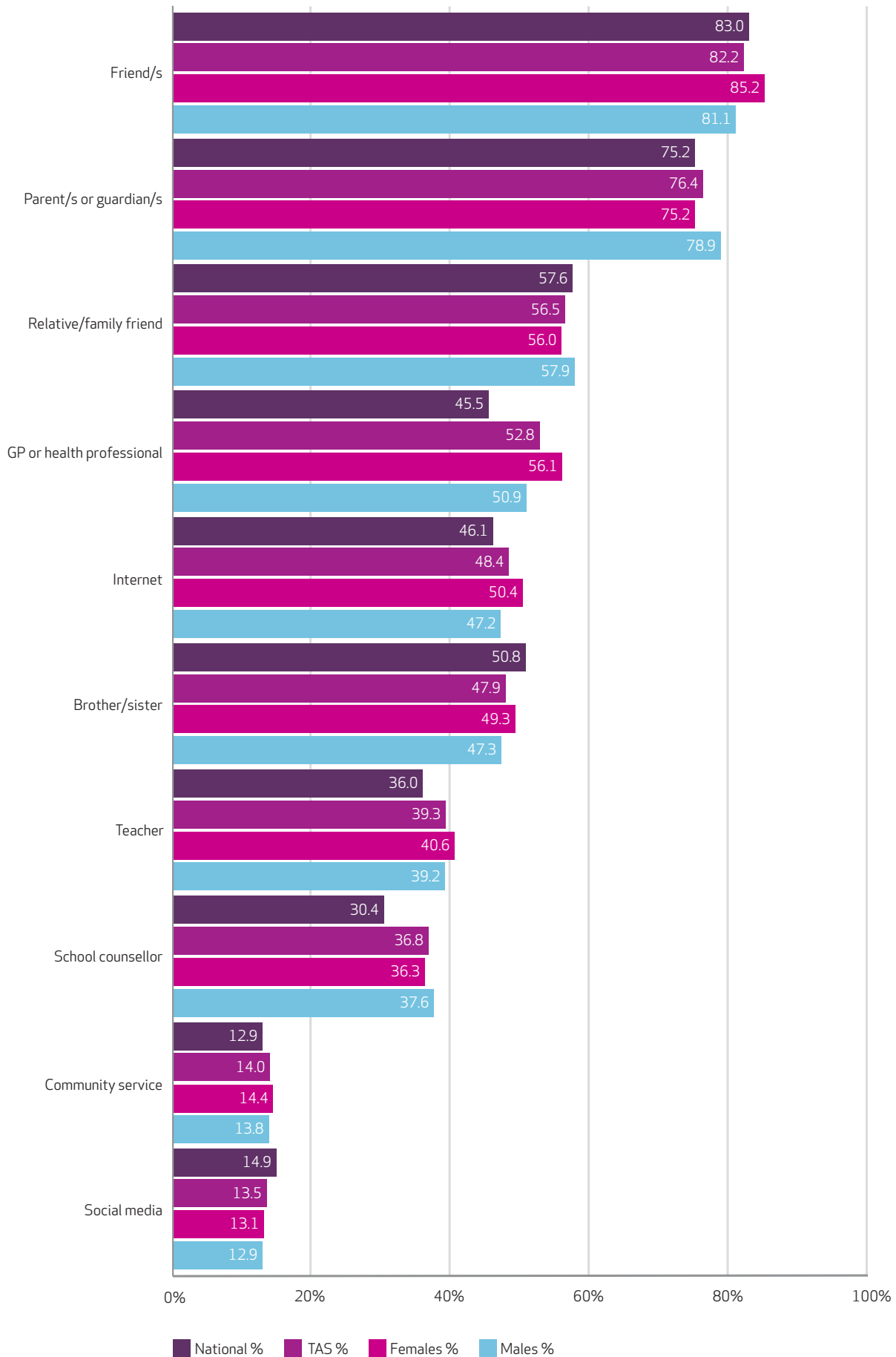
*Friend/s* (82.2%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (76.4%) and *relative/family friend* (56.5%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from TAS. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (52.8%), the *internet* (48.4%) or their *brother/sister* (47.9%) for support with important issues in their lives. Around four in ten young people from TAS would turn to a *teacher* (39.3%) or a *school counsellor* (36.8%) as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.7, the top two sources of help for both genders were consistent with the TAS results. The third most frequently cited source of help for females from TAS was a *GP or health professional*, whereas for males it was a *relative/family friend*.

- A higher proportion of females from TAS indicated that they would turn to a *GP or health professional* (56.1% compared with 50.9% of males) or their *friend/s* (85.2% compared with 81.1%) for help with important issues.
- A slightly higher proportion of males reported they would turn to their *parent/s or guardian/s* for support with important issues in their lives (78.9% compared with 75.2% of females).

Figure 8.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.



## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 8.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from TAS were *the environment*, *mental health* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Four in ten (40.4%) young people from TAS indicated that *the environment* is an important issue in Australia today.
- One third (33.9%) of respondents from TAS reported that *mental health* is an important national issue, while around one quarter (23.3%) cited *equity and discrimination*.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from TAS reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has nearly tripled from 15.3% to 40.4%. Conversely, concerns about *mental health* and *alcohol and drugs* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with TAS results, *the environment*, *mental health* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three most important issues for both females and males.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from TAS identified *the environment* (47.6% compared with 35.4% of males) and *mental health* (39.4% compared with 30.8%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, more than twice the proportion of males from TAS regarded *politics* as a key issue in Australia (14.7% compared with 5.7% of females).

Table 8.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	TAS 2019 %	Females %	Males %	TAS 2018 %	TAS 2017 %
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>35.4</b>	15.3	13.9
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>33.1</b>
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	16.7	16.4	17.5	<b>21.4</b>	<b>29.8</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	15.1	14.4	16.0	11.9	9.1
Health	8.3	11.8	10.5	12.7	14.5	9.1
Employment	7.6	11.7	12.3	11.3	9.7	11.7
Homelessness/housing	7.9	11.7	12.7	11.1	14.1	8.2
Politics	10.9	10.9	5.7	14.7	6.1	7.3
Population issues	8.0	10.5	10.2	10.7	9.4	12.8

Note: Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 8.10 shows that over four in ten young people from TAS felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (44.4%) and *with my family* (44.2%). Around one in seven young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (15.1%), while less than one in ten young people from TAS felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (7.8%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, half (49.5%) of young people from TAS felt they have a say *none of the time*. One quarter (24.9%) of young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 8.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.2	44.2	11.6
With my friends	44.4	48.1	7.5
At school/TAFE/university	15.1	60.0	24.9
In public affairs	7.8	42.7	49.5

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 8.11.

- A higher proportion of females from TAS felt they have a say *all of the time* while with my friends (46.8% compared with 42.9% of males).
- Double the proportion of males from TAS reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in public affairs (9.7% compared with 4.5% of females).
- A notably higher proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (53.7% compared with 46.1% of males).

Table 8.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.1	46.3	9.6
With my friends	46.8	46.8	6.3
At school/TAFE/university	11.4	65.1	23.6
In public affairs	4.5	41.8	53.7
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	45.0	43.2	11.7
With my friends	42.9	49.7	7.4
At school/TAFE/university	17.7	57.6	24.7
In public affairs	9.7	44.2	46.1

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 8.12.

The top three activities for young people from TAS were *sports (as a participant)* (75.0%), *sports (as a spectator)* (61.0%) and *volunteer work* (49.0%). Around half (45.9%) of respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Over one third (36.4%) of young people from TAS indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities*.

### Gender differences

In line with TAS results, *sports (as a participant)* was the top activity for both females and males. The second most frequently reported activity for females was *volunteer work*, ahead of *arts/cultural/music activities*. For males, *sports (as a spectator)* was the second top activity, followed by *volunteer work*.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from TAS reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (56.5% compared with 38.5% of males), *volunteer work* (56.8% compared with 43.6%), *youth groups/activities* (37.3% compared with 24.9%) and *environmental groups* (26.4% compared with 14.9%) over the past year.
- Conversely, a much higher proportion of males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* in the past year (65.8% compared with 55.5% of females).

Table 8.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>78.4</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>61.0</b>	55.5	<b>65.8</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>43.6</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	45.9	<b>56.5</b>	38.5
Student leadership activities	32.9	36.4	41.9	32.9
Youth groups/activities	29.8	29.9	37.3	24.9
Environmental groups	13.6	20.2	26.4	14.9
Religious groups/activities	23.7	19.4	23.8	16.1
Political groups/organisations	7.3	10.3	12.5	7.5

Note: Items are listed in order of TAS frequency.

### How do young people rate their family’s ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family’s ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 8.8 shows that the majority of respondents from TAS rated their family’s ability to get along very positively: 21.0% rated it as *excellent* and 31.9% rated it as *very good*. However, nearly one quarter (23.1%) of young people from TAS indicated their family’s ability to get along was either *fair* (14.8%) or *poor* (8.3%). A higher proportion of male respondents rated their family’s ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (56.9% compared with 49.1% of females), while a higher proportion of females rated their family’s ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (26.4% compared with 19.0% of males).

Figure 8.8: Family’s ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 8.13 shows, the majority of young people (61.5%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from TAS felt happy overall with their lives. A much higher proportion of males from TAS reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (68.1% compared with 53.9% of females).

Table 8.13: How happy young people are

	National %	TAS %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	61.5	53.9	68.1
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	27.3	33.3	23.2
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	11.2	12.8	8.7

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 8.14 shows that the majority of young people from TAS felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Around six in ten (55.4%) respondents from TAS felt *very positive* (12.6%) or *positive* (42.8%) about the future.
- Almost one in seven (13.6%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (8.8%) or *very negative* (4.8%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from TAS reported feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future (59.1% compared with 51.1% of females).

Table 8.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	TAS 2019 %	Females %	Males %	TAS 2018 %	TAS 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	12.6	9.6	14.7	13.8	15.5
Positive	45.0	42.8	41.5	44.4	47.1	45.0
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	30.9	34.9	28.6	28.2	28.9
Negative	8.8	8.8	9.7	8.0	7.9	7.3
Very negative	3.4	4.8	4.3	4.2	2.9	3.2

# Victoria



## Profile of respondents

A total of 4,445 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Two thirds (66.0%) of respondents from VIC were female and 30.7% were male.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 132 (3.0%) respondents from VIC identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 102 (2.3%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 20 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.2% identified as both). A higher proportion of male respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.7% compared with 1.9% of females).

### Language background other than English

A total of 607 (13.9%) respondents from VIC stated that they were born overseas and 911 (21.0%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 88 languages other than English spoken at home in VIC, the most common were (in order of frequency): Italian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi and Chinese.

### Disability

A total of 294 (6.6%) respondents from VIC identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (8.6%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.6% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in VIC were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 9.1, 95.2% of respondents from VIC were studying full-time, which is similar to the 95.1% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. A higher proportion of females reported studying full-time (97.0% compared with 93.3% of males). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (3.4% compared with 1.7% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from VIC reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.1%) or *satisfied* (56.0%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (5.4%) or *very dissatisfied* (1.7%). As shown in Table 9.2, a slightly higher proportion of females from VIC reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (68.8% compared with 64.6% of males), whereas a higher proportion of males indicated they felt *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (9.4% compared with 5.7% of females).

Of those that were still at school in VIC, 96.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. More than twice the proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (5.2% compared with 2.1% of females).

Table 9.1: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	95.2	97.0	93.3
Studying part-time	2.7	2.1	1.3	3.3
Not studying	4.0	2.7	1.7	3.4

Table 9.2: Satisfaction with studies

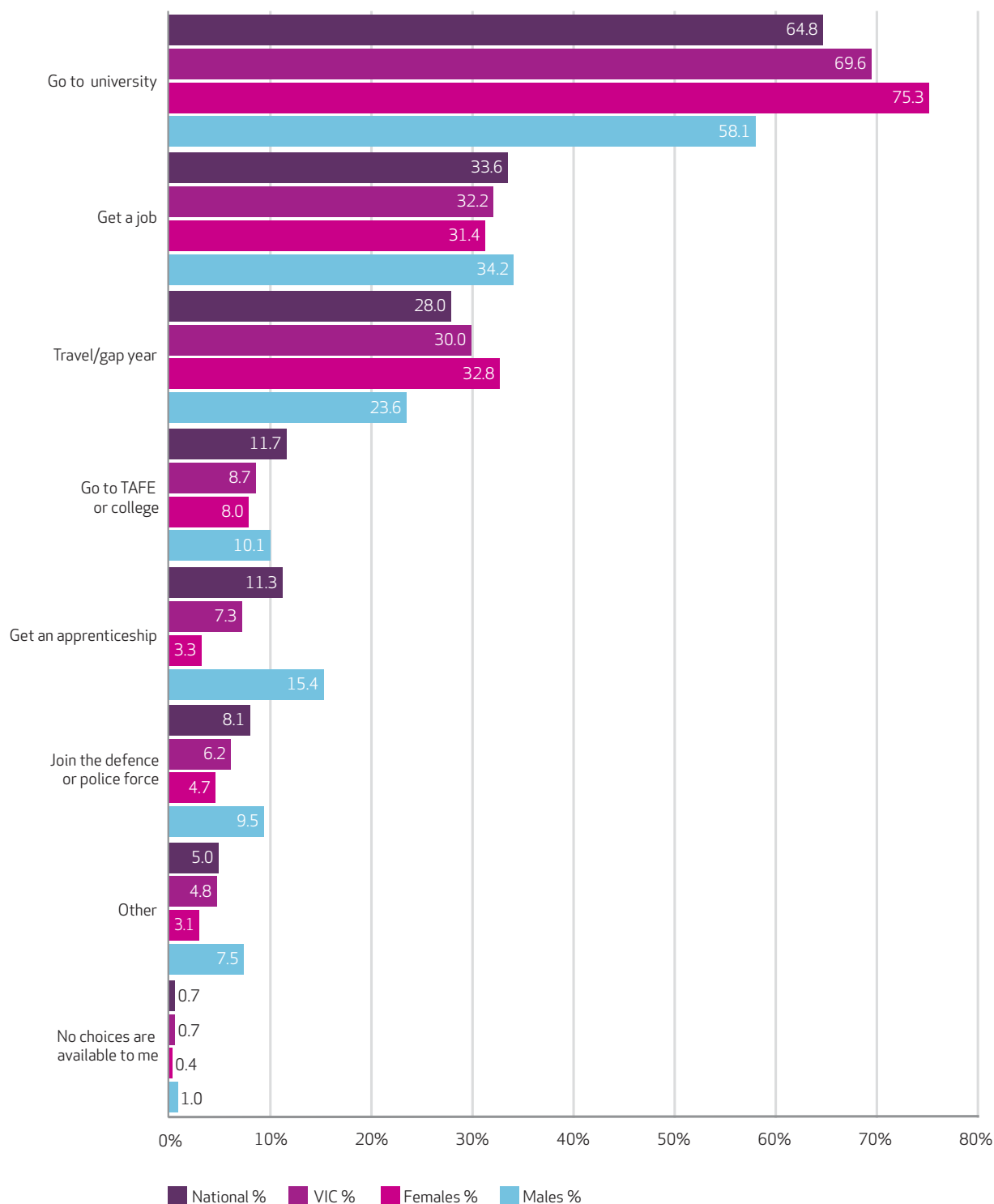
	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	11.1	10.5	12.6
Satisfied	55.2	56.0	58.3	52.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	25.7	25.5	26.0
Dissatisfied	5.7	5.4	4.5	6.7
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.7	1.2	2.7

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 9.1 shows that seven in ten (69.6%) respondents from VIC planned to *go to university* after school. Around one in three respondents reported plans to *get a job* (32.2%) after school and three in ten (30.0%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, 8.7% of young people from VIC planned to *go to TAFE or college*, 7.3% reported plans to *get an apprenticeship* and 6.2% indicated they planned to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (0.7%) of VIC respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from VIC was to *go to university* after finishing school, a much higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (75.3% compared with 58.1% of males). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (32.8% compared with 23.6% of males). Conversely, more than four times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (15.4% compared with 3.3% of females).

Figure 9.1: Plans after leaving school

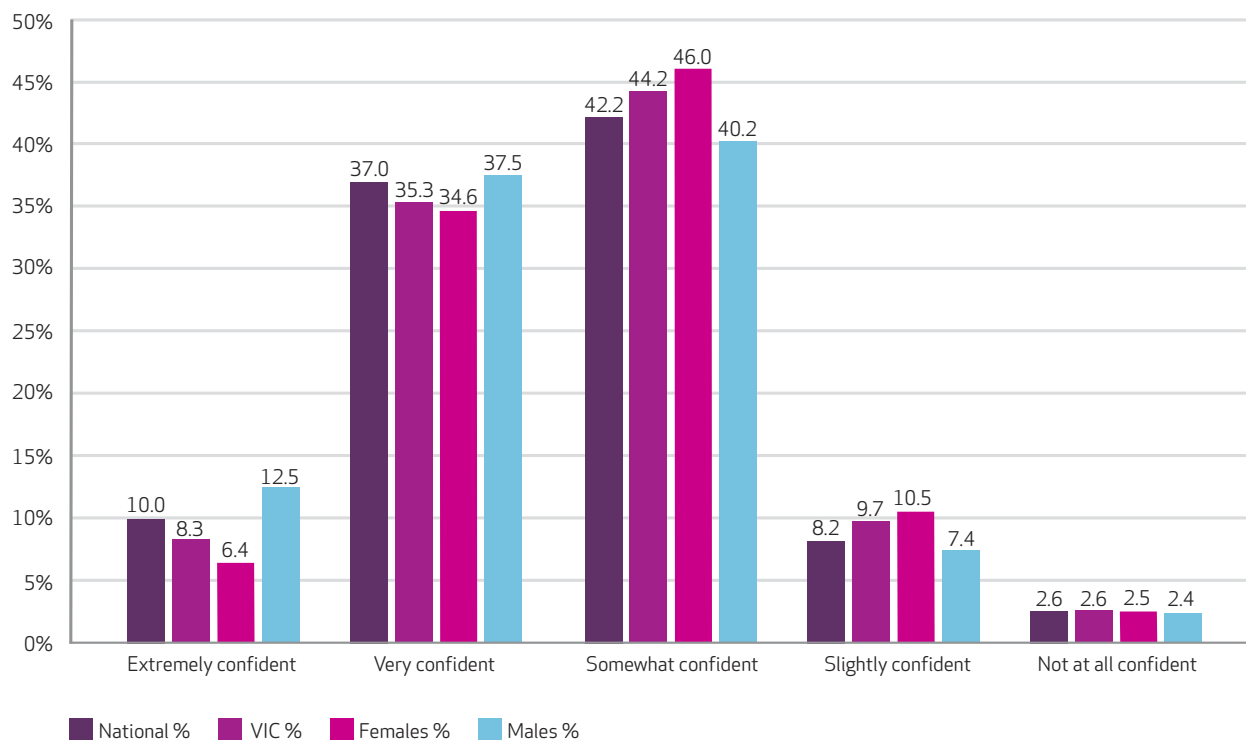


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 9.2, over four in ten (43.6%) respondents from VIC indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 8.3% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 35.3% stated that they were *very confident*. However, one in eight (12.3%) young people from VIC were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 9.7% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 2.6% were *not at all confident*. A higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (50.0% compared with 41.0% of females).

Figure 9.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people's study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Just over half (51.8%) of respondents from VIC indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a greater proportion of females (54.9%) than males (43.8%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 9.3 shows the percentage of respondents from VIC who reported each item was a barrier.

- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from VIC saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (20.2%, 19.2% and 12.4% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents from VIC reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* (11.5%) and *family responsibilities* (9.3%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

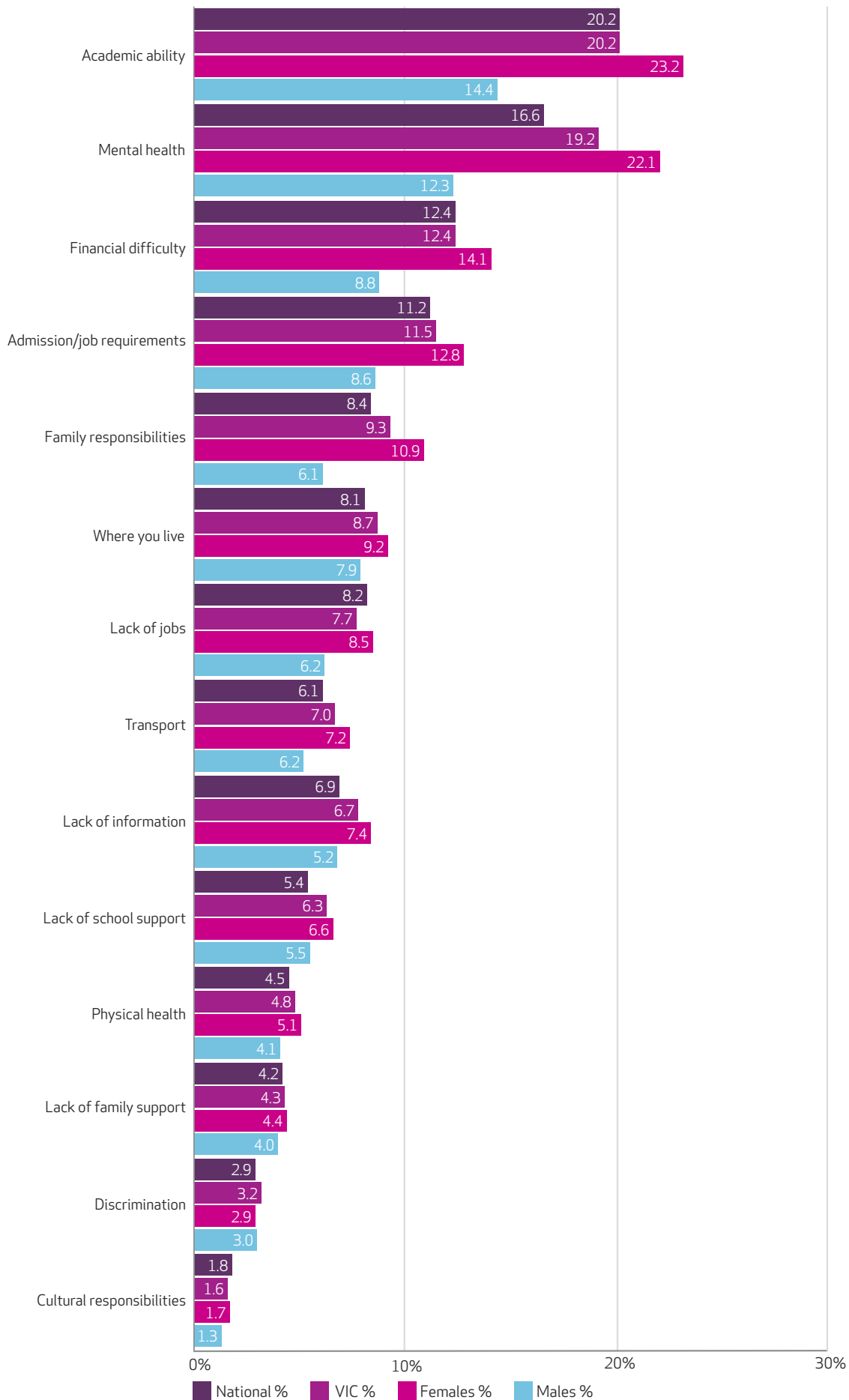
### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from VIC were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from VIC indicated that the majority of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- Higher proportions of females from VIC reported *mental health* (22.1% compared with 12.3% of males) and *financial difficulty* (14.1% compared with 8.8%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.
- Close to one in four (23.2%) female respondents saw *academic ability* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school, compared with one in seven (14.4%) males.



Figure 9.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 9.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from VIC. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from VIC who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.3%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. Half (49.5%) of respondents from VIC reported that they were employed part-time. Half (50.2%) of respondents from VIC indicated that they were not in paid employment: nearly one third (32.0%) stated that they were looking for work, while just under one fifth (18.2%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in VIC in 2019 is slightly higher compared to 2018 findings (49.5% compared with 46.8% respectively).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from VIC reported full-time employment (0.6% and 0.2% respectively). A much higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (53.6% compared with 42.3% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (36.9% compared with 29.5% of females).

Table 9.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.6
Employed part-time	43.0	49.5	53.6	42.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	32.0	29.5	36.9
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	18.2	16.7	20.2

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

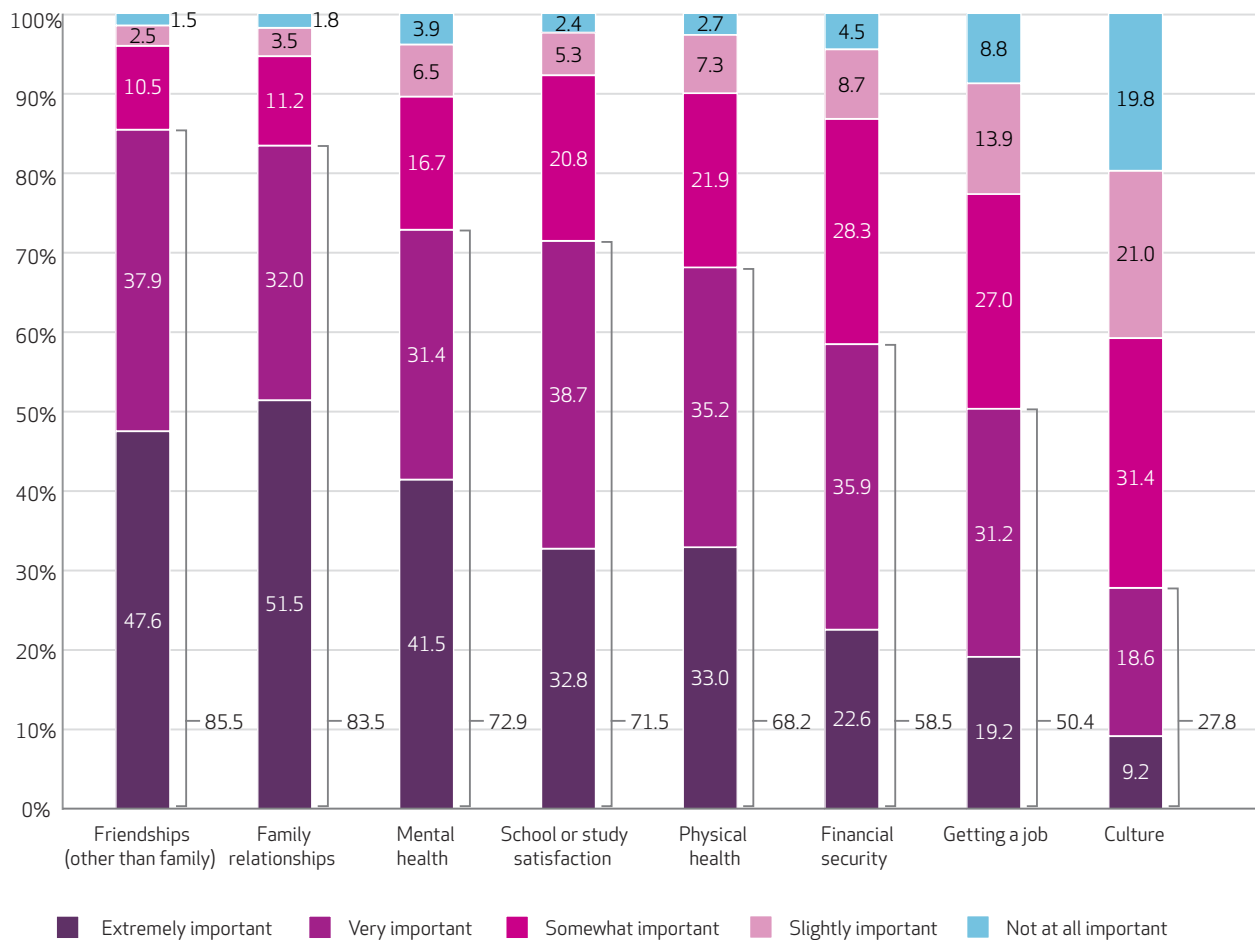
## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 9.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from VIC were *friendships (other than family)*, *family relationships* and *mental health*. The next most highly valued items were *school or study satisfaction* and *mental health*.

- *Friendships (other than family)* were considered *extremely* or *very important* by 85.5% of respondents from VIC (*extremely important*: 47.6%; *very important*: 37.9%).
- Over eight in ten (83.5%) respondents indicated that *family relationships* were *extremely* or *very important* to them (*extremely important*: 51.5%; *very important*: 32.0%).
- Around seven in ten respondents from VIC placed a high value upon *mental health* (72.9%), *school or study satisfaction* (71.5%) and *physical health* (68.2%).

Figure 9.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Friendships (other than family)* and *family relationships* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from VIC, as shown in Table 9.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and most of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably higher proportions of females from VIC reported that *mental health* (76.3% compared with 66.7% of males) and *school or study satisfaction* (76.8% compared with 62.6%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from VIC indicated *culture* was *extremely* or *very important* (30.7% compared with 26.5% of females).

Table 9.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>37.1</b>	9.5	2.3	1.0
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>30.1</b>	10.0	3.2	1.1
Mental health	44.6	31.9	15.7	6.0	1.9
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>40.5</b>	17.5	4.4	1.3
Physical health	32.7	35.8	22.2	7.4	1.9
Financial security	22.4	36.8	28.7	8.4	3.7
Getting a job	18.7	32.0	27.7	13.6	8.0
Culture	8.1	18.4	32.0	22.5	18.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>40.9</b>	12.3	2.8	1.3
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>35.9</b>	12.9	3.6	2.2
Mental health	35.3	31.4	18.5	8.0	6.8
School or study satisfaction	26.4	36.2	27.1	6.8	3.5
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>35.0</b>	20.9	6.5	3.2
Financial security	22.7	35.2	28.0	9.0	5.0
Getting a job	20.3	30.3	25.5	14.5	9.5
Culture	11.1	19.6	30.9	17.9	20.5

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

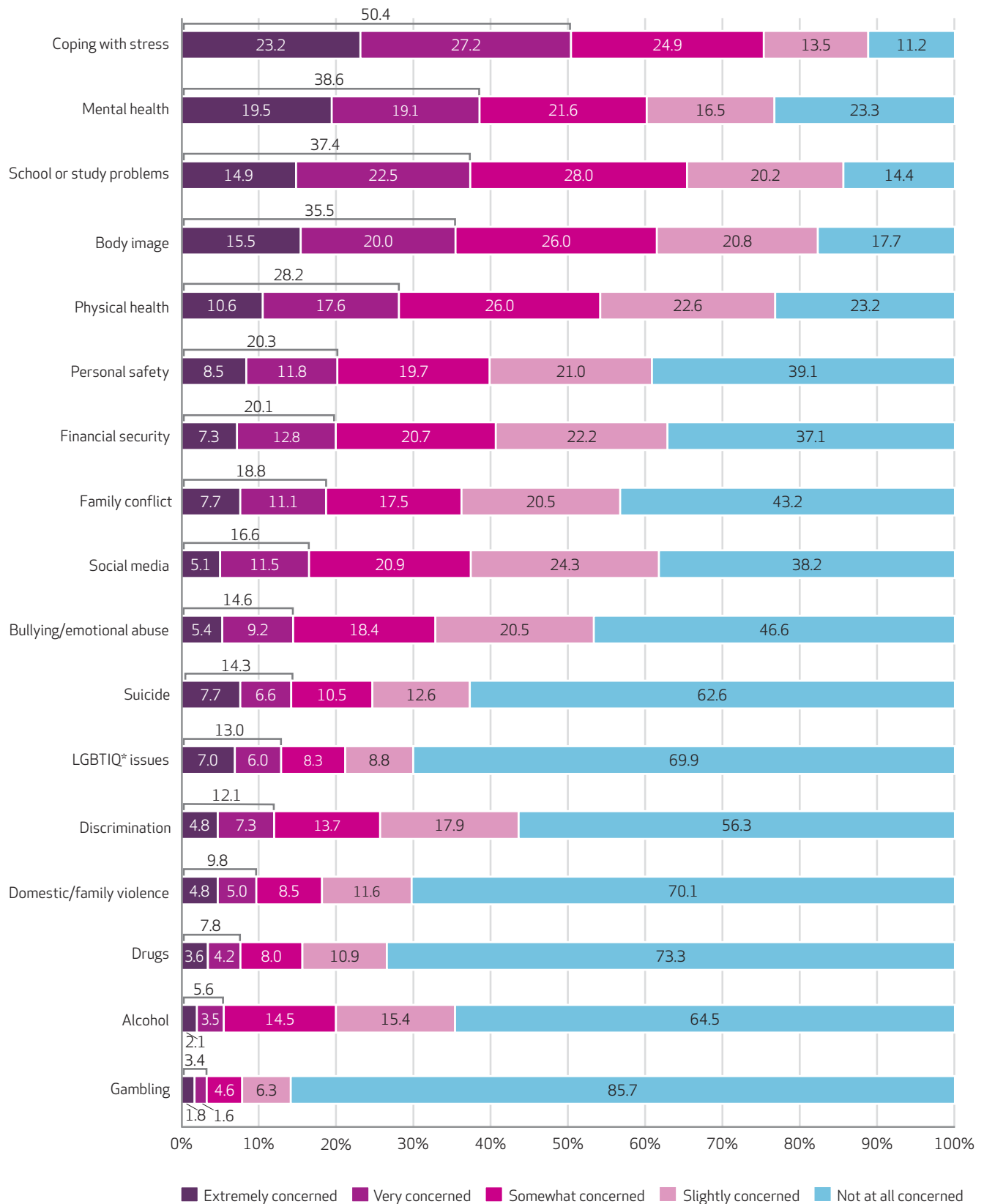
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 9.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from VIC were *coping with stress*, *mental health* and *school or study problems*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with half (50.4%) of respondents from VIC indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- *Mental health* (38.6%), *school or study problems* (37.4%) and *body image* (35.5%) were major personal concerns for around four in ten young people from VIC.
- Around one in five respondents from VIC were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *personal safety* (20.3%), *financial security* (20.1%) and *family conflict* (18.8%).

Figure 9.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Gender differences

*Coping with stress, mental health and school or study problems* were the top three issues of personal concern for both females and males from VIC, as shown in Table 9.5. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major issue of concern for six in ten (60.0%) females from VIC, compared with three in ten (30.0%) males.
- Around twice the proportion of females were highly concerned about *body image* (43.5% compared with 17.6% of males), *social media* (19.9% compared with 9.3%) and *school or study problems* (44.1% compared with 23.8% of males).
- A much higher proportion of females from VIC were *extremely or very concerned* about *mental health* (44.7% compared with 24.8% of males).

Table 9.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>30.9</b>	23.3	11.2	5.5
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>22.3</b>	22.5	15.9	16.9
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>26.3</b>	27.9	18.3	9.7
Body image	18.9	24.6	28.1	18.2	10.2
Physical health	11.2	20.1	27.3	22.7	18.6
Personal safety	8.9	13.0	20.3	21.7	36.1
Financial security	7.4	13.8	22.2	23.0	33.6
Family conflict	8.5	12.3	19.6	21.6	38.0
Social media	6.0	13.9	23.2	25.1	31.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.8	10.0	20.5	21.2	42.5
Suicide	7.7	7.4	10.9	13.7	60.2
LGBTIQ* issues	6.4	6.5	9.1	10.3	67.7
Discrimination	4.5	7.3	13.9	19.7	54.6
Domestic/family violence	4.8	4.9	8.9	12.2	69.2
Drugs	2.9	3.9	8.1	12.0	73.1
Alcohol	1.7	3.9	15.5	16.4	62.5
Gambling	1.3	1.3	4.2	5.6	87.5

Table 9.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	28.9	19.1	22.0
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	20.0	19.1	36.0
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>15.3</b>	28.5	24.6	23.2
Body image	6.9	10.7	22.3	27.0	33.1
Physical health	9.3	13.2	22.7	23.1	31.6
Personal safety	7.1	9.1	17.9	20.6	45.3
Financial security	6.3	11.0	18.1	21.0	43.7
Family conflict	5.4	8.7	13.7	18.3	53.8
Social media	2.3	7.0	16.1	23.1	51.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.7	7.5	13.7	19.2	56.0
Suicide	6.3	4.7	8.8	10.6	69.6
LGBTIQ* issues	5.5	4.1	6.3	6.0	78.1
Discrimination	4.1	6.8	12.8	14.5	61.7
Domestic/family violence	4.1	5.0	7.4	10.8	72.7
Drugs	4.2	4.6	7.6	8.4	75.2
Alcohol	2.5	2.6	12.4	13.4	69.0
Gambling	2.0	2.5	4.9	7.7	82.9

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. One in five (19.6%) young people from VIC reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A slightly greater proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (19.8% compared with 17.3% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 9.6 shows that, of the 19.6% of respondents from VIC who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (79.5%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. One in three (33.2%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while around one in six (17.0%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Smaller proportions of young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (6.9%) or *in my neighbourhood* (5.7%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 9.6. Of the 19.6% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Eight in ten male (81.0%) and female respondents (79.1%) from VIC had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (36.0% compared with 23.4% of males).
- A higher proportion of females from VIC reported that they had experienced bullying *at home* (17.1% compared with 11.7% of males).

Table 9.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>81.0</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>23.4</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Other	7.9	7.1	5.8	7.8
At work	8.6	6.9	6.5	5.2
In my neighbourhood	6.5	5.7	4.2	5.6

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 19.6% of respondents from VIC who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 9.7 shows that nearly seven in ten (68.6%) young people from VIC reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Over six in ten (64.7%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while over one in three (35.7%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). One in five (19.6%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

### Gender differences

There were some differences between female and male responses to the kinds of bullying they had experienced in the past year, as shown in Table 9.7. Of the 19.6% of young people from VIC who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Over three quarters (76.2%) of male respondents from VIC had experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing), compared with 66.7% of females.
- Much higher proportions of females from VIC reported they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded) (71.9% compared with 49.4% of males) and *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (38.4% compared with 26.0%).
- Conversely, more than double the proportion of males from VIC reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) (29.4% compared with 13.6% of females).

Table 9.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>76.2</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>49.4</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>38.4</b>	26.0
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	19.6	13.6	<b>29.4</b>
Other	5.6	5.5	4.5	6.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

### What helped young people to deal with their experience of bullying?

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 9.6. For the 19.6% of respondents from VIC who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (45.3%), *removing myself from the situation* (39.3%) and *talking to close friends or family* (35.0%). Around one in three (31.9%) young people from VIC indicated they dealt with bullying by *distracting myself through other activities*, while one in five reported *confronting the bully/ies* (20.0%) or *talking to a support person* (19.6%) was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. One in seven (14.2%) respondents from VIC stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

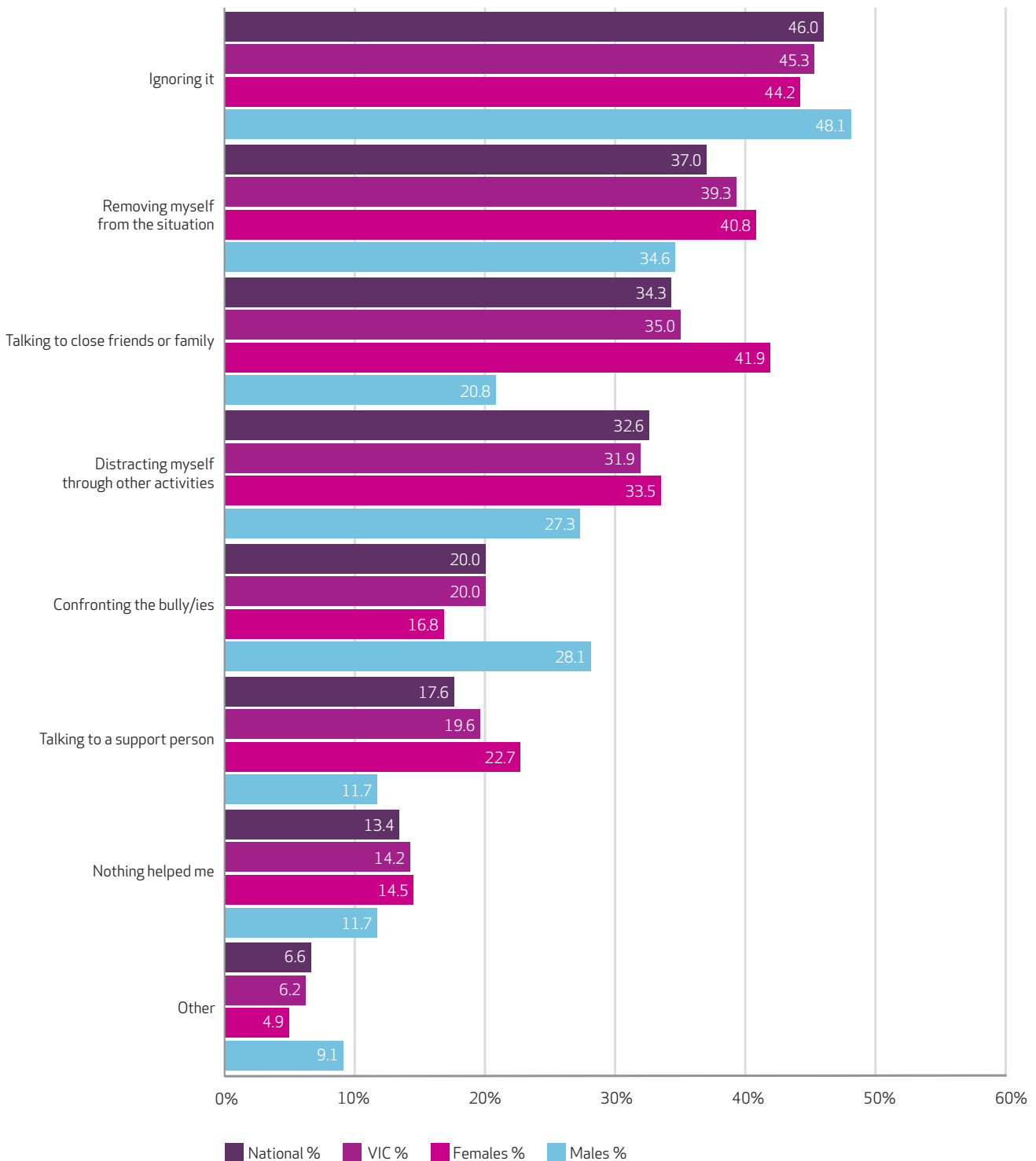


## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents from VIC to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 9.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them to deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (44.2%), *talking to close friends or family* (41.9%) and *removing myself from the situation* (40.8%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (48.1%), followed by *removing myself from the situation* (34.6%) and *confronting the bully/ies* (28.1%).

- Around twice the proportion of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (41.9% compared with 20.8% of males) or *talking to a support person* (22.7% compared with 11.7%).
- Conversely, a notably higher proportion of males from VIC reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them to deal with bullying (28.1% compared with 16.8% of females).

Figure 9.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. More than four in ten (43.1%) young people from VIC reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. Similar proportions of males and females reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (43.9% compared with 42.4% respectively).

Young people from VIC who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 9.8 shows that, of the 43.1% of respondents from VIC who had witnessed bullying in the past year, over eight in ten (83.9%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. More than four in ten (43.9%) indicated they had seen bullying *online/on social media*, while under one in twelve (7.0%) stated they had witnessed bullying *at work*. Smaller proportions of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at home* (6.3%) or *in my neighbourhood* (6.3%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 9.8.

- Over eight in ten female (85.5%) and male respondents (81.5%) from VIC had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (47.2% compared with 36.6% of males). Conversely, twice the proportion of males from VIC reported that they had witnessed bullying *in my neighbourhood* (9.1% compared with 4.4% of females).

Table 9.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>36.6</b>
<b>At work</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	7.0
At home	7.2	6.3	6.7	4.6
In my neighbourhood	7.3	6.3	4.4	<b>9.1</b>
Other	4.7	4.3	2.8	7.0

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 9.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

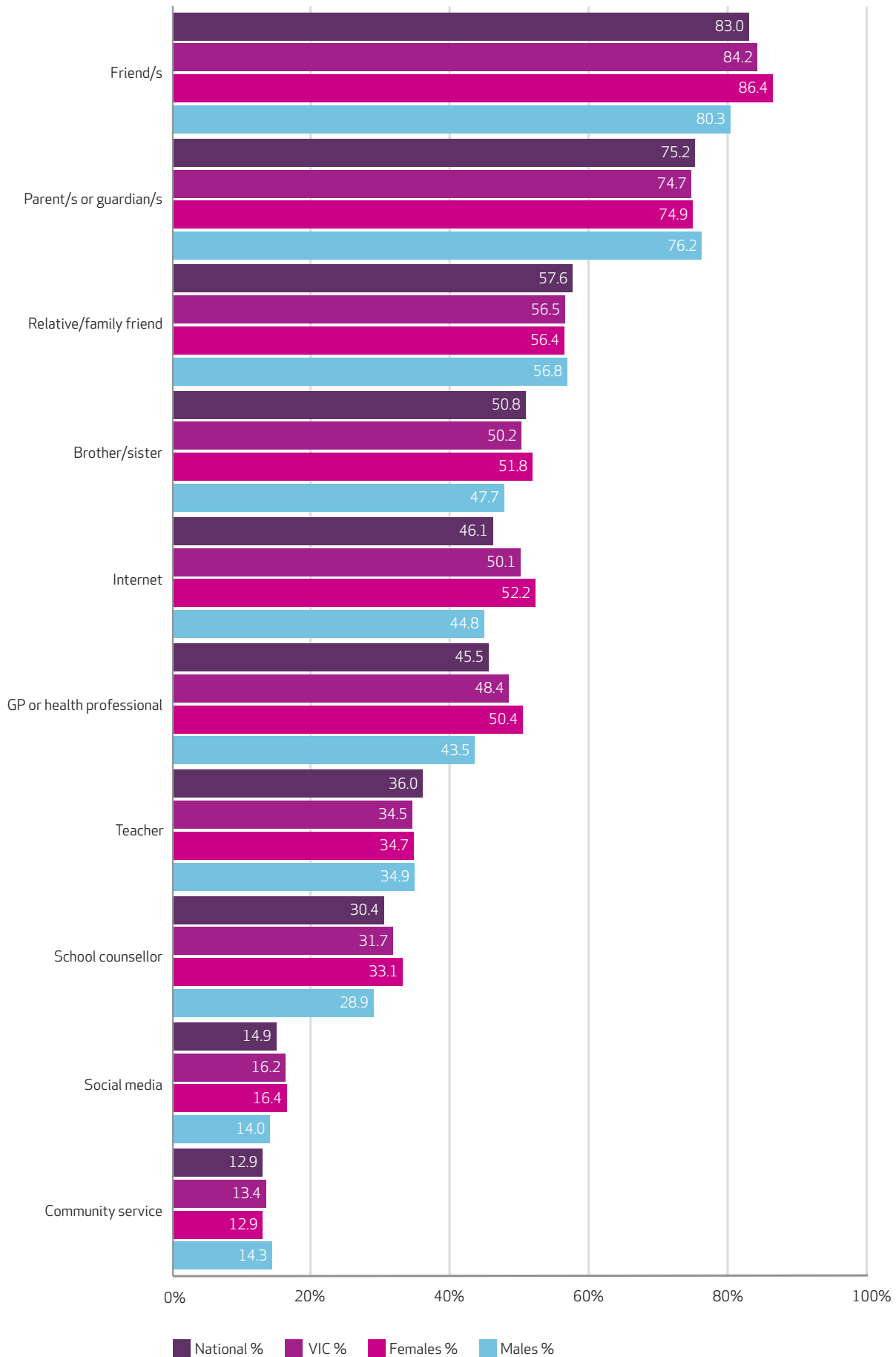
*Friend/s* (84.2%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (74.7%) and *relative/family friend* (56.5%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from VIC. Around half of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (50.2%), the *internet* (50.1%) or a *GP or health professional* (48.4%) for support with important issues in their lives. Over one third (34.5%) of young people from VIC would turn to a *teacher* as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the VIC results.

- Higher proportions of females from VIC indicated that they would turn to the *internet* (52.2% compared with 44.8% of males), a *GP or health professional* (50.4% compared with 43.5%) or their *friend/s* (86.4% compared with 80.3%) for help with important issues.
- Three quarters of males (76.2%) and females (74.9%) would turn to their *parent/s or guardian/s* for support with important issues in their lives.

Figure 9.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 9.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from VIC were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Nearly four in ten young people from VIC indicated that *mental health* (37.6%) and *the environment* (37.3%) are important issues in Australia today.
- Around one in four respondents from VIC reported that *equity and discrimination* (25.4%) is an important national issue, while just over one in five (21.0%) cited *alcohol and drugs*.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from VIC reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has quadrupled from 9.1% to 37.3%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with VIC results, *mental health* and *the environment* were the top two most important issues for both females and males from VIC. *Equity and discrimination* was the third most reported issue for females, whereas for males it was *alcohol and drugs*.

- Much higher proportions of female respondents from VIC identified *the environment* (41.2% compared with 28.1% of males) and *mental health* (41.6% compared with 30.2%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, greater proportions of males from VIC regarded *politics* (15.4% compared with 7.1% of females) and *the economy and financial matters* (17.4% compared with 10.1%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 9.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	VIC 2019 %	Females %	Males %	VIC 2018 %	VIC 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>29.7</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>28.1</b>	9.1	12.0
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>27.4</b>	21.0	<b>27.1</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	21.0	20.7	<b>22.3</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	14.9	15.2	14.6	15.3	15.0
The economy and financial matters	14.5	12.2	10.1	17.4	10.6	12.0
Homelessness/housing	7.9	10.8	11.4	9.8	12.3	12.5
Bullying	11.8	10.5	11.9	7.8	15.0	8.9
Politics	10.9	9.9	7.1	15.4	4.3	5.2
Education	9.1	8.9	8.1	10.1	8.1	11.7

Note: Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 9.10 shows that nearly one in two (46.5%) young people from VIC felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends*, while over four in ten (43.9%) felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my family*. Just under one in six (15.2%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while around one in sixteen young people from VIC felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (7.0%).

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (53.4%) of young people from VIC felt they have a say *none of the time*. Close to one quarter (26.1%) of young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 9.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	43.9	45.2	10.9
With my friends	46.5	46.4	7.1
At school/TAFE/university	15.2	58.6	26.1
In public affairs	7.0	39.7	53.4

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 9.11.

- A slightly higher proportion of females from VIC indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while *with my friends* (47.3% compared with 45.5% of males), whereas a slightly higher proportion of males felt they have a say *none of the time* when *with my friends* (9.1% compared with 5.7% of females).
- Over double the proportion of males from VIC reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs* (11.2% compared with 4.9% of females).
- A higher proportion of females indicated feeling they have a say *none of the time* in *public affairs* (55.4% compared with 49.3% of males), whereas a greater proportion of males felt they have a say *none of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university* (28.8% compared with 24.5% of females).

Table 9.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.2	46.0	9.8
With my friends	47.3	47.0	5.7
At school/TAFE/university	14.0	61.5	24.5
In public affairs	4.9	39.8	55.4
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	44.4	43.7	11.9
With my friends	45.5	45.4	9.1
At school/TAFE/university	18.4	52.8	28.8
In public affairs	11.2	39.5	49.3

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 9.12.

The top three activities for young people from VIC were *sports (as a participant)* (67.4%), *sports (as a spectator)* (54.6%) and *volunteer work* (46.2%). Just over four in ten (41.8%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Around three in ten young people from VIC indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities* (32.8%) and *youth groups/activities* (28.3%).

## Gender differences

In line with VIC results, *sports (as a participant)*, *sports (as a spectator)* and *volunteer work* were the top three activities for both females and males.

- Higher proportions of female respondents from VIC reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* (44.7% compared with 35.7% of males) and *volunteer work* (48.8% compared with 42.2%) over the past year.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males participated in *sports (as a spectator)* in the past year (60.8% compared with 53.0% of females).

Table 9.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

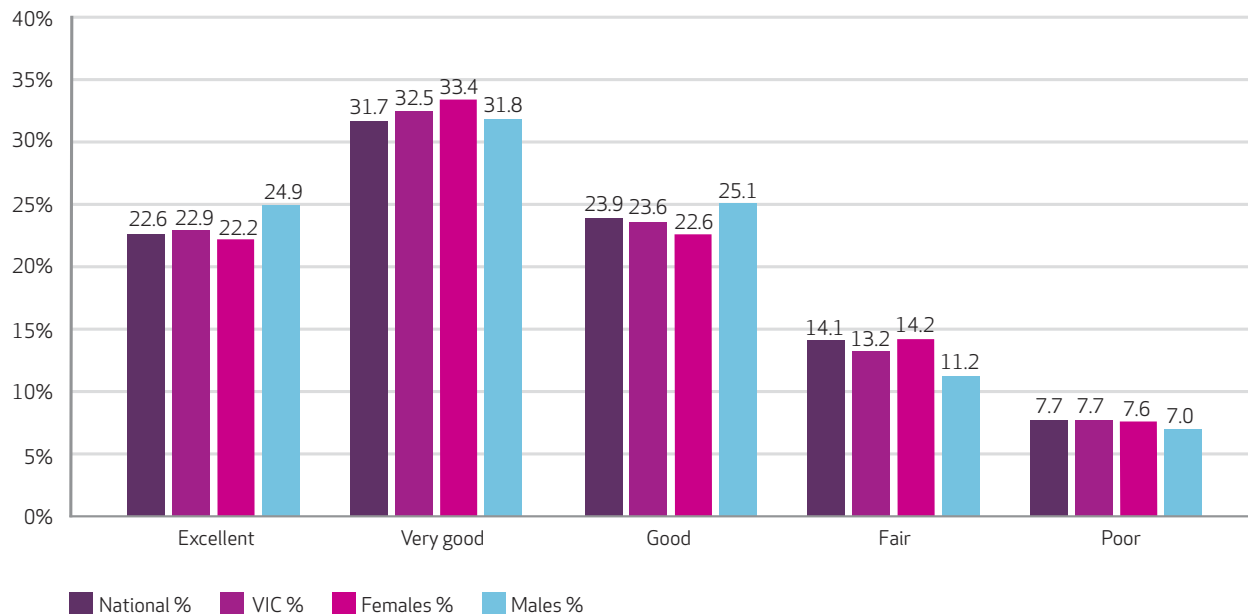
	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>68.7</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>60.8</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>42.2</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	41.8	44.7	35.7
Student leadership activities	32.9	32.8	34.7	29.6
Youth groups/activities	29.8	28.3	28.2	28.8
Religious groups/activities	23.7	19.7	19.9	19.9
Environmental groups	13.6	15.1	16.0	12.9
Political groups/organisations	7.3	8.2	7.7	8.4

Note: Items are listed in order of VIC frequency.

## How do young people rate their family's ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family's ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 9.8 shows that the majority of respondents from VIC rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 22.9% rated it as *excellent* and 32.5% rated it as *very good*. However, one in five (20.9%) young people from VIC indicated their family's ability to get along was either *fair* (13.2%) or *poor* (7.7%). A slightly higher proportion of female respondents rated their family's ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (21.8% compared with 18.2% of males).

Figure 9.8: Family's ability to get along with one another



## How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 9.13 shows, the majority of young people (61.1%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from VIC felt happy overall with their lives. A higher proportion of males from VIC reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (65.7% compared with 59.8% of females).

Table 9.13: How happy young people are

	National %	VIC %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	61.1	59.8	65.7
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	27.3	28.6	24.4
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	11.6	11.6	9.8

## How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 9.14 shows that the majority of young people from VIC felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Six in ten (59.2%) respondents from VIC felt *very positive* (13.2%) or *positive* (46.0%) about the future.
- One in eight (12.7%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (9.2%) or *very negative* (3.5%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from VIC reported feeling *very positive* about the future (16.1% compared with 12.1% of females).

Table 9.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	VIC 2019 %	Females %	Males %	VIC 2018 %	VIC 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	13.2	12.1	16.1	16.1	16.2
Positive	45.0	46.0	47.0	46.1	48.4	47.6
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	28.2	28.9	26.1	26.5	26.7
Negative	8.8	9.2	9.4	8.0	6.3	6.9
Very negative	3.4	3.5	2.7	3.7	2.7	2.7

# Western Australia



## Profile of respondents

A total of 2,766 young people from WA aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's 2019 Youth Survey.

### Gender breakdown

Half (50.3%) of respondents from WA were male and 45.8% were female.

### Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 158 (5.9%) respondents from WA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 130 (4.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 16 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.4% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.2% compared with 4.8% of males).

### Language background other than English

A total of 716 (26.5%) respondents from WA stated that they were born overseas and 525 (19.6%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 66 languages other than English spoken at home in WA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, German and Chinese.

### Disability

A total of 199 (7.2%) respondents from WA identified as living with a disability. A greater proportion of males (7.9%) reported they were living with a disability (compared with 4.5% of females). The most frequently cited disabilities in WA were (in order of frequency): attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities and anxiety disorder.

## Education

As indicated in Table 10.1, 92.2% of respondents from WA were studying full-time, which is similar to the 90.4% of respondents studying full-time in 2018. Equal proportions of females and males reported studying full-time (93.0% each). A marginally higher proportion of males reported they were not studying (4.8% compared with 3.8% of females).

Respondents who reported that they were currently studying were asked how satisfied they were with their studies. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from WA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.7%) or *satisfied* (53.4%) with their studies. Less than one in ten indicated they were *dissatisfied* (6.4%) or *very dissatisfied* (2.3%). As shown in Table 10.2, a slightly higher proportion of males from WA reported feeling *very satisfied* (14.1% compared with 9.0% of females), while a higher proportion of females indicated they felt *neither satisfied nor dissatisfied* (28.0% compared with 24.0% of males).

Of those that were still at school in WA, 96.6% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. A higher proportion of males indicated that they did not plan to complete Year 12 (4.1% compared with 2.5% of females).

Table 10.1: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
Studying full-time	93.3	92.2	93.0	93.0
Studying part-time	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.2
Not studying	4.0	4.9	3.8	4.8



Table 10.2: Satisfaction with studies

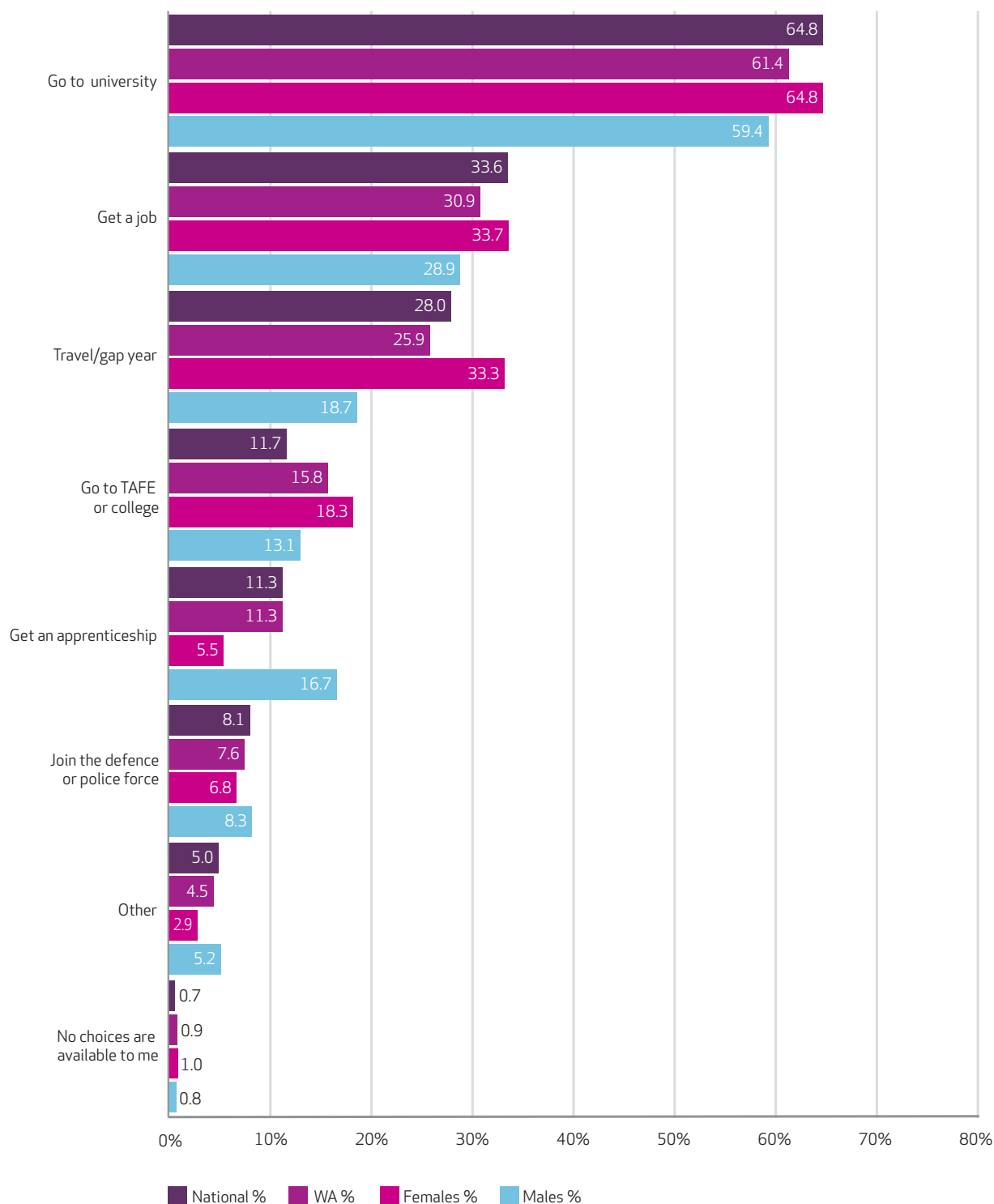
	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
Very satisfied	12.3	11.7	9.0	14.1
Satisfied	55.2	53.4	54.8	53.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25.0	26.1	28.0	24.0
Dissatisfied	5.7	6.4	6.4	6.2
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.1

Respondents who were studying at school were asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 10.1 shows that just over six in ten (61.4%) respondents from WA planned to *go to university* after school. Three in ten respondents reported plans to *get a job* (30.9%) after school and one in four (25.9%) indicated *travel/gap year* plans. Overall, 15.8% young people from WA planned to *go to TAFE or college*, 11.3% reported plans to *get an apprenticeship* and 7.6% indicated they planned to *join the defence or police force*. A small minority (0.9%) of WA respondents indicated that *no choices are available to me* after finishing school.

### Gender differences

While the most frequently reported plan among both female and male respondents from WA was to *go to university* after finishing school, a higher proportion of females indicated that they planned to do so (64.8% compared with 59.4% of males). A much greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (33.3% compared with 18.7% of males). Conversely, three times the proportion of males indicated they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* after school (16.7% compared with 5.5% of females).

Figure 10.1: Plans after leaving school

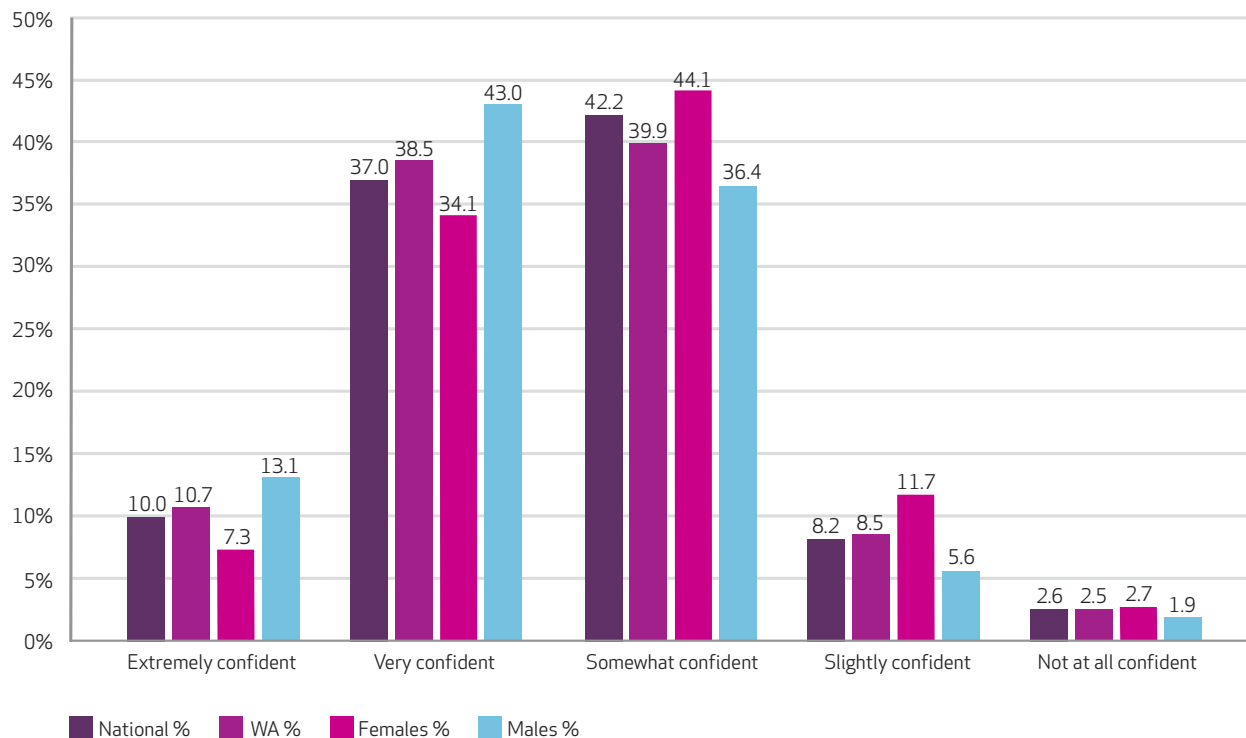


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

### How confident are young people in achieving their study/work goals?

Respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As shown in Figure 10.2, nearly half (49.2%) of respondents from WA indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 10.7% reported that they were *extremely confident* and 38.5% stated that they were *very confident*. However, around one in ten (11.0%) young people from WA were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.5% of young people indicated they were *slightly confident*, while 2.5% were *not at all confident*. A much higher proportion of male respondents reported that they were *extremely* or *very confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school (56.1% compared with 41.4% of females).

Figure 10.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



## Barriers to the achievement of young people’s study/work goals

Young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after finishing school. Almost half (46.6%) of respondents from WA indicated that they felt there were barriers that would impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals, with a much greater proportion of females (56.6%) than males (37.7%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who stated that they felt there were barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that may impact upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school. Figure 10.3 shows the percentage of respondents from WA who reported each item was a barrier.

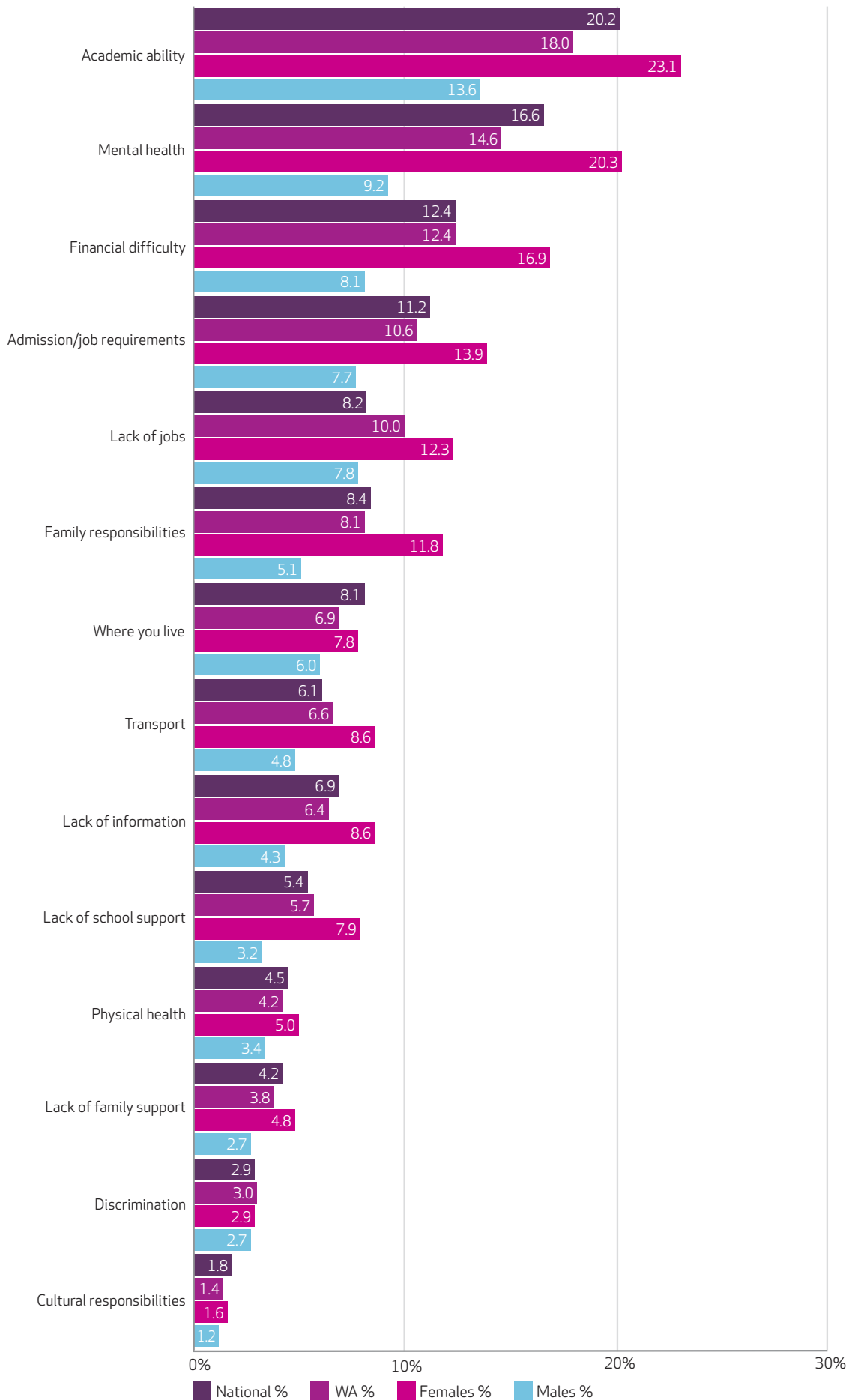
- *Academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty* were the top barriers that young people from WA saw as impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals after school (18.0%, 14.6% and 12.4% respectively).
- One in ten respondents from WA reported that they saw *admission/job requirements* (10.6%) and *lack of jobs* (10.0%) as barriers impacting upon the achievement of their study/work goals.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.3, the top three barriers to achieving post-school study/work goals for both females and males from WA were *academic ability*, *mental health* and *financial difficulty*. Compared with males, a higher proportion of females from WA indicated that each of the items were barriers to achieving their study/work goals.

- More than twice the proportion of female respondents saw *mental health* as a barrier to achieving their study/work goals after school (20.3% compared with 9.2% of males).
- Notably higher proportions of females from WA also reported *academic ability* (23.1% compared with 13.6% of males), *financial difficulty* (16.9% compared with 8.1%) and *family responsibilities* (11.8% compared with 5.1%) were barriers to achieving their post-school goals.

Figure 10.3: Barriers to the achievement of study/work goals



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they were engaged in paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 10.3 shows participation in paid employment among respondents from WA. In line with national results, only a small minority of respondents from WA who reported paid employment were employed full-time (0.7%). However, this is unsurprising given the proportion of respondents to the *Youth Survey* who were still at school. More than one third (35.2%) of respondents from WA reported that they were employed part-time. Over six in ten (64.1%) respondents from WA indicated that they were not in paid employment: nearly four in ten (37.7%) stated that they were looking for work, while over one in four (26.4%) were neither working nor looking for work. The proportion of young people in part-time employment in WA in 2019 is marginally lower compared to 2018 findings (35.2% compared with 36.2% respectively).

### Gender differences

Similar proportions of male and female respondents from WA reported full-time employment (0.7% and 0.3% respectively). A notably higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (42.2% compared with 29.3% of males). Conversely, a much greater proportion of male respondents were neither working nor looking for work (32.0% compared with 19.8% of females).

Table 10.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
Employed full-time	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7
Employed part-time	43.0	35.2	42.2	29.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.4	37.7	37.7	38.0
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	21.8	26.4	19.8	32.0

Note: Part-time employment is considered to be less than 35 hours per week, while full-time employment is considered to be 35 hours or more.

## What do young people value?

Young people were asked how important a number of items had been in their lives over the past year. Responses for these items were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 10.4, the items were ranked in order of importance according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

The three most highly valued items for respondents from WA were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most highly valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- Around eight in ten respondents from WA reported that *family relationships* (80.4%) and *friendships (other than family)* (79.9%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.
- Nearly seven in ten (68.1%) respondents placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 27.6%; *very important*: 40.5%).
- Nearly two thirds of WA respondents indicated that *physical health* (65.1%) and *mental health* (64.2%) were *extremely* or *very important* to them.

Figure 10.4: What young people value



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

### Gender differences

*Family relationships* and *friendships (other than family)* were rated as the two most important items by both females and males from WA, as shown in Table 10.4. The third top item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, while for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who placed a high value upon these and most of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- Notably higher proportions of females placed a high value upon *mental health* (70.3% compared with 59.7% of males), *getting a job* (52.0% compared with 41.5%), *school or study satisfaction* (73.6% compared with 65.1%) and *financial security* (60.0% compared with 52.7%).
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males from WA reported *physical health* was *extremely* or *very important* to them (68.7% compared with 62.6% of females).

Table 10.4: What young people value by gender

<b>Females</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>	11.2	4.3	1.4
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	13.8	3.3	1.5
<b>School or study satisfaction</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	20.5	4.3	1.6
Physical health	28.1	34.5	26.1	7.8	3.5
Mental health	38.9	31.4	18.2	7.5	4.0
Financial security	21.5	38.5	29.0	6.4	4.6
Getting a job	20.2	31.8	26.3	12.8	8.9
Culture	10.1	17.6	30.8	20.8	20.7
<b>Males</b>	<b>Extremely important %</b>	<b>Very important %</b>	<b>Somewhat important %</b>	<b>Slightly important %</b>	<b>Not at all important %</b>
<b>Family relationships</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>38.9</b>	13.1	3.6	3.2
<b>Friendships (other than family)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>43.2</b>	14.0	4.0	2.3
School or study satisfaction	23.0	42.1	23.8	6.9	4.2
<b>Physical health</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>40.2</b>	19.1	6.6	5.6
Mental health	28.3	31.4	22.7	10.0	7.7
Financial security	17.8	34.9	29.8	9.2	8.4
Getting a job	17.0	24.5	24.9	18.3	15.4
Culture	6.7	16.7	32.1	20.0	24.5

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

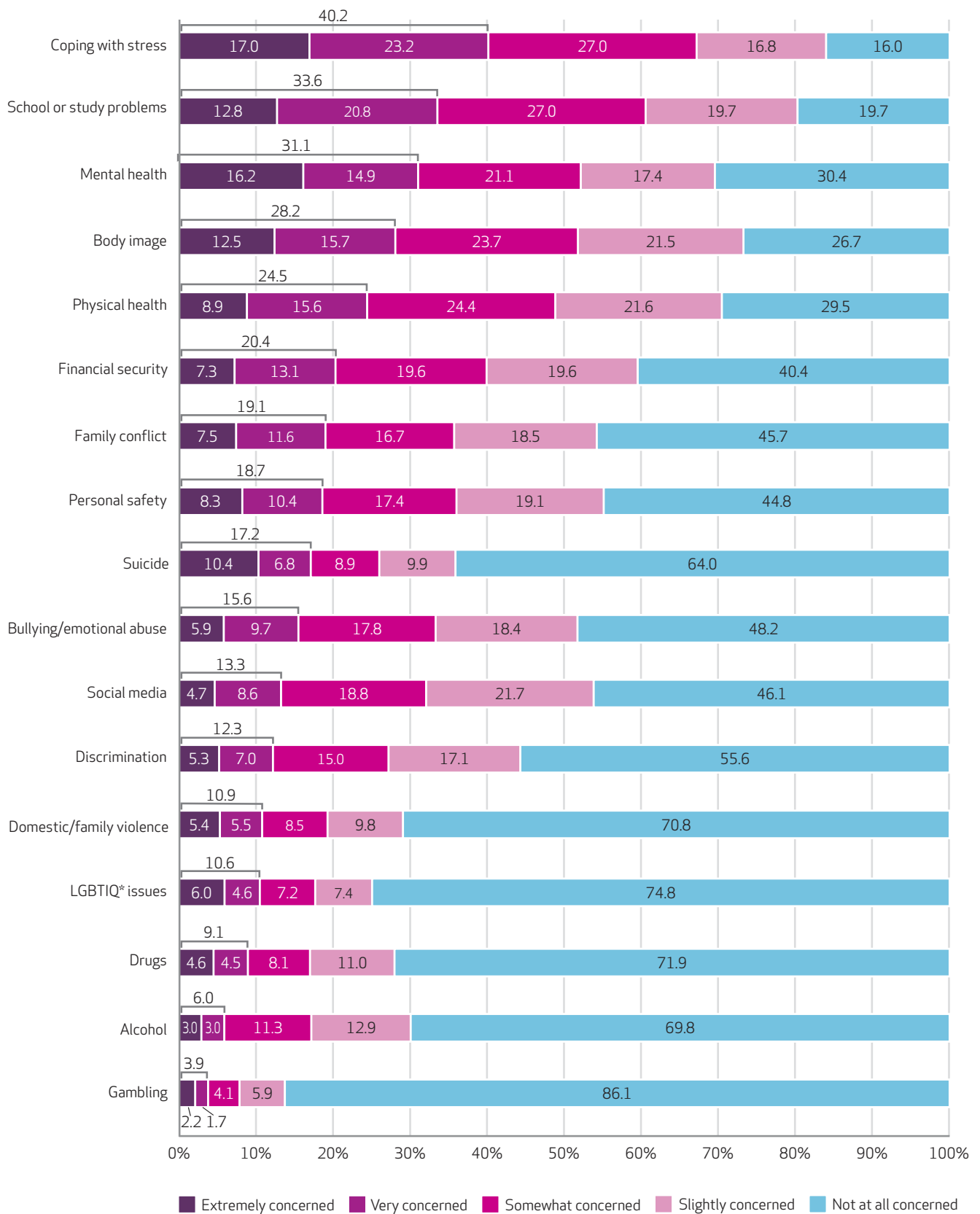
## What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Young people were asked to indicate how concerned they were about a number of issues over the past year, as shown in Figure 10.5. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of personal concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

The top three issues of personal concern for young people from WA were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. The next most personally concerning issues were *body image* and *physical health*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with four in ten (40.2%) respondents from WA indicating that they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major personal concern for one in three (33.6%) young people from WA, while around three in ten WA respondents were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *mental health* (31.1%) and *body image* (28.2%).
- Close to one quarter (24.5%) of respondents from WA were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *physical health*.

Figure 10.5: Issues of personal concern to young people



Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.



## Gender differences

*Coping with stress* and *school or study problems* were the top two issues of personal concern for both females and males from WA, as shown in Table 10.5. The third most concerning personal issue for females was *body image*, while for males it was *mental health*. The proportion of female respondents who were concerned about these issues (and the majority of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- Around double the proportions of females from WA reported they were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* (57.2% compared with 24.7% of males) and *mental health* (41.8% compared with 20.9%).
- *Body image* was a major issue of concern for more than four in ten (42.7%) females from WA, compared with one in seven (14.3%) males.
- Much higher proportions of females were *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (43.8% compared with 24.6% of males), *financial security* (27.2% compared with 13.5%), *family conflict* (26.0% compared with 12.4%) and *social media* (18.2% compared with 8.8%).

Table 10.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>31.2</b>	26.4	9.9	6.5
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>25.5</b>	28.4	16.8	11.0
Mental health	23.7	18.1	23.7	14.9	19.6
<b>Body image</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>22.9</b>	26.4	17.8	13.0
Physical health	10.7	18.4	26.2	22.8	21.9
Financial security	9.5	17.7	23.2	20.2	29.4
Family conflict	10.6	15.4	20.8	20.4	32.8
Personal safety	10.4	13.8	18.9	19.5	37.4
Suicide	13.1	8.2	11.4	10.6	56.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.6	13.3	21.1	18.7	39.2
Social media	6.5	11.6	22.4	22.2	37.2
Discrimination	6.5	9.7	17.7	17.7	48.4
Domestic/family violence	7.1	6.7	9.3	11.7	65.1
LGBTIQ* issues	6.1	7.0	10.0	9.1	67.8
Drugs	4.1	4.9	10.1	12.2	68.8
Alcohol	2.0	3.3	13.6	13.9	67.2
Gambling	1.5	1.6	3.5	4.6	88.8

Table 10.5: Issues of personal concern to young people by gender (continued)

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>16.5</b>	28.1	23.3	23.9
<b>School or study problems</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>17.3</b>	26.1	22.7	26.6
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>12.4</b>	19.4	20.1	39.6
Body image	5.2	9.1	21.8	25.1	38.7
Physical health	6.6	13.7	23.0	21.0	35.7
Financial security	4.8	8.7	17.2	19.4	50.0
Family conflict	3.9	8.5	13.0	17.1	57.5
Personal safety	5.5	7.4	15.8	19.5	51.7
Suicide	6.8	5.7	6.5	9.6	71.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.4	6.7	14.7	18.8	56.5
Social media	2.4	6.4	15.6	21.7	53.9
Discrimination	3.2	4.3	12.5	17.0	62.9
Domestic/family violence	2.9	4.5	7.7	7.9	77.0
LGBTIQ* issues	4.1	2.4	4.9	5.9	82.7
Drugs	4.3	4.3	6.4	9.8	75.2
Alcohol	3.3	2.7	9.6	12.5	72.0
Gambling	1.9	1.8	4.6	7.1	84.6

Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

## Have young people experienced bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had experienced bullying over the past twelve months. Over one in five (22.0%) young people from WA reported that they had experienced bullying in the past twelve months. A greater proportion of females than males reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year (24.0% compared with 18.9% respectively).

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where the bullying took place. Table 10.6 shows that, of the 22.0% of respondents from WA who had experienced bullying in the past year, eight in ten (80.9%) reported that the bullying took place *at school/TAFE/university*. One in three (33.1%) indicated they had experienced bullying *online/on social media*, while one in five (20.9%) stated they had experienced bullying *at home*. Around one in ten young people who had experienced bullying reported that they experienced this *at work* (9.6%) or *in my neighbourhood* (8.8%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had been bullied, as shown in Table 10.6. Of the 22.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Over eight in ten male (82.6%) and female (82.1%) respondents from WA had experienced bullying *at school/TAFE/university*.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had been bullied *online/on social media* (36.8% compared with 27.4% of males).
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males from WA reported that they had experienced bullying *in my neighbourhood* (10.0% compared with 6.3% of females).

Table 10.6: Locations of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>82.6</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>27.4</b>
<b>At home</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>
At work	8.6	9.6	10.9	7.3
In my neighbourhood	6.5	8.8	6.3	10.0
Other	7.9	8.8	6.3	8.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were also asked to identify the kind/s of bullying that they had experienced from a list of suggested items. Of the 22.0% of respondents from WA who had experienced bullying in the past year, Table 10.7 shows that nearly three quarters (72.8%) reported that they experienced *verbal bullying* (e.g. name calling, teasing). Six in ten (59.6%) indicated they had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), while over one in three (35.4%) reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments). Nearly one quarter (24.1%) had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching).

## Gender differences

Although the three most frequently reported kinds of bullying for both females and males were *verbal*, *social* and *cyberbullying*, there were considerable differences in the results, as shown in Table 10.7. Of the 22.0% of young people who had experienced bullying in the past year:

- Two thirds (66.9%) of female respondents from WA had experienced *social bullying* (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded), compared with just over half (52.1%) of males.
- A higher proportion of females from WA also reported they had experienced *cyberbullying* (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments) (37.4% compared with 30.9% of males).
- Conversely, a notably higher proportion of males from WA reported that they had experienced *physical bullying* (e.g. hitting, punching) over the past year (29.7% compared with 18.2% of females).

Table 10.7: Kinds of bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
<b>Verbal bullying (e.g. name calling, teasing)</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>74.5</b>
<b>Social bullying (e.g. rumours, being embarrassed or excluded)</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>52.1</b>
<b>Cyberbullying (e.g. hurtful messages, pictures or comments)</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>
Physical bullying (e.g. hitting, punching)	21.6	24.1	18.2	29.7
Other	5.6	7.1	5.6	5.4

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## What helped young people to deal with their experience of bullying?

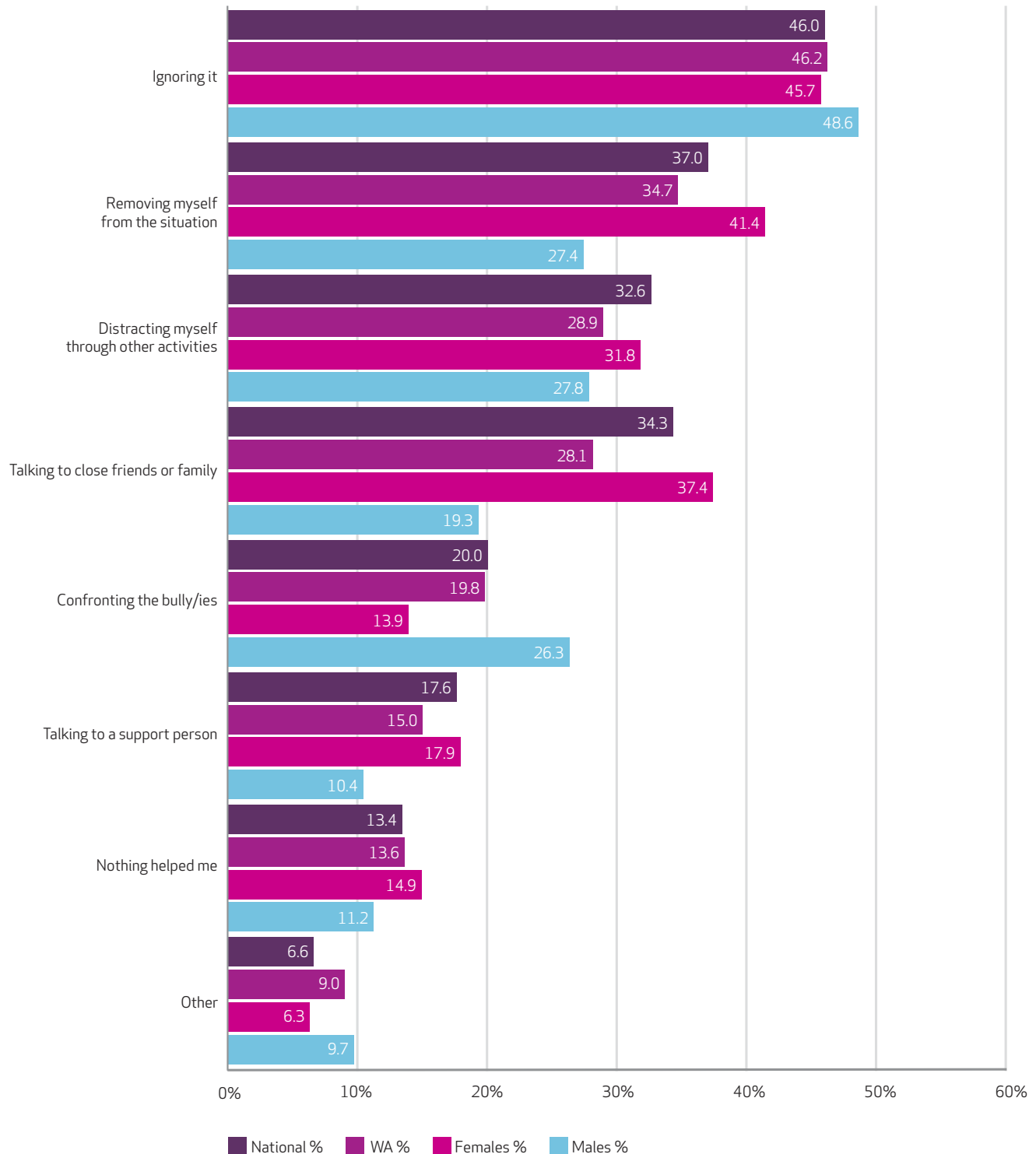
Young people who reported that they had experienced bullying over the past year were then asked about what helped them to deal with their bullying experience from a list of suggested items, as shown in Figure 10.6. For the 22.0% of respondents from WA who had been bullied in the past year, the top three methods that helped them deal with bullying were *ignoring it* (46.2%), *removing myself from the situation* (34.7%) and *distracting myself through other activities* (28.9%). Around three in ten young people from WA indicated they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (28.1%), while one in five (19.8%) reported *confronting the bully/ies* was helpful in dealing with their experience of bullying. Just under one in seven (13.6%) respondents from WA stated that *nothing helped me* to deal with bullying.

## Gender differences

There were notable differences between what helped female and male respondents from WA to deal with their experience of bullying, as shown in Figure 10.6. For females, the three most frequently reported approaches that helped them to deal with their experience of bullying were *ignoring it* (45.7%), *removing myself from the situation* (41.4%) and *talking to close friends or family* (37.4%). Conversely, males reported that they dealt with bullying by *ignoring it* (48.6%), followed by *distracting myself through other activities* (27.8%) and *removing myself from the situation* (27.4%).

- Notably higher proportions of females indicated that they dealt with bullying by *talking to close friends or family* (37.4% compared with 19.3% of males), by *removing myself from the situation* (41.4% compared with 27.4%), or by *talking to a support person* (17.9% compared with 10.4%).
- Nearly twice the proportion of males from WA reported that *confronting the bully/ies* helped them to deal with bullying (26.3% compared with 13.9% of females).

Figure 10.6: Strategies that helped young people most to deal with bullying



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## Have young people witnessed bullying?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they had witnessed bullying over the past twelve months. Just over half (51.4%) of young people from WA reported that they had witnessed bullying in the past twelve months. A greater proportion of females than males reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year (55.7% compared with 47.4% respectively).

Young people from WA who reported that they had witnessed bullying over the past year were then asked to identify from a list of suggested locations where they witnessed the bullying take place. Table 10.8 shows that, of the 51.4% of respondents from WA who had witnessed bullying in the past year, over eight in ten (83.8%) reported that they witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university*. More than four in ten (42.5%) indicated they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media*, while just under one in ten stated they had witnessed bullying *at home* (8.5%) or *in my neighbourhood* (8.1%). A smaller proportion of young people who had seen bullying reported that they witnessed this *at work* (6.4%).

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses to the question regarding where they had witnessed bullying take place, as shown in Table 10.8.

- More than eight in ten male (85.4%) and female respondents (84.5%) from WA had witnessed bullying *at school/TAFE/university* over the past year.
- A notably higher proportion of females reported they had seen bullying take place *online/on social media* (50.4% compared with 33.4% of males).
- A slightly higher proportion of females from WA reported that they had witnessed bullying *at work* (7.6% compared with 4.2% of males).

Table 10.8: Locations of witnessing bullying in the past twelve months

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
<b>At school/TAFE/university</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>85.4</b>
<b>Online/on social media</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>33.4</b>
<b>At home</b>	7.2	<b>8.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	6.5
In my neighbourhood	7.3	8.1	6.2	<b>8.9</b>
At work	<b>7.4</b>	6.4	7.6	4.2
Other	4.7	5.9	4.3	6.1

Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## Where do young people go to for help with important issues?

Respondents were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. Figure 10.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

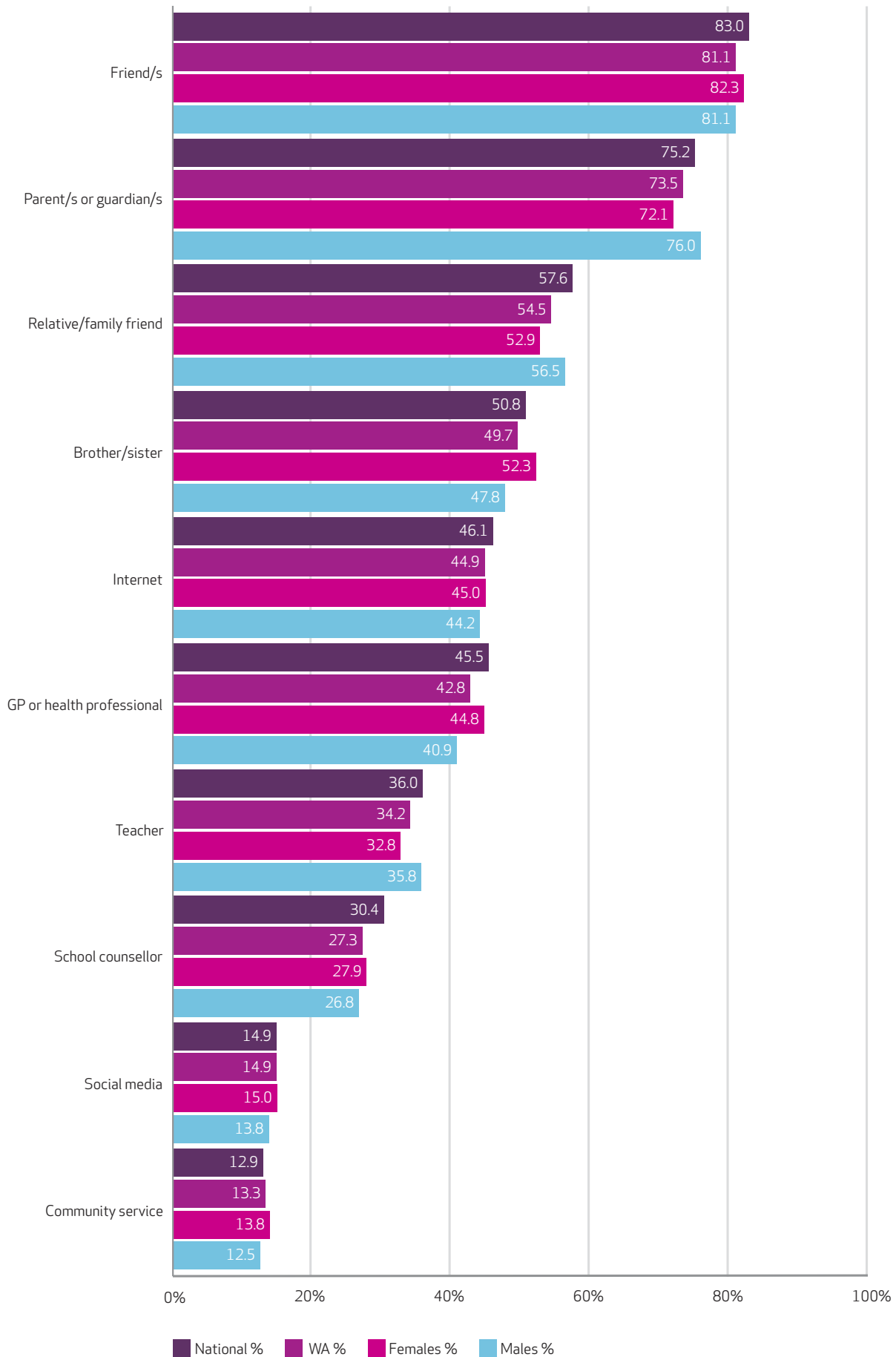
*Friend/s* (81.1%), *parent/s or guardian/s* (73.5%) and *relative/family friend* (54.5%) were the three most frequently cited sources of help for young people from WA. Half (49.7%) of young people indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for support with important issues in their lives. More than four in ten young people from WA would turn to the *internet* (44.9%) or a *GP or health professional* (42.8%) as a source of help with important issues.

### Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.7, the top three sources of help for both genders were consistent with the WA results.

- Slightly higher proportions of females from WA indicated that they would turn to their *brother/sister* (52.3% compared with 47.8% of males) or a *GP or health professional* (44.8% compared with 40.9%) for help with important issues.
- Conversely, slightly higher proportions of males would turn to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (76.0% compared with 72.1% of females) or a *relative/family friend* (56.5% compared with 52.9%) for support with important issues in their lives.

Figure 10.7: Where young people go for help with important issues



Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## What issues do young people think are the most important in Australia today?

Young people were asked to list the three issues they considered were the most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 10.9. In 2019, the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *mental health*, *the environment* and *equity and discrimination*.

- Over one in three (34.5%) young people from WA indicated that *mental health* is an important issue in Australia today, while over three in ten (31.4%) cited *the environment*.
- Around one quarter of respondents from WA reported that *equity and discrimination* (27.1%) and *alcohol and drugs* (25.2%) are important national issues.
- Since 2018, the proportion of those from WA reporting *the environment* as a key national issue has more than quadrupled from 7.5% to 31.4%. Conversely, concerns about *alcohol and drugs* and *mental health* have decreased since 2018.

### Gender differences

In line with WA results, *mental health* and *the environment* were the top two most important issues for both females and males from WA. *Equity and discrimination* was the third most important issue for females, whereas for males it was *alcohol and drugs*.

- Notably higher proportions of female respondents from WA identified *mental health* (40.1% compared with 30.3% of males) and *the environment* (36.8% compared with 27.5%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, higher proportions of males from WA regarded *politics* (15.9% compared with 8.7% of females) and *the economy and financial matters* (17.7% compared with 13.4%) as key issues in Australia.

Table 10.9: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2019 %	WA 2019 %	Females %	Males %	WA 2018 %	WA 2017 %
<b>Mental health</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>34.4</b>
<b>The environment</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>27.5</b>	7.5	9.3
<b>Equity and discrimination</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>30.3</b>	24.4	<b>22.2</b>	<b>29.2</b>
Alcohol and drugs	20.8	25.2	23.4	<b>26.5</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>37.9</b>
The economy and financial matters	14.5	15.4	13.4	17.7	12.0	13.1
Politics	10.9	12.5	8.7	15.9	5.0	6.9
Bullying	11.8	12.1	13.2	11.4	18.2	11.7
Education	9.1	10.1	9.4	10.4	9.5	13.9
Employment	7.6	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.3	13.6
Crime, safety and violence	12.2	8.4	9.3	7.7	11.9	8.3

Note: Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

## Do young people feel they have enough of a say on important issues?

For the first time in 2019, young people were asked whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues. Responses to this question were rated on a 3-point scale that ranged from *all of the time* to *none of the time*. Table 10.10 shows that over four in ten young people from WA felt they have a say *all of the time* when *with my friends* (43.8%) and *with my family* (41.9%). One in seven (14.2%) young people felt they have a say *all of the time* when *at school/TAFE/university*, while less than one in twelve (7.9%) young people from WA felt they have a say *all of the time* in *public affairs*.

The results highlight that *in public affairs*, more than half (52.2%) of young people from WA felt they have a say *none of the time*. Just over three in ten (31.6%) young people also felt they have a say *none of the time* while *at school/TAFE/university*.

Table 10.10: Young people's voice on important issues

	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	41.9	47.0	11.1
With my friends	43.8	47.7	8.6
At school/TAFE/university	14.2	54.1	31.6
In public affairs	7.9	39.9	52.2

### Gender differences

There were some differences in female and male responses about whether they felt they have enough of a say about important issues, as shown in Table 10.11.

- Higher proportions of males from WA indicated they felt they have a say *all of the time* while with my family (46.0% compared with 38.1% of females) and with my friends (45.0% compared with 42.7%).
- More than twice the proportion of males from WA reported feeling they have a say *all of the time* in public affairs (10.4% compared with 4.7% of females).
- A much higher proportion of females felt they have a say *none of the time* in public affairs (57.3% compared with 47.5% of males).

Table 10.11: Young people's voice on important issues by gender

Females	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	38.1	51.4	10.5
With my friends	42.7	50.1	7.2
At school/TAFE/university	11.4	57.6	30.9
In public affairs	4.7	38.0	57.3
Males	All of the time %	Some of the time %	None of the time %
With my family	46.0	43.9	10.1
With my friends	45.0	46.3	8.7
At school/TAFE/university	16.9	51.9	31.2
In public affairs	10.4	42.1	47.5

### What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they had been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 10.12.

The top three activities for young people from WA were *sports (as a participant)* (69.2%), *sports (as a spectator)* (59.5%) and *volunteer work* (46.6%). Over four in ten (43.3%) respondents reported that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year. Over one in three (35.6%) young people from WA indicated that they had taken part in *student leadership activities*, while three in ten (30.2%) had been involved in *youth groups/activities*.

### Gender differences

In line with WA results, *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)* were the top two activities for both females and males. The third top activity for females from WA was *arts/cultural/music activities*, while for males it was *volunteer work*.

- A notably higher proportion of female respondents from WA reported taking part in *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year (50.3% compared with 37.3% of males).
- Conversely, much higher proportions of males participated in *sports (as a participant)* (78.8% compared with 59.8% of females) and *sports (as a spectator)* (66.7% compared with 52.4%) in the past year.



Table 10.12: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

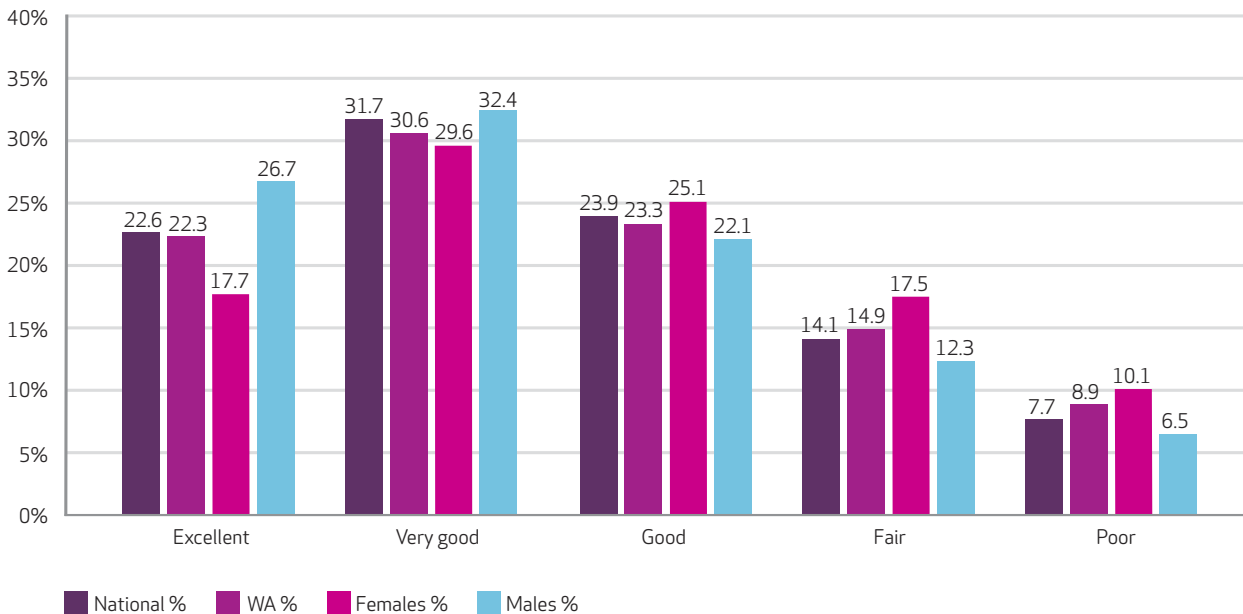
	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
<b>Sports (as a participant)</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>78.8</b>
<b>Sports (as a spectator)</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>66.7</b>
<b>Volunteer work</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>46.6</b>	48.4	<b>45.1</b>
Arts/cultural/music activities	42.5	43.3	<b>50.3</b>	37.3
Student leadership activities	32.9	35.6	34.0	37.1
Youth groups/activities	29.8	30.2	34.0	26.2
Religious groups/activities	23.7	21.6	25.0	18.0
Environmental groups	13.6	14.1	14.3	13.3
Political groups/organisations	7.3	6.4	7.2	4.8

Note: Items are listed in order of WA frequency.

### How do young people rate their family’s ability to get along?

Respondents were asked to rate their family’s ability to get along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 10.8 shows that the majority of respondents from WA rated their family’s ability to get along very positively: 22.3% rated it as *excellent* and 30.6% rated it as *very good*. However, nearly one quarter (23.8%) of young people from WA indicated their family’s ability to get along was either *fair* (14.9%) or *poor* (8.9%). A much higher proportion of male respondents rated their family’s ability to get along as *excellent* or *very good* (59.1% compared with 47.3% of females), while a notably higher proportion of females rated their family’s ability to get along as *fair* or *poor* (27.6% compared with 18.8% of males).

Figure 10.8: Family’s ability to get along with one another



### How happy are young people?

Young people were asked to rate how happy they were with their life as a whole on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates that they felt *very sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. Responses were standardised on a scale of 0 to 100, in which 100 is the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: the 70-100 range denotes *happy/very happy*; 40-60 signifies *not happy or sad*; and 0-30 indicates *very sad/sad*. As Table 10.13 shows, the majority of young people (59.3%) responded in the 70-100 range, which indicates that most young people from WA felt happy overall with their lives. A much higher proportion of males from WA reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (67.0% compared with 52.4% of females).

Table 10.13: How happy young people are

	National %	WA %	Females %	Males %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	60.7	59.3	52.4	67.0
Not happy or sad (40-60)	28.2	28.6	32.9	24.9
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	11.1	12.1	14.7	8.1

### How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked to describe their feelings when they thought about the future. Responses were rated on a 5-point scale that ranged from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 10.14 shows that the majority of young people from WA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Nearly six in ten (56.2%) respondents from WA felt *very positive* (13.0%) or *positive* (43.2%) about the future.
- One in seven (14.5%) young people indicated they felt *negative* (9.8%) or *very negative* (4.7%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males from WA reported feeling *very positive* or *positive* about the future (61.8% compared with 51.5% of females).

Table 10.14: Feelings about the future

	National 2019 %	WA 2019 %	Females %	Males %	WA 2018 %	WA 2017 %
Very positive	13.3	13.0	10.1	16.2	11.6	13.5
Positive	45.0	43.2	41.4	45.6	45.8	44.3
Neither positive nor negative	29.5	29.2	32.7	26.1	30.9	30.0
Negative	8.8	9.8	11.9	7.9	7.9	8.2
Very negative	3.4	4.7	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.9

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- Aboriginal Literacy Foundation
- Access for All Abilities (AAA VIC)
- ACOSS
- Alannah & Madeline Foundation (Keeping Children Safe from Violence)
- batyr
- Boroondara City Council Youth Services (VIC)
- Break O'Day Council (TAS)
- Brisbane City Council (QLD)
- Byron Shire Council (NSW)
- CanTeen Australia
- Cardinia Shire Council (VIC)
- Carers NSW
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Central Highlands Regional Council (QLD)
- Cessnock City Council (NSW)
- CheckUP (QLD)
- City of Ballarat (VIC)
- City of Belmont (WA)
- City of Darebin (VIC)
- City of Fremantle (WA)
- City of Gosnells (WA)
- City of Greater Dandenong (VIC)
- City of Greater Geelong (VIC)
- City of Joondalup (WA)
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (WA)
- City of Kwinana (WA)
- City of Launceston (TAS)
- City of Newcastle (NSW)
- City of Onkaparinga (SA)
- City of Palmerston (NT)
- City of Playford (SA)
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield (SA)
- City of Port Lincoln (SA)
- City of Prospect (SA)
- City of Rockingham (WA)
- City of Salisbury (SA)
- City of Wanneroo (WA)
- Colac Area Health (VIC)
- Corangamite Shire (VIC)
- Cumberland Council (NSW)
- Disability Sport & Recreation
- District Council of Grant (SA)
- District Council of Mount Remarkable (SA)
- District Council of Tumby Bay (SA)
- Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services (VIC)
- EDFutures – Fogarty Foundation
- EQIP Gladstone (QLD)
- Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW
- Forbes Shire Council (NSW)
- Fraser Coast Regional Council (QLD)
- Geographical Association of Western Australia
- Gippsland PHN (VIC)
- Gladstone Regional Council (QLD)
- Hawkesbury City Council (NSW)
- headspace
- headspace Hawthorn (VIC)
- Hepburn Shire Council (VIC)
- Hillsong Australia Youth
- History Teacher's Association of Victoria
- Hume City Council (VIC)
- Jewish Care (VIC)
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council (QLD)
- Mackay Regional Council (QLD)
- Maribyrnong City Council - Phoenix Youth Club (VIC)
- Monash Youth Services (VIC)
- Mount Alexander Shire Council (VIC)
- New South Wales Secondary Principals' Council
- Ningi Ventures (WA)
- Noosa District Council (QLD)
- Northern Midlands Council (QLD)
- Open Doors Youth Service (QLD)
- Port Stephens Council (NSW)
- QATSIF (QLD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation)
- Randwick City Council (NSW)
- Sharehouse Youth Programs (QLD)
- Shire of Capel (WA)
- Shire of Dundas (WA)
- Shire of Mundaring (WA)
- Shire of Murray (WA)
- Shire of Waroona (WA)
- SNAICC
- Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment Program (NSW)
- Special Education Principals' and Leaders' Association
- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Awards Australia
- The Family Centre (NSW)
- Town of East Fremantle (WA)
- Town of Gawler (SA)
- Tumby Bay YAC (SA)
- Uniting SA
- Valley Voice (TAS)
- Volunteering Australia
- WACOSS
- Wagga Wagga City Council (NSW)
- Wellington Shire Council (VIC)
- White Ribbon
- Wirrpanda Foundation (WA)
- Wombat Housing and Support Services (VIC)
- Woollahra Municipal Council (NSW)
- Wyndham City Council (VIC)
- Yilli Housing (NT)
- YMCA Tasmania
- Youth Employment Innovation Challenge (NSW)
- YWCA Australia

## Who is Mission Australia?

Mission Australia is a non-denominational Christian community service organisation, with more than 155 years of experience in standing together with Australians in need on their journey to independence.

Our evidence-based, client-centred services are focused on reducing homelessness and strengthening communities across Australia. Our services are tailored to the needs and preferences of the clients and communities we serve. Our programs range from early intervention to intensive wrap-around services. They include services targeting homelessness; providing integrated family support; parenting programs; early childhood education; mental health services; residential drug and alcohol programs; youth programs; access to safe and secure housing; and programs to build capacity, resilience and opportunity for local communities.

We work in partnership with others to achieve our goal. This includes communities, supporters, government, businesses and other organisations. We measure our impact, collecting evidence of what works to inform our service design and delivery, and to advocate for change.


We stand together with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves.


## Thank you


This publication would not have been possible without the 25,126 young people who completed Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2019*. We extend special thanks to them, the staff of Mission Australia, and the many schools and other organisations who supported their involvement..

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