

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**

**youth survey
report 2018**



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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

A sincere thanks to the 28,000 young people who took the time to complete this year's *Youth Survey*. We are delighted that every year, the number of respondents grows, and we are grateful also to the schools, parents and our sector colleagues who supported young people to complete the survey.

The *Youth Survey* provides rich insights into young people's hopes, aspirations and concerns and is widely used as an authoritative source of information across governments, NGOs and social commentators to inform the debate around the circumstances of young people in Australia. It is therefore pleasing to see so many young people reporting a positive and optimistic outlook on their lives and their futures. Many showed confidence in achieving their study and work goals, were positive about family relationships and showed strong engagement with their communities through a range of activities.

Yet, the results also shine a light onto the challenges faced by young people. In particular, young people expressed concern about finding work and moving out of home. Nearly four in ten young people surveyed identified that they felt there were barriers to them finding work; with housing costs, financial stability and availability of housing reported as the top three barriers to moving out home.

We have also seen mental health concerns increasingly being raised by Australia's young people. Mental health is the number one issue of national concern in this year's *Youth Survey*. Over the past three years, we have seen the proportion of young people identifying mental health as an issue of national importance double, rising from 21% in 2016 to 43% in 2018.

In addition, the top four issues of personal concern also have strong links to mental health: coping with stress, school or study problems, mental health and body image.

While the increased identification of mental health as a personal and national concern is worrying – it is important to consider these findings in the broader context. We must acknowledge the positive effort both nationally and internationally that has raised public awareness and, in part, reduced the stigma of mental health issues. We should acknowledge the effectiveness of these efforts in the increased identification of mental health as a personal and national concern in the *Youth Survey*.

Yet, we do need to ensure that self-awareness is matched with adequate access to the right help when needed. Whatever a young person's background or circumstances, we know that access to appropriate and timely support can make a real difference in their lives.

Unfortunately, we also know that help is not always there when needed. The service system is difficult to navigate. At best the support offered is patchy, especially outside of metro areas, and often not tailored to the needs of young people and their help-seeking preferences. This has to be tackled as a priority.

Moreover, we want to see investment in programs that promote mental health and wellbeing in the early years and holistic supports for young people that meet a range of needs during adolescence, including assistance with school or study problems.

Pleasingly, the current generation of young people seem to be very aware of mental health issues and are asking for change. It is our duty to support them as they transition from adolescence to adulthood and to provide them with the services they need to do so.

While the survey shows us some areas of concern, it also reveals that the majority of young are engaged, motivated and have aspirations for their futures. They tell us that generally they are confident, have positive relationships and participate in a wide range of activities.

These are our future leaders and I am confident that if we provide them with the right supports now then we have a very positive future.

James Toomey
CEO, Mission Australia



Executive summary

Demographic profile of respondents

A total of 28,286 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*. The largest number of responses came from New South Wales (29.0%), Queensland (20.4%) and Victoria (18.1%). Over half of the respondents (55.0%) were female, and just over one in seven (15.0%) respondents were born overseas. Nearly one in five (19.4%) young people spoke a language other than English at home. The level of reported disability in 2018 was 6.0%; slightly higher than in 2017 (4.8%). The vast majority of respondents were studying full-time (94.0%), which is consistent with the result of 94.9% in 2017. Around four in ten (42.1%) respondents were working part-time and over one third (34.7%) indicated that they were looking for work, which is again consistent with previous years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

1,594 (5.8%) respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018* identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,277 (4.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 173 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). Just under half (48.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were male and 45.7% were female, while 16.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had a disability. In total, 3.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported speaking an Indigenous language at home.

The majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they were studying full-time (83.3%), intended to complete year 12 (90.0%), and indicated that they were either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (56.8%). Around four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported plans to *go to university* (42.6%) or to *get a job* (39.2%) 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, 96.3% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Over twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (5.5% compared with 2.1% respectively).

When asked what they were planning to do after school, *going to university* was the most frequent option chosen by young people (66.7%). Many respondents planned to *get a job* (34.4%) and to *travel or go on a gap year* (28.8%) after school, while 13.9% planned to *go to TAFE or college* and 8.9% planned to *get an apprenticeship*. While a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they planned to *go to university* after

school (72.9% compared with 59.2%), over four times the proportion of males indicated that they were intending to *get an apprenticeship* (15.6% compared with 3.7% 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 of respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals, with 10.8% indicating that they were *extremely confident* and 38.2% indicating that they were *very confident*. However, close to one in ten young people were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.2% reported feeling *slightly confident* and 2.6% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (13.5% and 41.7% compared with 8.3% and 36.0%).

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which may be impacting upon them finding work. Nearly four in ten (38.8%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers to finding work, with a greater proportion of females (42.8%) than males (32.9%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were then asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Nationally, the top three barriers young people considered to be impacting upon them finding work were *school responsibilities*, *lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* (20.0%, 14.5% and 12.2% respectively). Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw *transport* and *job requirements* as barriers to them finding work (11.7% and 9.6% respectively). A greater proportion of females than males indicated almost all of the items were barriers to them finding work.

Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, seven in ten (70.1%) indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. *rent*, *utilities*) would be a future barrier to moving out of home. Over six in ten reported *financial stability* (62.8%) as a potential barrier, while four in ten cited *availability of housing* (41.7%) as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future.

While the gender results were generally consistent with national results, greater proportions of females than males reported *housing costs* (e.g. *rent*, *utilities*) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (76.5% and 68.6% compared

with 62.9% and 56.1%). Twice the proportion of females also reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future (28.3% compared with 14.2% for males).

What young people value

Young people were asked how much they valued *family relationships, financial security, friendships (other than family), getting a job, physical health, mental health and school or study satisfaction*. The responses were consistent with previous years: *family relationships, friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction* were again ranked as young people's three most highly valued items (83.7%, 81.8% and 71.8% respectively). Around seven in ten respondents also placed a high value upon *mental health and physical health* (70.4% and 69.1% 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 two concerns were consistent with previous years: *coping with stress* and *school or study problems*. *Mental health* was listed as an item for the first time in 2018 and was ranked the third highest rated issue of personal concern for young people. Over four in ten respondents indicated that they were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *coping with stress* (43.1%). One third of young people were either *extremely* or *very concerned* about *school or study problems* (33.8%), while around three in ten were concerned about *mental health* (30.9%) and *body image* (30.4%). The proportion of females concerned about many of these issues was much higher than the proportion 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. The top three sources of help for young people were *friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* (84.5%, 76.1% and 60.1% respectively). Around half of respondents indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (53.8%), their *brother/sister* (53.3%) or the *internet* (49.4%) for help with important issues, while around four in ten indicated that they would go to their *teacher* for support (37.7%). A greater proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to their *friend/s* for help with important issues (86.6% compared with 82.8%), while slightly higher proportions of males would turn to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (78.1% compared with 75.6%).

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. Nearly one third of young people used the internet to source *information about specific issues* (31.0%). Close to one in five young people used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (19.0%) or for *personal stories or testimonies* (19.0%), while one in six had used the internet to

chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience (16.5%) and for *information about available services* (16.5%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Young people were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. The majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 28.8% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.3% reported that it was *very good*. Around 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* (11.5%) or *poor* (6.5%).

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. The top three issues identified in 2018 were *mental health* (43.0%), *alcohol and drugs* (28.7%) and *equity and discrimination* (23.4%). Between 2016 and 2018, the proportion of those indicating *mental health* as an important national issue has more than doubled: from 20.6% in 2016 to 43.0% this year. Since 2016, *bullying* has also been increasingly identified as a key issue facing the nation, while concerns about *population issues* have decreased.

A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (49.2% compared with 35.9%) and *equity and discrimination* (25.0% compared with 21.2%) as important issues facing Australia today. Conversely, a greater proportion of male than female respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* (32.2% compared with 26.4%) as an important issue.

Activities that young people are involved in

As in previous years, the top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)* (63.2%), *sports (as a spectator)* (40.6%) and *volunteer work* (36.8%). Males were more likely to report participating in *sports (as a participant)* and *sports (as a spectator)*, while females were more likely to have participated in *volunteer work* and *arts/cultural/music activities* over the past year.

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 (62.3%) indicated that they felt *happy/very happy* with their lives overall. Responses were similar for both males and females, although a greater proportion of males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole than females (67.8% compared with 59.1%).

Young people were also asked to rate how positive they felt about the future. Results in 2018 are similar to those from previous years, with over six in ten (62.2%) respondents feeling either *very positive* or *positive* about the future. Over one quarter (27.9%) of young people felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future, while one in ten (9.9%) young people felt either *very negative* or *negative* about the future.

Mission Australia 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 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.

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 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.

About the survey

Survey background

In 2018, Mission Australia conducted its 17th annual survey of young people. As in previous years, the survey aimed to identify both the values and issues of concern to young people. A small number of amendments were made to the survey this year. Most notably, new questions were added to explore young people's perceptions surrounding any barriers which may impact on them finding work and moving out of home in the future, drug and alcohol issues, as well as questions around young people's use of the internet.

Participation

In 2018, 28,286 young Australians aged 15-19 years participated in the survey. Of these, 87.5% of respondents completed the survey online and 12.5% completed surveys on paper.

Areas of focus

As well as collecting valuable socio-demographic data, the *Youth Survey 2018* sought to capture the views and perspectives of young people on a broad range of issues. Topics covered by the survey this year included education and employment, barriers to employment, moving out of home, participation in community activities, general wellbeing, values and concerns, preferred sources of support, as well as feelings about the future.

Methodology

Following approval from State and Territory Education Departments, as well as Catholic Education Offices, information about Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018* and an electronic link to the online survey were distributed to all secondary school principals across Australia. Information was also distributed to Mission Australia services, networks of other service providers, Commonwealth, State/Territory and Local Government departments, youth organisations and other peak bodies.

For the first time in 2018, Mission Australia is ethically required to report de-identified information to participating schools for those young people whose responses to the Kessler 6 question indicate a probable serious mental illness. To enable this reporting, the method required the collection of date of birth information and, in QLD, the respondents' initials. This reporting was not a requirement in WA; as such, this information has not been collected.

Changes in 2018

As previously mentioned, some changes were made to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* this year. Details of these changes to the 2018 survey are outlined in the following:

- Respondents were asked whether they felt there were any barriers to finding work. If young people responded 'yes' to this question, they were prompted to indicate from a list of items which they saw as a barrier/s to finding work. The items included *discrimination, family responsibilities, job requirements, lack of family support, lack of information, lack of jobs, lack of skills/experience, mental health, physical health, school responsibilities, transport, where you live and other.*
- The following items were added to the personal concerns question this year: *social media, domestic and family violence, financial security, LGBTIQ issues, mental health and physical health.*
- In 2018, *mental health* and *physical health* were offered as separate items for the first time in the 'what do young people value' question.
- This year, an additional question was included that asked if, in the past year, the respondents had experienced any serious or stressful problems/issues, to which they could respond by ticking the statement that most applied to them from the following list: *I have had few or no problems; I have had some problems but I felt I could manage on my own; I have had some problems and I did get help; and I have had some problems but did not get help even though I thought I needed it.*
- An additional question was asked around the use of the internet for help with important issues in their lives and what type of online services/sources they have accessed. Respondents were able to give multiple responses from the following items: *online quiz or assessment tool, personal stories or testimonies, information about available services, information about specific issues, chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience, counselling with a professional, support group or forum, online course or program and other.*
- In 2018, the survey asked respondents to identify the top three barriers that may prevent young people, who are dealing with a serious or stressful problem/issue, from getting the help that they need. Respondents were able to make three free-text responses.
- Respondents were asked a range of questions to understand their concerns on drug and alcohol issues at their family/peer level, in their neighbourhood, and in Australia.
- Respondents were asked a number of questions to understand their feelings of safety in their community in relation to trust, how comfortable they feel about using public spaces and walking alone after dark.
- Respondents were asked to identify from a list the potential barriers that may impact upon them moving out of home in the future.

Please note that not all questions asked in the survey are presented in the current report. These questions will inform other research publications to be released throughout 2019.

This report

This report contains an executive summary, a national summary, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary and a chapter for each state and territory. In the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chapter, the responses of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are compared to those of non-Indigenous respondents.

Each of the chapters contains a breakdown of key data by gender and where appropriate, comparisons with previous years' data.

Please note that throughout the report, percentages in all tables, figures and text 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 or territories because of the small sample size and the imbalance between the number of females and males participating in the survey.

Policy context

Over 28,000 young people across Australia have shared their hopes and concerns in this year's *Youth Survey*.

Young people continue to report a positive and optimistic outlook in life. Just under two thirds of respondents feel happy and positive with their lives as a whole, as well as their future. Many young people reported confidence in achieving their study and work goals; reported cohesive family relationships; and showed strong engagement with their communities through a range of activities.

However, many young people face challenges as they transition out of school, such as finding educational opportunities, employment or housing. The successes or difficulties experienced during the transition from school to either education or training are linked to outcomes beyond education and employment, including health outcomes and lifetime earnings.¹

Young people nominated mental health as both a personal and national concern. The top two issues of personal concern for young people—coping with stress and school or study problems—are also closely linked with mental health.

Alongside mental health, young people continue to nominate alcohol and drugs and equity and discrimination in the top three issues facing Australia today.

Nearly four in ten respondents felt that they may face barriers while finding work, either during or after the completion of their studies. School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience and lack of jobs were the top three barriers to finding work cited by young people who reported the presence of barriers.

It is important that we have the right policies, programs and opportunities in place to give young people the confidence to pursue their post-school goals, to overcome any barriers they face to achieving them and to address their concerns.

Governments, educational institutions, health professionals, employers, families and community organisations all have a role in supporting young people to successfully transition into adulthood.

We need to ensure that all young people are healthy, safe and housed; feel included and connected within their communities; and have the necessary resources and supports to tackle the challenges they encounter in their lives.

In order to achieve these outcomes, we make the following recommendations to governments:

- Expand programs to support young people to re-engage with education;
- Invest in educational and practical resources to prepare young people for future work;

- Improve access to TAFE and apprenticeships for disadvantaged young people;
- Provide evidence-based universal mental health prevention and intervention programs in schools;
- Promote targeted public health messaging to reduce alcohol-related harm for all ages and invest in youth-specific alcohol and drug treatment programs and facilities;
- Provide early intervention programs for young people facing family conflict and mental health concerns in order to prevent homelessness;
- Increase Youth Allowance and rent assistance payments and boost investment in affordable and appropriate accommodation for young people;
- Build on the strengths of and address the challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people as a priority; and,
- Expand online and face-to-face services and resources for young people and their support networks including family and friends.

Developing and achieving

A high percentage of young people reported wanting to further their education, with two thirds (66.7%) of respondents planning to go to university and 13.9% of young people planning to go to TAFE or college. Young people see education as critical as it provides the foundation for their future and the achievement of their goals.²

Half of respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. Encouragingly, the proportion of young people feeling slightly or not at all confident in their ability to achieve their post-school goals has halved: from 19.1% in 2017 to 9.5% in 2018.

Educational disengagement

Most of the young people surveyed were still at school and, of those who were studying, 96.3% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Positively, the majority of respondents reported that they were either very satisfied (12.9%) or satisfied (55.8%) with their studies.

"I need to be more organised so I don't get so overwhelmed with stress and school and therefore don't reach the point where I lose motivation to care about doing well."

(F, 17, QLD)

However, 7.1% of those who were studying were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their studies, which may potentially result in future disengagement from education.

¹ Youth Action and Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service (WESTIR) 2018, 7

² Youth Action and Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service (WESTIR) 2018, 8–9. See also Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs 2008

At the same time, school or study satisfaction was highly valued by 71.8% of young people who responded to the *Youth Survey*.

Similar to the 2017 results, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who reported studying full-time was slightly smaller than their non-Indigenous peers (83.3% compared with 94.8% respectively). For those who were studying, the majority of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and non-Indigenous young people reported being either very satisfied or satisfied with their studies (56.8% compared with 71.7%).

It is encouraging to see low levels of dissatisfaction with studies. However, it is important to have programs in place for those who are at risk of disengaging or have disengaged from school to enable them to have a pathway into work or further study.

Flexible Learning Options

Flexible Learning Options (FLO) was implemented by the South Australian Government as a social inclusion initiative to help address poor school retention rates. The program provides casework support and flexible learning programs for students aged 13-19, young parents and young people with disabilities up to 25 years who have disengaged with mainstream schooling. FLO provides a flexible, safe and supportive learning space that helps to foster feelings of independence, security and tolerance amongst students.

An independent evaluation was completed in 2018 that clearly demonstrates that the Mission Australia FLO program has a significant and positive impact on the lives of students.³ In many instances FLO attendance was described by students as being personally transformative, potentially life-saving, and a significant driver of re-engagement and social inclusion. The evaluation showed that, as a result of attending the program and receiving casework support, the majority of FLO students are able to identify educational or job-related goals, as well as discover their ambitions and put strategies in place to achieve them.

“More career planning help at college. I don’t enjoy being at school but I want to gain qualifications. I have spoken to the college I go to and they can’t help and neither can TAFE.”

(M, 17, TAS)

Vocational and Education Training

There are significant barriers for disadvantaged young people when entering the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, including financial and geographical constraints and limited literacy and numeracy skills.⁴

³ See University of Adelaide 2018

⁴ Lamb et al. 2018, 39–40

Access to TAFE and apprenticeships could be improved through increased supports such as literacy and numeracy services and expanded opportunities for fee-free scholarships for disadvantaged young people.

Try, Test and Learn (TTL) – Support for VET Students

Mission Australia is delivering a pilot program in South Australia as part of the Commonwealth government’s Try, Test and Learn fund to support students at risk of disengaging by offering post-secondary VET studies to keep them engaged. The program also focuses on early intervention by using risk factors to identify students; helping them connect to available supports to reduce risks; and maintaining a relationship so that support can be offered quickly to resolve and stabilise escalating issues before students disengage.

Economic wellbeing

Although just over four in ten young people were working part-time, over half of respondents were not in paid employment. 32.7% of female and 37.5% of male respondents were not in paid employment but were looking for work. Relatedly, 34.4% of respondents indicated plans to get a job after school.

While youth unemployment in Australia has dropped slightly over the past year, it currently sits at 11.2%, which is still more than double the general unemployment rate.⁵ The rate of youth unemployment is even higher in regional areas.⁶ The significant challenges of the labour market are recognised by the 12.2% of young people indicating lack of jobs as a barrier to finding work.

Young people face further economic challenges such as the increased casualization of work and a prolonged transition period from study to full-time employment.⁷ This can negatively impact upon young people’s levels of stress, as well as their financial stability.

Barriers to work

For the first time in 2018, respondents were asked to indicate if there were any barriers that may be impacting upon them finding work. Almost two in five respondents expressed that there were barriers, with a greater proportion of females (42.8%) than males (32.9%) indicating the presence of barriers.

From those respondents who indicated there were barriers to finding work, the top three barriers were school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience and lack of jobs (20.0%, 14.5% and 12.2% respectively). Similarly, the *Foundation for Young Australians* has indicated that lack of jobs, lack of work experience, lack of appropriate education and lack of career management skills are hindrances for young people in securing full-time work.⁸

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2018

⁶ Brotherhood of St Laurence 2018, 1

⁷ Youth Action and Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service (WESTIR) 2018, 18; The Smith Family 2014

⁸ Foundation for Young Australians 2018

Work experience for young people can positively contribute to their overall wellbeing.⁹ Yet, balancing school responsibilities with part-time work can deter young people from seeking employment and add to stress.¹⁰

Work experience whilst at school can enable an effective transition for young people after the completion of their studies by creating networks with future employers, developing transferable skills, and building clarity for their aspirations.¹¹

Education institutions must therefore acknowledge that many young people balance the demands of study throughout secondary school with part-time work, and must recognise the benefits of this work experience without adding to the high levels of school and study stress experienced.

Investment in educational or practical resources in schools, specifically towards preparing young people for future work, could also be beneficial. Career development services, such as interview skills and building a CV should be made more accessible to young people.¹²

“I believe that there needs to be more opportunities for young people to be able to gain the training needed to get jobs that allow them to support themselves and possibly their families.”

(M, 19, NSW)

School-Based Traineeships

The School Based Traineeships Program is funded through the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Jobs, Land and Economy Programme (JLEP). Its objective is to provide wrap-around support for disadvantaged or disengaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students in years 11 and 12 to stay in school whilst completing a part-time traineeship. The program supports students to balance their vocational and non-vocational requirements at school, their workplace and during transition from school into further education, training and employment. It provides culturally relevant case management support that is tailored to students' individual needs, academic requirements and workplace expectations. Mission Australia provides these traineeships in Queensland.

Healthy

Mental health continues to be among the top personal and national concerns for many young people responding to the *Youth Survey* and young people also highly valued mental health and physical health in their lives.

⁹ Youth Action and Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service (WESTIR) 2018, 18

¹⁰ Vickers, Lamb, Stephen, and Hinkley 2003

¹¹ Foundation for Young Australians 2018

¹² Polvere and Lim 2015

Mental Health

Over four in ten young people identified mental health as an important issue facing Australia today (43.0%). This may be due to increased public awareness and mass media campaigns surrounding mental health that work to reduce stigma.¹³

The top issues of personal concern to young people relate to mental health and challenges to wellbeing: coping with stress, school or study problems, mental health and body image. It is vital that relevant support services and training are easily accessible to young people of all ages to help them manage these issues when they arise. This includes funding evidence-based universal mental health prevention and intervention programs in all schools.

Young females also continue to report higher levels of concern in relation to coping with stress, school or study problems, and body image than young males. The prevalence of young women indicating concern around body image has been attributed to the pervasive influence of how the media portrays a particular standard of beauty for young women.¹⁴

“We need to accept that body image problems are more present than we want to believe. The amount of girls and boys in high school struggling with eating disorders is scary.”

(F, 15, TAS)

That said, young men are not exempt from body image pressures, either.¹⁵ Gender-sensitive mental health services are appropriate in this context in order to respond to the particular concerns, pressures and challenges young females and males face, whilst adapting to their individual support preferences.

Similarly, over one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated coping with stress as the top issue of personal concern, and identified mental health as the top issue facing Australia today. It is alarming to see that almost one in five (18.5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt very sad/sad with life as a whole in comparison to around one in ten (9.4%) non-Indigenous young people. Mental health services should be culturally safe, co-designed with and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations and health services.

Shine and Strength Program

The Shine and Strength personal development program aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to develop self-awareness and personal growth. These nine week programs are facilitated in various middle schools and youth detention centres throughout Darwin. ShineGIRL and STRENGTH programs are adaptable tools that are used to reach young females and males. Each session is delivered as a 60–90-minute presentation that covers topics such as self-worth, emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships and behaviours.

¹³ Tye, Shand, and Christensen 2018

¹⁴ Grogan 2017, 103-134; Harper and Tiggemann 2008; Hawkins et al. 2004

¹⁵ Lewis 2012

Alcohol and Drugs

Just under three in ten young people nominated alcohol and drugs as one of the most important issues that Australia faces today (28.7%). A much smaller percentage of young people nominated drugs and alcohol as a personal concern (either extremely or very concerned 3.7% and 3.8% respectively), however the proportion was higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (either extremely or very concerned 9.8% and 5.5% respectively).

Young people's drug and alcohol concerns and habits can be influenced by family, peers, communities and the media.¹⁶ Continued and targeted public health messaging is required to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm for all ages across Australia.

"Drugs and alcohol needs to stop in my community."

(F, 16, NT)

For some young people, alcohol and drug dependence can be a serious issue that requires access to effective and appropriate treatment.¹⁷ Youth-specific health services and facilities that cater to young people should be invested in to ensure their needs are met in a safe, secure and encouraging environment, to bring about positive long-term outcomes.

Triple Care Farm

Triple Care Farm is an alcohol and other drugs program based in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales for young people aged between 16 and 24 years with co-morbid substance dependence and mental illness. This program includes a 12-week residential rehabilitation program and a six-month aftercare program to ensure participants have a smooth transition back into the community.

Housed

Homelessness

Homelessness and housing was identified as one of the top ten important issues facing Australia today by nearly one in ten (9.2%) young people. We know that family conflict and mental illness are key contributors to youth homelessness.¹⁸ In this year's *Youth Survey*, almost one in five young people did not report a positive experience in their family relationships, rating their family's ability to get along as either fair or poor. Mental health concerns were also reported by many young people.

Early intervention is particularly crucial for young people in facilitating family reconciliation. Where a young person cannot remain with their family, safe, secure and affordable housing is critical.

¹⁶ Crane et al. 2016, 24

¹⁷ Department of Health 2004

¹⁸ Roche and Barker 2017, 12. See also Mission Australia 2017; Mission Australia 2018

"Young people leaving care should have firm housing options to work toward. I had a Uni offer but was made homeless at Christmas and have not had secure or safe housing since."

(F, 18, VIC)

Trinity Hill

Trinity Hill is a combined accommodation and training facility in North Hobart for young people aged 16 to 25 who are at risk of homelessness and/or have a disability. Trinity Hill offers safe, affordable long-term housing with on-site support to access education, training, employment and other opportunities. Trinity Hill is a partnership between Anglicare Tasmania, Community Housing Limited and Mission Australia.

Barriers to moving out of home

Young people were asked for the first time this year whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact them from moving out of home in the future. The *Youth Survey* revealed that seven in ten young people indicated housing costs (e.g. rent and utilities) as a future barrier to moving out of home. We know that young people in Australia face a largely unaffordable housing market. In 2018, less than 0.01% of properties surveyed by Anglicare Australia were affordable and appropriate for single people on Youth Allowance.¹⁹

Over six in ten young people nominated financial stability as a potential barrier and four in ten nominated availability of housing. In addition to concerns about the labour market, financial stability concerns may also be linked to the low payment rates of Youth Allowance. According to the 2018 *Poverty in Australia* report, 64% of those on Youth Allowance are living below the poverty line.²⁰

"There needs to be more assistance for low income families/individuals so we can afford the high rent."

(F, 18, VIC)

An increase in Youth Allowance and rent assistance payments, as well as investment in appropriate and affordable housing for young people is required. This is particularly important for those young people who do not have the financial support of their families or need to live independently to pursue work or study.

Inclusive and cohesive

For all young people, feeling included and valued in their families, friendships, and communities is a significant aspect in their journey through adolescence.²¹

¹⁹ Youth Action and Western Sydney Regional Information and Research Service (WESTIR) 2018, 14; Daley, Coates, and Wiltshire 2018; Anglicare Australia 2018

²⁰ Davidson, Saunders, Bradbury, and Wong 2018

²¹ Robinson 2006

This is clear in the high percentages of young people valuing family relationships and friendships (other than family) in the *Youth Survey* (83.7% and 81.8% respectively).

“Make sure that the relationships in my life are of a good quality and I am able to balance my relationships work and school, making sure I’m the best friend I can be.”

(M, 17, VIC)

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in particular, connection to culture can be a protective factor and promoter of social and emotional wellbeing. Programs such as peer-to-peer mentoring with appropriate cultural youth mentors can be beneficial.

Young people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds were also well represented in the *Youth Survey*: 15.0% of respondents stated that they were born overseas and 19.4% spoke a language other than English at home. Policies and programs that seek to benefit young people must also be responsive and adaptive to meet the needs of young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

South West Youth Peer Education Program (SWYPE)

South West Youth Peer Education (SWYPE) assists vulnerable young people from the age of 12 up to 17, who are based in the greater Liverpool and Campbelltown areas of Sydney. Assistance is offered via one-to-one case management, workshops and outreach programs for schools and the wider community. SWYPE has developed a number of unique programs over its almost two-decade existence. Most recently, SWYPE developed Camp PRO-TEEN: a joint Aboriginal and Pacific camp that uses cultural awareness and mentoring to promote positive choices for young people.

Connected and participating

Participating in activities helps young people to develop social networks and interpersonal skills.²² Similar to previous years, sports (as a participant and spectator) and volunteer work were the top three activities that young people participated in over the past year. Additionally, over one third of respondents had participated in arts/cultural/musical activities.

Research has identified a link between creativity and mental health recovery.²³ Young people can benefit from creative arts therapies, such as art, music and dance, as a form of expressing emotion, improving social and coping skills, promoting self-esteem and strengthening resilience.²⁴

Expanded access to creative arts facilities and activities within schools or communities could be a valuable support, particularly

²² Dworkin, Larson, and Hansen 2003, 17

²³ Van Lith, Schofield, and Fenner 2013

²⁴ Coholic 2011, 303-17

for young people from disadvantaged families or who face financial challenges.²⁵ Other programs that foster participation and build community connections should also be provided as part of a strengthening communities approach.

“I need to make solid friendships and connections with others who can support me as I continue to overcome my anxiety issues. I need to be able to connect with other young people which is hard for me being in a small town with little activities for young people who don’t like sport to do.”

(F, 19, SA)

Empower Youth (Southern Melbourne Empower Youth Partnership)

Empower Youth is a Victorian government initiative and Mission Australia is a member of the service delivery partnership in Dandenong and Casey, Victoria. The Southern Melbourne Empower Youth Partnership will create a ‘Community of Support’ – an environment where young people and youth workers come together at a social drop-in space to engage with peers and positive role models; make connections with services and resources; and develop aspirational plans for community participation. The objective is to create positive developmental pathways and for young people to invest in a competent identity as a valuable social contributor. There will be an emphasis on working with those from new and emerging communities, as well as existing vulnerable communities including the Pasifika community. The model will utilise the specialist programs of multiple local youth services to support young people to achieve strong outcomes.

Safe

Over one in six young people nominated bullying as an issue of national concern in this year’s *Youth Survey* (17.4%). Additionally, over one in eight (13.5%) young people reported crime, safety and violence as an important issue in Australia today.

“I have gotten myself into fights both physical and verbal. The fight was because I was being bullied.”

(M, 15, NSW)

It is essential that young people feel safe in their homes, schools and communities in order to live a healthy and happy life. It is imperative that youth outreach programs are easily accessible for young people and cater to their specific needs as and when they arise.

²⁵ Mission Australia 2017

Open Doors

Open Doors supports young people aged 12 to 18 and their families living in Mirrabooka (WA) and surrounding suburbs. Support is provided to young people experiencing issues with drug and alcohol abuse, family breakdown, unemployment, homelessness and mental health. The program is an outreach-based service, which means service staff meet with the young person on their terms including at school, home or anywhere that is suitable for the young person.

Supported and resourced

As seen in previous years, friends (84.5%), parents or guardians (76.1%) and relatives or family friends (60.1%) were the most commonly cited sources of help for young people.

Young people need to feel confident in seeking help and know whom they can speak to and trust. At the same time, it is important that those providing support for young people—family, friends, teachers or professionals—are equipped with the tools and resources to address young people's concerns effectively.

“Not getting the help they need because of costs or other factors that could be easily fixed but aren't.”

(N/S, 15, NT)

Most young people rely heavily on the support of their friends during times of need, highlighting the need to inform young people about mental health support. More than half of young people surveyed indicated they would also turn to a GP or health professional when seeking help with important issues, and more than one third of young people cited teachers and school counsellors as sources of support.

For the first time in 2018, young people were also asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources.

The top three uses of the internet for support were: to source information about specific issues (31.0%), to access an online quiz or assessment tool (19.0%), and to access personal stories or testimonies (17.4%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents nominated chatting one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience (24.2%) as the top source of support when seeking help online. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people also indicated using the internet to source information about specific issues (23.3%) and information about available services (16.9%).

“Not knowing where to seek help as online help services are too intimidating to call.”

(F, 15, NSW)

Thus, investment in online tools and resources that provide a range of information, assessments, testimonies, and opportunities to connect are needed to meet the help-seeking preferences of young people.

beyondblue

beyondblue is an online mental health organisation that caters to people of all demographics that are suffering from different forms of mental illness, including young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. They offer a wide variety of services including:

- NewAccess: a specially-trained and experienced coach that provides confidential support for people in setting practical goals to get back on track through six free sessions, either over the phone or face-to-face.²⁶
- BeyondNow: a free app that creates a safety plan towards suicide prevention, with support from a health professional or a trusted friend or family member.
- Online forums where safe and open discussions surrounding mental health are exchanged between users residing in Australia.

²⁶ Beyondblue 2015

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National summary



Profile of respondents

State and territory distribution

A total of 28,286 young people aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*. Respondents came from across Australia and Figure 1.1 indicates the number and percentages from each Australian state/territory. There were 17 respondents who did not indicate which state/territory they lived in.

Gender breakdown

Over half (55.0%) of respondents were female and 41.7% were male. There were 2.9% of respondents who provided the response 'other' and 0.3% of respondents who did not give a response.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 1,594 (5.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,277 (4.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 173 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.3% compared with 4.5%).

Language background other than English

A total of 4,107 (15.0%) respondents stated that they were born overseas and 5,292 (19.4%) 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): Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog and Italian.

Disability

A total of 1,623 (6.0%) respondents indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (6.8%) than females (3.9%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities, physical disabilities and anxiety disorder.

Education

As indicated in Table 1.1, 94.0% of respondents were studying full-time, which is similar to the 94.9% of respondents studying full-time in 2017. A slightly greater proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (95.4% compared with 93.0%), while a slightly higher proportion of males (4.4%) than females (2.7%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.9%) or *satisfied* (55.8%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.8% and 5.3% respectively). As shown in Table 1.2, a slightly higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very satisfied* (13.6% compared with 12.2%), yet a greater proportion of females reported feeling *satisfied* with their studies than males (58.2% compared with 54.0%).

Figure 1.1: Percentage of respondents by state/territory

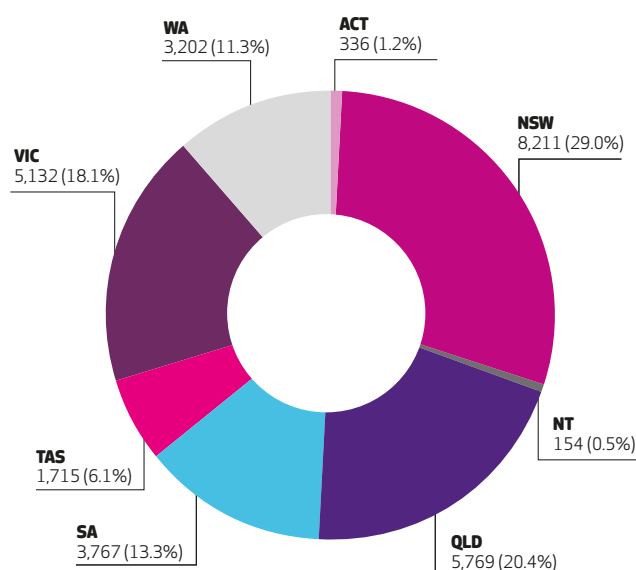


Table 1.1: Participation in education

	National %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	95.4	93.0
Studying part-time	2.3	1.9	2.6
Not studying	3.7	2.7	4.4

Table 1.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	Female %	Male %	National 2017 %	National 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	12.2	13.6	13.3	16.0
Satisfied	55.8	58.2	54.0	56.4	55.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	23.6	24.7	23.3	22.3
Dissatisfied	5.3	4.7	5.7	5.4	4.2
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.5

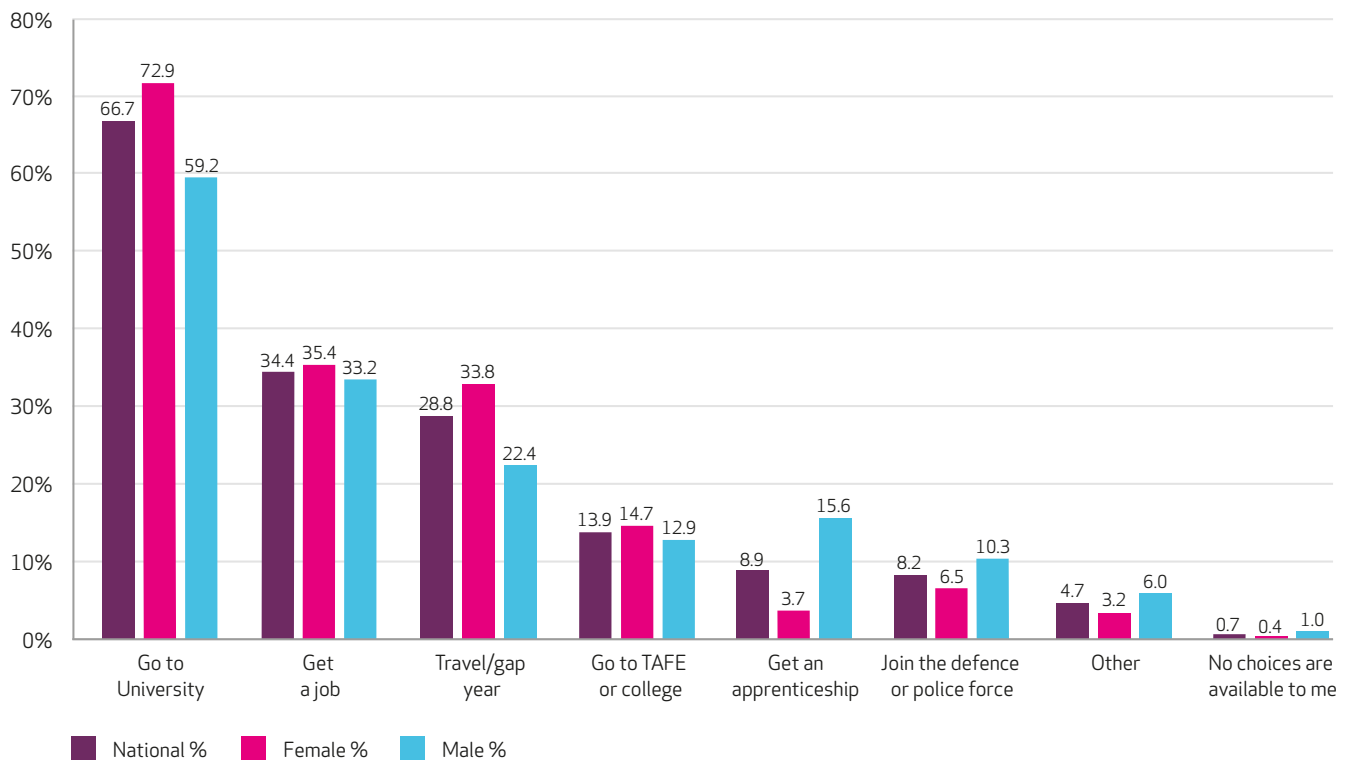
Of those who were still at school, 96.3% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Over twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (5.5% compared with 2.1% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 1.2 shows that two thirds (66.7%) of respondents planned to go to university after school. Just over one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (34.4%) and almost three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (28.8%). Overall, 13.9% of young people planned to go to TAFE or college, 8.9% reported plans to get an apprenticeship and 8.2% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.7%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents was to go to university, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (72.9% compared with 59.2% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (33.8% compared with 22.4% of males). Conversely, almost five times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (15.6% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 1.2: Plans after leaving school

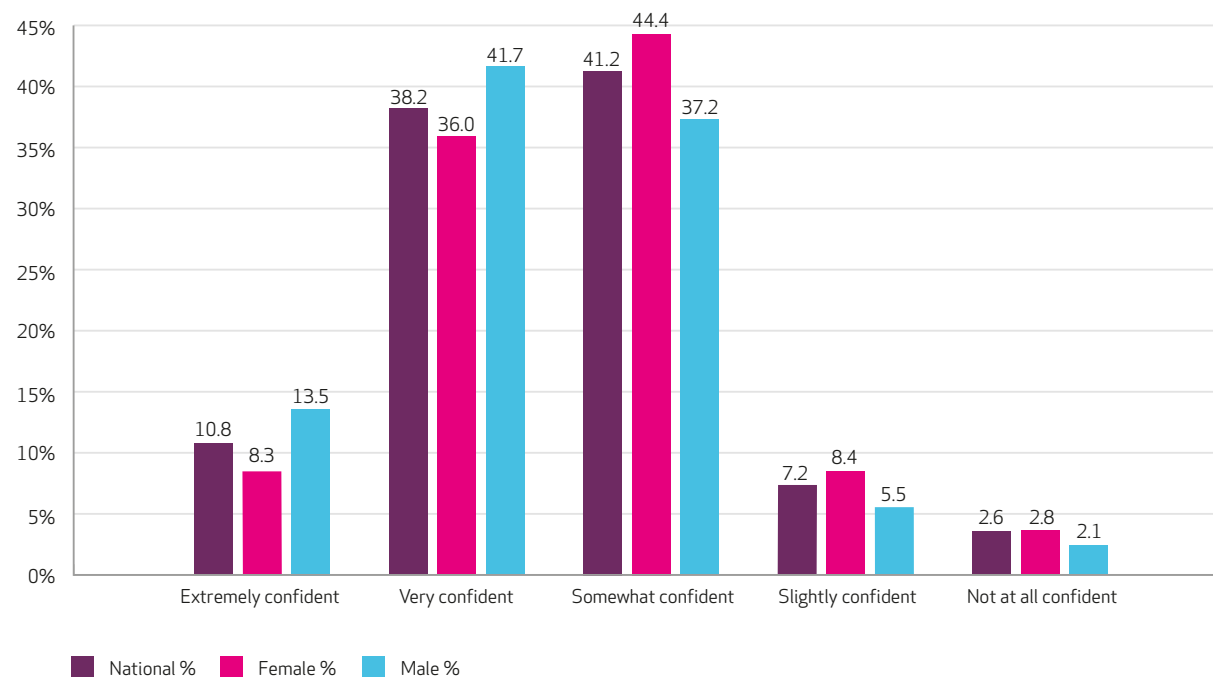


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Almost half of all respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 10.8% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 38.2% reported that they were *very confident*. However, close to one in ten young people were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.2% of young people reported that they were *slightly confident*, while 2.6% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (13.5% and 41.7% compared with 8.3% and 36.0%).

Figure 1.3: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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. Only a small minority (0.7%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over four in ten (42.1%) respondents reported part-time employment. Nearly six in ten (57.2%) respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 34.7% stated they were looking for work, while 22.5% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people currently in part-time employment is slightly higher than the 2017 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents reported full-time employment (0.5% compared with 0.8%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (46.3% compared with 36.7% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (37.5% compared with 32.7% of females).

Table 1.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.5	0.8
Employed part-time	42.1	46.3	36.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	32.7	37.5
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	20.5	24.9

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Nearly four in ten (38.8%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (42.8%) than males (32.9%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 1.4 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

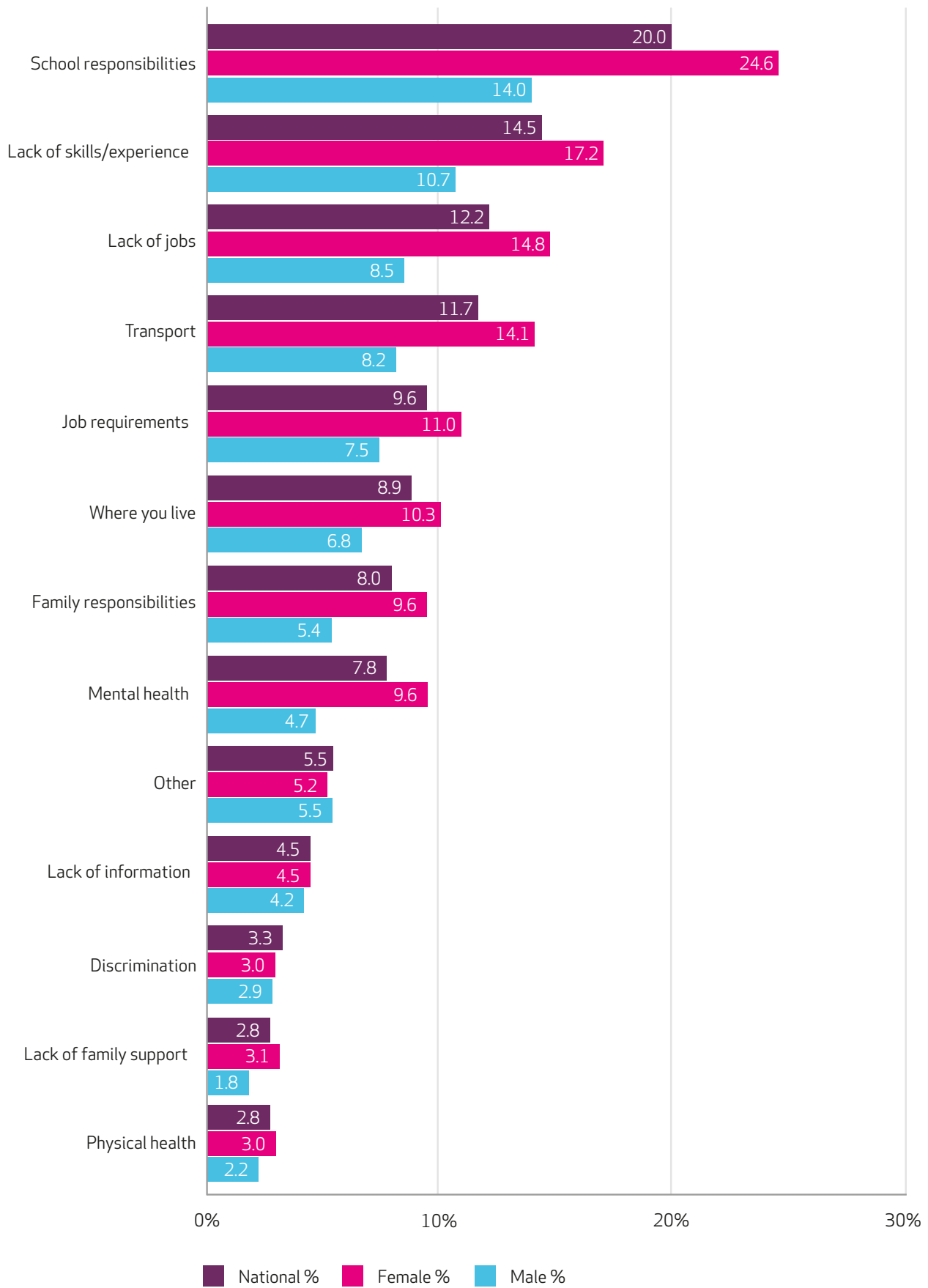
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work (20.0%, 14.5% and 12.2% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw *transport* and *job requirements* as barriers to them finding work (11.7% and 9.6% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 1.4, the top three barriers for females and males were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 24.6% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared to 14.0% of males.
- A notably higher proportion of females indicated *lack of skills and experience* and *lack of jobs* to be barriers impacting upon their finding work (17.2% and 14.8% compared with 10.7% and 8.2% of males).
- Females were also more likely than males to indicate *transport* and *mental health* as barriers impacting upon their finding work (14.1% and 9.6% compared with 8.2% and 4.7% respectively).

Figure 1.4: Barriers to finding work



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

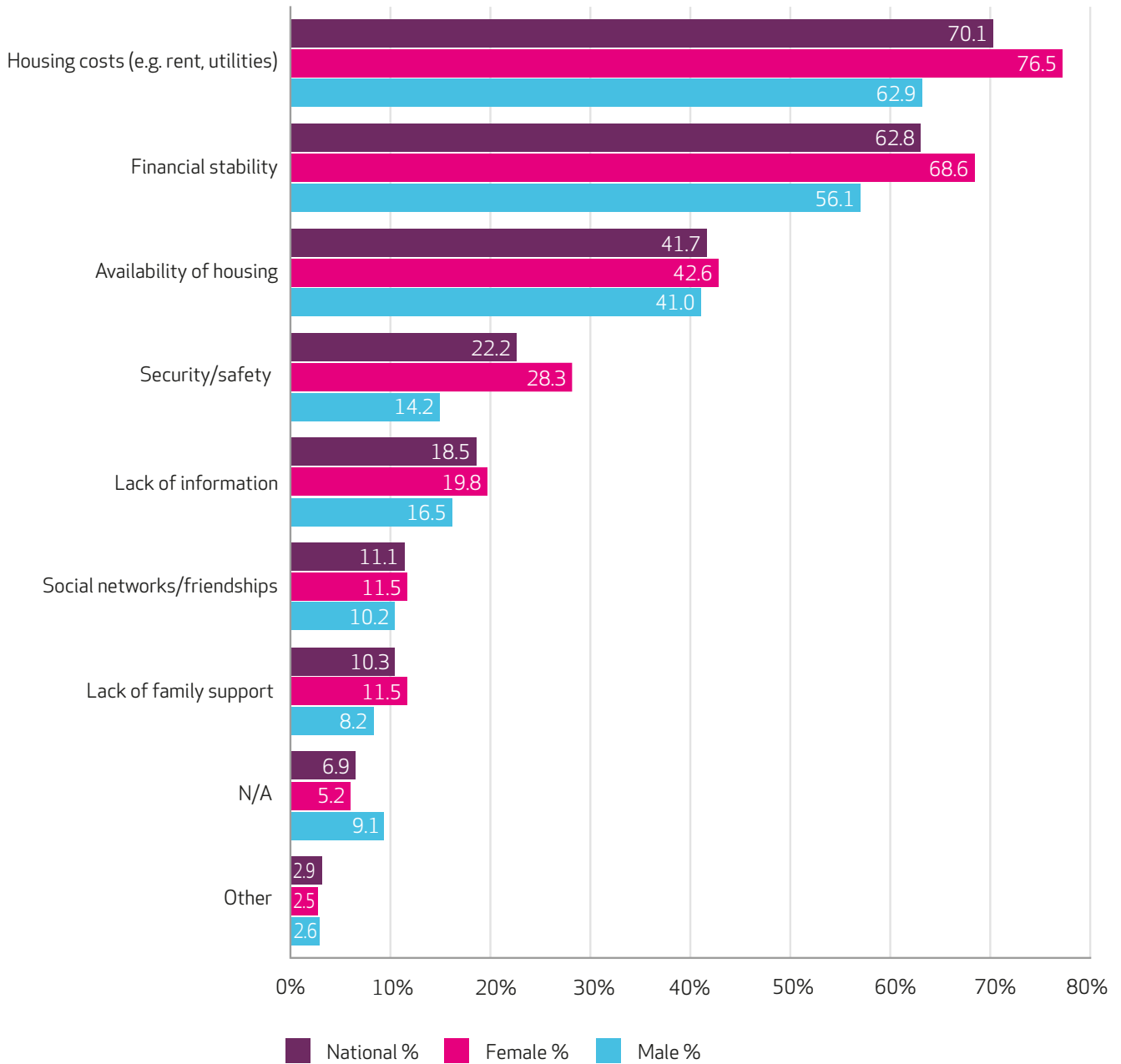
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, seven in ten (70.1%) indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (62.8%) and *availability of housing* (41.7%).

Gender differences

While the gender results were generally consistent with overall national results, greater proportions of females than males reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (76.5% and 68.6% compared with 62.9% and 56.1% respectively). Twice the proportion of females also reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (28.3% compared with 14.2%).

Figure 1.5: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

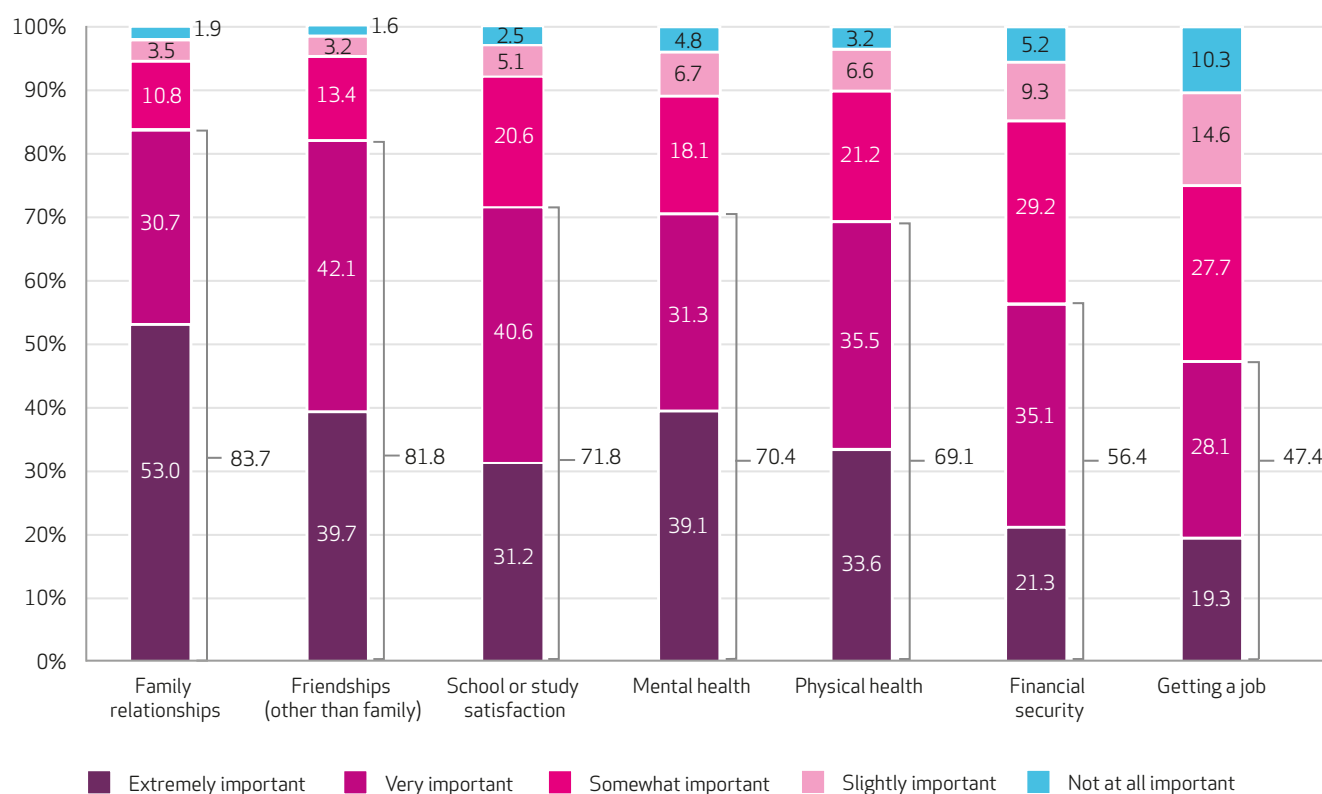
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 1.6, 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 *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued items were *mental health* and *physical health*.

- *Family relationships* were valued highly by 83.7% of respondents (*extremely important*: 53.0%; *very important*: 30.7%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also highly valued by over eight in ten (81.8%) respondents (*extremely important*: 39.7%; *very important*: 42.1%).
- Around seven in ten respondents highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 40.6%), *mental health* (*extremely important*: 39.1%; *very important*: 31.3%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 33.6%; *very important*: 35.5%).
- Nearly six in ten respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 21.3%; *very important*: 35.1%), while just under half valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 19.3%; *very important*: 28.1%).

Figure 1.6: 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 the two most highly valued 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 highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 86.3% of females (*extremely important*: 58.3%; *very important*: 28.0%) compared with 82.0% of males (*extremely important*: 47.3%; *very important*: 34.7%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by 83.1% of females (*extremely important*: 42.4%; *very important*: 40.7%) and 81.1% of males (*extremely important*: 36.5%; *very important*: 44.6%).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 77.1% of females (*extremely important*: 35.2%; *very important*: 41.9%) compared with 66.3% of males (*extremely important*: 26.5%; *very important*: 39.8%).
- *Physical health* was highly valued by around seven in ten (70.0%) males (*extremely important*: 34.4%; *very important*: 35.6%) and females (69.1%) (*extremely important*: 33.3%; *very important*: 35.8%).

Table 1.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	58.3	28.0	9.5	3.2	1.1
Friendships (other than family)	42.4	40.7	12.9	3.1	0.9
School or study satisfaction	35.2	41.9	17.8	3.8	1.3
Mental health	43.2	31.6	16.4	6.0	2.8
Physical health	33.3	35.8	21.8	6.8	2.3
Financial security	21.3	36.4	29.7	8.8	3.7
Getting a job	18.6	29.7	28.3	14.4	9.1
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	47.3	34.7	12.2	3.7	2.1
Friendships (other than family)	36.5	44.6	14.0	3.3	1.6
School or study satisfaction	26.5	39.8	23.9	6.6	3.1
Mental health	33.9	31.6	20.3	7.8	6.4
Physical health	34.4	35.6	20.5	6.2	3.3
Financial security	20.9	33.9	28.9	10.0	6.4
Getting a job	20.0	26.4	27.2	15.3	11.1

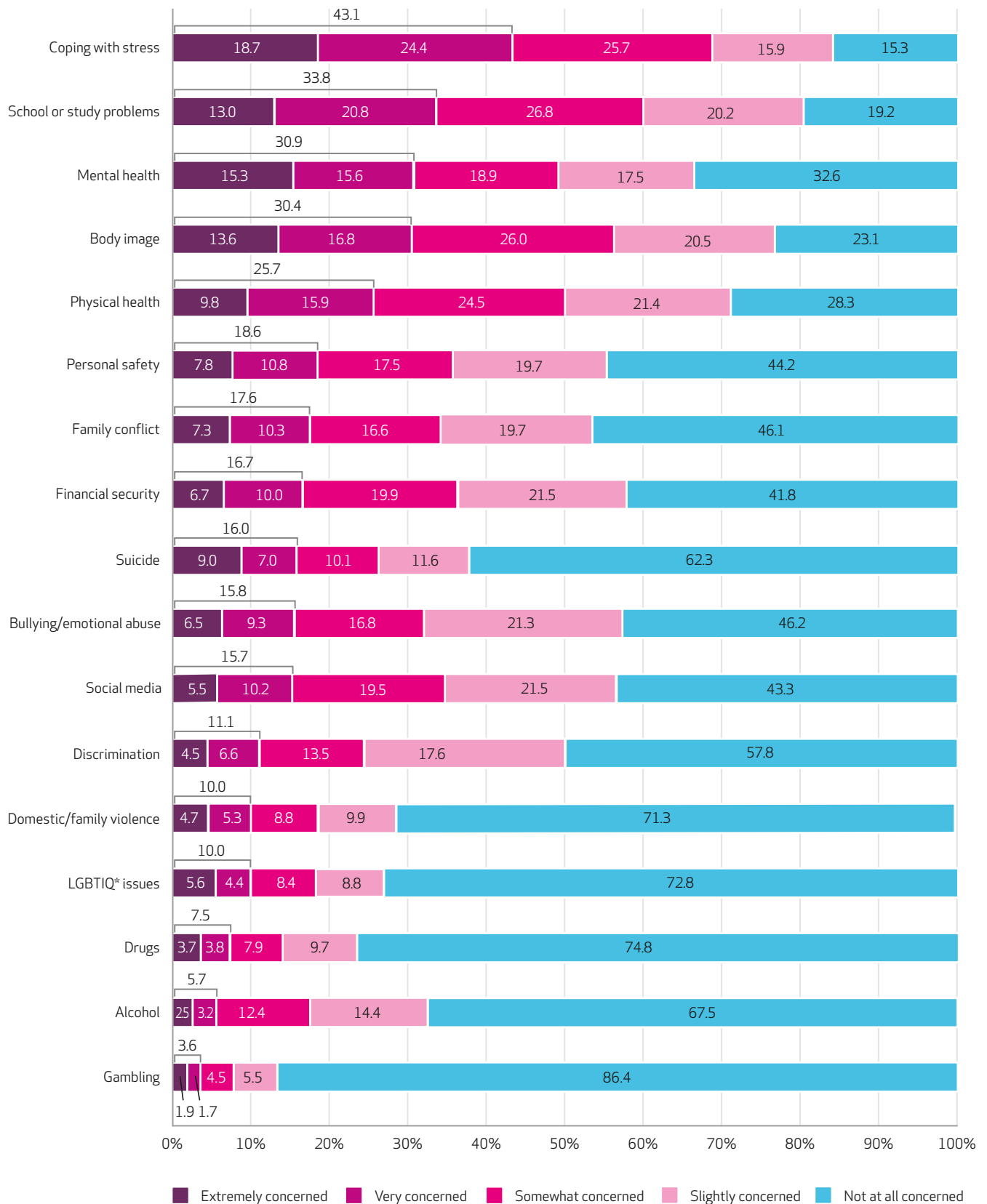
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of national frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 1.7. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging 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 concern for young people were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. Compared to the results from previous years, the top two issues of personal concern remain unchanged, while *mental health* was ranked as the third most-reported issue of personal concern for the first time.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with over four in ten (43.1%) respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (18.7%) or *very concerned* (24.4%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for one third (33.8%) of young people (*extremely concerned*: 13.0%; *very concerned*: 20.8%).
- *Mental health* was also an important issue of concern for three in ten (30.9%) respondents (*extremely concerned*: 15.3%; *very concerned*: 15.6%).
- Around three in ten (30.4%) respondents were either *extremely concerned* (13.6%) or *very concerned* (16.8%) about *body image*.

Figure 1.7: 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 personal issues of concern for both females and males. The third most identified concern for females was *body image*, whereas for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for around six in ten (56.0%) females (*extremely concerned*: 25.4%; *very concerned*: 30.6%), compared with around one quarter (26.2%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.5%; *very concerned*: 16.7%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (41.8%) females (*extremely concerned*: 16.9%; *very concerned*: 24.9%), compared with over one in five (23.3%) males (*extremely concerned*: 7.5%; *very concerned*: 15.8%).
- Four in ten (41.5%) females were concerned about *body image* (*extremely concerned*: 18.7%; *very concerned*: 22.8%), compared with nearly one in six (15.4%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.0%; *very concerned*: 9.4%).
- Around twice the proportion (38.5%) of females were *extremely concerned* (19.6%) or *very concerned* (18.9%) about *mental health*, compared with 20.4% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.9%; *very concerned*: 11.5%).

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 %
Coping with stress	25.4	30.6	25.5	11.8	6.7
School or study problems	16.9	24.9	27.6	18.3	12.3
Mental health	19.6	18.9	21.1	16.9	23.4
Body image	18.7	22.8	28.4	17.8	12.3
Physical health	10.5	18.5	27.4	21.7	21.9
Personal safety	9.1	12.5	19.1	20.4	39.0
Family conflict	9.0	12.6	19.1	21.2	38.1
Financial security	7.4	11.8	22.1	22.4	36.3
Suicide	9.8	8.1	11.3	12.7	58.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.6	11.4	19.0	22.2	39.8
Social media	6.9	12.9	22.6	22.6	35.0
Discrimination	4.4	7.6	15.2	18.9	54.0
Domestic/family violence	5.0	5.9	9.3	10.4	69.4
LGBTIQ* issues	5.2	5.7	9.5	10.4	69.2
Drugs	3.2	4.0	8.0	9.9	74.9
Alcohol	2.0	3.6	13.6	15.5	65.3
Gambling	1.2	1.5	4.1	5.1	88.1

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 %
Coping with stress	9.5	16.7	26.5	21.6	25.7
School or study problems	7.5	15.8	26.0	23.4	27.3
Mental health	8.9	11.5	16.4	18.8	44.4
Body image	6.0	9.4	23.4	24.5	36.7
Physical health	8.1	12.8	21.1	21.6	36.4
Personal safety	5.6	8.7	15.6	19.0	51.2
Family conflict	4.4	7.2	13.5	18.2	56.7
Financial security	5.1	7.7	17.2	21.0	49.0
Suicide	6.9	5.3	8.5	10.3	69.0
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.2	6.8	13.9	20.5	54.6
Social media	3.2	6.7	15.8	20.4	53.9
Discrimination	3.6	5.2	11.5	16.2	63.5
Domestic/family violence	3.6	4.6	8.0	9.3	74.5
LGBTIQ* issues	4.5	2.7	6.9	6.9	79.0
Drugs	3.8	3.6	7.7	9.4	75.6
Alcohol	2.5	2.8	10.9	13.3	70.6
Gambling	2.1	1.9	4.9	6.2	84.9

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 1.8 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

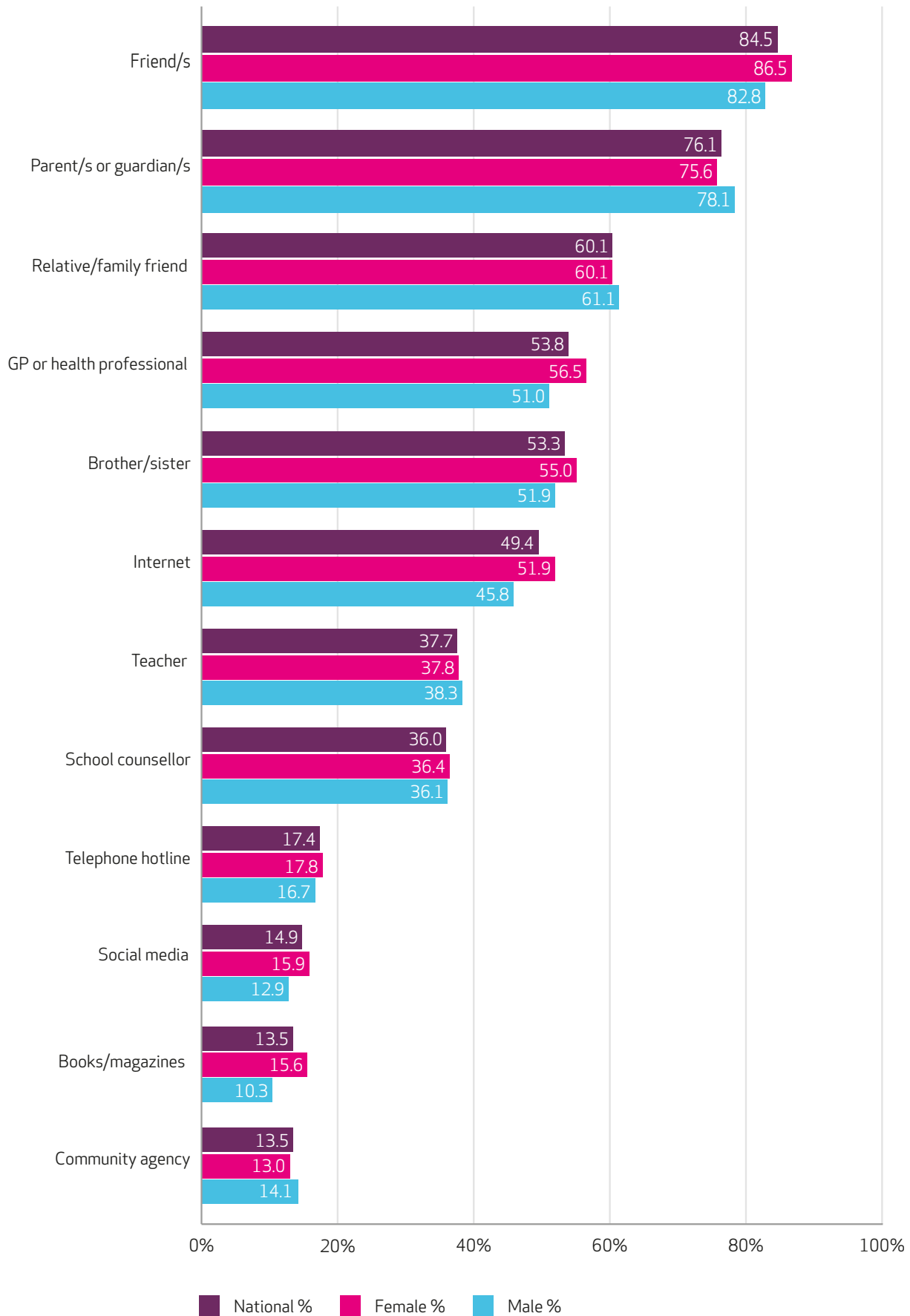
- *Friend/s* (84.5%), *parent/s or guardians* (76.1%) and *relative/family friend* (60.1%) were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people.
- Around half of respondents indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (53.8%), their *brother/sister* (53.3%) or the *internet* (49.4%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Nearly four in ten young people would turn to a *teacher* (37.7%) as a source of help with important issues in their lives.

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 go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (86.5% compared with 82.8% for males), while a slightly higher proportion of males would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* for support (78.1% compared with 75.6% for females).
- A similar proportion of female and male respondents indicated they would go to a *relative/family friend* (60.1% compared with 61.1%) for help.
- A slightly greater proportion of females than males would go to their *brother/sister* (55.0% compared with 51.9%), the *internet* (51.9% compared with 45.8%) or a *GP or health professional* (56.5% compared with 51.0%) for support.

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.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 1.6, just over three in ten young people accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (31.0%) and nearly one in five indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (19.0%). Around one in six young people also noted accessing *personal stories or testimonies* (17.4%) online, as well as using the internet to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.5%) and for *information about available services* (16.5%).

Table 1.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	35.7	25.3
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	24.9	11.2
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	21.3	12.2
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	16.7	15.9
Information about available services	16.5	19.2	12.8
Counselling with a professional	11.8	14.0	8.6
Support group or forum	8.3	8.0	8.1
Other	7.7	5.5	9.3
Online course or program	5.2	4.9	5.5

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

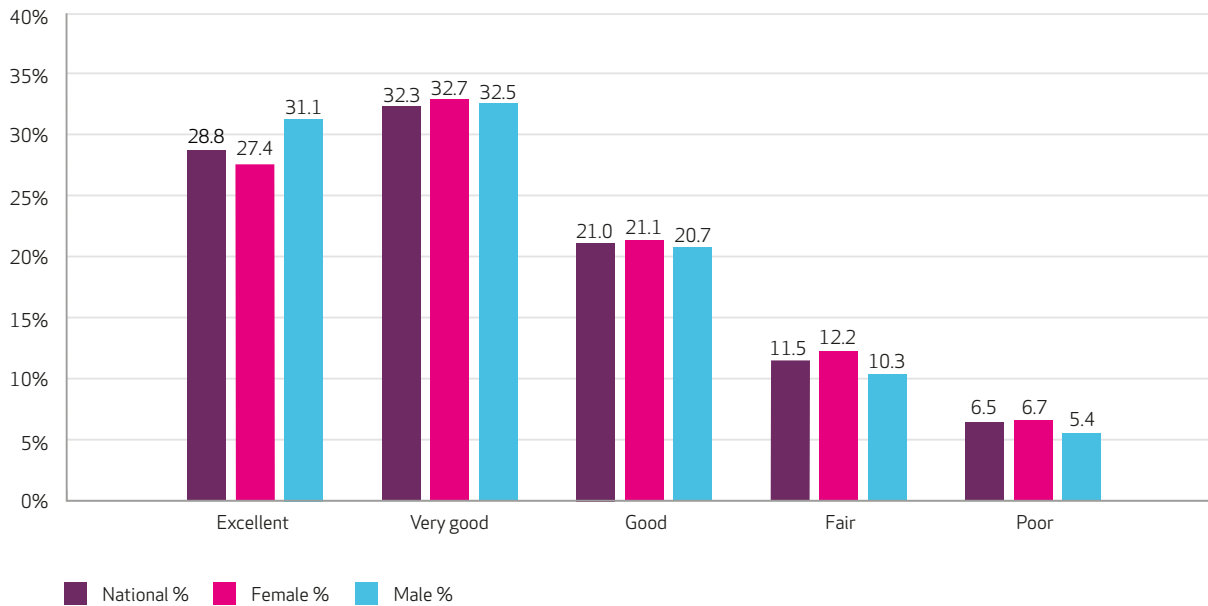
Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for both females and males was consistent with the national results. However, a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they would access *information about specific issues* online (35.7% compared with 25.3%). For females, using an *online quiz or assessment tool* (24.9%) and accessing *personal stories or testimonies* (21.3%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males, the second and third most indicated sources of online support were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (15.9%) and *information about available services* (12.8%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 1.9 shows that the majority of respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 28.8% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.3% rated it as *very good*. However, around one in five young people did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.5%) or *poor* (6.5%). A slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (31.1% compared with 27.4% respectively).

Figure 1.9: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 1.8. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 national results.

- Over four in ten young people identified *mental health* (43.0%) as an important issue in Australia today.
- Just under three in ten young people identified *alcohol and drugs* (28.7%) and almost one quarter of young people saw *equity and discrimination* (23.4%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Between 2016 and 2018, the proportion of those indicating *mental health* as an important issue in Australia more than doubled, from 20.6% to 43.0%.
- Since 2016, *bullying* and *mental health* have been increasingly identified as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *population issues* and *education* have decreased since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with national results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both females and males.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (49.2% compared with 35.9%) and *equity and discrimination* (25.0% compared with 21.2%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of male than female respondents identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (32.2% compared with 26.4%).

Table 1.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	Female %	Male %	National 2017 %	National 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	49.2	35.9	33.7	20.6
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	26.4	32.2	32.0	28.7
Equity and discrimination	23.4	25.0	21.2	27.3	27.0
Bullying	17.4	20.3	14.1	10.6	10.1
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	14.2	12.7	11.3	12.8
The economy and financial matters	11.6	10.0	13.8	12.7	14.7
Health	11.4	11.0	11.9	8.3	10.3
The environment	9.2	9.1	9.3	10.9	11.5
Homelessness/housing	9.2	9.8	8.6	8.2	7.5
Education	8.2	8.4	8.0	13.0	11.6

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 1.8.

- As in previous years, the top three activities for young people were *sports (as a participant)* (63.2%), *sports (as a spectator)* (40.6%) and *volunteer work* (36.8%).
- Over one third (36.4%) of respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities*.
- Around one quarter of young people reported participating in *student leadership activities* (27.4%), while around one in five had taken part in *youth groups and activities* (22.6%) and *religious groups/activities* (18.8%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 1.8, the top activity for both females and males was consistent with the national result. The second activity for females was *arts/cultural/music activities* (42.0%), followed by *volunteer work* (41.2%). For males, the second activity was *sports (as a spectator)* (47.1%), ahead of *volunteer work* (31.4%).

- Almost seven in ten (68.2%) male respondents and six in ten (60.1%) female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (47.1% compared with 36.0%).
- A greater proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* and *volunteer work* (42.0% and 41.2% compared with 29.0% and 31.4% respectively).

Table 1.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	60.1	68.2
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	36.0	47.1
Volunteer work	36.8	41.2	31.4
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	42.0	29.0
Student leadership activities	27.4	30.6	23.6
Youth groups and activities	22.6	24.1	20.3
Religious groups/activities	18.8	20.3	16.6
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	11.9	9.7
Political groups/organisations	4.0	3.5	3.8

Note: Items are listed in order of national frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad* and 10 indicates that they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 1.9 shows, the majority of young people (62.3%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. A greater proportion of males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole than females (67.8% compared with 59.1%).

Table 1.9: How happy young people are

	National %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	59.1	67.8
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	30.5	24.0
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	6.6	8.1

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 1.10 shows that around two thirds of respondents felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

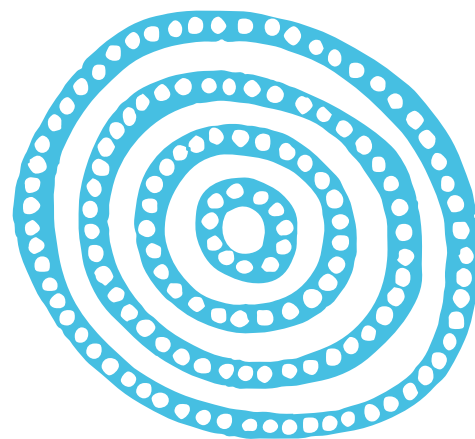
- Just under two thirds of respondents felt either *positive* (46.7%) or *very positive* (15.5%) about the future.
- One in ten respondents felt *negative* (6.8%) or *very negative* (3.1%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (18.4% compared with 13.2%).

Table 1.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	Female %	Male %	National 2017 %	National 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	13.2	18.4	15.8	17.3
Positive	46.7	46.7	48.1	46.6	47.1
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	30.5	24.4	27.5	26.1
Negative	6.8	7.1	6.2	7.1	6.5
Very negative	3.1	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.0

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander summary



Profile of respondents

In total, 1,594 (5.8%) respondents to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018* identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 1,277 (4.6%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 173 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.5% identified as both).

Gender breakdown

Just under half (48.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were male and 45.7% were female.

Language background other than English

In total, 60 (3.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported speaking an Indigenous language at home.

Disability

A total of 254 (16.7%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were (in order of frequency): autism, physical disabilities, learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Education

As indicated in Table 2.1, 83.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were studying full-time (compared with 94.8% of non-Indigenous respondents). A slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males reported that they were studying full-time (86.3% compared with 83.8%), while a slightly greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (10.5%) than females (8.0%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging 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* (46.0%) with their studies. Around one in eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* with their studies (6.5% and 6.3%). As shown in Table 2.2, a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported feeling *satisfied* with their studies (52.5% compared with 46.5% of males), while similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males reported feeling *very satisfied* with their studies (9.3% and 10.0% respectively).

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	94.8	83.3	86.3	83.8
Studying part-time	2.0	6.1	5.8	6.0
Not studying	3.2	10.5	8.0	10.3

Table 2.2: Satisfaction with studies

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2018 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2017 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	10.8	9.3	10.0	9.6	14.2
Satisfied	56.7	46.0	52.5	46.5	49.0	49.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	23.8	30.3	30.7	31.8	28.2	26.6
Dissatisfied	5.2	6.3	4.2	7.8	7.3	4.0
Very dissatisfied	1.4	6.5	3.3	4.0	5.8	5.2

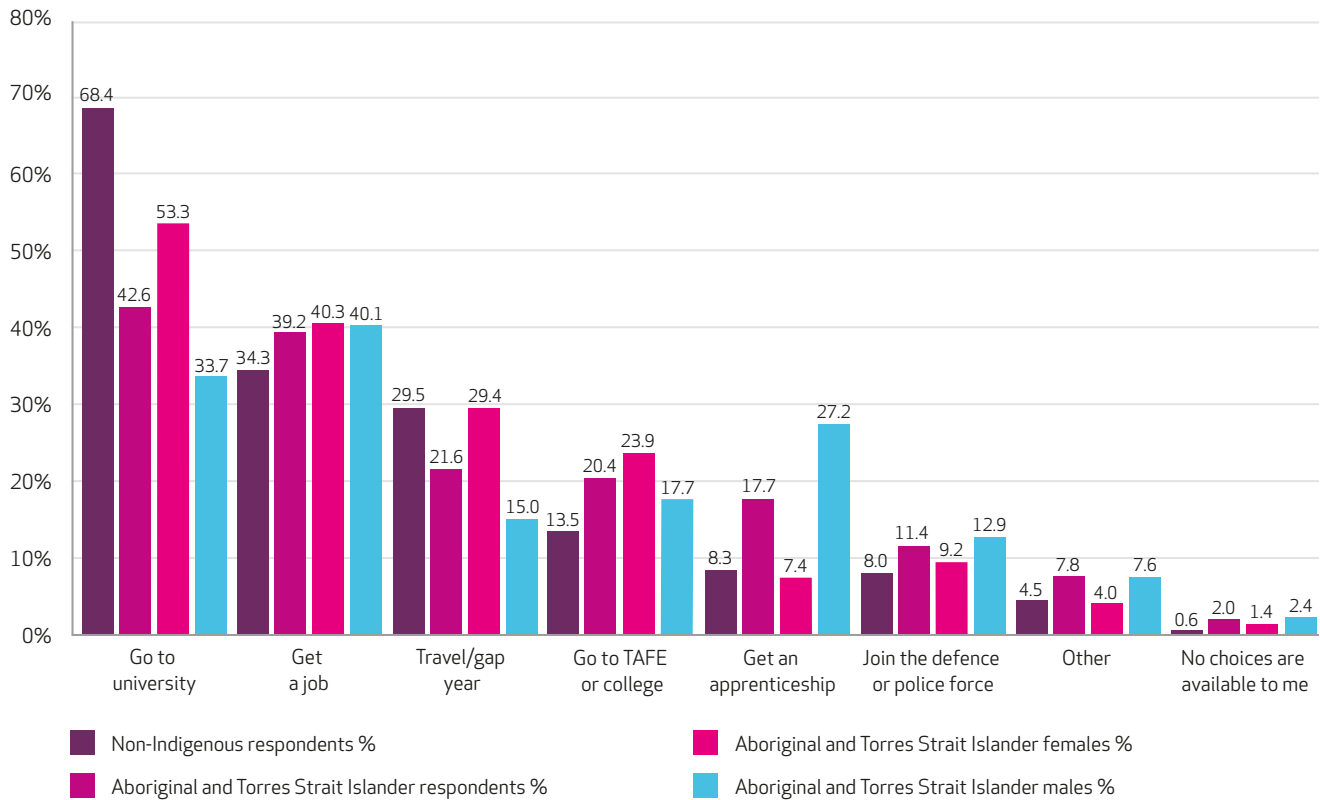
Of those who were still at school, 90.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents stated that they intended to complete Year 12 (compared with 96.8% of non-Indigenous respondents). The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males who indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 was twice that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (12.7% compared with 5.9% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 2.1 shows that just over four in ten (42.6%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents reported plans to *go to university* after school, while just under four in ten indicated plans to *get a job* (39.2%). Around one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated *travel/gap year* plans (21.6%) or that they planned to *go to TAFE or college* (20.4%) after completing school. Overall, 17.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people planned to *get an apprenticeship*, while just over one in ten indicated that they planned to *join the defence or police force* (11.4%). A small minority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (2.0%) indicated feeling that *no choices were available to me* after leaving school.

Gender differences

The most frequently reported post-school aspiration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was to *go to university* (53.3%), which was notably higher than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (33.7%). Conversely, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males most frequently indicated plans to *get a job* (40.1%), which was the second most reported plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (40.3%). While nearly twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females indicated *travel/gap year* plans (29.4% compared with 15.0% of males), almost four times the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported plans to *get an apprenticeship* after finishing school (27.2% compared with 7.4% of females).

Figure 2.1: Plans after leaving school

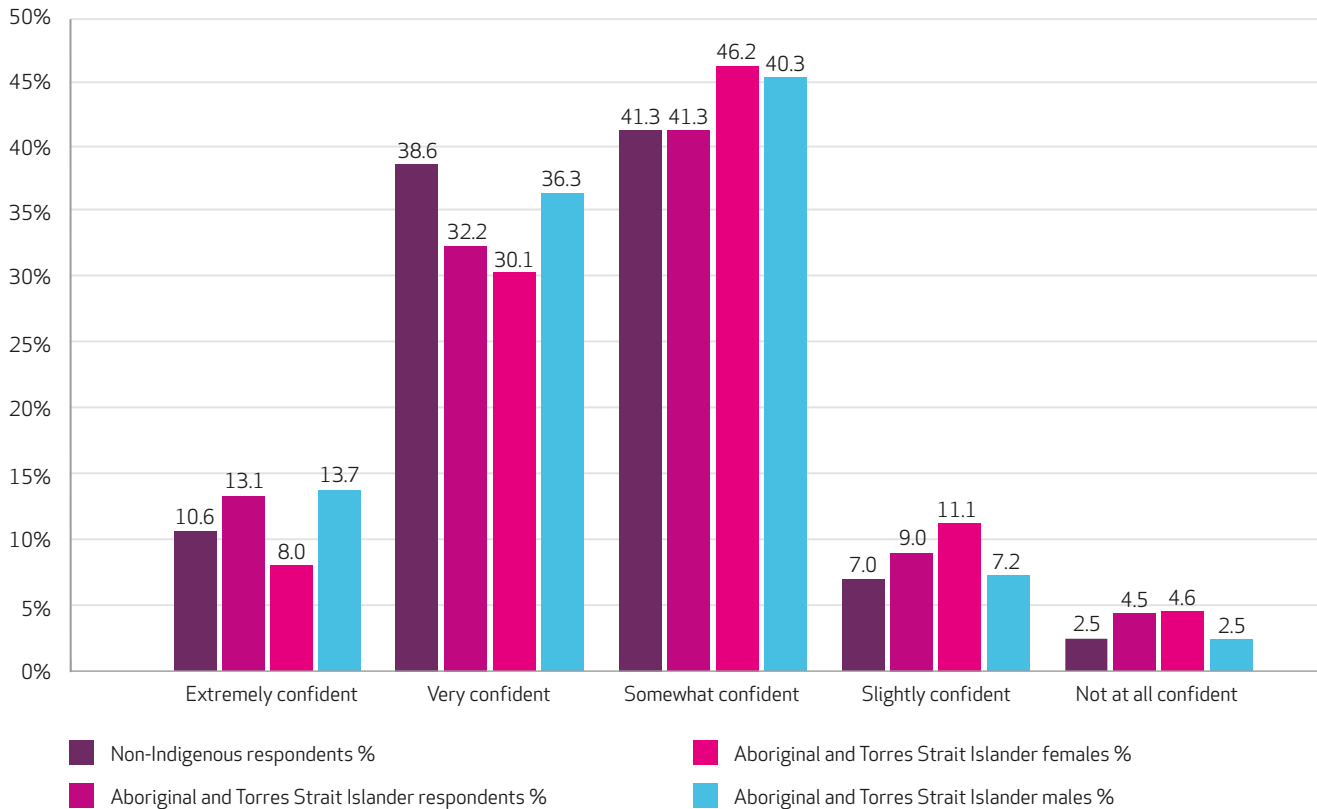


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. As highlighted in Figure 2.2, over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 13.1% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 32.2% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is slightly lower than for non-Indigenous respondents (45.3% compared with 49.2%). However, just over one in eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 9.0% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 4.5% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. Higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (13.7% and 36.3% compared with 8.0% and 30.1%).

Figure 2.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have paid employment were asked to specify how many hours they worked per week, on average. Table 2.3 shows participation in paid employment among both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous respondents. A minority (2.7%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported full-time paid employment, which is higher than for non-Indigenous respondents (0.6%). However, this result is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over one third (34.1%) reported part-time employment (compared with 42.7% of non-Indigenous respondents). Over six in ten (63.2%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported that they were not in paid employment: 43.6% reported that they were looking for work, while 19.6% were not looking for work. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents who indicated that they were looking for work was higher than for non-Indigenous respondents (43.6% compared with 34.0%).

Gender differences

Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male respondents reported full-time employment (2.1% compared with 2.5%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (37.0% compared with 30.8% of males). Over four in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males indicated that they were looking for work (44.9% compared with 45.8% 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	0.6	2.7	2.1	2.5
Employed part-time	42.7	34.1	37.0	30.8
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.0	43.6	44.9	45.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.7	19.6	16.0	21.0

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Over four in ten (43.9%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers compared with just under four in ten (38.4%) non-Indigenous respondents. A notably higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (49.0%) than males (37.6%) reported the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 2.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

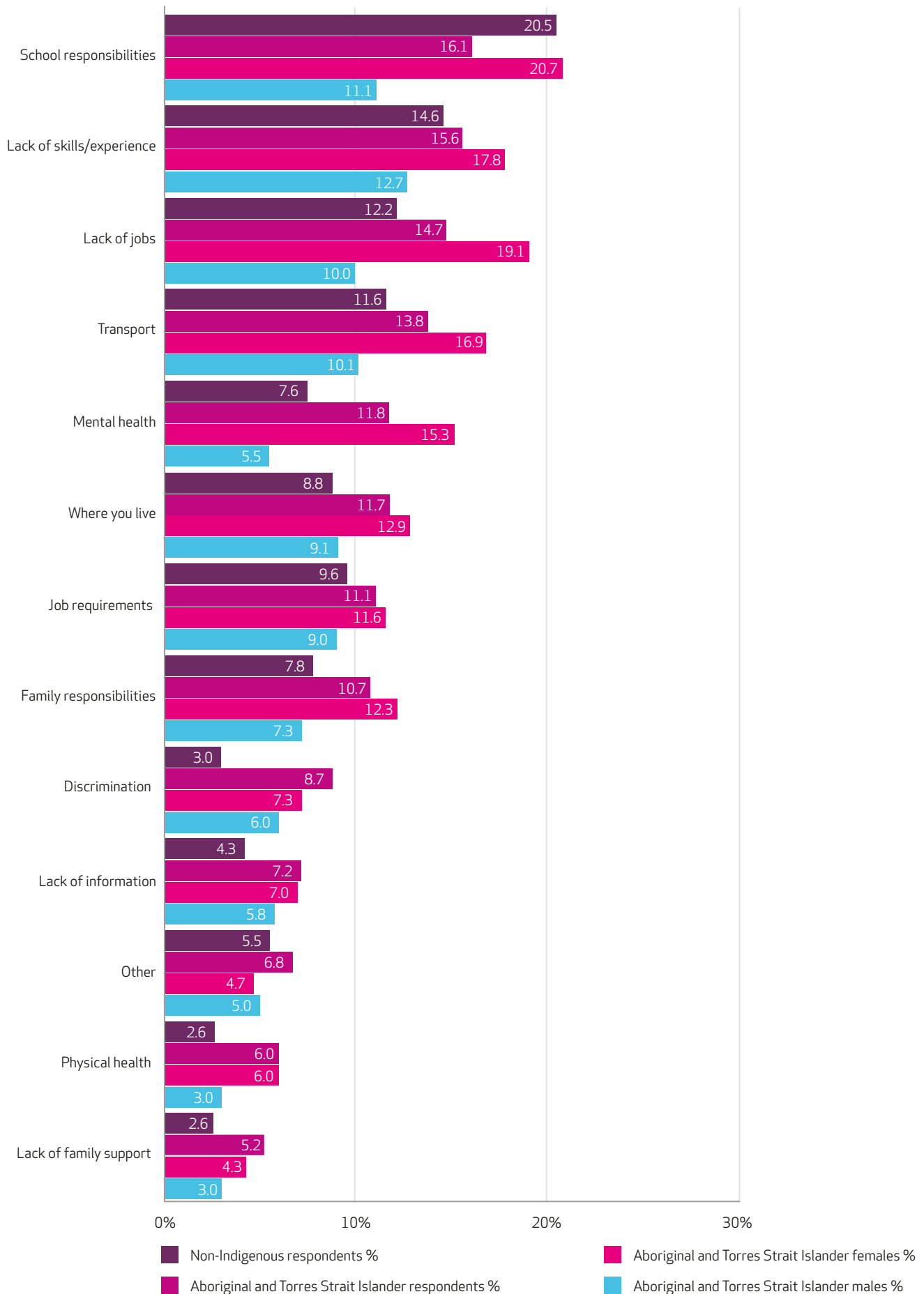
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people finding work (16.1%, 15.6% and 14.7% respectively).
- Over one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they saw *transport, mental health, where you live, job requirements* or *family responsibilities* as barriers to finding work (13.8%, 11.8%, 11.7%, 11.1% and 10.7% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 2.3, the top three barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs*. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, the top barrier was *lack of skills/experience*, followed by *school responsibilities* and *transport*.

- Nearly twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females noted *school responsibilities* and *lack of jobs* as barriers to finding work (20.7% and 19.1% compared with 11.1% and 10.0% of males).
- Almost three times the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported *mental health* as a barrier which may impact on them finding work (15.3% compared with 5.5% of males).

Figure 2.3: Barriers to finding work



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.

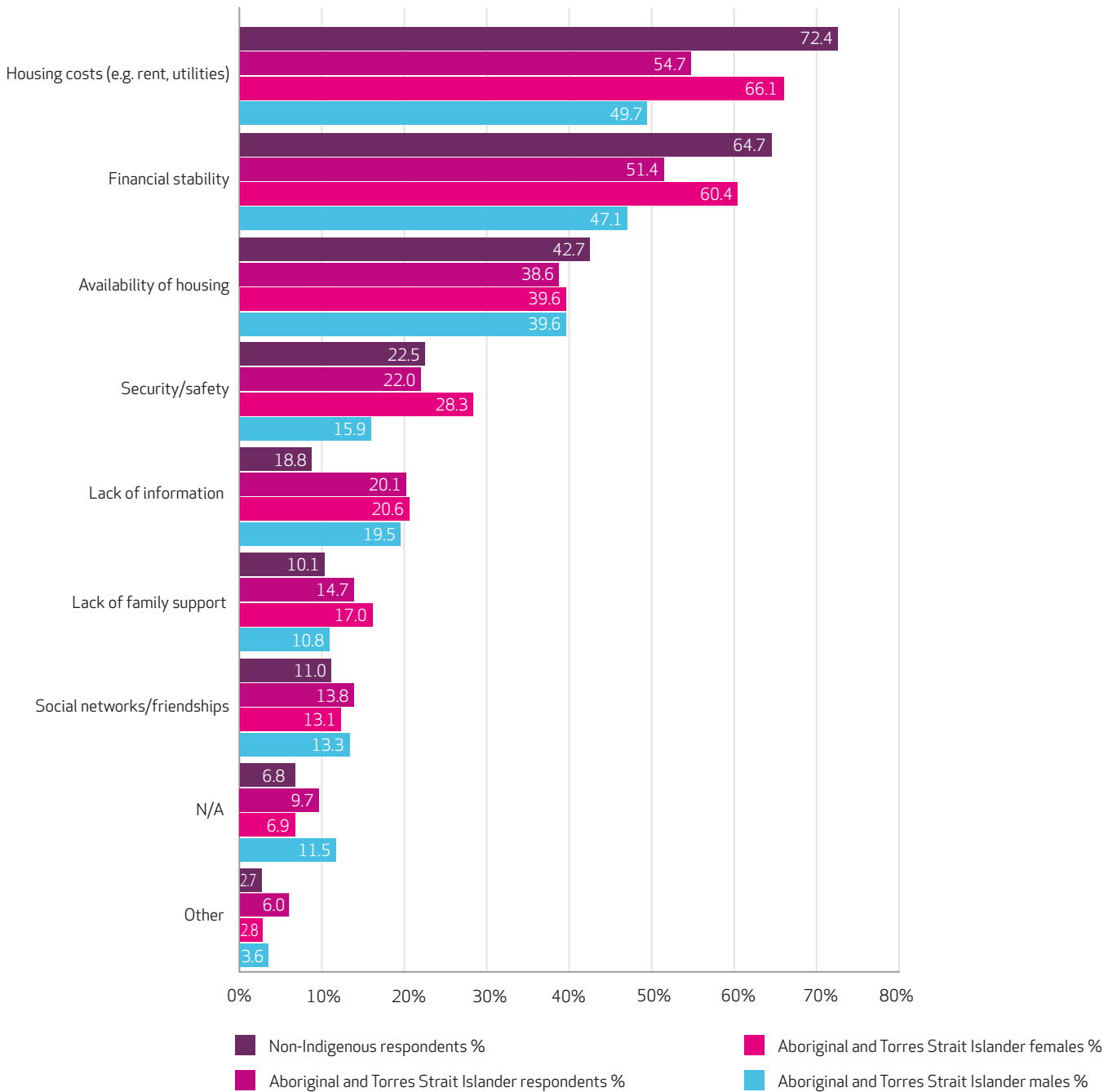
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, over half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (54.7%) indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (51.4%) and *availability of housing* (38.6%). These were the same top three barriers as for non-Indigenous young people.

Gender differences

Greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (66.1% and 60.4% compared with 49.7% and 47.1%). Almost twice the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in future (28.3% compared with 15.9% of males).

Figure 2.4: Barriers to moving out of home



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

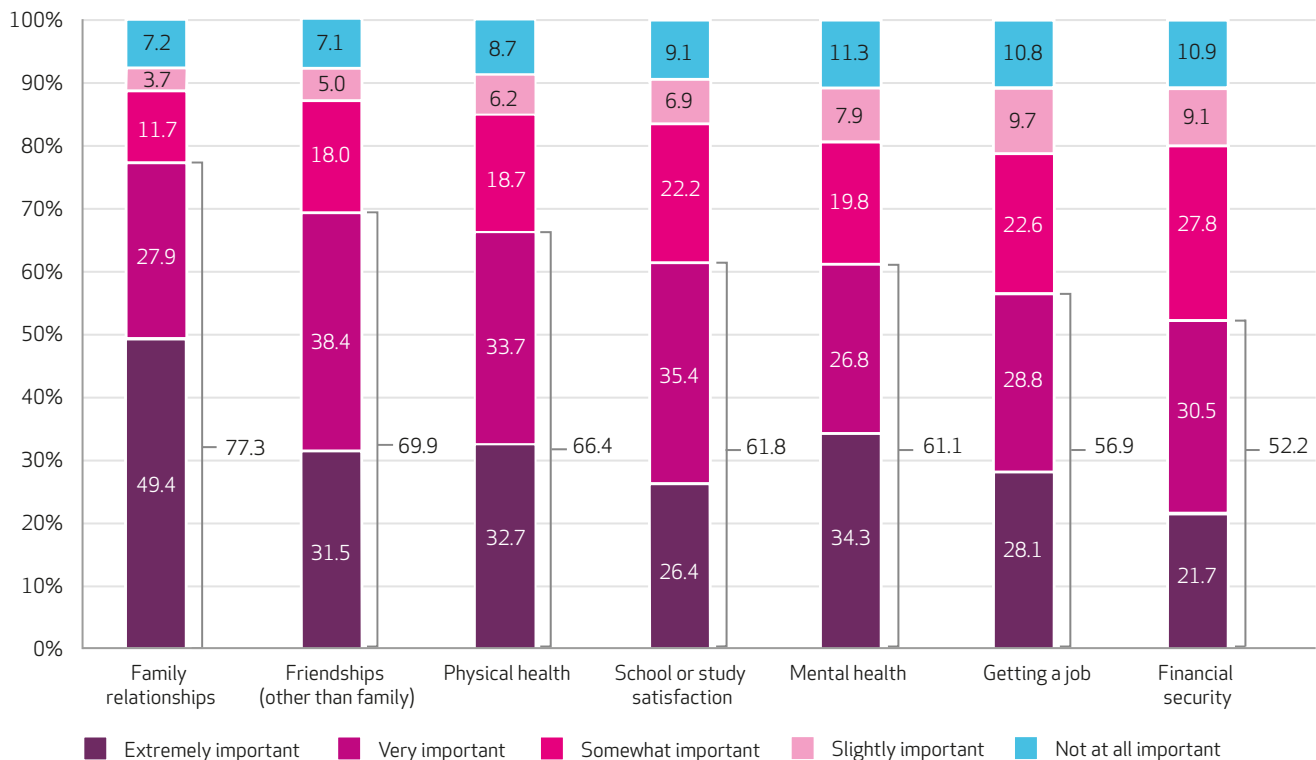
What do young people value?

In 2018, young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 2.5, the items were ranked 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 this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *physical health*. The next most valued items were *school or study satisfaction* and *mental health*.

- Nearly eight in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people placed a high value on *family relationships* (*extremely important*: 49.4%; *very important*: 27.9%).
- Seven in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents highly valued *friendships (other than family)* (*extremely important*: 31.5%; *very important*: 38.4%).
- Over six in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people placed a high value upon *physical health* (*extremely important*: 32.7%; *very important*: 33.7%), *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 26.4%; *very important*: 35.4%) and *mental health* (*extremely important*: 34.3%; *very important*: 26.8%).
- More than half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents valued *getting a job* (*extremely important*: 28.1%; *very important*: 28.8%) and *financial security* (*extremely important*: 21.7%; *very important*: 30.5%).

Figure 2.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males, as shown in Table 2.4. The third highest rated item for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 84.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 54.8%; *very important*: 29.9%) and 79.0% of males (*extremely important*: 48.8%; *very important*: 30.2%).
- Almost three quarters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 31.7%; *very important*: 42.3%) and males (*extremely important*: 33.2%; *very important*: 39.8%) placed a high value on *friendships (other than family)*.
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 71.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely important*: 28.4%; *very important*: 43.2%), compared with 59.3% of males (*extremely important*: 25.8%; *very important*: 33.5%).
- *Physical health* was highly valued by around seven in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (*extremely important*: 35.8%; *very important*: 34.5%) and females (*extremely important*: 30.4%; *very important*: 37.6%).

Table 2.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	54.8	29.9	9.0	4.1	2.1
Friendships (other than family)	31.7	42.3	18.5	5.1	2.5
Physical health	30.4	37.6	19.9	7.9	4.0
School or study satisfaction	28.4	43.2	19.2	5.1	4.2
Mental health	36.9	30.9	18.4	9.1	4.8
Getting a job	27.5	32.2	24.2	9.5	6.5
Financial security	21.1	34.5	28.5	9.4	6.5
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	48.8	30.2	13.5	3.4	4.1
Friendships (other than family)	33.2	39.8	18.5	4.7	3.7
Physical health	35.8	34.5	18.2	5.6	5.9
School or study satisfaction	25.8	33.5	26.6	7.9	6.2
Mental health	33.5	27.6	22.4	7.2	9.2
Getting a job	29.0	30.0	21.9	10.7	8.5
Financial security	20.7	30.9	29.7	10.2	8.5

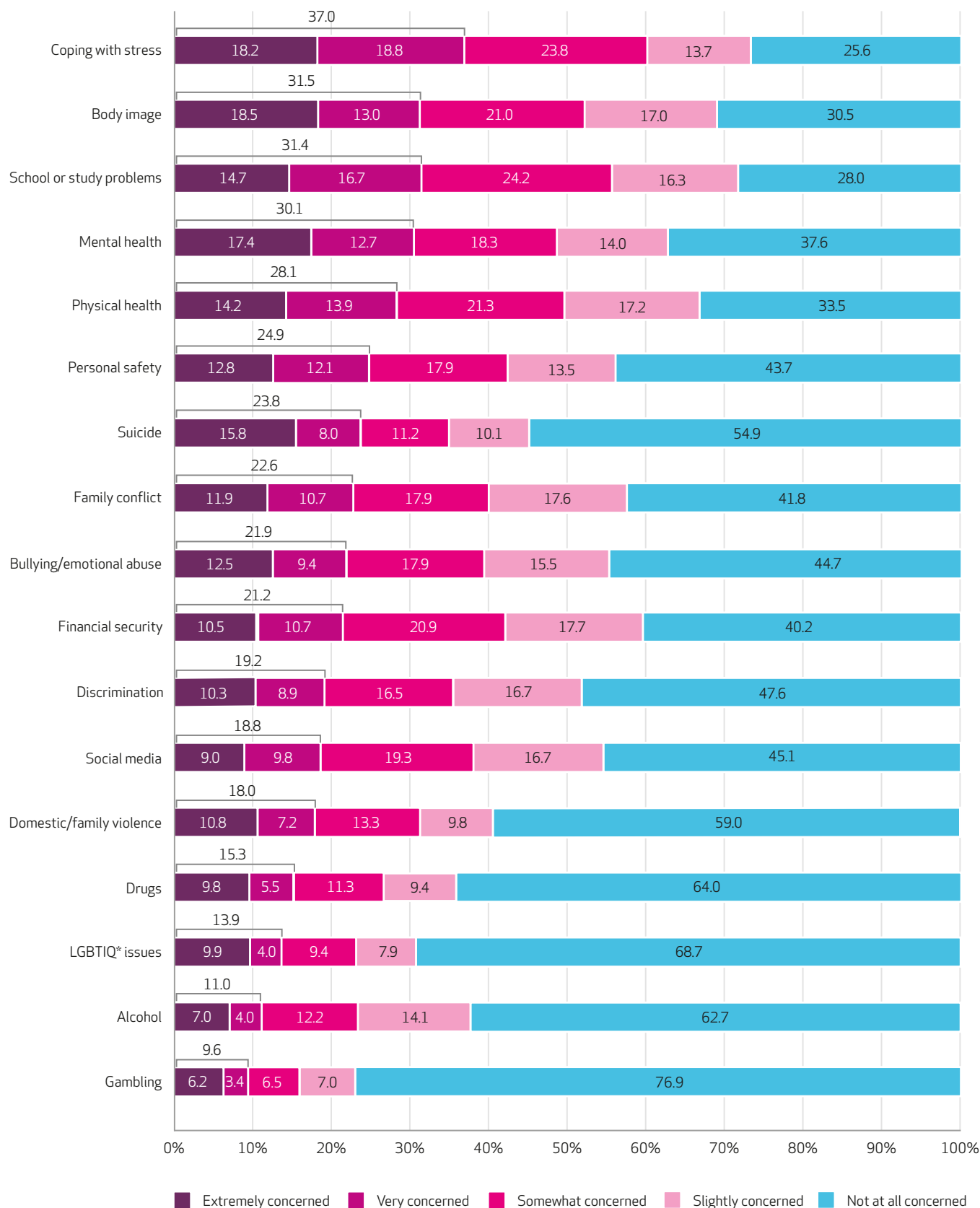
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of frequency amongst all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 2.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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 *school or study problems*.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 37.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (18.2%) or *very concerned* (18.8%) about this issue.
- *Body image* was a major concern for almost one third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (*extremely concerned*: 18.5%; *very concerned*: 13.0%).
- *School or study problems* was also a highly rated issue of concern for 31.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.7%; *very concerned*: 16.7%).
- Three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were either *extremely concerned* (17.4%) or *very concerned* (12.7%) about *mental health*.

Figure 2.6: 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 was the top issue of personal concern for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males. *Body image* was the second highest rated issue of concern for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, while *physical health* was the second highest rated personal concern for males. The third most noted concern for both females and males was *school or study problems*. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 24.6%; *very concerned*: 26.1%), compared with one quarter of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.0%; *very concerned*: 15.3%).
- Over three times the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (43.3%) than males (17.6%) indicated *body image* was a major concern.
- *School or study problems* was a major issue of concern for over two in five (41.1%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 17.5%; *very concerned*: 23.6%), compared with one in five (20.8%) males (*extremely concerned*: 8.1%; *very concerned*: 17.5%).
- Just over three in ten (31.0%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (*extremely concerned*: 14.3%; *very concerned*: 16.7%) and over one in five (22.6%) males (*extremely concerned*: 9.2%; *very concerned*: 13.4%) were concerned about *physical health*.

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

Females	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	24.6	26.1	25.3	13.2	10.8
Body image	22.7	20.6	23.9	15.5	17.3
School or study problems	17.5	23.6	26.7	16.8	15.4
Mental health	22.0	16.5	21.0	17.4	23.1
Physical health	14.3	16.7	26.3	21.4	21.3
Personal safety	14.4	13.8	21.3	15.9	34.5
Suicide	16.5	10.8	14.3	11.0	47.4
Family conflict	13.8	14.3	22.1	19.5	30.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	13.2	14.4	20.7	19.3	32.4
Financial security	10.6	16.0	24.5	18.0	30.9
Discrimination	9.0	10.5	20.9	20.9	38.7
Social media	8.3	12.0	25.5	19.4	34.8
Domestic/family violence	10.1	9.0	16.2	9.9	54.7
Drugs	8.7	6.1	12.3	9.9	63.1
LGBTIQ* issues	6.1	5.9	10.2	9.9	67.9
Alcohol	3.9	4.5	14.6	16.1	61.0
Gambling	2.4	2.7	6.3	7.2	81.4

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

Males	Extremely concerned %	Very concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Slightly concerned %	Not at all concerned %
Coping with stress	9.0	15.3	24.7	16.0	34.9
Body image	9.3	8.3	20.3	21.1	41.0
School or study problems	8.1	12.7	24.7	18.5	35.9
Mental health	8.8	11.2	17.4	12.8	49.9
Physical health	9.2	13.4	18.7	16.0	42.7
Personal safety	7.0	12.0	16.3	13.6	51.0
Suicide	9.6	5.9	8.6	10.7	65.2
Family conflict	5.9	8.9	15.8	18.9	50.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.3	6.7	16.6	14.3	55.1
Financial security	6.0	7.3	19.1	20.1	47.5
Discrimination	5.9	8.5	14.9	15.3	55.3
Social media	4.9	8.5	16.2	16.9	53.6
Domestic/family violence	6.2	6.2	11.3	11.2	65.2
Drugs	5.4	5.3	10.4	10.7	68.1
LGBTIQ* issues	6.1	3.0	8.7	6.7	75.5
Alcohol	4.5	4.5	11.2	14.3	65.3
Gambling	4.4	4.3	6.7	7.6	76.9

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 2.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

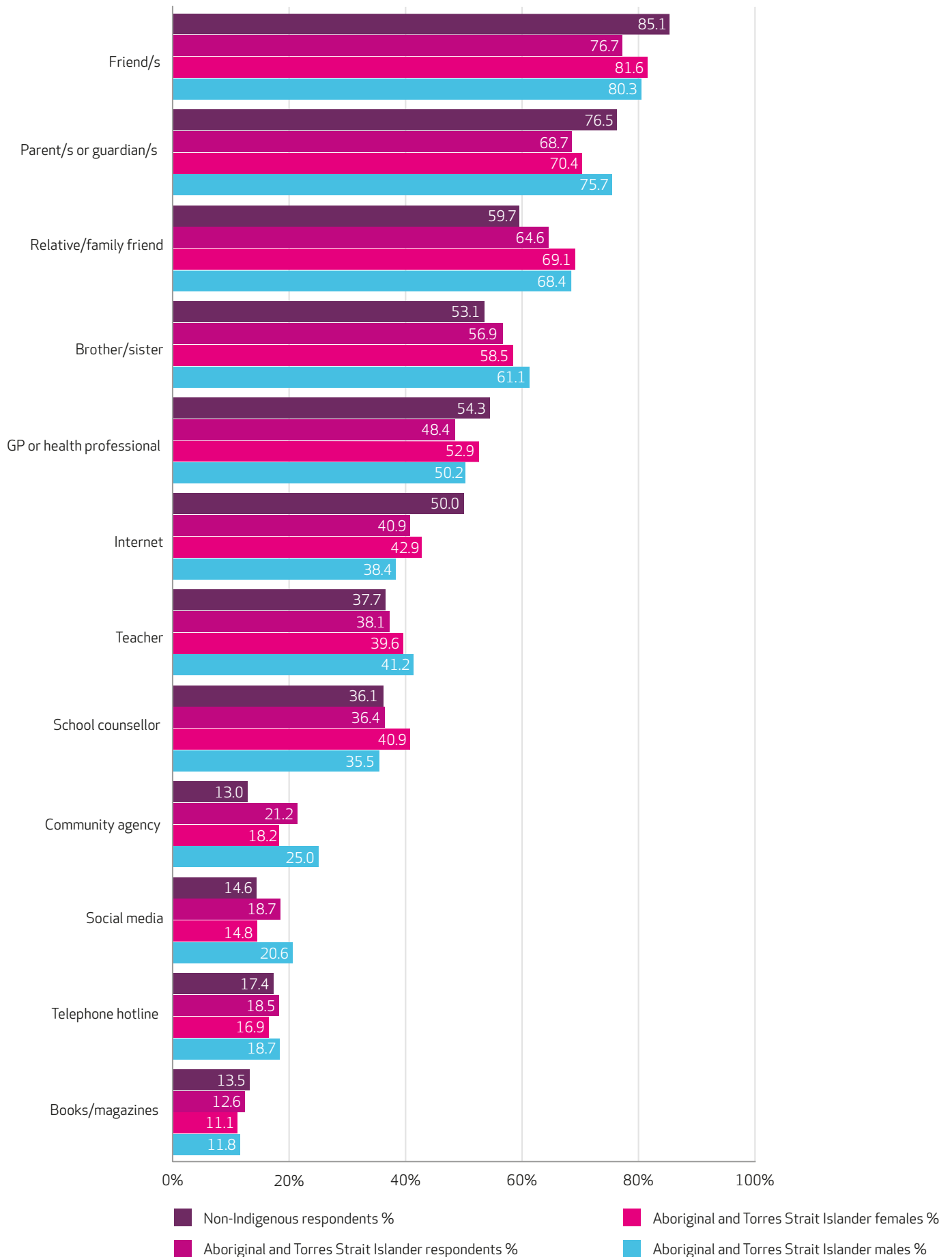
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (76.7%, 68.7% and 64.6% respectively).
- A total of 56.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* for help with important issues in their lives.
- Almost half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that they would turn to a *GP or health professional* (48.4%) and around four in ten to the *internet* (40.9%) 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*.

- Around eight in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male respondents indicated that they would go to their *friend/s* for help with important issues (81.6% and 80.3% respectively).
- A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males indicated they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* for help (75.7% compared with 70.4% of females).
- Similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female and male respondents indicated that they would turn to their *relative/family friend* (69.1% compared with 68.4%), their *brother/sister* (58.5% compared with 61.1%) or a *GP or health professional* (52.9% compared with 50.2%) for support.

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.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As shown in Table 2.6, just under one quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people indicated that they used the internet to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (24.2%) and to *source information about specific issues* (23.3%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people also used the internet for *information about available services* (16.9%) and to use an *online quiz or assessment tool* (14.9%).

Table 2.6: Internet use for important issues

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.2	24.2	24.1	23.7
Information about specific issues	32.1	23.3	27.9	19.5
Information about available services	16.7	16.9	18.5	14.5
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.6	14.9	18.2	11.8
Counselling with a professional	11.7	14.7	17.3	10.9
Other	7.4	13.9	6.3	13.4
Personal stories or testimonies	18.0	13.3	15.1	10.5
Support group or forum	8.2	11.2	10.6	10.4
Online course or program	5.0	8.9	6.0	9.0

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

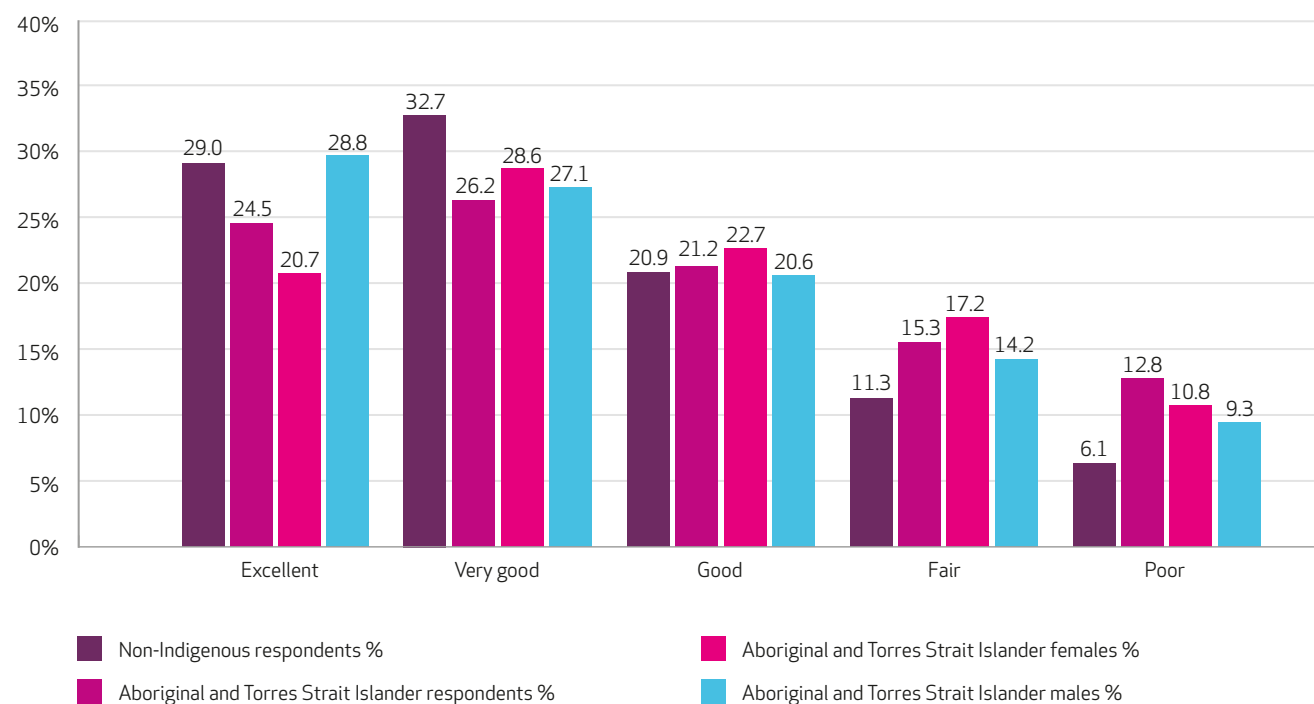
Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.6, there were slight differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, the three most indicated sources of help accessed on the internet were seeking *information about specific issues* (27.9%), to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (24.1%) and finding *information about available services* (18.5%). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, the most indicated sources of online support were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (23.7%), to *source information about specific issues* (19.5%) and *information about available services* (14.5%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 2.8 shows that half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 24.5% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 26.2% rated it as *very good*. However, almost three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (15.3%) or *poor* (12.8%). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (28.8% compared with 20.7%).

Figure 2.8: Family's ability to get along



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 2.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is the first time that *mental health* has been identified as the most important issue in Australia by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

- Over one third (35.5%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Over three in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified *alcohol and drugs* (32.3%) and one in five identified *equity and discrimination* (20.6%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Just over one in six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents identified *bullying* as a major issue (18.0%).
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *the economy and financial matters* and *the environment* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

Mental health was the top issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, ahead of *alcohol and drugs*. Conversely, *alcohol and drugs* was the top issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, followed by *mental health*. The third most important issue in Australia today for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females was *bullying*, whereas for males it was *equity and discrimination*.

- A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males identified *mental health* (47.5% compared with 29.0%), *equity and discrimination* (22.2% compared with 19.9%) and *bullying* (22.9% compared with 16.5%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (34.3% compared with 32.4%).

Table 2.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2017 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %
Mental health	43.5	35.5	47.5	29.0	27.6	14.4
Alcohol and drugs	28.5	32.3	32.4	34.3	41.0	30.9
Equity and discrimination	23.6	20.6	22.2	19.9	23.1	21.5
Bullying	17.3	18.0	22.9	16.5	12.7	11.6
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	14.6	16.2	13.8	11.6	12.5
The economy and financial matters	11.6	11.4	10.1	13.6	10.2	13.9
Employment	7.9	9.1	8.8	11.0	8.3	10.5
Homelessness/housing	9.3	7.8	10.4	7.2	6.4	7.7
Health	11.6	7.6	5.8	8.5	5.9	8.2
The environment	9.3	6.8	6.9	7.6	5.6	8.0

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

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 2.8.

- As in previous years, the top three activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were *sports (as a participant)* (59.9%), *sports (as a spectator)* (37.7%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (36.3%).
- Over three in ten (31.8%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- One quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people reported participating in *youth groups and activities* (25.8%) and *student leadership activities* (25.2%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 2.8, the top activity for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females and males was *sports (as a participant)*. The second and third most indicated activities differed between genders. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females, the second activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (42.9%), followed by *volunteer work* (36.4%). For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, *sports (as a spectator)* (43.5%) was the second top activity, followed by *arts/cultural/music activities* (30.5%).

- A total of 65.7% of male respondents and 56.8% of female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (43.5% compared with 30.8%).
- Greater proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* and *volunteer work* (42.9% and 36.4% compared with 30.5% and 26.9% respectively).

Table 2.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2018 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %
Sports (as a participant)	63.7	59.9	56.8	65.7
Sports (as a spectator)	41.1	37.7	30.8	43.5
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.7	36.3	42.9	30.5
Volunteer work	37.5	31.8	36.4	26.9
Youth groups and activities	22.4	25.8	26.6	23.3
Student leadership activities	27.7	25.2	26.9	24.0
Religious groups/activities	19.0	17.0	15.0	14.3
Environmental groups/activities	10.9	15.2	13.2	14.0
Political groups/organisations	3.8	6.5	2.9	5.1

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

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 2.9 shows, half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (50.2%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people felt happy overall with their lives (compared to 63.0% of non-Indigenous respondents). A greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole than females (58.8% compared with 46.9%).

Table 2.9: 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)	63.0	50.2	46.9	58.8
Not happy or sad (40–60)	27.5	31.3	37.8	29.0
Very sad/Sad (0–30)	9.4	18.5	15.5	12.1

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 2.10 shows that the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Over half (56.3%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt either *positive* (38.2%) or *very positive* (18.1%) about the future.
- Almost one in six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents felt *negative* (7.0%) or *very negative* (7.8%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (20.6% compared with 14.6%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 2.10: Feelings about the future

	Non-Indigenous respondents %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2018 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2017 %	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents 2016 %
Very positive	15.3	18.1	14.6	20.6	17.2	18.4
Positive	47.3	38.2	38.8	41.9	41.7	36.0
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	29.0	34.8	26.4	28.3	27.9
Negative	6.8	7.0	8.2	5.8	5.5	6.3
Very negative	2.8	7.8	3.6	5.3	7.4	11.4

Australian Capital Territory



Profile of respondents

In total, 336 young people from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2018.

Gender breakdown

Over half (54.2%) of respondents from the ACT were female and 39.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 16 (4.9%) respondents from the ACT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Language background other than English

A total of 51 (15.6%) respondents from the ACT stated that they were born overseas and 59 (18.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 25 languages other than English spoken at home in the ACT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Croatian, German, Vietnamese, Chinese and Mandarin.

Disability

A total of 28 (8.6%) respondents from the ACT indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (10.2%) than females (4.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in the ACT were (in order of frequency): autism, blindness or visual impairment and learning disabilities.

Education

As indicated in Table 3.1, 97.9% of respondents from the ACT were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents reported that they were studying full-time (98.5% compared with 97.2%), while a marginally higher proportion of males (1.5%) than females (1.1%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from the ACT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.7%) or *satisfied* (59.9%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.8% and 4.3%). As shown in Table 3.2, a notably higher proportion of females than males from the ACT reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (17.0% and 64.2% compared with 9.2% and 57.7%).

Table 3.1: Participation in education

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	97.9	97.2	98.5
Studying part-time	2.3	0.9	1.7	0.0
Not studying	3.7	1.2	1.1	1.5

Table 3.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	ACT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2017 %	ACT 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	14.7	17.0	9.2	16.9	16.2
Satisfied	55.8	59.9	64.2	57.7	52.5	49.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	18.3	13.6	24.6	22.5	23.7
Dissatisfied	5.3	4.3	3.4	5.4	5.9	7.5
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.8	1.7	3.1	2.2	2.9

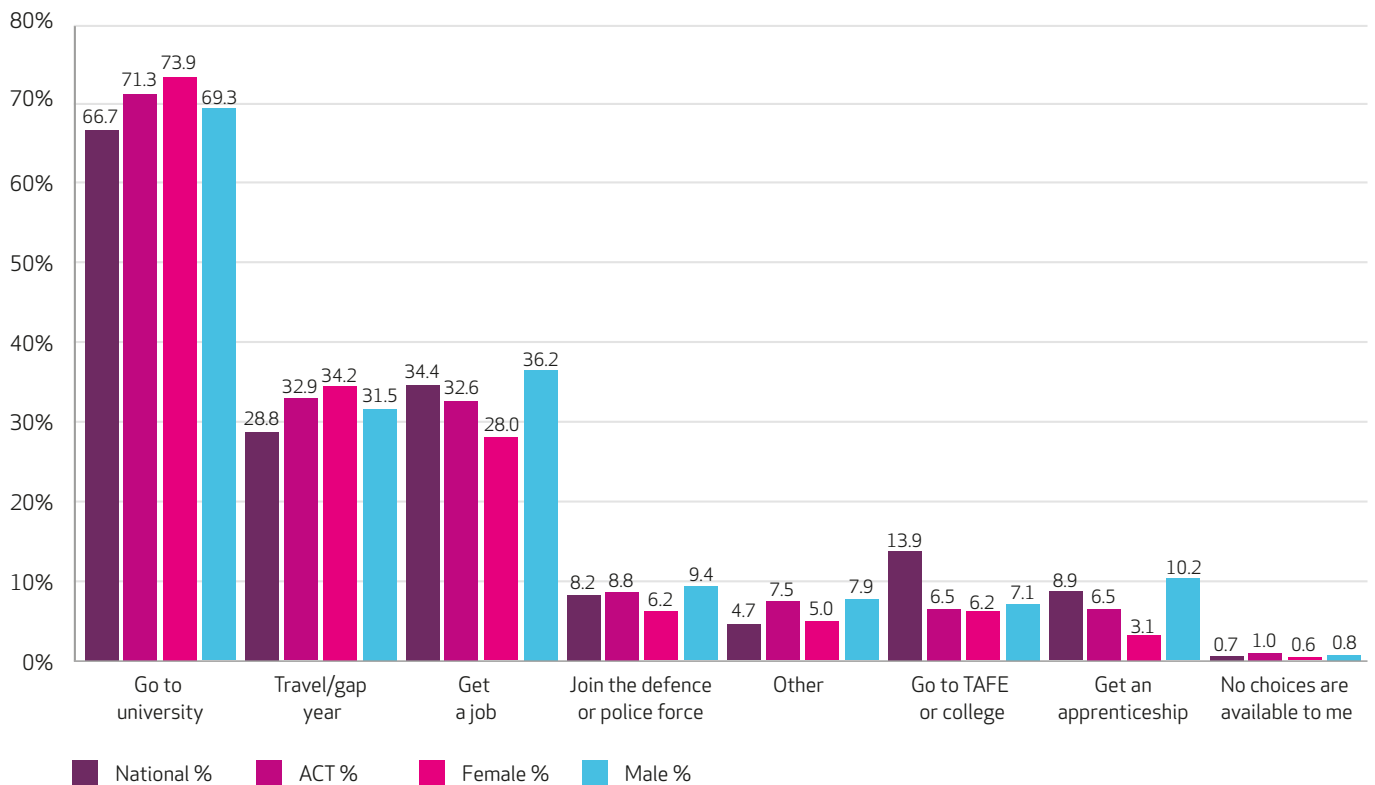
Of those who were still at school in the ACT, 97.7% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (2.4% compared with 1.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 3.1 shows that over seven in ten (71.3%) respondents from the ACT planned to *go to university* after school. Just under one third of respondents indicated *travel/gap year* plans (32.9%) and plans to *get a job* after school (32.6%). Overall, 8.8% of young people from the ACT planned to *join the defence or police force*, while equal proportions (6.5%) planned to *go to TAFE or college* or *get an apprenticeship*. A small minority of respondents (1.0%) indicated feeling *no choices are available to me* after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from the ACT was to *go to university*, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (73.9% compared with 69.3%). A slightly greater proportion of female respondents also reported *travel/gap year* plans after leaving school (34.2% compared with 31.5% of males). Conversely, over three times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to *get an apprenticeship* (10.2% compared with 3.1% of females).

Figure 3.1: Plans after leaving school

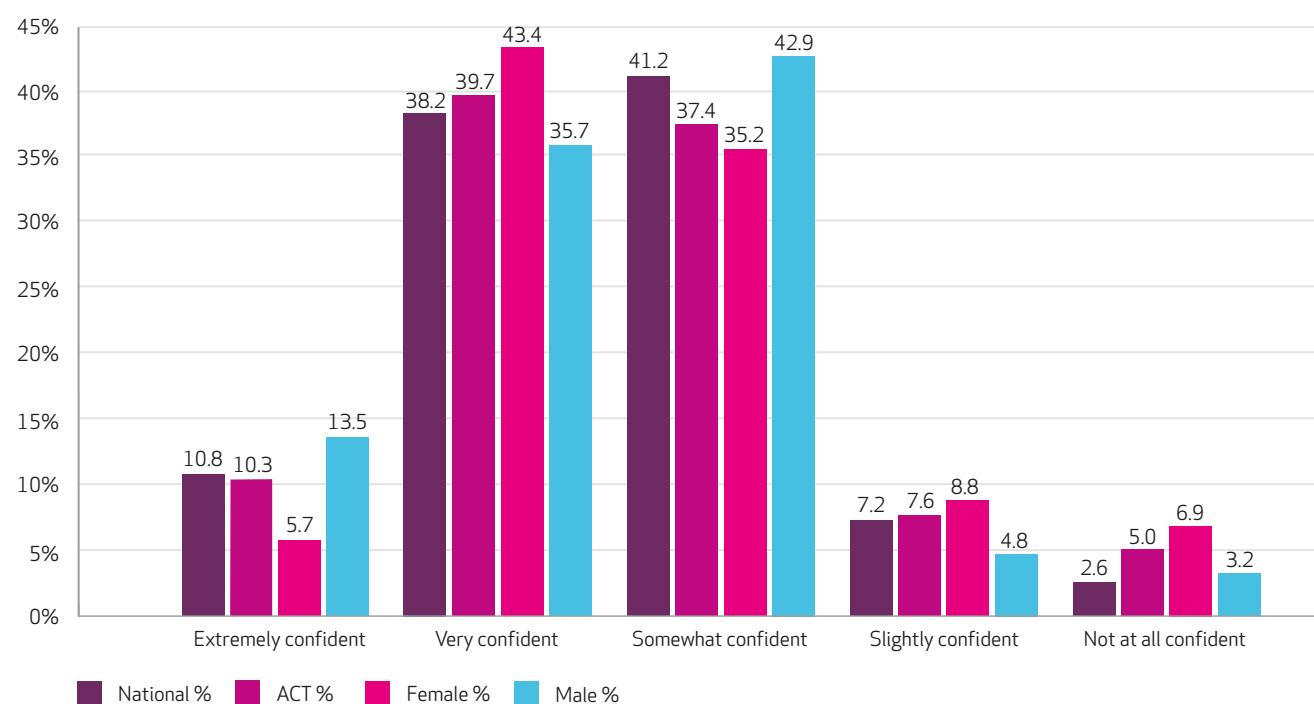


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Half (50.0%) of respondents from the ACT indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 10.3% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 39.7% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is comparable to the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, one in eight young people from the ACT were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.6% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 5.0% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. Over twice the proportion of male respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* (13.5% compared with 5.7%), while a notably higher proportion of female respondents reported feeling *very confident* (43.4% compared with 35.7%).

Figure 3.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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 (0.6%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Almost half (46.3%) of respondents from the ACT reported part-time employment. Over half (53.1%) of ACT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 34.8% reported that they were looking for work, while 18.3% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from the ACT that indicated they were looking for work is slightly higher than the 2017 and 2016 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from the ACT reported full-time employment (0.6% compared with 0.8%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (48.3% compared with 41.9% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (40.3% compared with 33.3% of females).

Table 3.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8
Employed part-time	42.1	46.3	48.3	41.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	34.8	33.3	40.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	18.3	17.8	17.1

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Nearly four in ten (38.8%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a far greater proportion of females (46.9%) than males (26.9%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 3.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

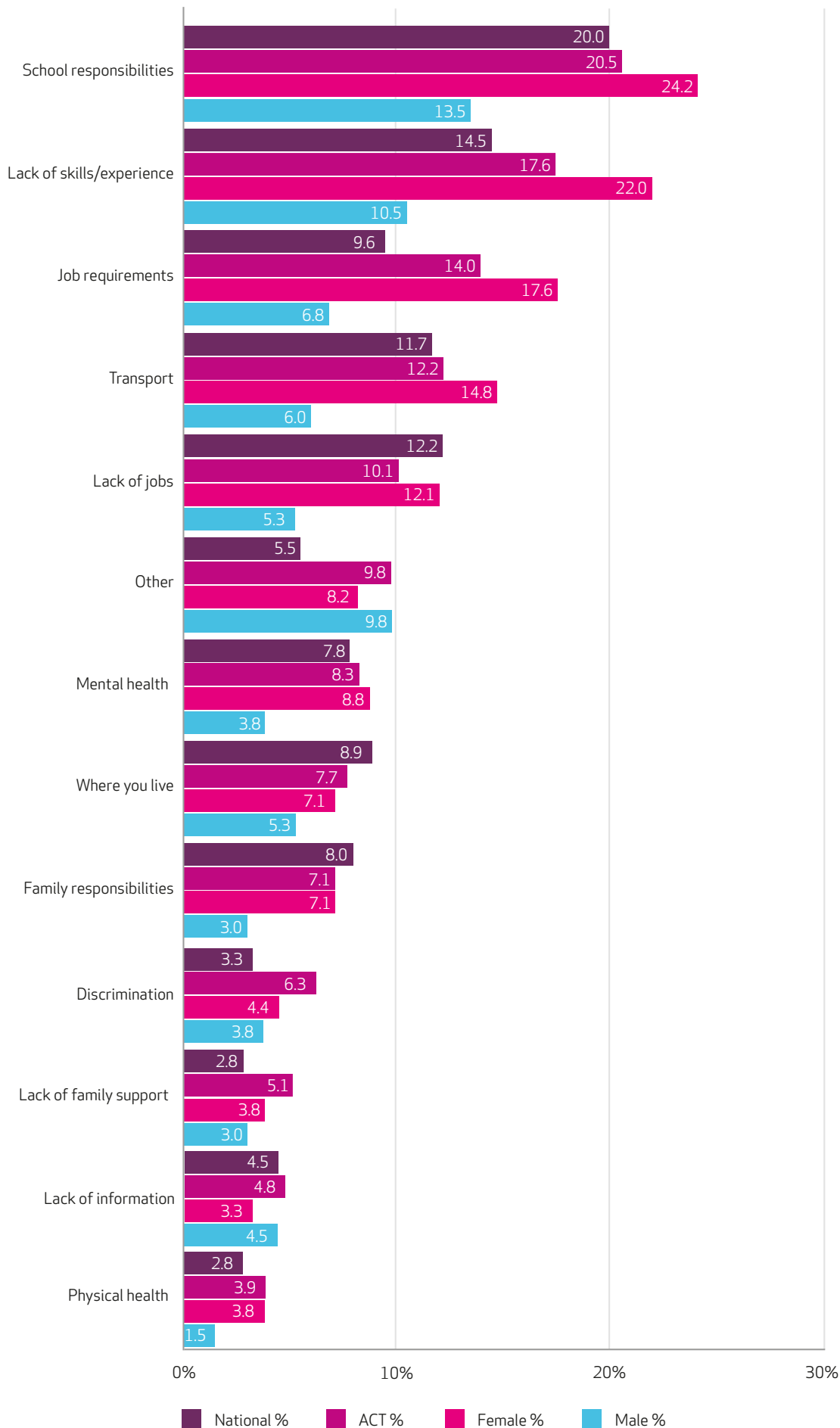
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *job requirements* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in the ACT (20.5%, 17.6% and 14.0% respectively).
- Around one in eight respondents indicated that they saw *transport* (12.2%) as a barrier to finding work, while around one in ten cited a *lack of jobs* (10.1%).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.3, the top two barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities* and *lack of skills/experience*. For females, the third most identified barrier was *job requirements* and for males it was *other*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 24.2% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared with 13.5% of male respondents.
- More than double the proportion of females reported *lack of skills/experience* and *job requirements* as barriers which may impact on their finding work (22.0% and 17.6% compared with 10.5% and 6.8% of males).
- Females were over twice as likely than males to indicate *transport* and *lack of jobs* as barriers impacting upon their finding work (14.8% and 12.1% compared with 6.0% and 5.3%).

Figure 3.3: Barriers to finding work



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

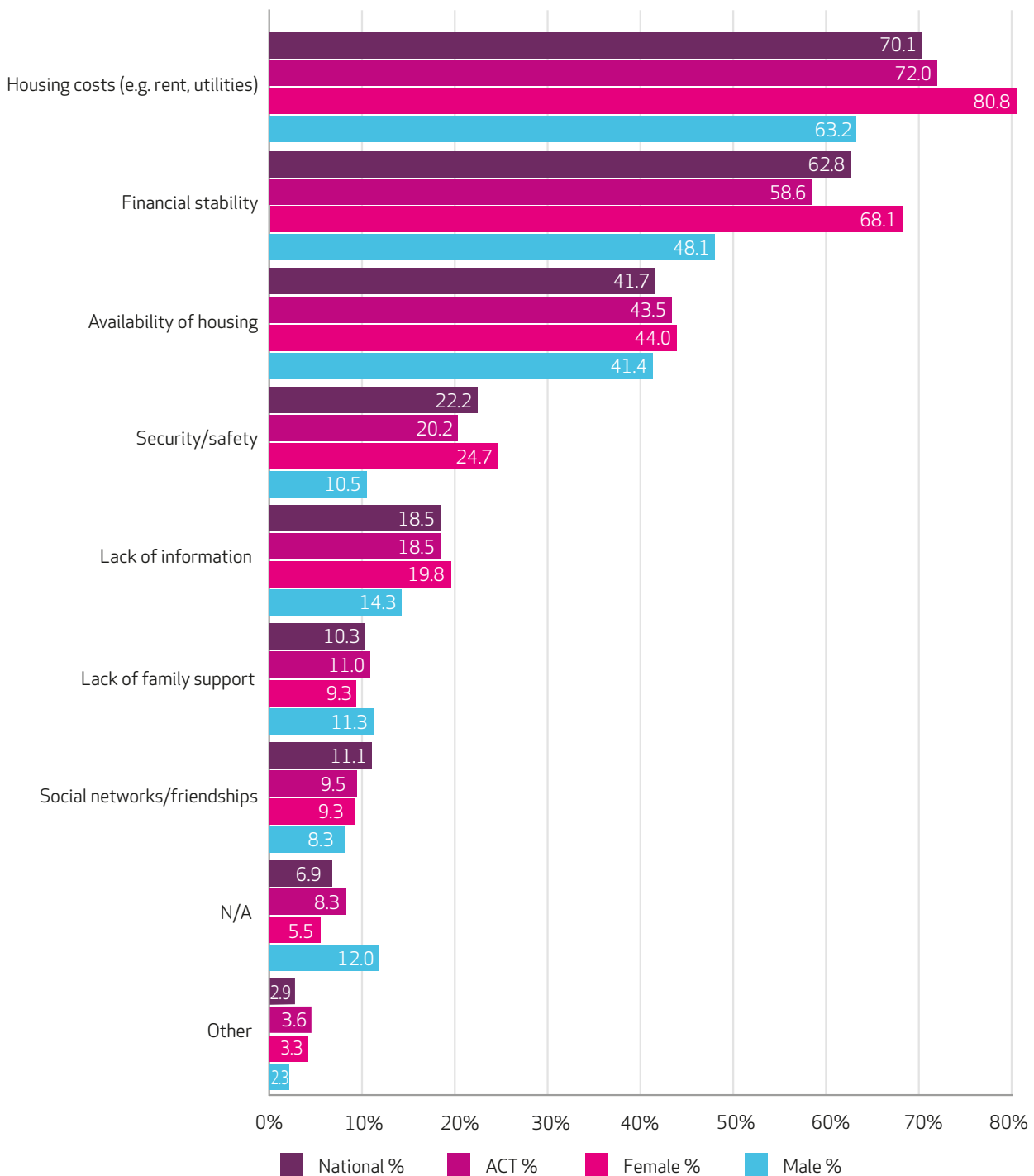
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, over seven in ten (72.0%) respondents from the ACT indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (58.6%) and *availability of housing* (43.5%). The ACT results are generally consistent with national results.

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from the ACT reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (80.8% and 68.1% compared with 63.2% and 48.1% respectively). Over twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (24.7% compared with 10.5%).

Figure 3.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

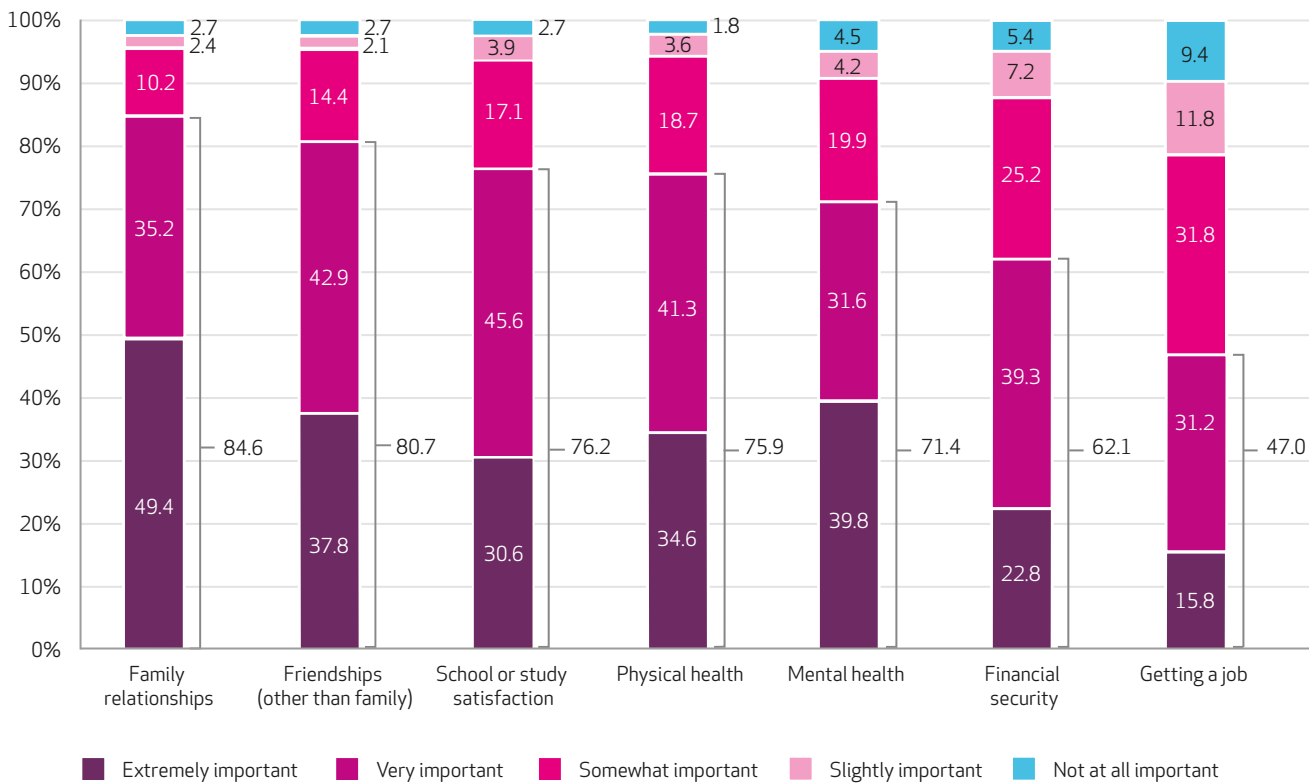
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 3.5, the items were ranked 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 this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 84.6% of respondents from the ACT (*extremely important*: 49.4%; *very important*: 35.2%). *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by 80.7% of ACT respondents (*extremely important*: 37.8%; *very important*: 42.9%).
- Over three quarters of young people from the ACT placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 30.6%; *very important*: 45.6%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 34.6%; *very important*: 41.3%).
- *Mental health* was highly valued by over seven in ten (71.4%) respondents (*extremely important*: 39.8%; *very important*: 31.6%).
- More than six in ten (62.1%) ACT respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 22.8%; *very important*: 39.3%).

Figure 3.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships was the most highly valued item by both females and males from the ACT, as shown in Table 3.4. The second and third highest rated items for females were *school or study satisfaction*, followed by *friendships (other than family)*. For males, *friendships (other than family)* was the second highest rated item, ahead of *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 88.8% of females (*extremely important*: 57.0%; *very important*: 31.8%), compared with 84.8% of males (*extremely important*: 40.9%; *very important*: 43.9%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were similarly highly valued by over eight in ten females (*extremely important*: 44.1%; *very important*: 38.0%) and males (*extremely important*: 32.3%; *very important*: 49.6%).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 83.4% of females (*extremely important*: 37.8%; *very important*: 45.6%), compared with 71.2% of males (*extremely important*: 23.5%; *very important*: 47.7%).
- Around three quarters of females (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 43.3%) and males (*extremely important*: 34.4%; *very important*: 41.2%) highly valued *physical health*.

Table 3.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	57.0	31.8	8.4	1.1	1.7
Friendships (other than family)	44.1	38.0	14.5	1.7	1.7
School or study satisfaction	37.8	45.6	12.2	3.9	0.6
Physical health	35.6	43.3	18.3	2.8	0.0
Mental health	44.4	31.7	18.3	3.9	1.7
Financial security	20.7	42.5	27.9	5.6	3.4
Getting a job	18.2	31.3	31.8	11.4	7.4
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	40.9	43.9	11.4	3.0	0.8
Friendships (other than family)	32.3	49.6	15.0	2.3	0.8
School or study satisfaction	23.5	47.7	22.0	4.5	2.3
Physical health	34.4	41.2	19.8	3.8	0.8
Mental health	35.1	32.8	22.9	4.6	4.6
Financial security	24.1	36.8	22.6	10.5	6.0
Getting a job	10.5	33.8	33.1	14.3	8.3

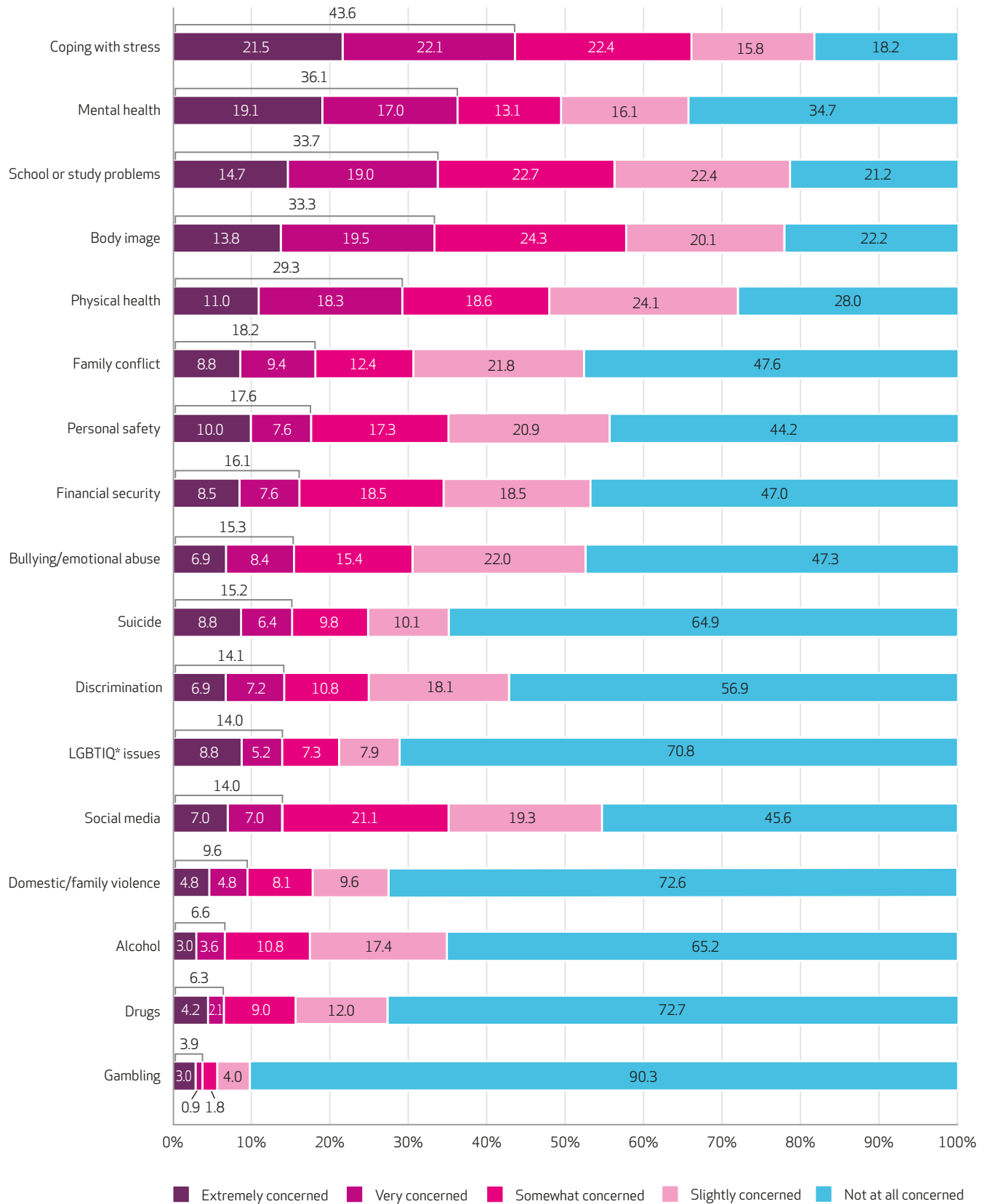
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 3.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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*, *mental health* and *school or study problems*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* results at the national level, although the order of the second and third items are reversed.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 43.6% of respondents from the ACT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (21.5%) or *very concerned* (22.1%) about this issue.
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for 36.1% of ACT respondents (*extremely concerned*: 19.1%; *very concerned*: 17.0%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 33.7% of young people from the ACT (*extremely concerned*: 14.7%; *very concerned*: 19.0%).
- One third (33.3%) of young people from the ACT were either *extremely concerned* (13.8%) or *very concerned* (19.5%) about *body image*.

Figure 3.6: 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 was the top issue of personal concern for females, while for males from the ACT *mental health* was the top concern. *Mental health* was the second highest rated issue of personal concern for females, whereas for males from the ACT *physical health* was the second highest rated personal concern. The third most noted concern for both females and males was *school or study problems*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- More than four times the proportion of females (65.7%) (*extremely concerned*: 32.6%; *very concerned*: 33.1%) than males (15.3%) (*extremely concerned*: 6.9%; *very concerned*: 8.4%) were highly concerned about *coping with stress*.
- *Mental health* was a major concern for nearly half (49.7%) of females from the ACT (*extremely concerned*: 29.4%; *very concerned*: 33.1%), compared with over one in six (17.5%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.1%; *very concerned*: 11.4%).
- Over three times the proportion of females (47.7%) than males (15.4%) indicated *school or study problems* was a major concern.
- Nearly four in ten (38.7%) females (*extremely concerned*: 14.8%; *very concerned*: 23.9%) and around one in six (15.9%) males were concerned about *physical health* (*extremely concerned*: 3.8%; *very concerned*: 12.1%).

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 %
Coping with stress	32.6	33.1	19.7	10.1	4.5
Mental health	29.4	20.3	15.8	13.6	20.9
School or study problems	23.3	24.4	23.9	21.0	7.4
Body image	20.6	26.1	24.4	20.6	8.3
Physical health	14.8	23.9	18.2	25.0	18.2
Family conflict	12.4	12.4	15.3	20.9	39.0
Personal safety	12.9	10.1	19.1	24.7	33.1
Financial security	10.7	7.9	24.3	19.8	37.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	10.6	10.6	19.6	22.9	36.3
Suicide	11.9	7.3	13.0	11.9	55.9
Discrimination	8.4	10.1	12.8	19.6	49.2
LGBTIQ* issues	11.2	6.7	11.2	9.0	61.8
Social media	10.7	9.0	27.1	19.2	33.9
Domestic/family violence	6.7	6.1	9.5	8.9	68.7
Drugs	5.0	0.6	9.4	13.3	71.7
Alcohol	3.3	5.0	11.7	20.0	60.0
Gambling	2.8	1.1	1.7	2.8	91.5

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 %
Coping with stress	6.9	8.4	26.0	25.2	33.6
Mental health	6.1	11.4	10.6	21.2	50.8
School or study problems	3.1	12.3	23.1	26.2	35.4
Body image	3.0	12.1	25.0	19.7	40.2
Physical health	3.8	12.1	18.9	25.8	39.4
Family conflict	3.8	4.5	9.8	24.2	57.6
Personal safety	3.0	4.5	15.2	18.2	59.1
Financial security	3.0	7.6	9.8	18.9	60.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	1.5	5.3	9.8	22.7	60.6
Suicide	3.1	3.1	6.1	9.2	78.6
Discrimination	1.5	3.8	8.3	18.9	67.4
LGBTIQ* issues	4.6	2.3	2.3	6.9	83.8
Social media	1.5	4.6	13.1	22.3	58.5
Domestic/family violence	0.8	3.0	5.3	11.4	79.5
Drugs	1.5	3.0	6.8	10.6	78.0
Alcohol	1.5	2.3	9.1	16.7	70.5
Gambling	1.5	0.8	1.5	6.1	90.2

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 3.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

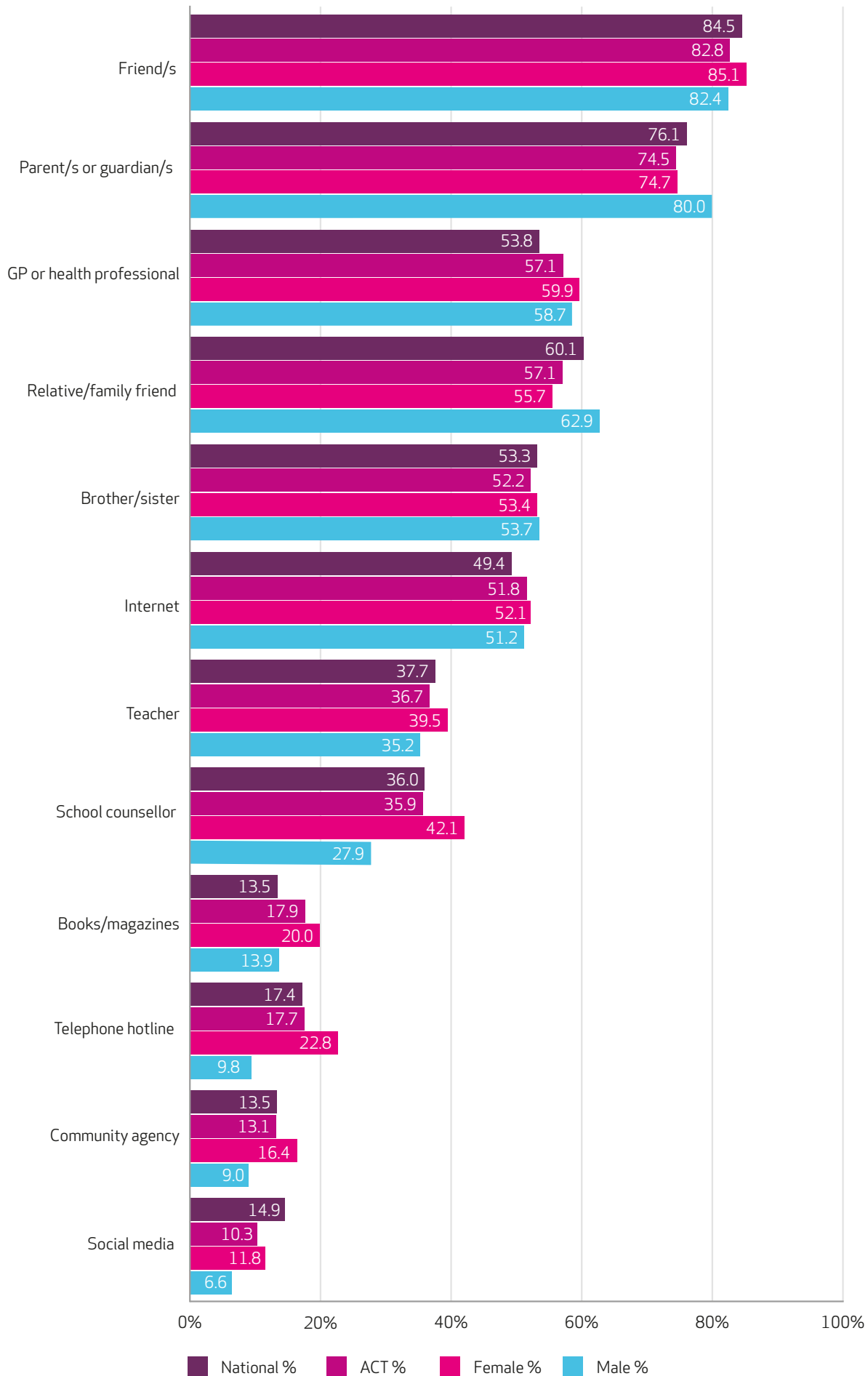
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *GP or health professional* and *relative/family friend* were the top four most commonly cited sources of help for young people from the ACT (82.8%, 74.5%, 57.1% and 57.1% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from the ACT indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (52.2%) or turn to the *internet* (51.8%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Under four in ten young people from the ACT indicated that they would turn to their *teacher* (36.7%) or *school counsellor* (35.9%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 3.7, the top three sources of help for both females and males were consistent with the ACT results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (85.1% compared with 82.4%).
- A higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (80.0% compared with 74.7%) or a *relative/family friend* for help (62.9% compared with 55.7%).
- Similar proportions of females and males from the ACT would go to a *GP or health professional* (59.9% compared with 58.7%), their *brother/sister* (53.4% compared with 53.7%), or turn to the *internet* (52.1% compared with 51.2%) for support.

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 territory frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 3.6, three in ten young people from the ACT accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (30.1%) and nearly one in five indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (19.0%). Similar proportions of young people from the ACT also indicated that they used the internet to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (14.9%), for *personal stories and testimonies* (14.6%) and *information about available services* (14.6%).

Table 3.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	30.1	34.1	25.6
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	19.0	24.7	12.0
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	14.9	14.3	16.5
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	14.6	19.8	8.3
Information about available services	16.5	14.6	18.7	9.8
Counselling with a professional	11.8	10.4	12.6	8.3
Support group or forum	8.3	6.5	7.1	6.0
Other	7.7	8.0	5.5	6.0
Online course or program	5.2	5.1	3.8	6.0

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

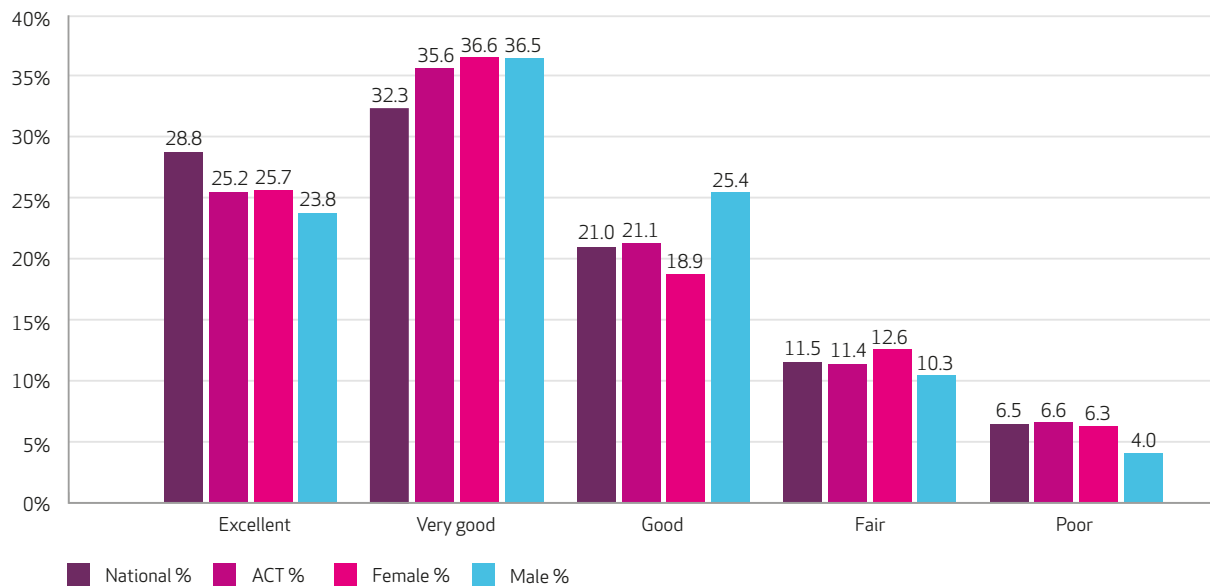
Gender differences

As shown in Table 3.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the ACT results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (34.1% compared with 25.6%). For females from the ACT, *online quiz or assessment tool* (24.7%) and *personal stories or testimonies* (19.8%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from the ACT, the second and third most indicated sources of help accessed online were to *chat one-on-one with someone who had had a similar experience* (16.5%) and using an *online quiz or assessment tool* (12.0%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 3.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from the ACT rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 25.2% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 35.6% rated it as *very good*. However, around one in five young people from the ACT did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.4%) or *poor* (6.6%). A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (25.7% compared with 23.8%). Conversely, a higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor* (12.6% and 6.3% compared with 10.3% and 4.0% respectively).

Figure 3.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 3.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from the ACT were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 and 2016 results for the ACT, although the order of the top three items has changed.

- Four in ten young people from the ACT (40.9%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of young people identified *alcohol and drugs* (23.4%) and one in five ACT respondents saw *equity and discrimination* (19.3%) as important issues in Australia today.
- One in six (16.7%) ACT respondents identified *homelessness/housing* as an important issue.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *homelessness/housing* have been increasingly identified by young people from the ACT as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *the environment* and *population issues* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the territory results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents.

- A higher proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (52.3% compared with 27.7%) and *alcohol and drugs* (25.2% compared with 21.8%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Similar proportions of females and males identified *equity and discrimination* (18.5% compared with 18.8%) as an important issue.

Table 3.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	ACT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2017 %	ACT 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	40.9	52.3	27.7	30.1	26.3
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	23.4	25.2	21.8	23.9	21.9
Equity and discrimination	23.4	19.3	18.5	18.8	32.7	22.4
Homelessness/housing	9.2	16.7	19.2	15.8	8.9	10.2
Health	11.4	11.5	10.6	11.9	8.9	10.2
Education	8.2	11.2	11.9	10.9	11.5	11.2
Bullying	17.4	10.4	13.9	6.9	5.2	9.7
The economy and financial matters	11.6	10.4	8.6	12.9	11.3	14.5
Population issues	6.7	10.4	9.9	12.9	14.1	15.1
The environment	9.2	10.0	9.3	12.9	16.2	16.6

Note: Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 3.8.

- As in previous years, the top three activities for young people from the ACT were *sports (as a participant)* (75.3%), *sports (as a spectator)* (44.6%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (39.9%).
- Around four in ten (39.3%) ACT respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- One third of young people from the ACT reported participating in *student leadership activities* (33.6%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 3.8, the top activity for both females and males from the ACT was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second and third most indicated activities differed between genders. For females, the second most indicated activities were *arts/cultural/music activities* and *volunteer work* (50.5% equally), ahead of *sports (as a participant)* (39.0%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (52.6%) was the second top activity, ahead of *arts/cultural/music activities* and *volunteer work* (25.6% equally).

- A total of 83.5% of male respondents and 70.9% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (52.6% compared with 39.0%).
- Notably higher proportions of female than male respondents from the ACT were involved in *volunteer work* (50.5% compared with 25.6%), *arts/cultural/music activities* (50.5% compared with 25.6%) and *student leadership activities* (37.9% compared with 30.8% respectively).

Table 3.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	75.3	70.9	83.5
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	44.6	39.0	52.6
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	39.9	50.5	25.6
Volunteer work	36.8	39.3	50.5	25.6
Student leadership activities	27.4	33.6	37.9	30.8
Religious groups/activities	18.8	15.2	15.9	12.0
Youth groups and activities	22.6	15.2	20.3	6.0
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	8.6	7.7	6.8
Political groups/organisations	4.0	8.6	8.8	4.5

Note: Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 3.9 shows, the majority of young people from the ACT (64.8%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is slightly higher than the national results. A far greater proportion of males than females from the ACT reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (73.9% compared with 60.1%), while almost twice the proportion of females than males reported feeling *not happy or sad* (30.3% compared with 15.3%).

Table 3.9: How happy young people are

	National %	ACT %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	64.8	60.1	73.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	23.7	30.3	15.3
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	11.6	9.6	10.8

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 3.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from the ACT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Over six in ten (62.5%) respondents from the ACT felt either *positive* (46.5%) or *very positive* (16.0%) about the future.
- Almost one quarter (24.2%) of respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Just over one in eight ACT respondents felt either *negative* (7.5%) or *very negative* (5.7%) about the future.
- Nearly three times the proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (22.8% compared with 8.6%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 3.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	ACT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	ACT 2017 %	ACT 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	16.0	8.6	22.8	16.8	16.0
Positive	46.7	46.5	49.4	47.2	44.8	39.4
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	24.2	25.9	22.0	23.7	28.9
Negative	6.8	7.5	10.9	3.9	9.9	9.6
Very negative	3.1	5.7	5.2	3.9	4.8	6.2

New South Wales



Profile of respondents

In total, 8,211 young people from New South Wales (NSW) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (58.1%) of respondents from NSW were female and 39.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 543 (6.9%) respondents from NSW identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 474 (6.0%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 40 (0.5%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.4% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (8.0% compared with 5.2%).

Language background other than English

A total of 1,040 (13.1%) respondents from NSW stated that they were born overseas and 1,931 (24.5%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 85 languages other than English spoken at home in NSW, the most common were (in order of frequency): Arabic, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Spanish and Mandarin.

Disability

A total of 413 (5.2%) respondents from NSW indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.9%) than females (3.6%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in NSW were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disabilities, learning disabilities and anxiety disorder.

Education

As indicated in Table 4.1, 94.3% of respondents from NSW were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (95.8% compared with 93.3%), while a greater proportion of males (4.1%) than females (2.5%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from NSW reported that they were either *very satisfied* (11.9%) or *satisfied* (53.5%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.2% and 5.6%). As shown in Table 4.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males from NSW reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (11.5% and 56.8% compared with 12.3% and 50.3%).

Table 4.1: Participation in education

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	94.3	95.8	93.3
Studying part-time	2.3	2.2	1.7	2.5
Not studying	3.7	3.5	2.5	4.1

Table 4.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	NSW 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2017 %	NSW 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	11.9	11.5	12.3	13.1	14.3
Satisfied	55.8	53.5	56.8	50.3	55.1	55.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	26.8	25.2	28.7	24.0	24.1
Dissatisfied	5.3	5.6	5.1	6.1	6.0	4.5
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.2	1.4	2.6	1.7	1.8

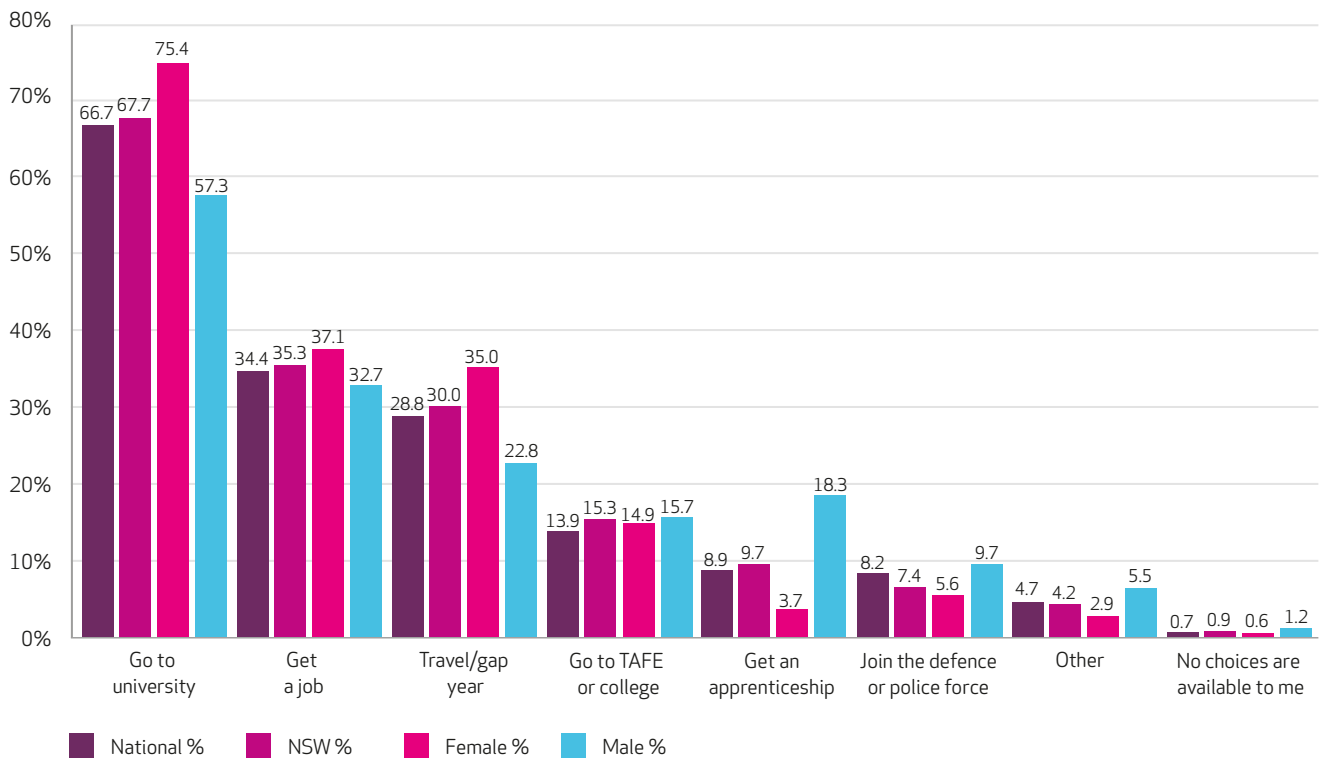
Of those who were still at school in NSW, 95.1% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Over three times the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (8.3% compared with 2.3% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 4.1 shows that just over two thirds (67.7%) of respondents from NSW planned to go to university after school. Just over one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (35.3%) and three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (30.0%). Overall, 15.3% of young people from NSW planned to go to TAFE or college, 9.7% reported plans to get an apprenticeship and 7.4% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.9%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from NSW was to go to university, a notably higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (75.4% compared with 57.3% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (35.0% compared with 22.8% of males). Conversely, almost five times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (18.3% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 4.1: Plans after leaving school

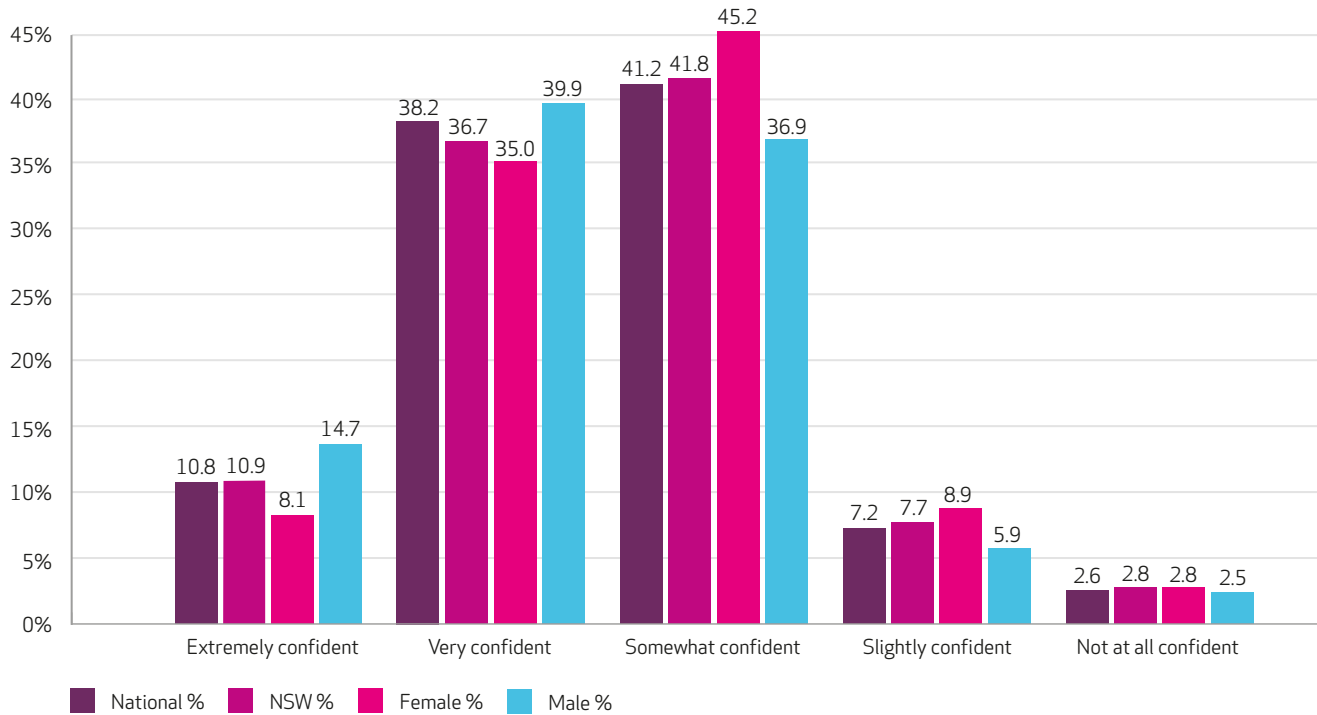


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Nearly half (47.6%) of respondents from NSW indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 10.9% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 36.7% indicated that they were *very confident*. However, just over one in ten young people from NSW were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.7% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 2.8% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (14.7% and 39.9% compared with 8.1% and 35.0%).

Figure 4.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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 (0.8%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over four in ten (42.2%) respondents from NSW reported part-time employment. Nearly six in ten (57.0%) NSW respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 32.1% reported that they were looking for work, while 24.9% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from NSW currently in part-time employment is slightly higher than the 2017 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from NSW reported full-time employment (0.6% compared with 1.0%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (43.9% compared with 39.4% of males). Conversely, a slightly greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (33.3% compared with 31.6% of females).

Table 4.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.0
Employed part-time	42.1	42.2	43.9	39.4
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	32.1	31.6	33.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	24.9	23.9	26.4

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Nearly four in ten (39.1%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (43.7%) than males (32.0%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 4.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

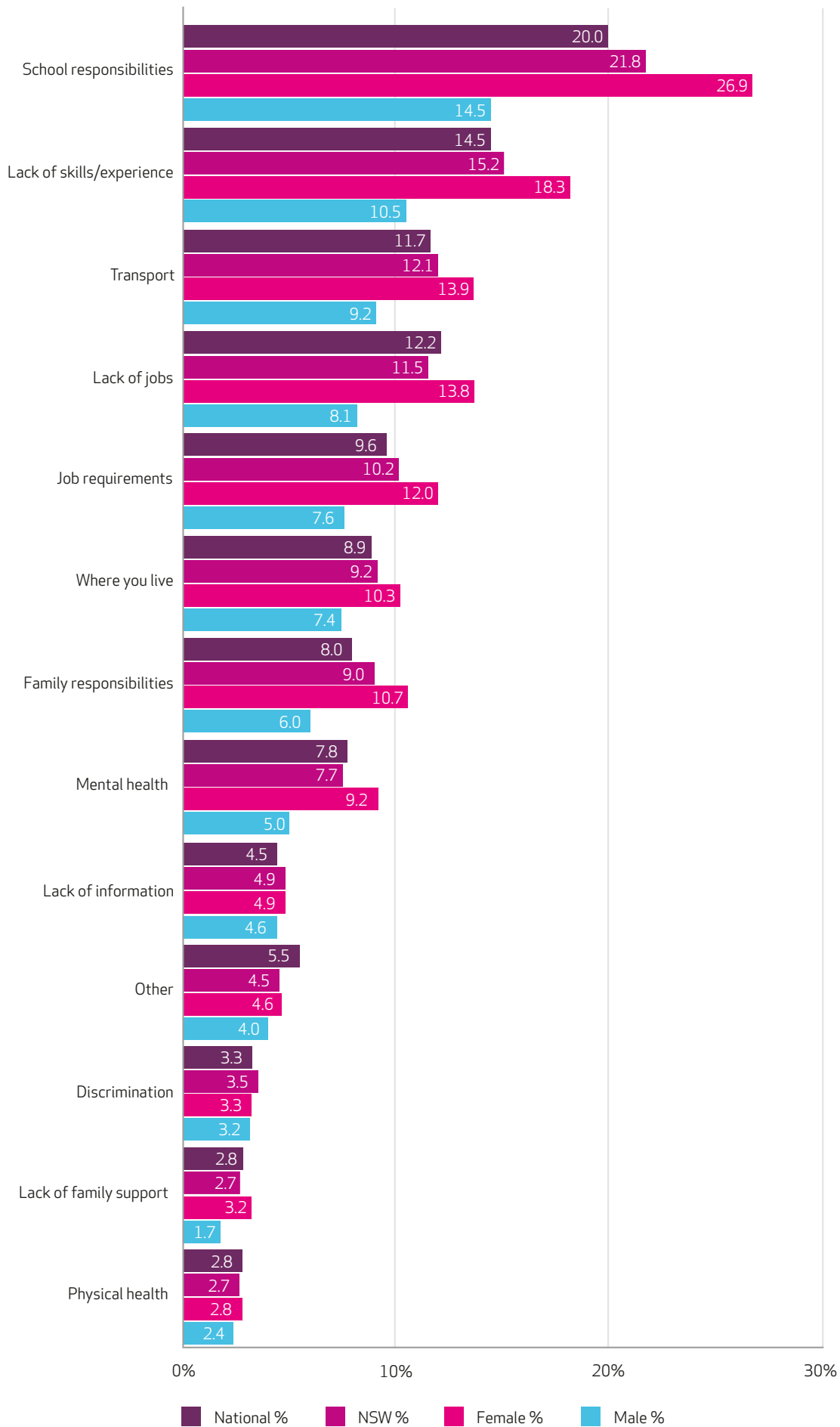
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *transport* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in NSW (21.8%, 15.2% and 12.1% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw the *lack of jobs* or *job requirements* as barriers to finding work (11.5% and 10.2% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 4.3, the top three barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *transport*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 26.9% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared to 14.5% of male respondents.
- Almost double the proportion of females reported *lack of skills/experience* as a barrier which may impact on their finding work (18.3% compared to 10.5% of males).
- Females were also more likely than males to indicate the *lack of jobs, transport* and *family responsibilities* as barriers impacting upon their finding work (13.8%, 13.9% and 10.7% compared to 8.1%, 9.2% and 6.0% respectively).

Figure 4.3: Barriers to finding work



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

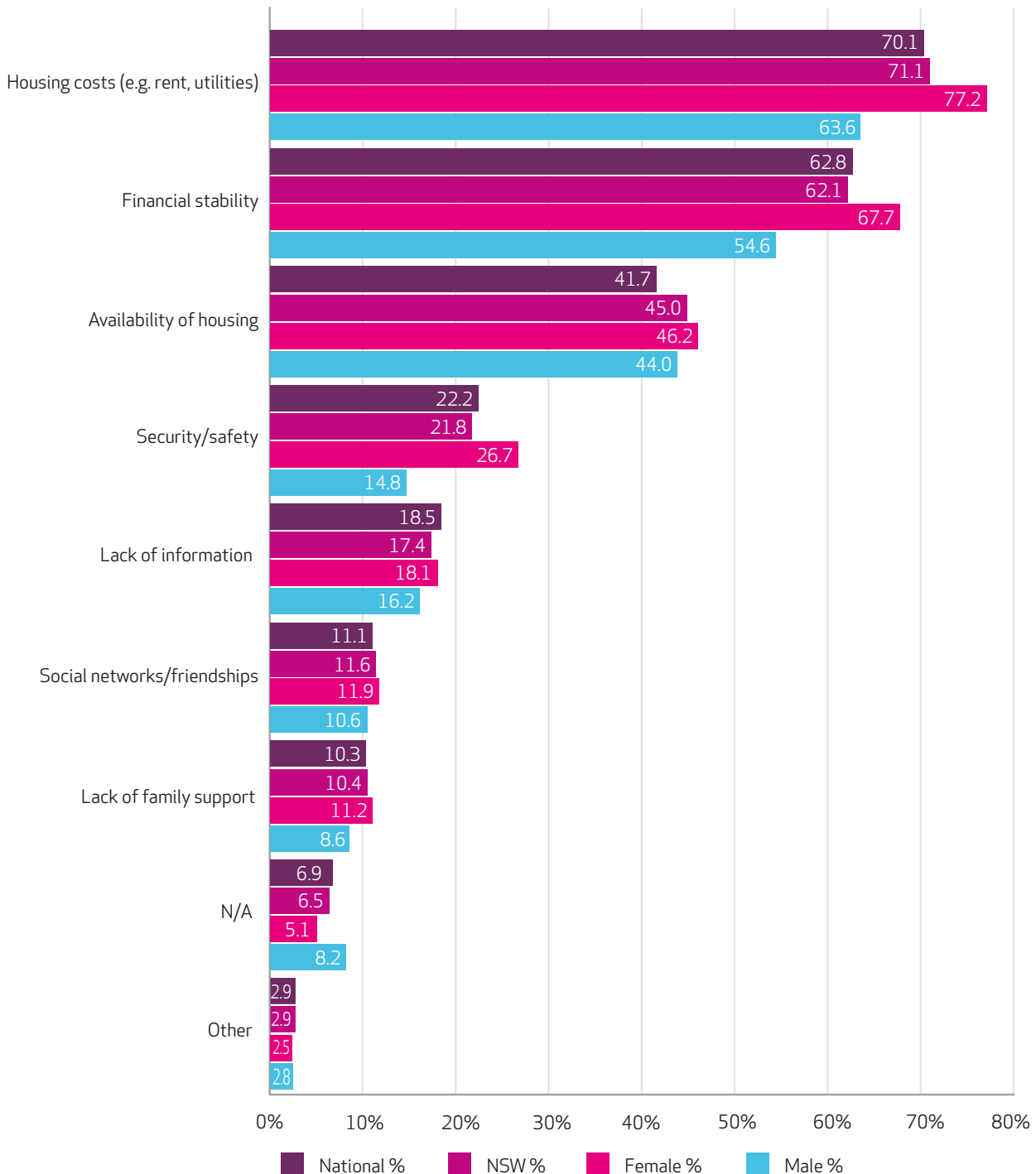
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, seven in ten (71.1%) respondents from NSW indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (62.1%) and *availability of housing* (45.0%). NSW state results are generally consistent with national results, although a slightly higher proportion of young people from NSW indicated *availability of housing* as a potential barrier (45.0% compared with 41.7%).

Gender differences

In line with national results, greater proportions of females than males from NSW reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (77.2% and 67.7% compared to 63.6% and 54.6% respectively). Nearly twice the proportion of females also reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (26.7% compared with 14.8%).

Figure 4.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

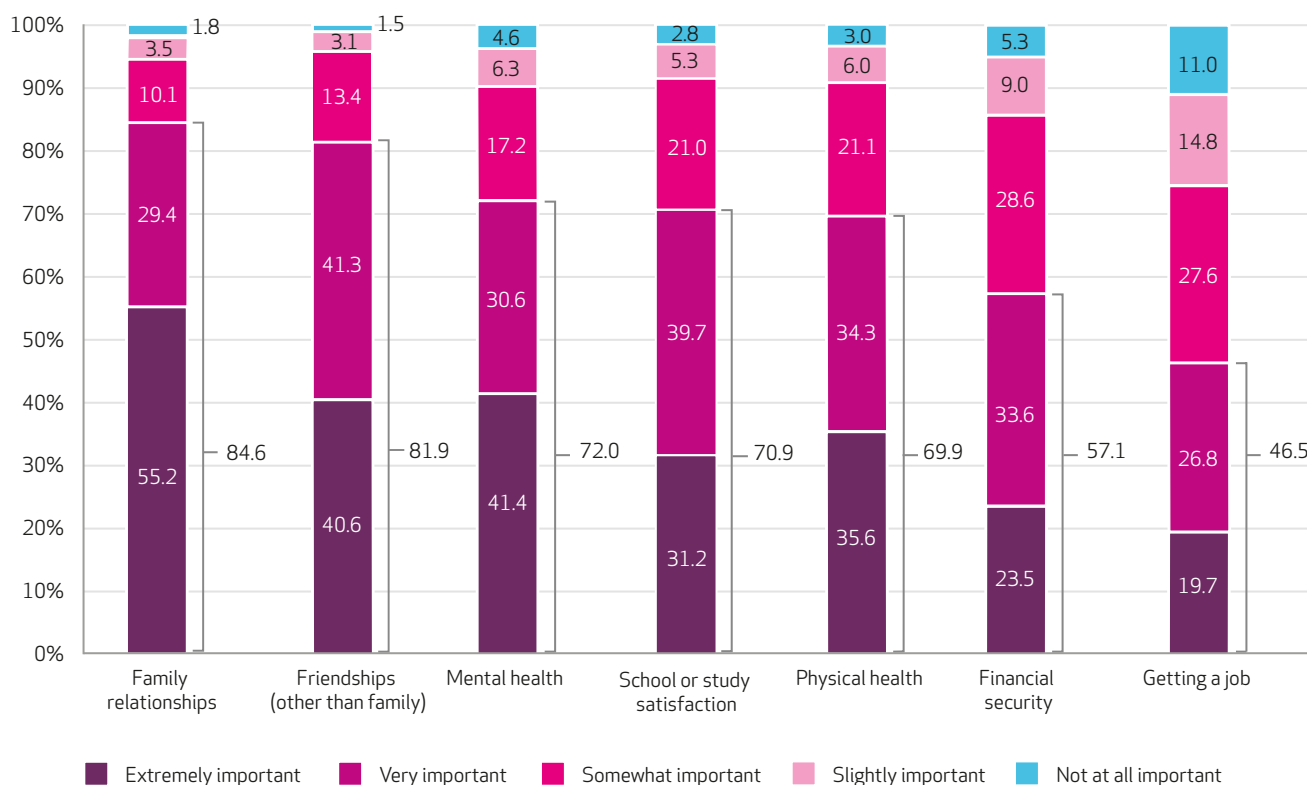
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 4.5, 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 for respondents from NSW this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *mental health*. The next most valued items were *school or study satisfaction* and *physical health*.

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 84.6% of respondents from NSW (*extremely important*: 55.2%; *very important*: 29.4%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by 81.9% of NSW respondents (*extremely important*: 40.6%; *very important*: 41.3%).
- Around seven in ten respondents placed a high value upon *mental health* (*extremely important*: 41.4%; *very important*: 30.6%), *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 39.7%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 34.3%).
- Almost six in ten NSW respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 23.5%; *very important*: 33.6%).

Figure 4.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items by both females and males from NSW, as shown in Table 4.4. The third highest rated item for females was *mental health*, whereas for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 86.9% of females (*extremely important*: 59.1%; *very important*: 27.8%) compared with 82.9% of males (*extremely important*: 50.6%; *very important*: 32.3%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by around eight in ten females (*extremely important*: 42.8%; *very important*: 40.8%) and males (*extremely important*: 37.8%; *very important*: 42.7%).
- Three quarters (75.4%) of females highly valued *mental health* (*extremely important*: 44.9%; *very important*: 30.5%) compared with 67.8% of males (*extremely important*: 36.6%; *very important*: 31.2%).
- *Physical health* was highly valued by seven out of ten males (*extremely important*: 36.4%; *very important*: 34.1%) and females from NSW (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 34.8%).

Table 4.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	59.1	27.8	9.1	3.2	0.9
Friendships (other than family)	42.8	40.8	12.8	2.8	0.8
Mental health	34.8	41.8	18.4	3.9	2.8
School or study satisfaction	44.9	30.5	15.5	6.3	1.2
Physical health	35.4	34.8	21.5	6.3	2.1
Financial security	23.2	34.6	29.3	9.0	3.9
Getting a job	18.4	27.4	28.5	15.5	10.2
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	50.6	32.3	12.2	3.7	2.2
Friendships (other than family)	37.8	42.7	14.0	3.7	1.7
Mental health	26.4	37.7	20.3	7.3	3.8
School or study satisfaction	36.6	31.2	23.9	6.5	6.1
Physical health	36.4	34.1	20.5	5.7	3.3
Financial security	23.9	32.8	28.9	9.2	6.5
Getting a job	21.6	25.7	27.2	14.2	11.8

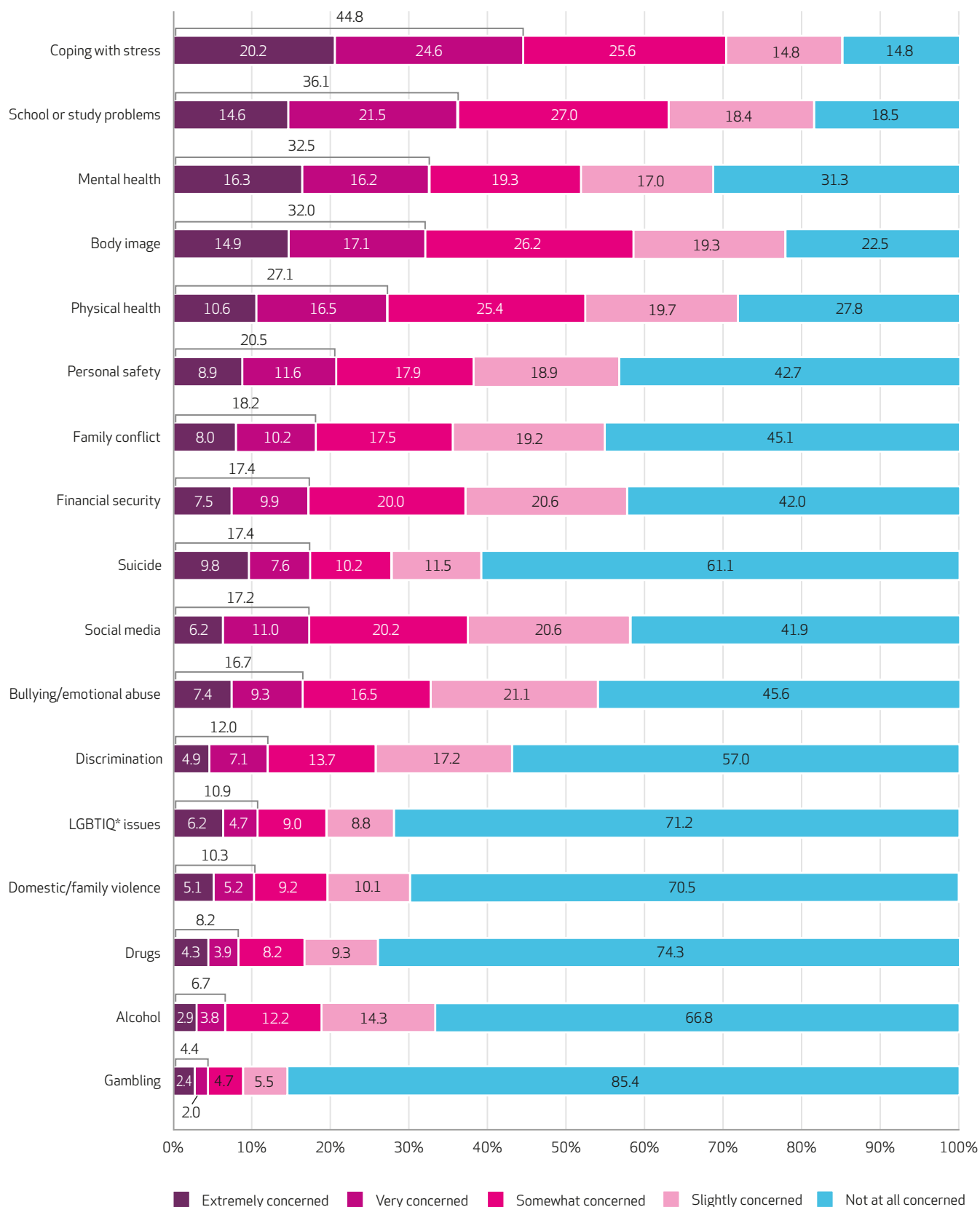
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 4.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of concern according to the summed responses for *extremely concerned* and *very concerned* for each item. The top three issues of concern for young people from NSW were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 44.8% of respondents from NSW indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.2%) or *very concerned* (24.6%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 36.1% of young people from NSW (*extremely concerned*: 14.6%; *very concerned*: 21.5%).
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for nearly one third (32.5%) of NSW respondents (*extremely concerned*: 16.3%; *very concerned*: 16.2%).
- Just under one third (32.0%) of young people from NSW were either *extremely concerned* (14.9%) or *very concerned* (17.1%) about *body image*.

Figure 4.6: 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 from NSW. The third most noted issue of personal concern for females was *body image*, whereas for males from NSW the third item was *mental health*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for nearly six in ten (57.5%) females (*extremely concerned*: 27.1%; *very concerned*: 30.4%), compared with over one in four (26.2%) males (*extremely concerned*: 9.5%; *very concerned*: 16.7%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (43.9%) females from NSW (*extremely concerned*: 18.4% *very concerned*: 25.5%), compared with around one quarter (24.8%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 16.3%).
- *Mental health* was a major concern for 38.4% of females (*extremely concerned*: 19.8%; *very concerned*: 18.6%) and 23.1% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 12.8%).
- Over twice the proportion (42.2%) of females were *extremely concerned* (19.7%) or *very concerned* (22.5%) about *body image* (compared with 16.5% of males: *extremely concerned*: 7.0%; *very concerned*: 9.5%).

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 %
Coping with stress	27.1	30.4	25.1	10.7	6.6
School or study problems	18.4	25.5	28.1	16.6	11.3
Mental health	19.8	18.6	21.5	16.6	23.5
Body image	19.7	22.5	28.5	17.1	12.2
Physical health	11.1	18.8	28.7	19.5	21.9
Personal safety	9.9	13.1	18.6	20.3	38.2
Family conflict	9.2	12.2	19.8	20.4	38.4
Financial security	7.9	11.2	21.4	21.8	37.7
Suicide	10.0	8.1	11.3	12.5	58.0
Social media	7.4	13.9	23.1	22.0	33.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.3	11.1	18.3	22.1	40.2
Discrimination	4.5	7.8	15.1	18.3	54.3
LGBTIQ* issues	5.7	5.7	9.8	10.7	68.0
Domestic/family violence	4.9	5.7	9.5	10.3	69.6
Drugs	3.5	4.1	8.0	9.5	74.9
Alcohol	1.9	4.0	13.0	15.4	65.6
Gambling	1.6	1.7	3.8	5.3	87.6

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 %
Coping with stress	9.5	16.7	26.8	21.0	26.0
School or study problems	8.5	16.3	25.6	21.8	27.8
Mental health	10.3	12.8	16.3	18.1	42.4
Body image	7.0	9.5	23.2	23.1	37.2
Physical health	9.2	13.3	20.9	20.4	36.1
Personal safety	6.8	9.4	16.9	17.4	49.5
Family conflict	5.5	7.1	14.3	18.1	55.1
Financial security	5.9	8.1	17.7	19.6	48.6
Suicide	8.6	6.6	8.4	9.9	66.5
Social media	3.9	6.7	16.3	19.2	53.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	5.2	6.7	14.1	20.5	53.5
Discrimination	4.6	6.1	11.6	15.9	61.9
LGBTIQ* issues	5.1	3.1	7.6	6.5	77.6
Domestic/family violence	4.7	4.3	8.3	10.0	72.7
Drugs	4.4	3.5	8.3	9.0	74.8
Alcohol	3.1	3.6	11.2	13.1	69.0
Gambling	2.8	2.3	5.6	6.0	83.4

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 4.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

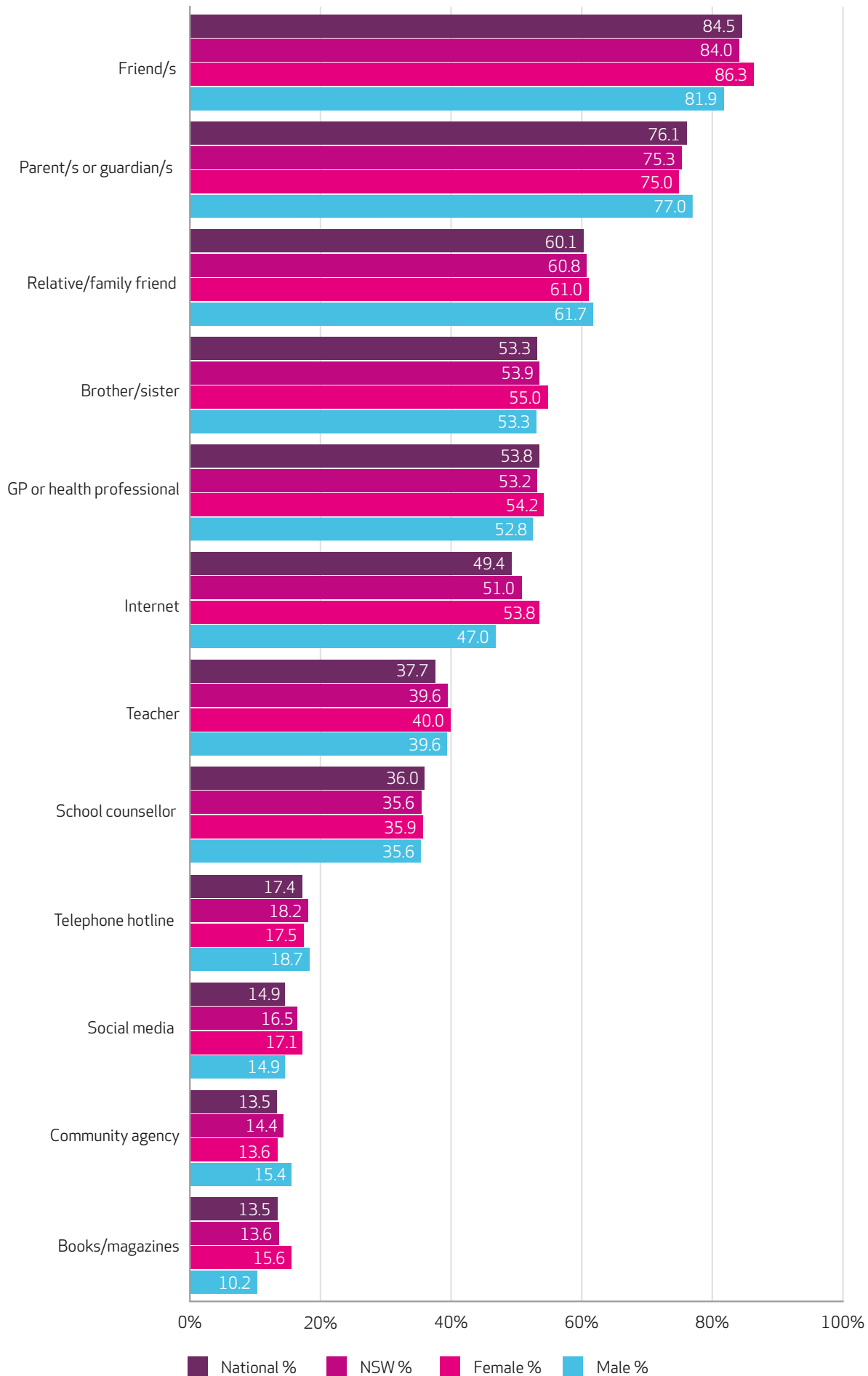
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from NSW (84.0%, 75.3% and 60.8% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from NSW indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (53.9%), a *GP or health professional* (53.2%) or turn to the *internet* (51.0%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around four in ten young people from NSW indicated that they would turn to their *teacher* (39.6%) or *school counsellor* (35.6%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

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

- A higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (86.3% compared to 81.9%).
- A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (77.0% compared with 75.0%) for support, while similar proportions of males and females would turn to a *relative/family friend* for help (61.7% compared with 61.0%).
- Slightly greater proportions of females than males from NSW would go to their *brother/sister* (55.0% compared with 53.3%), a *GP or health professional* (54.2% compared with 52.8%), or the *internet* (53.8% compared with 47.0%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 4.6, over three in ten young people from NSW accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (31.6%) and nearly one in five indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (19.9%). Around one in six young people from NSW also noted accessing the internet for *personal stories and testimonies* (17.6%), *information about available services* (17.2%) and to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.8%).

Table 4.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	31.6	35.5	26.5
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	19.9	25.4	12.0
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	17.6	20.9	12.8
Information about available services	16.5	17.2	19.7	13.5
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	16.8	16.3	16.8
Counselling with a professional	11.8	12.7	14.7	9.4
Support group or forum	8.3	8.4	7.9	8.6
Other	7.7	7.1	5.3	8.3
Online course or program	5.2	5.9	5.2	6.5

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

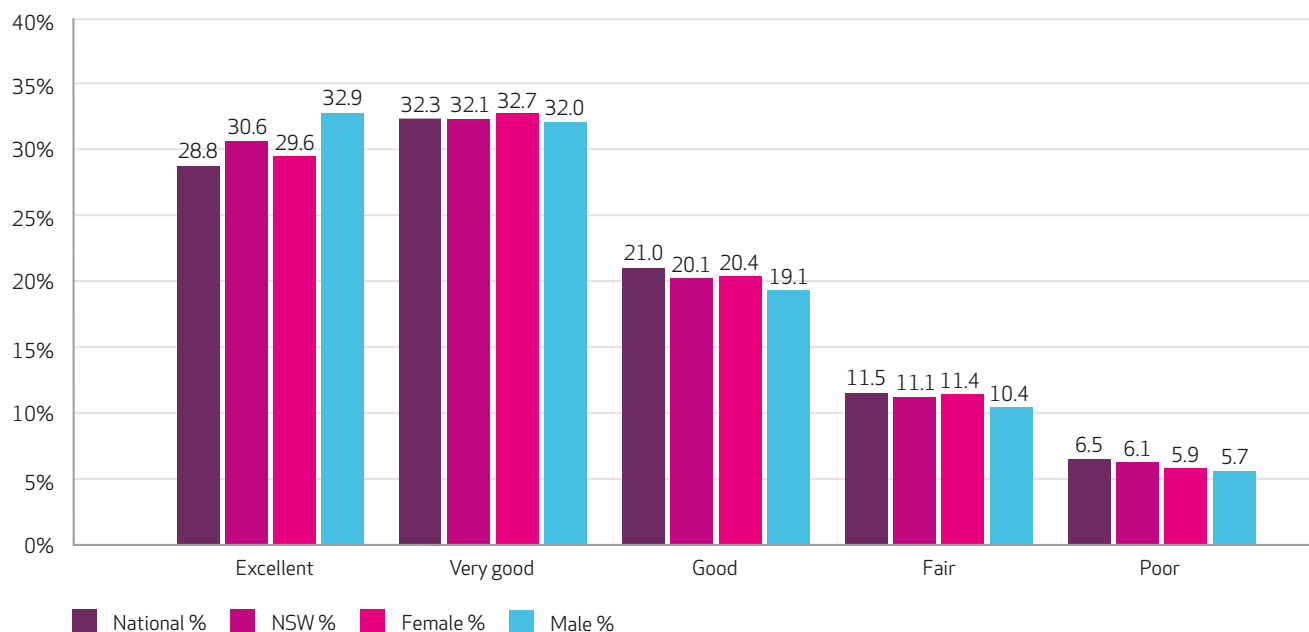
Gender differences

As shown in Table 4.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The top source of help for females and males was consistent with the NSW state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (35.5% compared with 26.5%). For females from NSW, *online quiz or assessment tool* and *personal stories or testimonies* (25.4% and 20.9%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from NSW, the second and third most accessed type of online services/sources were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.8%) and find *information about available services* (13.5%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 4.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from NSW rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 30.6% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.1% rated it as *very good*. However, around one in six young people from NSW did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.1%) or *poor* (6.1%). A slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (32.9% compared with 29.6% respectively).

Figure 4.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 4.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from NSW were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 results for NSW.

- Just under half of young people from NSW (45.3%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of young people from NSW identified *alcohol and drugs* (26.1%) and over one in five young people saw *equity and discrimination* (22.2%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Over one in six NSW respondents identified *bullying* (17.0%) as an important issue.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from NSW as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *equity and discrimination* and *education* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents from NSW.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (50.9% compared with 38.1%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.0% compared with 19.3%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (30.0% compared with 23.9%).

Table 4.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	NSW 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2017 %	NSW 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	45.3	50.9	38.1	38.0	22.6
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	26.1	23.9	30.0	31.9	28.2
Equity and discrimination	23.4	22.2	24.0	19.3	26.0	27.9
Bullying	17.4	17.0	19.4	13.9	11.2	10.4
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	12.9	14.2	11.1	10.3	12.8
The economy and financial matters	11.6	12.1	10.8	14.3	12.3	14.5
Health	11.4	11.8	11.4	12.4	8.6	10.7
The environment	9.2	9.6	9.6	9.7	11.9	11.0
Homelessness/housing	9.2	9.6	10.5	8.5	7.8	8.3
Education	8.2	8.6	8.4	9.2	13.9	12.4

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 4.8.

- The top three activities for young people from NSW were *sports (as a participant)* (62.1%), *volunteer work* (38.8%) and *sports (as a spectator)* (38.6%).
- Over one third (37.6%) of NSW respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities*.
- Three in ten young people from NSW reported participating in *student leadership activities* (30.4%), while around one quarter had taken part in *youth groups and activities* (26.0%) and *religious groups/activities* (24.2%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 4.8, the top activity for both females and males from NSW was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second most indicated activity differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (43.7%), followed by *volunteer work* (43.5%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (45.3%) was the second top activity, followed by *volunteer work* (32.2%).

- A total of 66.2% of male respondents and 59.9% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (45.3% compared with 34.3%).
- Higher proportions of female than male respondents from NSW were involved in *volunteer work* (43.5% compared with 33.2%), *arts/cultural/music activities* (43.7% compared with 28.8%) and *student leadership activities* (34.5% compared with 24.8%).

Table 4.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	62.1	59.9	66.2
Volunteer work	36.8	38.8	43.5	32.2
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	38.6	34.3	45.3
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	37.6	43.7	28.8
Student leadership activities	27.4	30.4	34.5	24.8
Youth groups and activities	22.6	26.0	27.8	22.9
Religious groups/activities	18.8	24.2	26.9	20.5
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	12.2	12.9	10.9
Political groups/organisations	4.0	4.6	4.0	4.6

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 4.9 shows, the majority of young people from NSW (62.3%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is consistent with the national results. A greater proportion of males than females from NSW reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (66.9% compared with 60.3%), while a greater proportion of females than males reported feeling *not happy or sad* (30.1% compared with 24.1%).

Table 4.9: How happy young people are

	National %	NSW %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	62.3	60.3	66.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	27.6	30.1	24.1
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	10.0	9.7	8.9

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 4.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from NSW felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Around six in ten (61.2%) respondents from NSW felt either *positive* (45.2%) or *very positive* (16.0%) about the future.
- Almost three in ten respondents (28.7%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- One in ten respondents from NSW felt *negative* (7.0%) or *very negative* (3.1%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (19.5% compared with 13.6%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 4.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	NSW 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NSW 2017 %	NSW 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	16.0	13.6	19.5	15.8	17.9
Positive	46.7	45.2	46.2	45.0	46.6	47.2
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	28.7	30.7	25.7	27.5	25.9
Negative	6.8	7.0	7.1	6.6	7.1	6.5
Very negative	3.1	3.1	2.4	3.2	3.1	2.5

Northern Territory



Profile of respondents

In total, 154 young people from the Northern Territory (NT) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (51.9%) of respondents from the NT were female and 44.8% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 38 (25.2%) respondents from the NT identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Language background other than English

A total of 39 (26.4%) respondents from the NT stated that they were born overseas and 47 (32.0%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 28 languages other than English spoken at home in the NT, the most common were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog, Indigenous languages and Kriol.

Disability

A total of 10 (6.8%) respondents from the NT indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (7.6%) than females (2.7%) reporting a disability.

Education

As indicated in Table 5.1, 89.5% of respondents from the NT were studying full-time. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported that they were studying full-time (92.8% compared with 88.6%), while a greater proportion of females (7.6%) than males (2.9%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from the NT reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.9%) or *satisfied* (50.4%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 5.0%). As shown in Table 5.2, a higher proportion of females than males from the NT reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (15.5% and 53.5% compared with 10.8% and 49.2% respectively).

Table 5.1: Participation in education

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	89.5	88.6	92.8
Studying part-time	2.3	3.9	3.8	4.3
Not studying	3.7	6.5	7.6	2.9

Table 5.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	NT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2017 %	NT 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	12.9	15.5	10.8	8.5	11.6
Satisfied	55.8	50.4	53.5	49.2	56.6	48.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	30.2	26.8	33.8	24.0	30.6
Dissatisfied	5.3	5.0	4.2	6.2	7.0	4.6
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.9	5.1

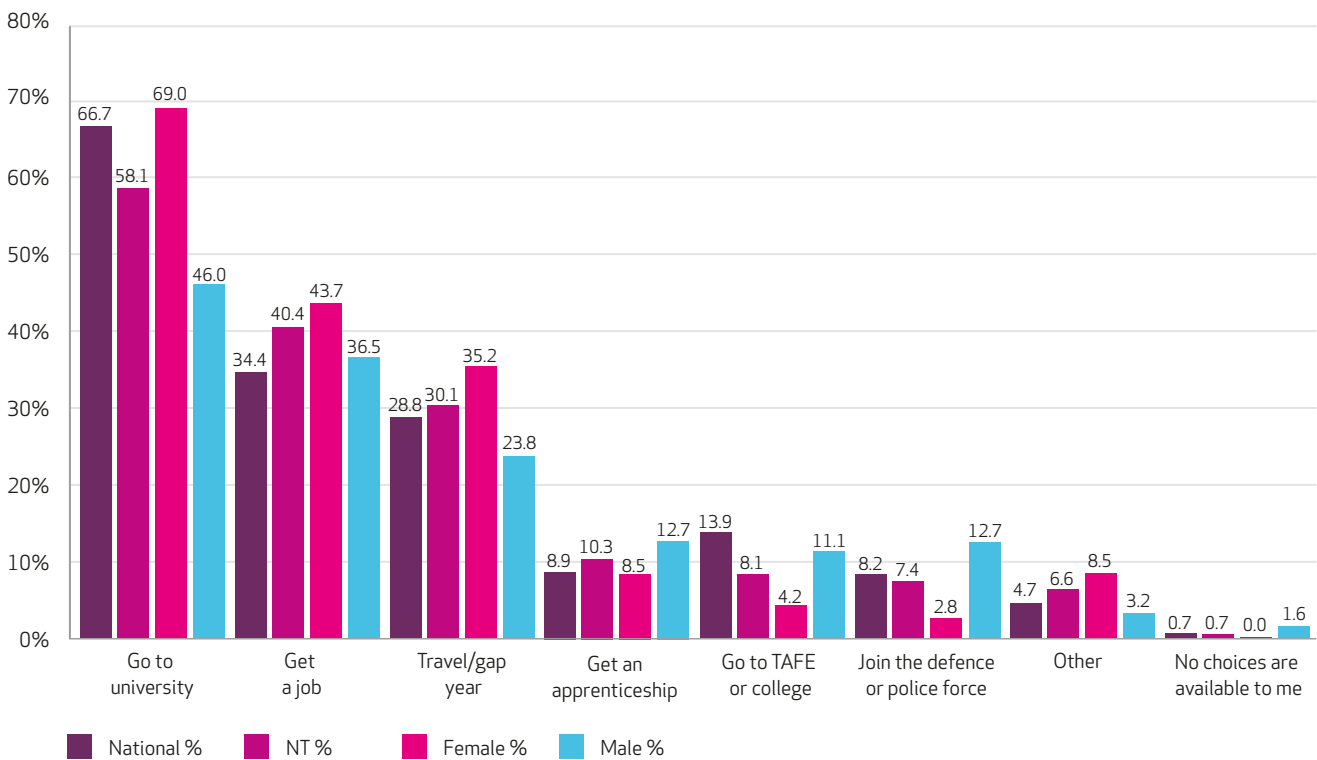
Of those who were still at school in the NT, 90.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Almost three times the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (14.3% compared with 5.6% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 5.1 shows that almost six in ten (58.1%) respondents from the NT planned to go to university after school. Four in ten respondents reported plans to get a job after school (40.4%) and three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (30.1%). Overall, 10.3% of young people from the NT reported plans to get an apprenticeship, 8.1% planned to go to TAFE or college and 7.4% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.7%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from the NT was to go to university, a notably higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (69.0% compared with 46.0% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (35.2% compared with 23.8% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (12.7% compared with 8.5% of females).

Figure 5.1: Plans after leaving school

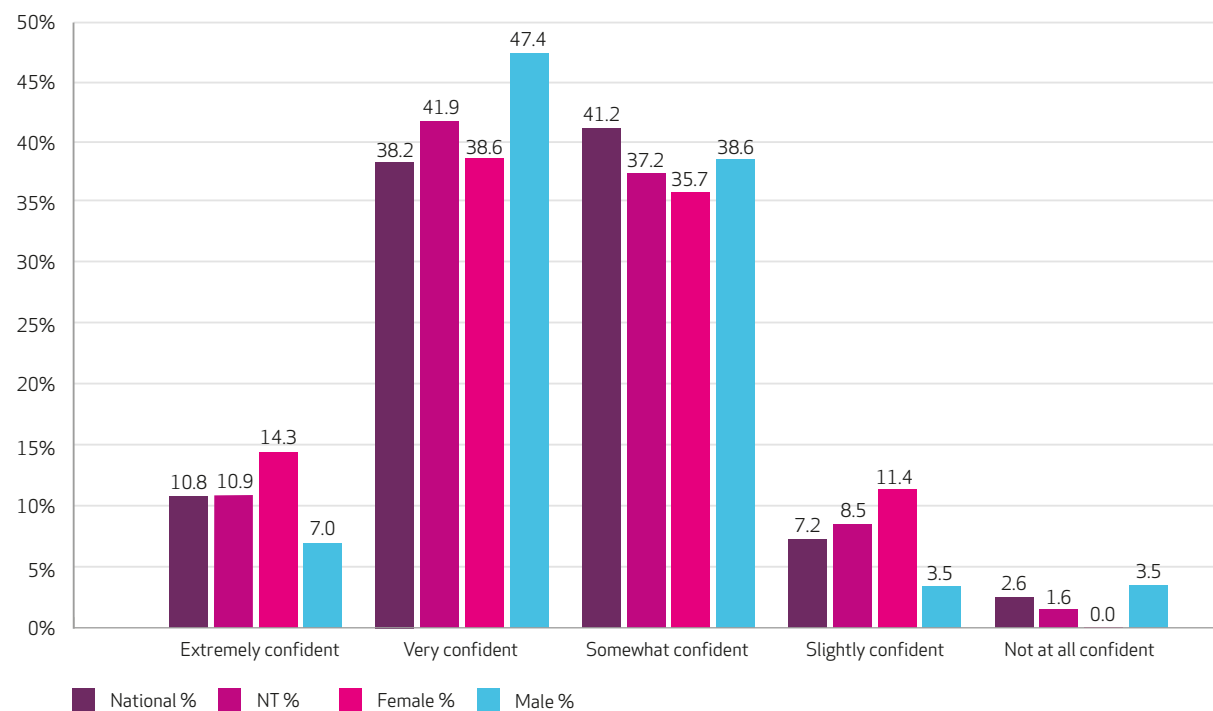


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Just over half (52.8%) of respondents from the NT indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 10.9% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 41.9% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is generally comparable to the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, one in ten young people from the NT were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.5% reported feeling *slightly confident* and 1.6% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. While a higher proportion of male respondents reported feeling *very confident* (47.4% compared with 38.6% of females), twice the proportion of females reported feeling *extremely confident* (14.3% compared with 7.0% of males).

Figure 5.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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. A small minority (1.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Nearly four in ten (38.2%) respondents from the NT reported part-time employment. Six in ten (60.4%) NT respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 39.6% reported that they were looking for work, while 20.8% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from the NT that indicated they were looking for work is higher than the 2017 and 2016 results.

Gender differences

No male respondents from the NT reported full-time employment, whereas 2.7% of female respondents reported that they were working full-time. Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of male respondents were employed part-time (40.3% compared with 38.4% of females) and a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (41.8% compared with 37.0% of females).

Table 5.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	1.4	2.7	0.0
Employed part-time	42.1	38.2	38.4	40.3
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	39.6	37.0	41.8
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	20.8	21.9	17.9

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Nearly half (46.0%) of respondents from the NT indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a slightly higher proportion of males than females reporting the presence of barriers (46.2% compared with 42.5%).

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 5.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

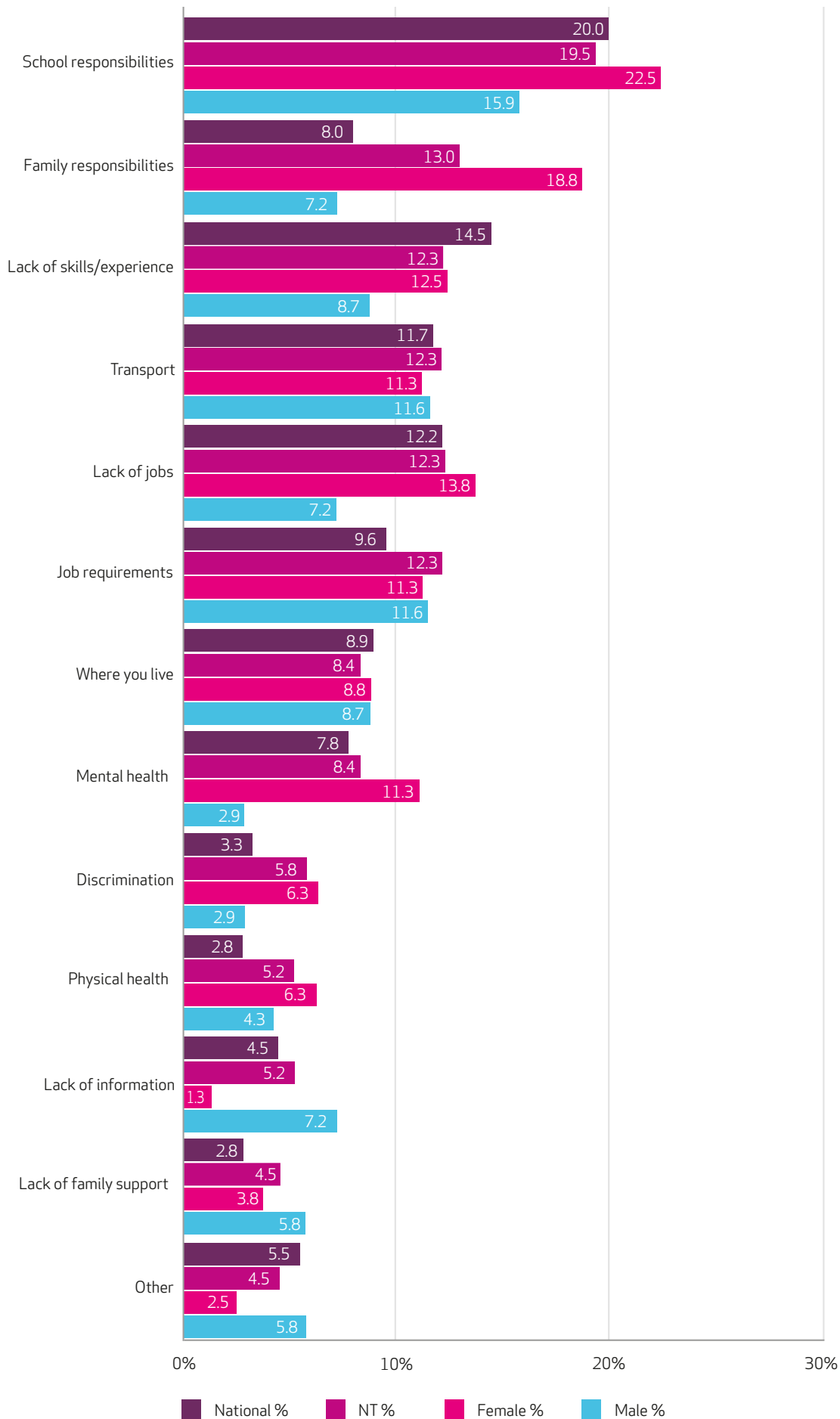
- *School responsibilities* and *family responsibilities* were the two most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in the NT (19.5% and 13.0% respectively).
- Equal proportions (12.3%) of young people indicated that they saw *lack of skills/experience*, *transport*, *lack of jobs* and *job requirements* as barriers to finding work.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 5.3, the top barrier for both genders was *school responsibilities*. For females, the second most identified barrier was *family responsibilities*, ahead of *lack of jobs*. For males, the equal second most indicated barriers were *transport* and *job requirements*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 22.5% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared with 15.9% of male respondents.
- Over twice the proportion of females reported *family responsibilities* as a barrier which may impact on them finding work (18.8% compared with 7.2% of males).
- Nearly four times the proportion of females than males cited *mental health* as a barrier which may impact on them finding work (11.3% compared with 2.9% respectively).

Figure 5.3: Barriers to finding work



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

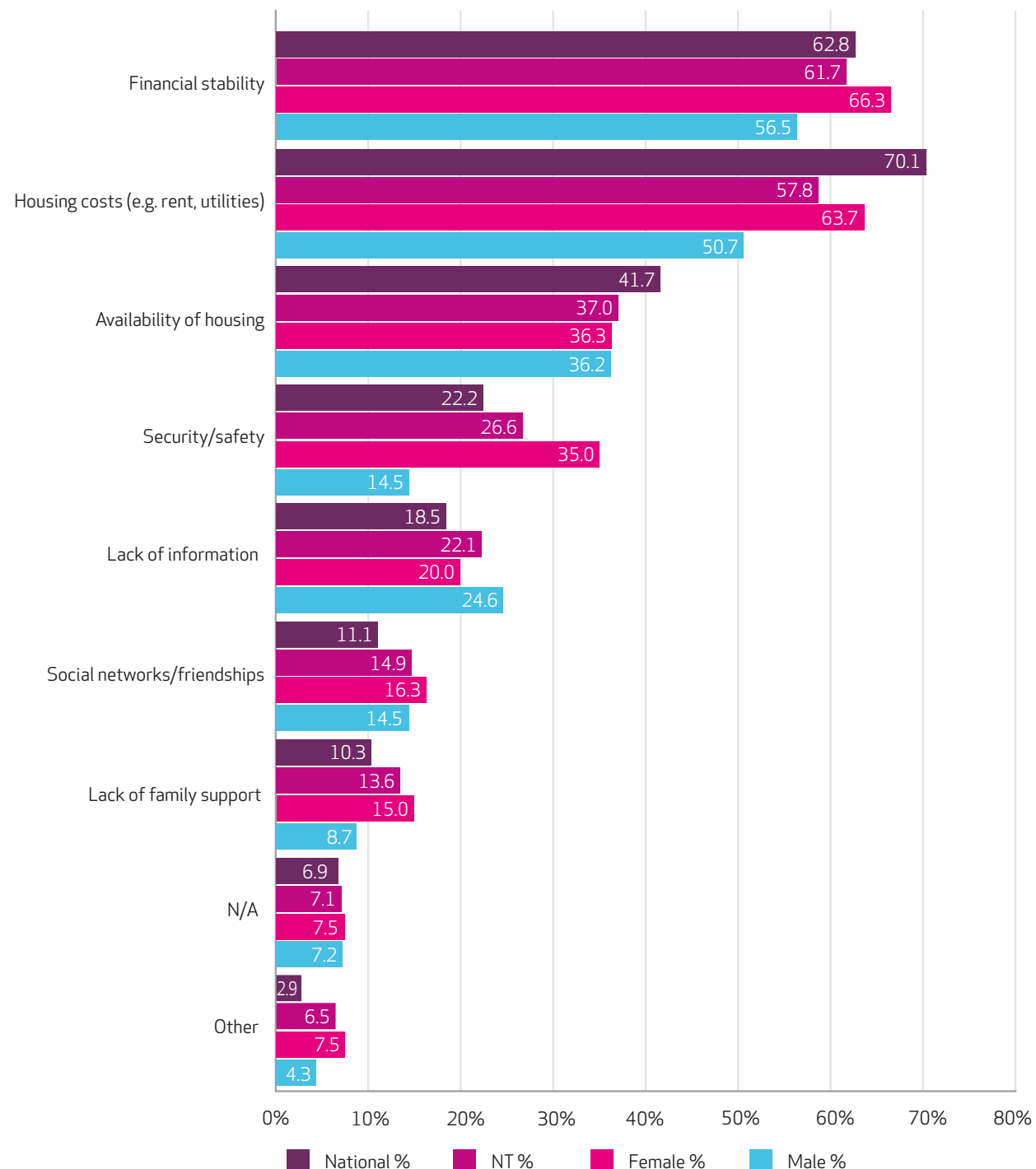
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, over six in ten (61.7%) respondents from the NT indicated that *financial stability* would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *housing costs (e.g. rent, utilities)* (57.8%) and *availability of housing* (37.0%). The NT results are generally consistent with national results, although the order of the top two items is reversed.

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from the NT reported *financial stability* and *housing costs (e.g. rent, utilities)* as barriers to moving out of home (66.3% and 63.7% compared with 56.5% and 50.7% respectively). Over twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (35.0% compared with 14.5%).

Figure 5.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are ordered in order of territory frequency.

What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 5.5, the items were ranked 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 this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 82.1% of respondents from the NT (*extremely important*: 49.0%; *very important*: 33.1%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also highly valued by nearly four in five (79.9%) NT respondents (*extremely important*: 32.9%; *very important*: 47.0%).
- Nearly seven in ten (69.8%) NT respondents placed a high value on *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.6%; *very important*: 36.2%).
- Around two thirds of young people from the NT placed a high value on *physical health* (*extremely important*: 34.2%; *very important*: 32.2%) and *mental health* (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 26.0%).

Figure 5.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items by both females and males from the NT, as shown in Table 5.4. The third highest rated item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 87.4% of females (*extremely important*: 57.0%; *very important*: 30.4%), compared with 82.1% of males (*extremely important*: 43.3%; *very important*: 38.8%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by 82.1% of females (*extremely important*: 29.5%; *very important*: 52.6%), and 78.8% of males (*extremely important*: 37.9%; *very important*: 40.9%).

- Around seven in ten females (*extremely important*: 38.0%; *very important*: 35.4%) and males (*extremely important*: 30.8%; *very important*: 40.0%) highly valued *school or study satisfaction*.
- Almost three quarters (72.3%) of males highly valued *physical health* (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 36.9%), compared with just under two thirds (65.8%) of females (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 30.4%).

Table 5.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	57.0	30.4	8.9	2.5	1.3
Friendships (other than family)	29.5	52.6	10.3	6.4	1.3
School or study satisfaction	38.0	35.4	17.7	5.1	3.8
Mental health	43.0	24.1	16.5	10.1	6.3
Physical health	35.4	30.4	19.0	6.3	8.9
Financial security	19.0	34.2	31.6	10.1	5.1
Getting a job	20.5	28.2	26.9	12.8	11.5
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	43.3	38.8	11.9	4.5	1.5
Friendships (other than family)	37.9	40.9	15.2	4.5	1.5
School or study satisfaction	30.8	40.0	23.1	4.6	1.5
Mental health	33.3	30.3	13.6	15.2	7.6
Physical health	35.4	36.9	12.3	12.3	3.1
Financial security	25.0	31.3	34.4	9.4	0.0
Getting a job	18.5	32.3	30.8	9.2	9.2

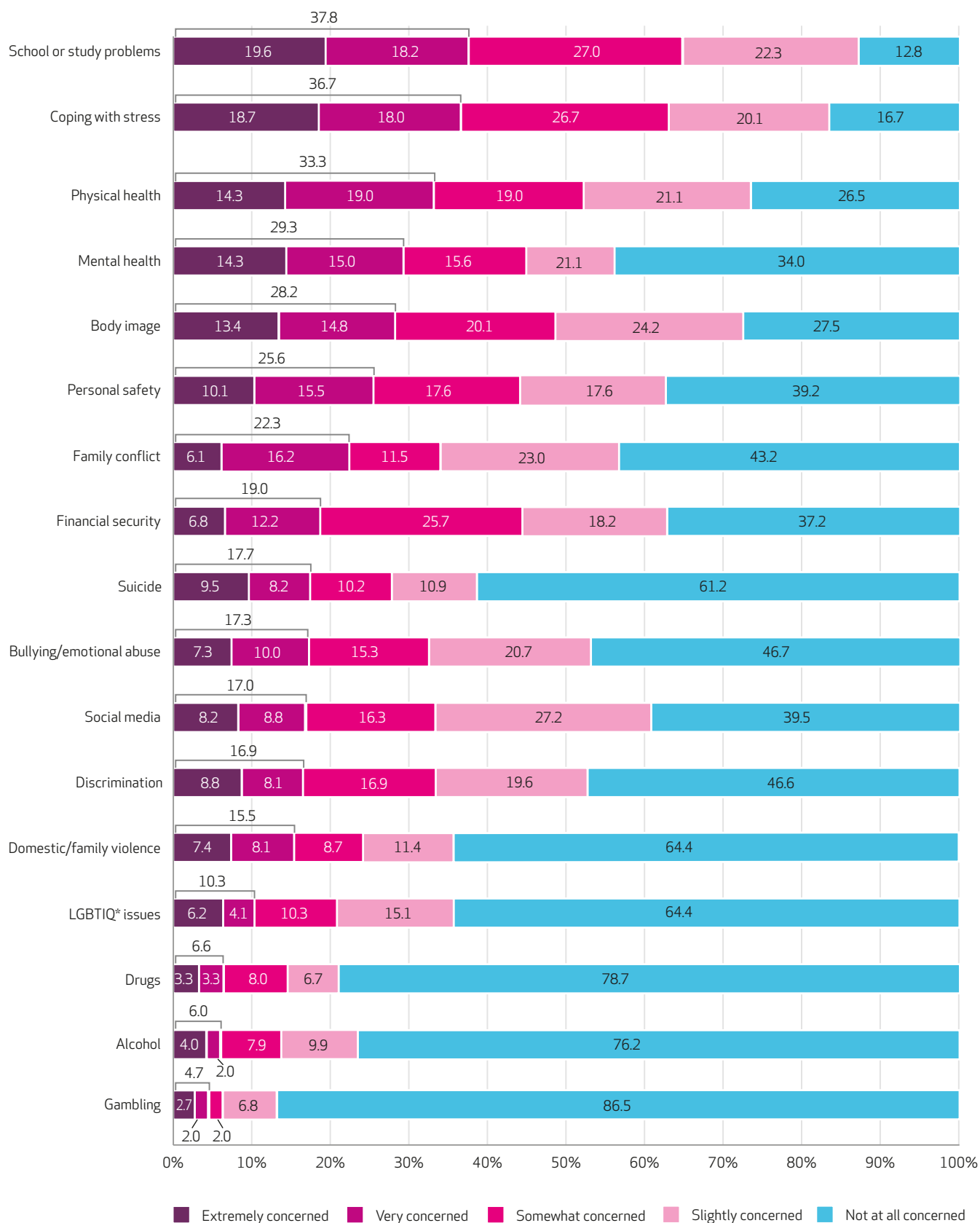
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 5.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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 *school or study problems*, *coping with stress* and *physical health*. The top two NT results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level, although the order of the top two items is reversed.

- *School or study problems* was the top issue of concern, with almost four in ten (37.8%) respondents from the NT indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (19.6%) or *very concerned* (18.2%) about this issue.
- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 36.7% of young people from the NT (*extremely concerned*: 18.7%; *very concerned*: 18.0%).
- *Physical health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for one third (33.3%) of NT respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.3%; *very concerned*: 19.0%).
- Almost three in ten (29.3%) young people from the NT were either *extremely concerned* (14.3%) or *very concerned* (15.0%) about *mental health*.

Figure 5.6: 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

The top three issues of personal concern for females from the NT were *coping with stress*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. For males, the top two personal concerns were *school or study problems* and *physical health*, while *mental health* and *personal safety* were equal third. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for nearly half (48.8%) of female respondents (*extremely concerned*: 21.3%; *very concerned*: 27.5%), compared with around one fifth (21.5%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 13.8%; *very concerned*: 7.7%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (44.8%) females (*extremely concerned*: 26.9% *very concerned*: 17.9%), compared with three in ten (30.8%) males (*extremely concerned*: 10.8%; *very concerned*: 20.0%).
- *Mental health* was a major concern for one third (33.8%) of females (*extremely concerned*: 20.8%; *very concerned*: 13.0%), compared with around one fifth (21.6%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 6.2%; *very concerned*: 15.4%).
- Similar proportions of females (33.3%) and males (34.4%) indicated concerns about *physical health* (*extremely concerned*: 15.4%; *very concerned*: 17.9%; compared with: *extremely concerned*: 12.5%; *very concerned*: 21.9%).

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 %
Coping with stress	21.3	27.5	25.0	16.3	10.0
School or study problems	26.9	17.9	25.6	20.5	9.0
Physical health	15.4	17.9	26.9	25.6	14.1
Mental health	20.8	13.0	18.2	22.1	26.0
Body image	15.2	16.5	27.8	21.5	19.0
Personal safety	12.8	15.4	16.7	19.2	35.9
Family conflict	9.0	15.4	7.7	26.9	41.0
Financial security	7.6	12.7	31.6	15.2	32.9
Suicide	14.3	11.7	10.4	10.4	53.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	8.8	11.3	17.5	23.8	38.8
Social media	9.1	11.7	19.5	24.7	35.1
Discrimination	11.5	7.7	15.4	19.2	46.2
Domestic/family violence	8.9	7.6	5.1	11.4	67.1
LGBTIQ* issues	5.3	3.9	13.2	18.4	59.2
Drugs	5.0	2.5	6.3	10.0	76.3
Alcohol	6.3	1.3	11.3	11.3	70.0
Gambling	3.8	2.6	1.3	3.8	88.5

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 %
Coping with stress	13.8	7.7	29.2	26.2	23.1
School or study problems	10.8	20.0	30.8	24.6	13.8
Physical health	12.5	21.9	9.4	15.6	40.6
Mental health	6.2	15.4	13.8	21.5	43.1
Body image	9.2	12.3	12.3	27.7	38.5
Personal safety	6.2	15.4	18.5	16.9	43.1
Family conflict	1.5	16.9	15.4	20.0	46.2
Financial security	4.7	10.9	20.3	21.9	42.2
Suicide	3.1	1.5	10.8	12.3	72.3
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.6	9.2	13.8	16.9	55.4
Social media	6.2	6.2	13.8	30.8	43.1
Discrimination	4.6	7.7	20.0	20.0	47.7
Domestic/family violence	3.1	9.2	12.3	12.3	63.1
LGBTIQ* issues	3.1	3.1	7.7	12.3	73.8
Drugs	0.0	4.6	10.8	3.1	81.5
Alcohol	0.0	3.0	4.5	9.1	83.3
Gambling	0.0	1.5	3.1	10.8	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 territory frequency.
*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ) issues.

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 5.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

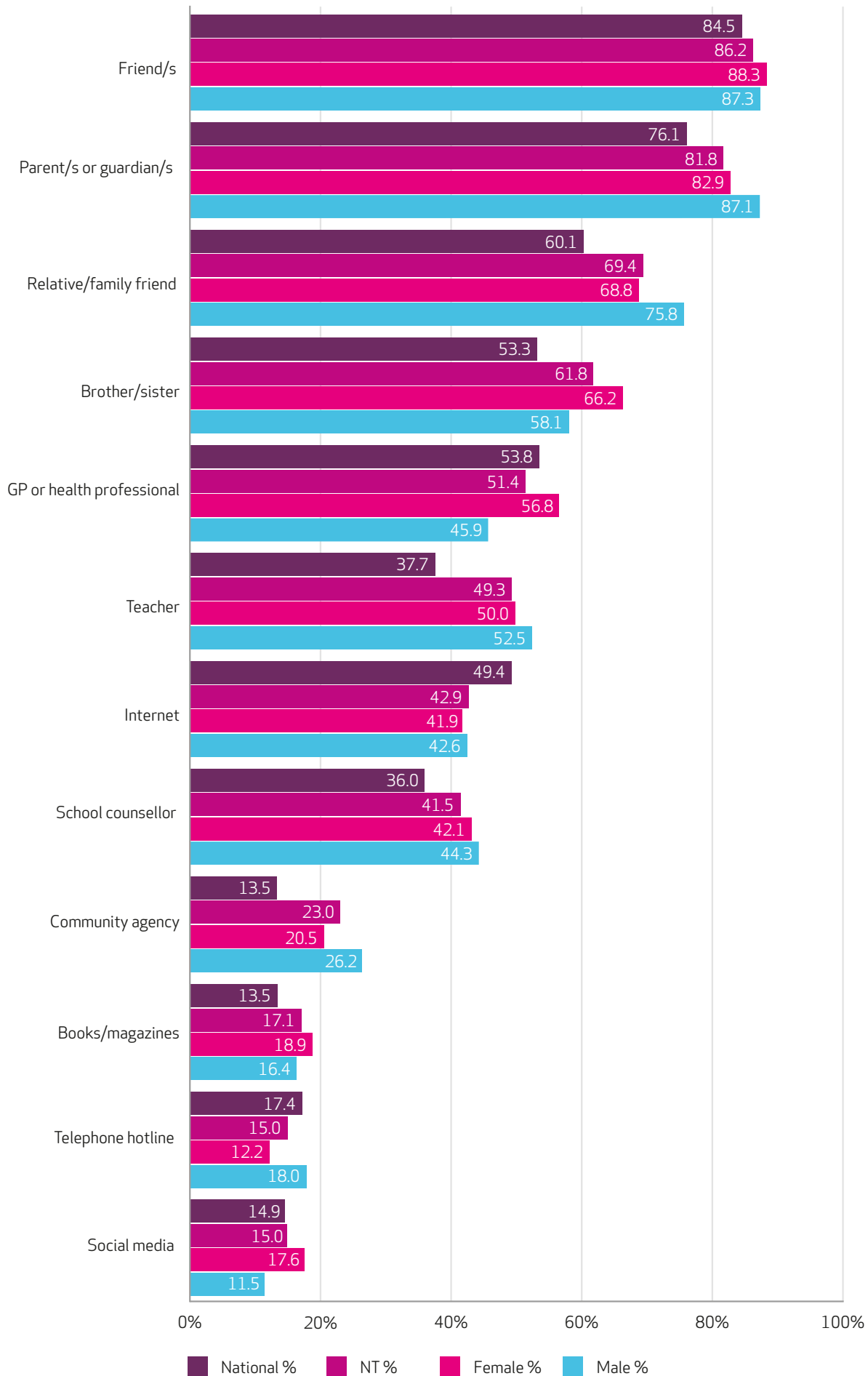
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from the NT (86.2%, 81.1% and 69.4% respectively).
- Just over six in ten respondents from the NT indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (61.8%) for support, while around half would go to a *GP or health professional* (51.4%) or a *teacher* (49.3%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Just over four in ten would turn to the *internet* (42.9%) or a *school counsellor* (41.5%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

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

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (88.3% compared with 87.3%).
- A higher proportion of males than females indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (87.1% compared with 82.9%) or a *relative/family friend* for help (75.8% compared with 68.8%).
- Higher proportions of females than males from the NT would go to their *brother/sister* (66.2% compared with 58.1%) and a *GP or health professional* (56.8% compared with 45.9%) for support.

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 territory frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 5.6, over one quarter of young people from the NT accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (26.6%). Around one in five young people from the NT noted accessing the internet to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (22.1%) and for *personal stories or testimonies* (20.8%).

Table 5.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	26.6	30.0	21.7
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	22.1	23.8	20.3
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	20.8	25.0	14.5
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	17.5	23.8	10.1
Information about available services	16.5	13.0	13.8	10.1
Counselling with a professional	11.8	10.4	12.5	8.7
Support group or forum	8.3	7.8	8.8	7.2
Other	7.7	7.1	10.0	2.9
Online course or program	5.2	6.5	6.3	7.2

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

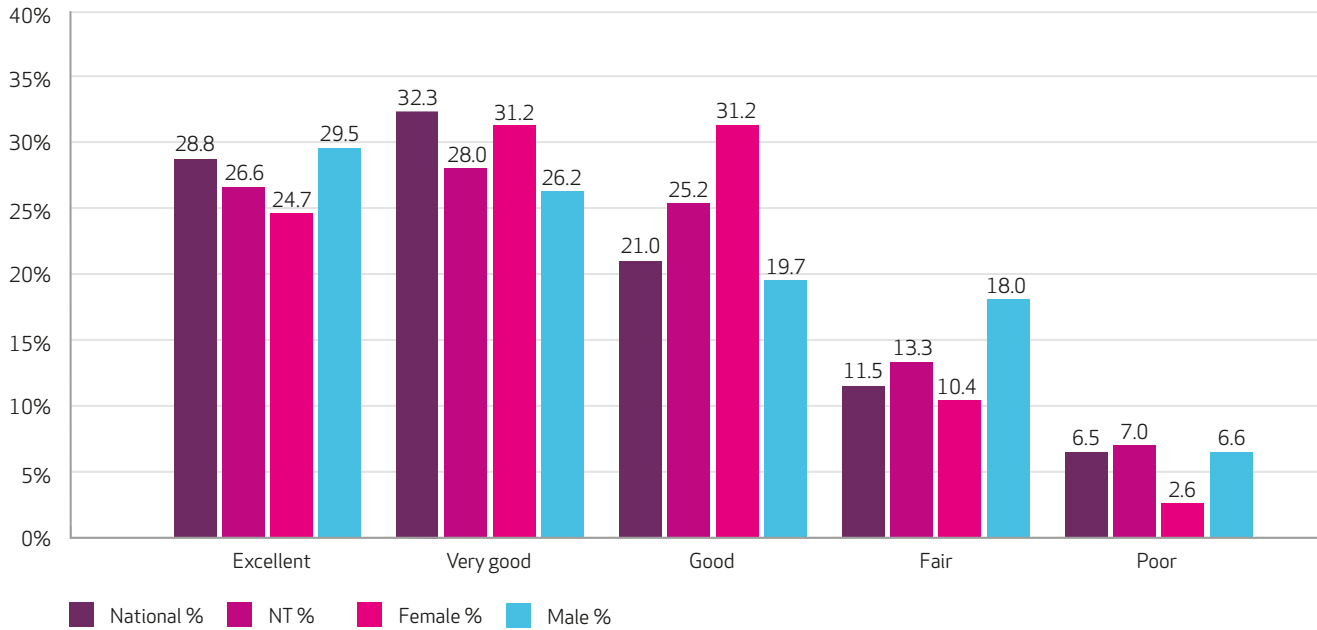
Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated sources of help accessed on the internet for females and males were consistent with the NT results. However, a greater proportion of females than males indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* (30.0% compared with 21.7%) and to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (23.8% compared with 20.3%). Females were more likely than males to report using the internet to access *personal stories or testimonies* (25.0% compared with 14.5%) or use an *online quiz or assessment tool* (23.8% compared with 10.1%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 5.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from the NT rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 26.6% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 28.0% rated it as *very good*. However, one in five young people from the NT did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (13.3%) or *poor* (7.0%). A greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (29.5% compared with 24.7%). Conversely, a higher proportion of males also indicated that their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor* (18.0% and 6.6% compared with 10.4% and 2.6% for females).

Figure 5.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 5.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from the NT were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 and 2016 results, although the order of the first and second issues was reversed.

- Four in ten young people from the NT (39.7%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Just under one third of young people from the NT identified *alcohol and drugs* (32.8%) and one quarter saw *equity and discrimination* (25.0%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Over one in six NT respondents identified *bullying* (17.2%) as an important issue.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have increasingly been identified by young people from the NT as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *population issues* and *the environment* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the territory results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (46.0% compared with 34.0%) and *equity and discrimination* (25.4% compared with 22.0%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Similar proportions of females and males identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (33.3% compared with 32.0%).

Table 5.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	NT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2017 %	NT 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	39.7	46.0	34.0	34.2	16.8
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	32.8	33.3	32.0	35.0	35.8
Equity and discrimination	23.4	25.0	25.4	22.0	27.4	21.6
Bullying	17.4	17.2	19.0	16.0	8.5	9.5
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	16.4	15.9	16.0	8.1	11.6
Education	8.2	11.2	11.1	12.0	10.7	8.4
The economy and financial matters	11.6	10.3	7.9	12.0	10.3	11.1
The environment	9.2	10.3	7.9	14.0	7.3	13.7
Population issues	6.7	8.6	1.6	18.0	9.4	14.2
Societal values	6.7	7.8	9.5	6.0	4.7	4.2

Note: Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 5.8.

- The top two activities for young people from the NT were *sports (as a participant)* (50.6%) and *youth groups and activities* (39.0%).
- Equal proportions of young people from the NT had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities* (37.7%) and *volunteer work* (37.7%).
- Over one third of young people from the NT reported participating in *student leadership activities* (35.7%) and *religious groups/activities* (35.1%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 5.8, the top activity for both females and males from the NT was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second and third most indicated activities differed between genders. For females, the equal second activities were *arts/cultural/music activities* and *youth groups and activities* (42.5% equally), ahead of *volunteer work* (36.3%). For males, the equal second activities were *volunteer work* and *sports (as a spectator)* (40.6% equally), followed by *student leadership activities* (39.1%).

- Around half of male (55.1%) and female (50.0%) respondents from the NT were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- Greater proportions of male than female respondents from the NT were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (40.6% compared with 21.3%) and *volunteer work* (40.6% compared with 36.3%).
- Greater proportions of female than male respondents from the NT were involved in *youth groups and activities* (42.5% compared with 37.7%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (42.5% compared with 33.3%).

Table 5.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	50.6	50.0	55.1
Youth groups and activities	22.6	39.0	42.5	37.7
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	37.7	42.5	33.3
Volunteer work	36.8	37.7	36.3	40.6
Student leadership activities	27.4	35.7	35.0	39.1
Religious groups/activities	18.8	35.1	40.0	29.0
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	29.9	21.3	40.6
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	16.2	17.5	14.5
Political groups/organisations	4.0	7.8	8.8	7.2

Note: Items are listed in order of territory frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 5.9 shows, the majority of young people from the NT (60.4%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is generally consistent with the national results. While a slightly greater proportion of males reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (63.7% compared with 61.4% of females), a higher proportion of females reported feeling *very sad/sad* (12.6% compared with 7.1% of males).

Table 5.9: How happy young people are

	National %	NT %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	60.4	61.4	63.7
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	27.8	26.3	28.9
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	11.6	12.6	7.1

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 5.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from the NT felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Just over six in ten (62.1%) respondents from the NT felt either *positive* (40.9%) or *very positive* (21.2%) about the future.
- Three in ten respondents (29.9%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Under one in ten respondents felt *negative* (4.4%) or *very negative* (3.6%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of females than males reported feeling *very positive* about the future (23.4% compared with 18.3%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 5.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	NT 2018 %	Female %	Male %	NT 2017 %	NT 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	21.2	23.4	18.3	13.0	19.8
Positive	46.7	40.9	41.6	40.0	44.2	35.9
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	29.9	28.6	31.7	28.6	30.4
Negative	6.8	4.4	3.9	5.0	7.1	6.3
Very negative	3.1	3.6	2.6	5.0	7.1	7.6

Queensland



Profile of respondents

In total, 5,769 young people from Queensland (QLD) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Half (50.6%) of respondents from QLD were female and 46.9% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 375 (6.7%) respondents from QLD identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 265 (4.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 54 (1.0%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.0% identified as both). Similar proportions of male and female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (6.6% compared with 6.2%).

Language background other than English

A total of 913 (16.3%) respondents from QLD stated that they were born overseas and 803 (14.4%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 80 languages other than English spoken at home in QLD, the most common were (in order of frequency): Afrikaans, Filipino/Tagalog, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish.

Disability

A total of 281 (5.1%) respondents from QLD indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (5.4%) than females (3.4%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in QLD were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety disorder, physical disabilities and learning disabilities.

Education

As indicated in Table 6.1, 94.3% of respondents from QLD were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (95.2% compared with 93.7%), while a marginally greater proportion of males (4.2%) than females (3.3%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from QLD reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.4%) or *satisfied* (57.4%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (4.5% and 1.3%). As shown in Table 6.2, a marginally higher proportion of males reported feeling *very satisfied* (15.4% compared with 13.5% of females), while a higher proportion of females from QLD reported feeling *satisfied* with their studies (59.8% compared with 55.7% of males).

Table 6.1: Participation in education

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	94.3	95.2	93.7
Studying part-time	2.3	1.9	1.5	2.1
Not studying	3.7	3.8	3.3	4.2

Table 6.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	QLD 2018 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2017 %	QLD 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	14.4	13.5	15.4	15.1	16.1
Satisfied	55.8	57.4	59.8	55.7	56.6	58.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	22.4	21.6	23.1	21.5	20.8
Dissatisfied	5.3	4.5	3.9	4.8	5.0	3.1
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.8	1.2

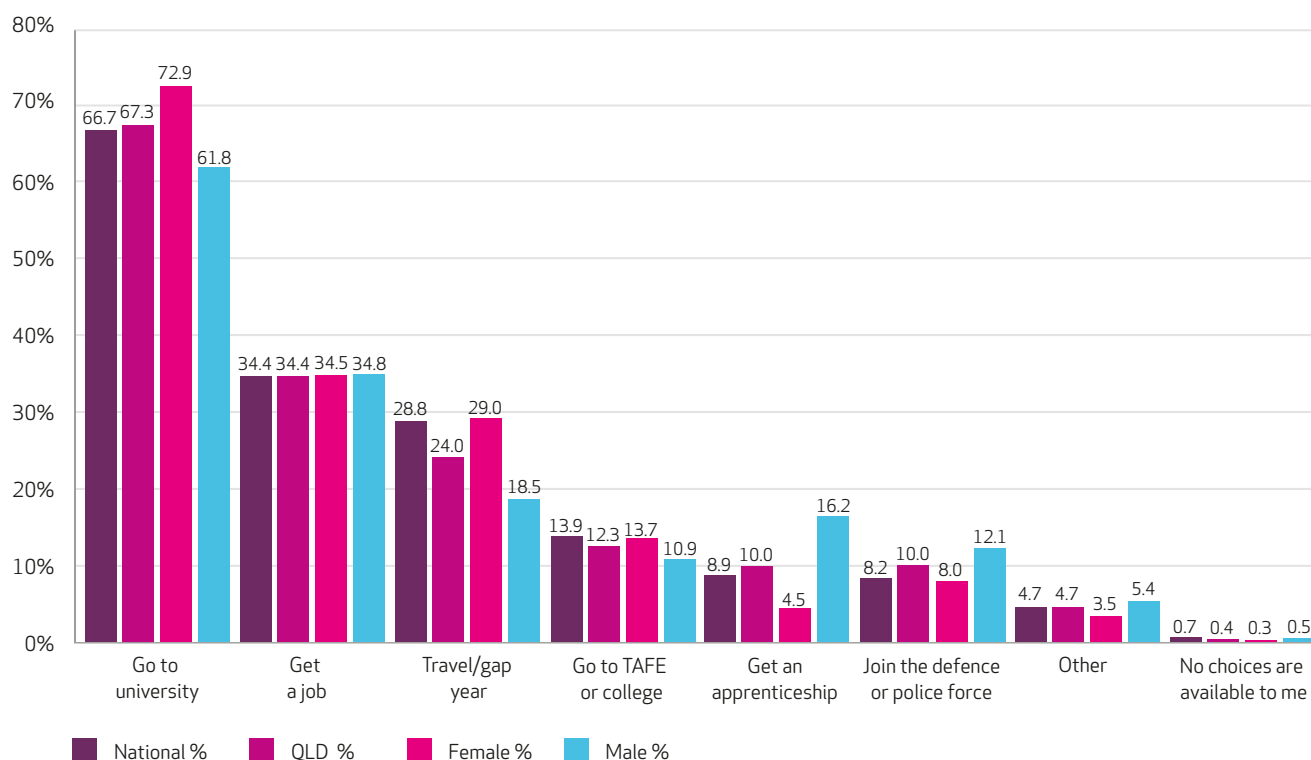
Of those who were still at school in QLD, 97.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Almost twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (2.7% compared with 1.4% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 6.1 shows that just over two thirds (67.3%) of respondents from QLD planned to go to university after school. Around one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (34.4%) and just under one quarter indicated travel/gap year plans (24.0%). Overall, 12.3% of young people from QLD planned to go to TAFE or college, while equal proportions (10.0%) reported plans to get an apprenticeship or to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.4%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from QLD was to go to university, a notably higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (72.9% compared with 61.8% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (29.0% compared with 18.5% of males). Conversely, much larger proportions of males than females indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship or join the defence or police force (16.2% and 12.1% compared with 4.5% and 8.0% respectively).

Figure 6.1: Plans after leaving school

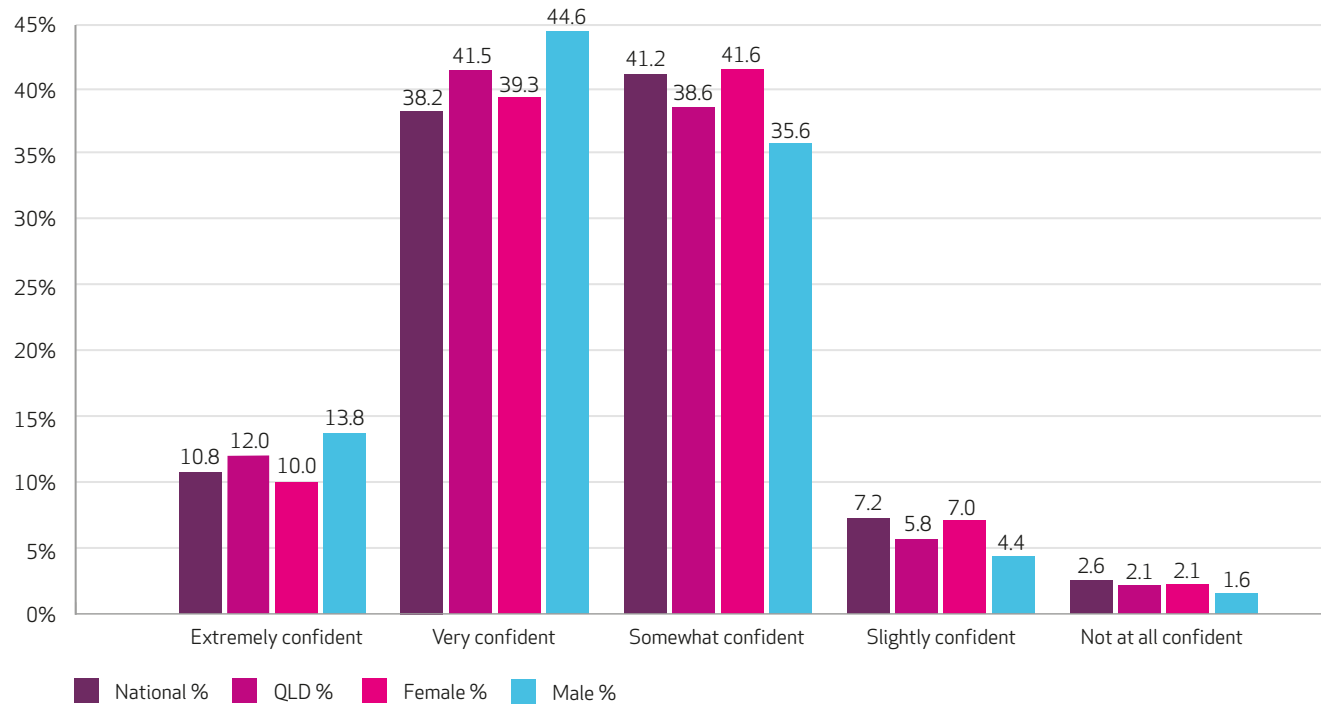


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Over half (53.5%) of respondents from QLD indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 12.0% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 41.5% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is higher than the national level results (53.5% compared with 49.0%). Under one in ten young people from QLD were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 5.8% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 2.1% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (13.8% and 44.6% compared with 10.0% and 39.3%).

Figure 6.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they have 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 (0.7%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over four in ten (43.1%) respondents from QLD reported part-time employment. Almost six in ten (56.7%) QLD respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 36.8% reported that they were looking for work, while 19.4% were not looking for work. This is consistent with the 2017 QLD results.

Gender differences

A slightly higher proportion of male respondents from QLD reported full-time employment (1.0% compared with 0.4% of females), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (48.1% compared with 37.9% males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (39.6% compared with 34.1% of females).

Table 6.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.0
Employed part-time	42.1	43.1	48.1	37.9
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	36.8	34.1	39.6
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	19.4	17.4	21.4

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Almost four in ten (37.2%) QLD respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a notably higher proportion of females (42.2%) than males (30.8%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 6.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

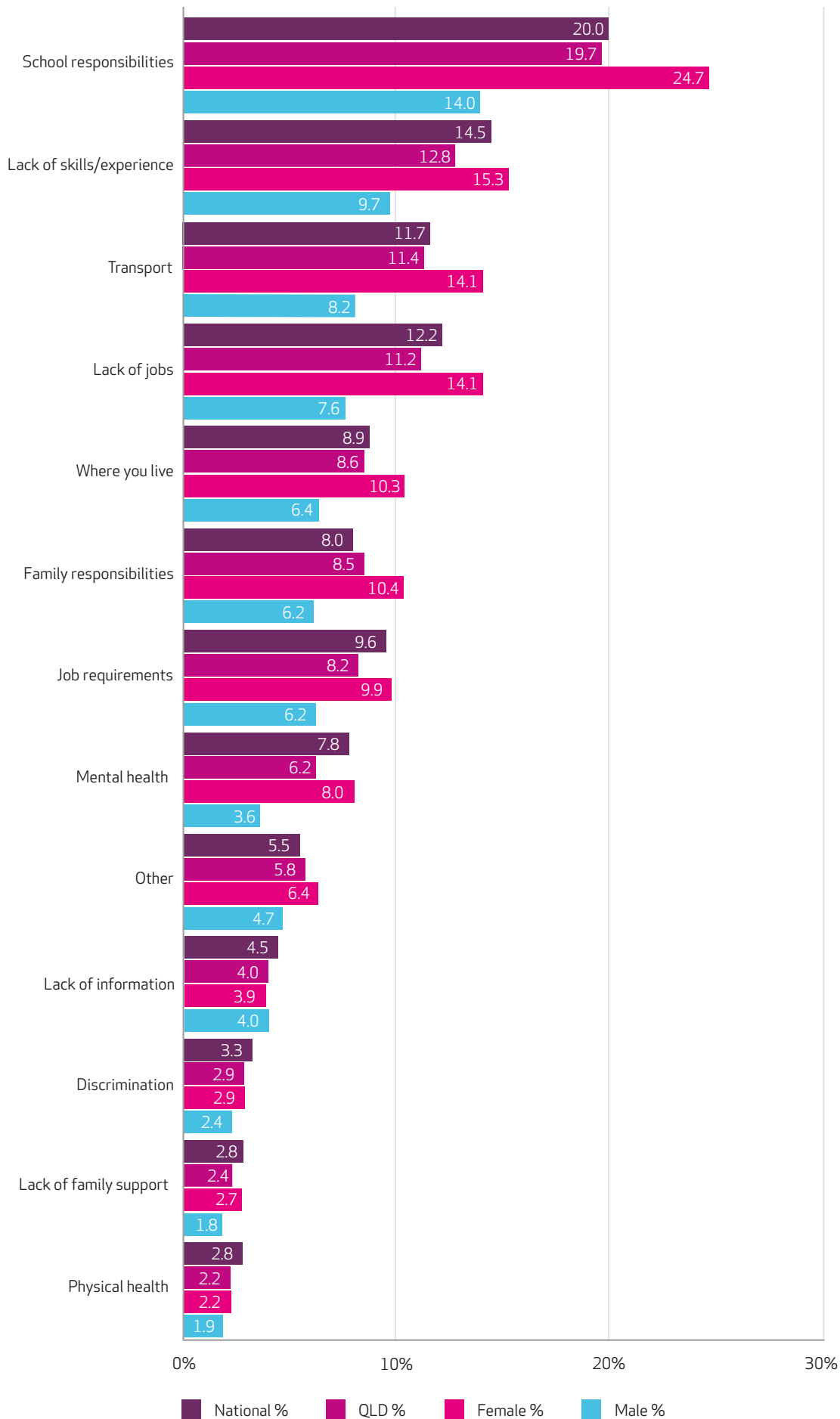
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *transport* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in QLD (19.7%, 12.8% and 11.4% respectively).
- Just over one in ten respondents indicated that they saw the *lack of jobs* as a barrier to finding work (11.2%).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.3, the top three barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *transport*. *Lack of jobs* was equal third for females. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 24.7% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared to 14.0% of male respondents.
- A higher proportion of females reported *lack of skills/experience, transport, lack of jobs, where you live* and *family responsibilities* as barriers which may impact on their finding work (15.3%, 14.1%, 14.1%, 10.3% and 10.4% compared with 9.7%, 8.2%, 7.6%, 6.4% and 6.2% of males).
- Over twice the proportion of female than male respondents indicated *mental health* as a barrier which may impact upon their finding work (8.0% compared with 3.6%).

Figure 6.3: Barriers to finding work



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

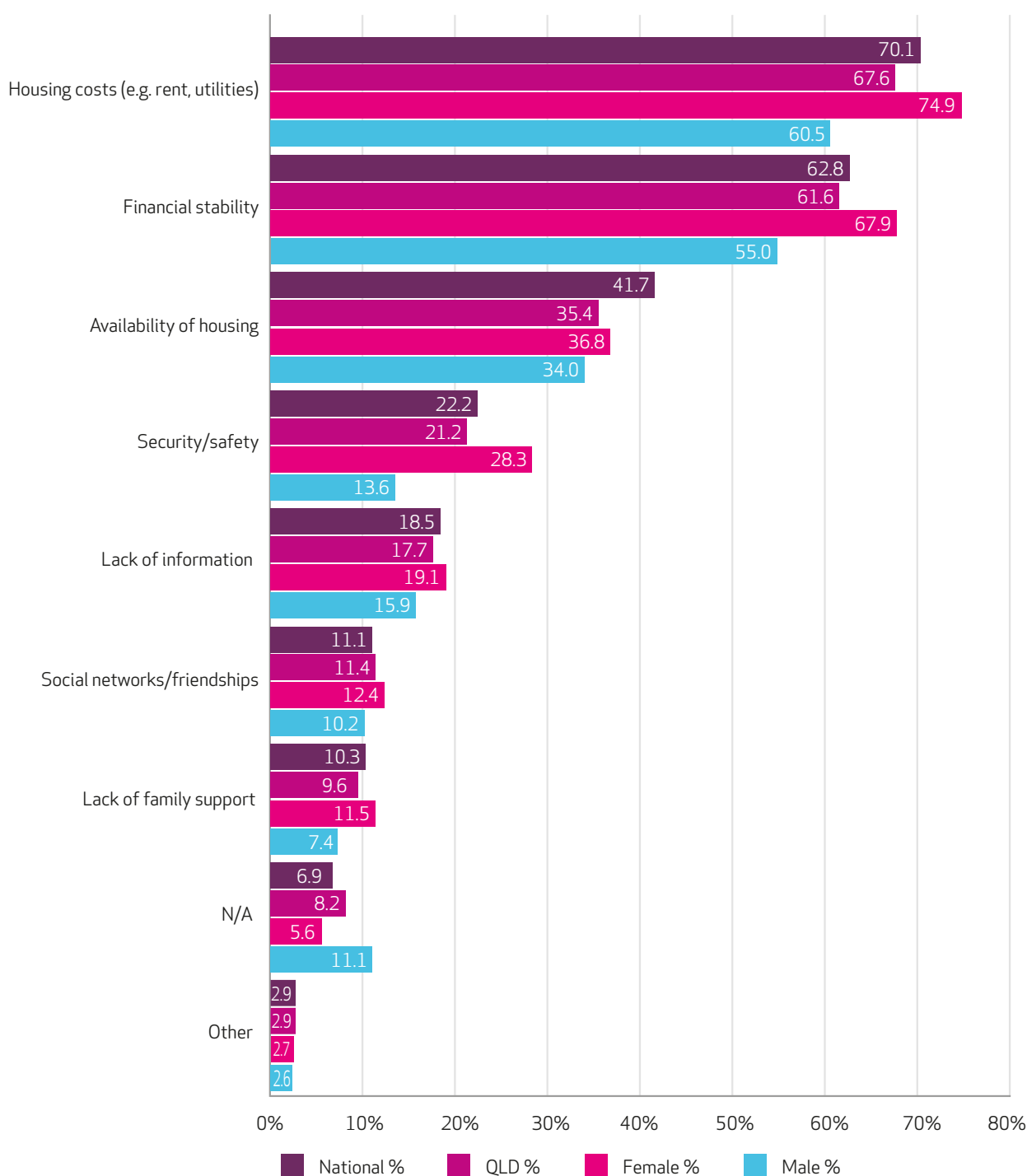
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, over six in ten respondents from QLD indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) (67.6%) and *financial stability* (61.6%) would be future barriers to moving out of home, while over one in three cited the *availability of housing* (35.4%) as a potential barrier. QLD state results are generally consistent with the national results, although a lower proportion of young people from QLD indicated *availability of housing* as a future barrier (35.4% compared with 41.7% nationally).

Gender differences

Notably greater proportions of females than males from QLD reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (74.9% and 67.9% compared to 60.5% and 55.0%). Over twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (28.3% compared with 13.6%).

Figure 6.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are ordered in order of state frequency.

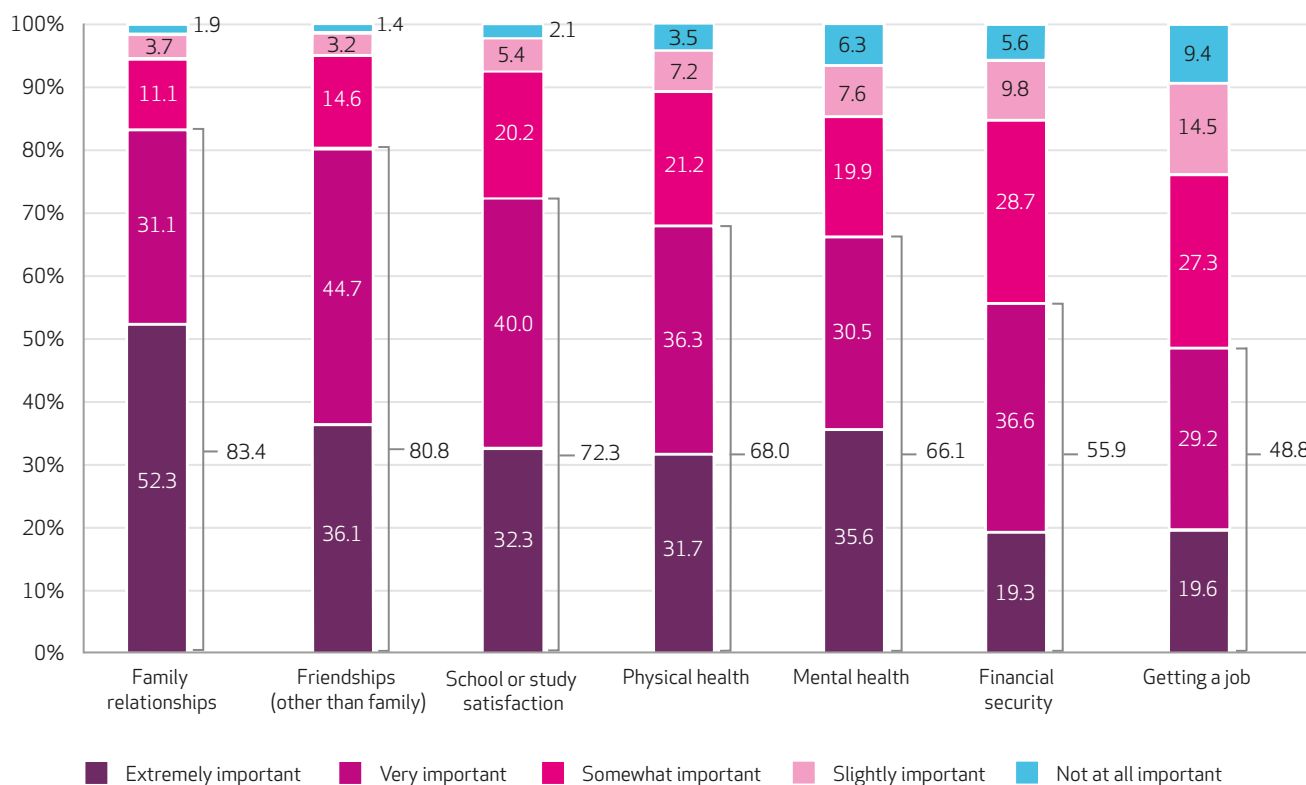
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 6.5, 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 for respondents from QLD this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *school or study satisfaction*. The next most valued items were *physical health* and *mental health*.

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 83.4% of respondents from QLD (*extremely important*: 52.3%; *very important*: 31.1%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by eight in ten (80.8%) QLD respondents (*extremely important*: 36.1%; *very important*: 44.7%).
- Over seven in ten (72.3%) respondents placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.3%; *very important*: 40.0%).
- Over two thirds of respondents from QLD highly valued *physical health* (*extremely important*: 31.7%; *very important*: 36.3%) and *mental health* (*extremely important*: 35.6%; *very important*: 30.5%).

Figure 6.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items by both females and males from QLD, as shown in Table 6.4. The third highest rated item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males it was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 85.6% of females (*extremely important*: 57.3%; *very important*: 28.3%), compared with 81.9% of males (*extremely important*: 47.6%; *very important*: 34.3%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by around eight in ten females (*extremely important*: 38.5%; *very important*: 42.6%) and males (*extremely important*: 33.4%; *very important*: 47.4%).

- Over three quarters (77.8%) of females highly valued *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 36.4%; *very important*: 41.4%), compared with around two thirds (67.4%) of males (*extremely important*: 28.2%; *very important*: 39.2%).
- *Physical health* was highly valued by nearly seven in ten females and males (67.4% compared with 69.5%).

Table 6.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	57.3	28.3	9.5	3.5	1.3
Friendships (other than family)	38.5	42.6	14.7	3.3	0.9
School or study satisfaction	36.4	41.4	16.9	3.9	1.3
Physical health	31.0	36.4	21.8	7.8	3.1
Mental health	40.0	31.2	18.5	6.3	3.9
Financial security	20.0	38.2	28.8	9.1	3.9
Getting a job	19.3	31.7	27.6	13.5	7.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	47.6	34.3	12.4	3.8	1.9
Friendships (other than family)	33.4	47.4	14.7	3.1	1.5
School or study satisfaction	28.2	39.2	23.5	6.7	2.4
Physical health	32.5	37.0	20.4	6.7	3.5
Mental health	31.0	30.4	21.1	9.1	8.4
Financial security	18.5	35.1	29.1	10.4	6.8
Getting a job	19.8	26.8	27.2	15.9	10.4

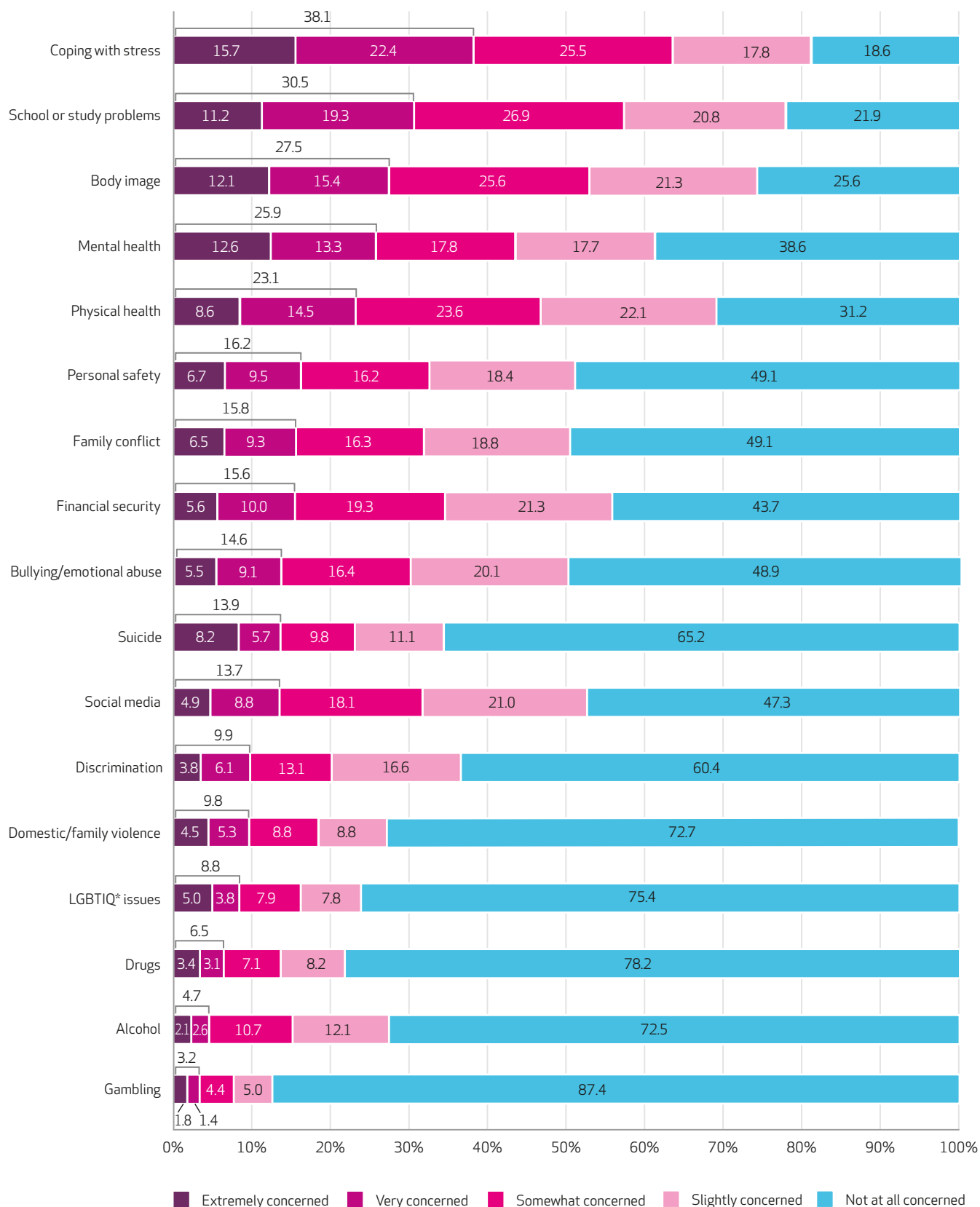
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 6.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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 top two results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with almost four in ten (38.1%) respondents from QLD indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (15.7%) or *very concerned* (22.4%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for three in ten (30.5%) young people from QLD (*extremely concerned*: 11.2%; *very concerned*: 19.3%).
- Over one quarter (27.5%) of young people from QLD were either *extremely concerned* (12.1%) or *very concerned* (15.4%) about *body image*.
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for one quarter (25.9%) of QLD respondents (*extremely concerned*: 12.6%; *very concerned*: 13.3%).

Figure 6.6: 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 was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from QLD. The second and third most noted concerns for females were *body image* and *school or study problems*, while for males from QLD *school or study problems* was the second most noted concern, ahead of *physical health*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for over half (52.4%) of QLD females (*extremely concerned*: 22.7%; *very concerned*: 29.7%), compared with under one quarter (22.6%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.8%; *very concerned*: 14.8%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for close to four in ten (38.5%) females (*extremely concerned*: 14.9% *very concerned*: 23.6%), compared with around one in five (21.4%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.7%; *very concerned*: 14.7%).
- More than twice the proportion of females than males were concerned about *body image* (39.5% compared with 14.0%) and *mental health* (34.2% compared with 16.2%).
- Around one fifth (19.9%) of males (*extremely concerned*: 7.0%; *very concerned*: 12.9%) and one quarter (25.7%) of females (*extremely concerned*: 9.4%; *very concerned*: 16.3%) indicated *physical health* was a major concern.

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 %
Coping with stress	22.7	29.7	25.8	13.1	8.6
School or study problems	14.9	23.6	27.9	19.2	14.3
Body image	17.5	22.0	28.4	17.8	14.3
Mental health	17.4	16.8	19.8	18.7	27.3
Physical health	9.4	16.3	26.1	23.5	24.7
Personal safety	8.4	10.9	18.1	19.4	43.2
Family conflict	9.1	11.5	19.2	21.7	38.5
Financial security	6.6	12.2	21.2	22.6	37.4
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.9	12.3	19.1	21.0	40.7
Suicide	9.6	7.6	11.7	12.1	59.1
Social media	6.6	11.4	20.8	22.6	38.6
Discrimination	4.2	7.7	14.9	18.9	54.3
Domestic/family violence	5.1	6.4	9.2	9.8	69.5
LGBTIQ* issues	4.9	5.4	8.5	10.2	71.0
Drugs	2.9	3.4	7.6	8.6	77.6
Alcohol	1.9	2.9	12.2	13.8	69.3
Gambling	1.2	1.4	3.7	5.0	88.8

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 %
Coping with stress	7.8	14.8	25.3	23.0	29.1
School or study problems	6.7	14.7	26.0	22.9	29.7
Body image	5.4	8.6	23.3	25.0	37.6
Mental health	6.6	9.6	15.9	17.0	50.9
Physical health	7.0	12.9	21.0	21.0	38.0
Personal safety	4.5	8.1	14.3	17.1	56.0
Family conflict	3.1	6.9	13.5	15.9	60.6
Financial security	3.8	8.0	17.4	20.0	50.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.6	5.6	13.6	19.4	57.9
Suicide	6.0	3.7	7.6	10.2	72.4
Social media	2.6	6.0	15.3	19.4	56.7
Discrimination	2.7	4.2	11.4	14.2	67.5
Domestic/family violence	3.2	4.2	8.6	7.8	76.3
LGBTIQ* issues	3.6	2.1	7.4	5.5	81.4
Drugs	3.4	3.0	6.7	7.8	79.1
Alcohol	2.0	2.3	9.2	10.3	76.2
Gambling	1.8	1.5	5.2	5.1	86.4

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 6.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated they would go to the particular source for support.

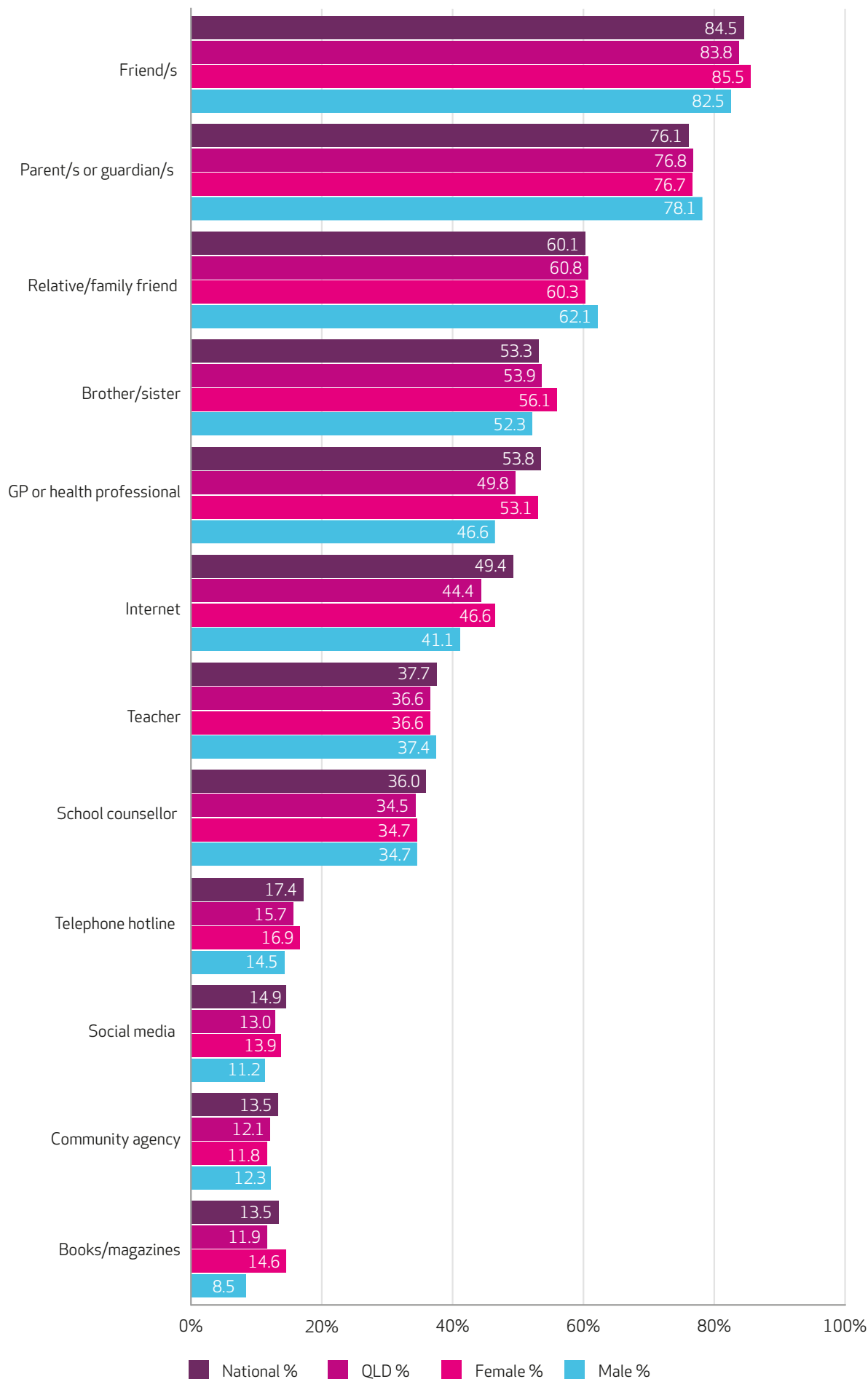
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from QLD (83.8%, 76.8% and 60.8% respectively).
- Around half of respondents from QLD indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (53.9%) or a *GP or health professional* (49.8%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Over four in ten young people from QLD indicated that they would use the *internet* (44.4%) for support, while over one third indicated they would turn to their *teacher* (36.6%) or *school counsellor* (34.5%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 6.7, the top three sources of help for both females and males were consistent with the QLD and national results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (85.5% compared to 82.5%).
- A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (78.1% compared with 76.7%) or a *relative/family friend* (62.1% compared with 60.3%) for help.
- Higher proportions of females than males from QLD would go to their *brother/sister* (56.1% compared with 52.3%), a *GP or health professional* (53.1% compared with 46.6%) or the *internet* (46.6% compared with 41.1%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 6.6, almost three in ten young people from QLD accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (28.5%), while over one in six indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (17.1%) or to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.9%).

Table 6.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	28.5	34.6	22.1
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	17.1	23.6	10.0
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	16.9	18.0	15.6
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	16.3	21.3	10.9
Information about available services	16.5	13.4	16.3	10.3
Counselling with a professional	11.8	10.3	12.6	7.7
Other	7.7	8.4	5.9	10.1
Support group or forum	8.3	7.7	7.9	7.1
Online course or program	5.2	4.9	5.1	4.5

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

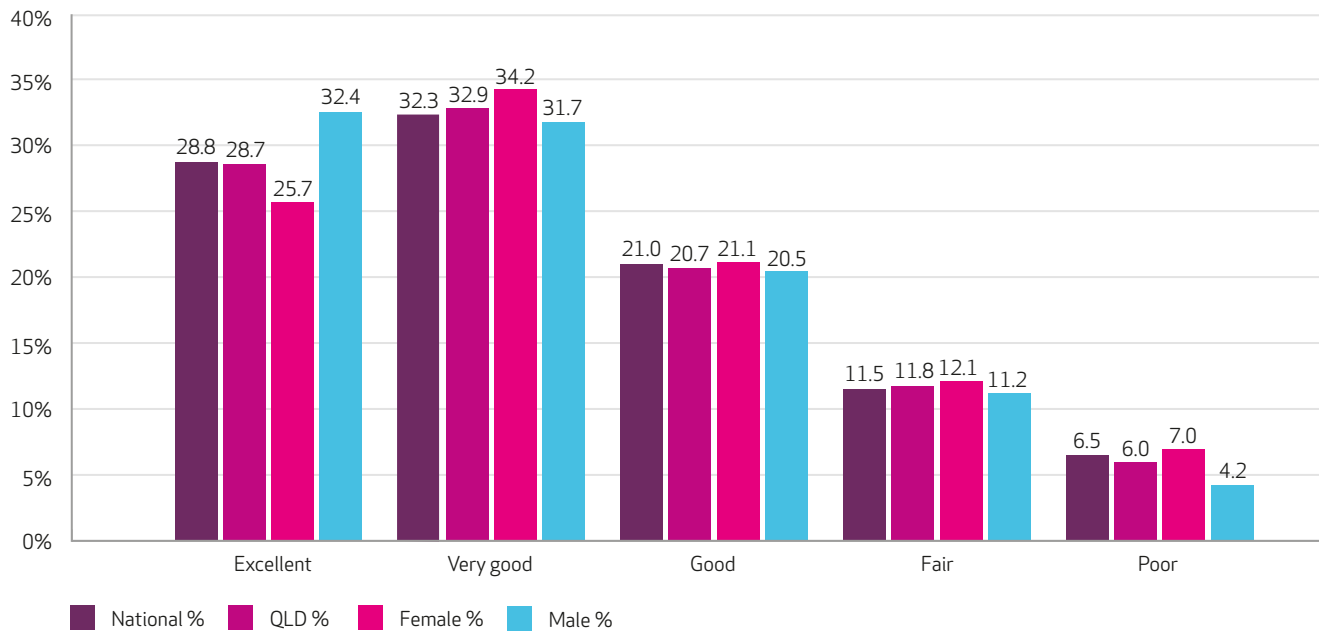
Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the QLD state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (34.6% compared with 22.1%). For females from QLD, *online quiz or assessment tool* and *personal stories or testimonies* (23.6% and 21.3%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from QLD, the second and third most indicated sources of help accessed online were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (15.6%) and *personal stories or testimonies* (10.9%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 6.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from QLD rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 28.7% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.9% rated it as *very good*. However, over one in six young people from QLD did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.8%) or *poor* (6.0%). A greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (32.4% compared with 25.7%).

Figure 6.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 6.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from QLD were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 results for QLD.

- Over four in ten young people from QLD (42.8%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around three in ten young people from QLD identified *alcohol and drugs* (29.5%) as an important issue in Australia.
- Around one in five QLD respondents saw *equity and discrimination* (20.8%) and *bullying* (19.7%) as important issues.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from QLD as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *equity and discrimination* and *education* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents from QLD.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (48.9% compared with 36.8%), *equity and discrimination* (21.8% compared with 19.6%) and *bullying* (24.4% compared with 14.9%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (32.8% compared with 26.9%).

Table 6.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	QLD 2018 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2017 %	QLD 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	42.8	48.9	36.8	33.9	21.8
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	29.5	26.9	32.8	33.4	31.6
Equity and discrimination	23.4	20.8	21.8	19.6	25.4	25.9
Bullying	17.4	19.7	24.4	14.9	10.4	10.7
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	15.7	15.5	16.3	13.0	13.1
The economy and financial matters	11.6	11.5	9.7	13.5	13.6	15.7
Health	11.4	11.3	10.6	11.8	9.0	11.3
The environment	9.2	8.8	9.1	8.4	9.3	9.2
Employment	7.9	7.7	6.6	8.9	11.0	11.1
Education	8.2	7.1	8.2	6.0	12.7	11.0

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 6.8.

- The top three activities for young people from QLD were *sports (as a participant)* (64.8%), *sports (as a spectator)* (43.2%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (38.6%). The top two activities remain unchanged from previous years.
- Over one third (36.0%) of QLD respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- Almost three in ten young people from QLD reported participating in *student leadership activities* (29.6%), while around one in five had taken part in *youth groups and activities* (22.7%) and *religious groups/activities* (19.1%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 6.8, the top activity for both females and males from QLD was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second most indicated activity differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (47.3%), followed by *volunteer work* (40.2%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (49.1%) was the second top activity, ahead of *volunteer work* (31.9%).

- Almost seven in ten (69.4%) male respondents and six in ten (60.9%) female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (49.1% compared with 38.3%).
- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (47.3% compared with 29.1%) and *volunteer work* (40.2% compared with 31.9%).

Table 6.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	64.8	60.9	69.4
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	43.2	38.3	49.1
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	38.6	47.3	29.1
Volunteer work	36.8	36.0	40.2	31.9
Student leadership activities	27.4	29.6	33.0	26.4
Youth groups and activities	22.6	22.7	25.4	19.6
Religious groups/activities	18.8	19.1	20.1	18.0
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	11.0	12.2	9.7
Political groups/organisations	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.4

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 6.9 shows, the majority of young people from QLD (63.9%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is consistent with the national results. A larger proportion of males from QLD reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (69.9% compared with 58.9% of females), while a greater proportion of females reported feeling *not happy or sad* (31.5% compared with 22.7% of males).

Table 6.9: How happy young people are

	National %	QLD %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	63.9	58.9	69.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	27.3	31.5	22.7
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	9.0	9.7	7.3

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 6.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from QLD felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Around two thirds (65.2%) of respondents from QLD felt either *positive* (48.7%) or *very positive* (16.5%) about the future.
- Just over one quarter of respondents (26.2%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- One in twelve young people from QLD felt *negative* (6.0%) or *very negative* (2.6%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (18.6% compared with 14.7%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 6.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	QLD 2018 %	Female %	Male %	QLD 2017 %	QLD 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	16.5	14.7	18.6	17.2	17.8
Positive	46.7	48.7	48.6	49.7	47.7	48.8
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	26.2	28.0	24.1	26.2	25.1
Negative	6.8	6.0	6.5	5.1	6.1	5.6
Very negative	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.8

South Australia



Profile of respondents

In total, 3,767 young people from South Australia (SA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (56.9%) of respondents from SA were female and 40.6% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 145 (4.0%) respondents from SA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 125 (3.4%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 14 (0.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.2% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (4.2% compared with 3.2%).

Language background other than English

A total of 472 (12.8%) respondents from SA stated that they were born overseas and 661 (18.0%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 67 languages other than English spoken at home in SA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Italian and Greek.

Disability

A total of 248 (6.8%) respondents from SA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (8.4%) than females (4.8%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in SA were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), deafness or hearing impairment and physical disabilities.

Education

As indicated in Table 7.1, 93.5% of respondents from SA were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (94.9% compared with 92.4%), while a marginally higher proportion of males (3.3%) than females (2.4%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from SA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.0%) or *satisfied* (57.2%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (1.4% and 4.5%). As shown in Table 7.2, a marginally higher proportion of males reported feeling *very satisfied* (14.3% compared with 13.8%), while a greater proportion of females felt *satisfied* with their studies (58.4% compared with 56.6%).

Table 7.1: Participation in education

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	93.5	94.9	92.4
Studying part-time	2.3	3.4	2.7	4.3
Not studying	3.7	3.1	2.4	3.3

Table 7.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	SA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2017 %	SA 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	14.0	13.8	14.3	13.0	18.7
Satisfied	55.8	57.2	58.4	56.6	55.7	53.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	22.9	22.9	22.6	24.6	21.7
Dissatisfied	5.3	4.5	4.1	4.8	5.0	4.5
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.4	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.4

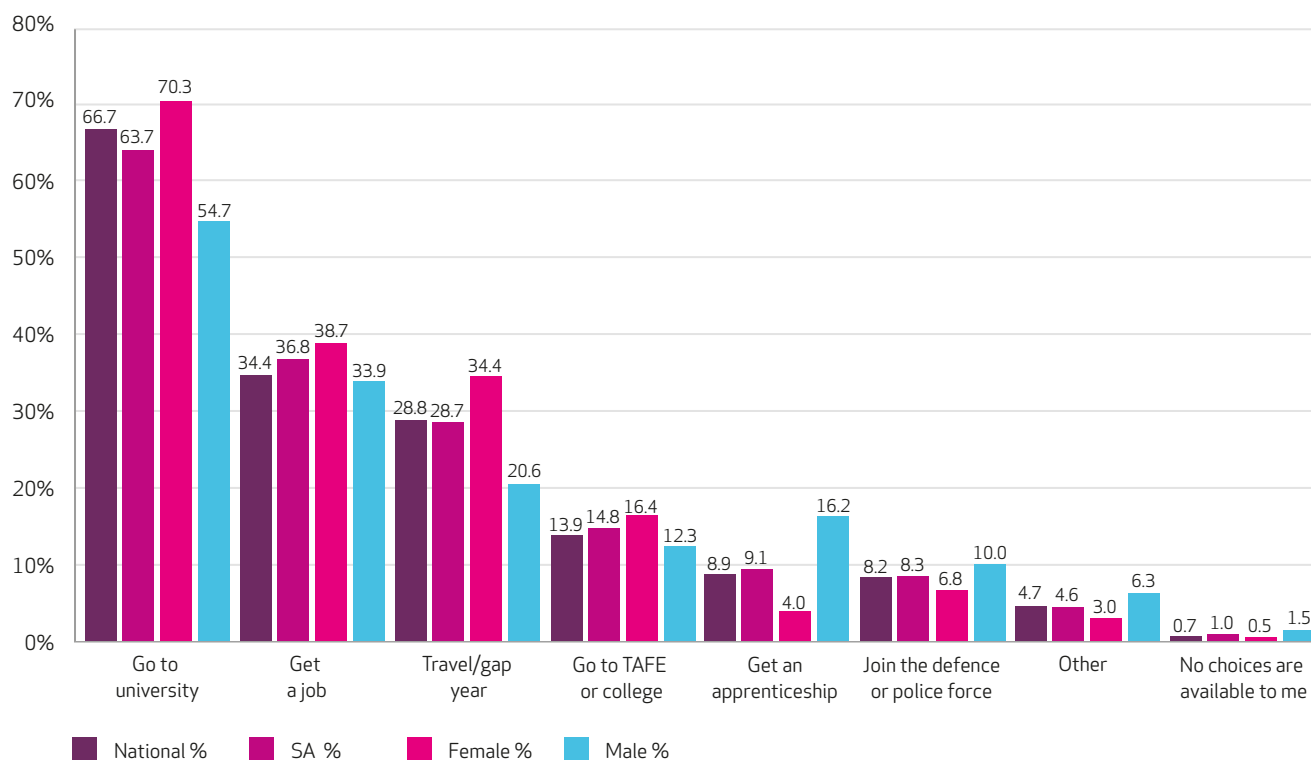
Of those who were still at school in SA, 95.9% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Over three times the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.8% compared with 2.2% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 7.1 shows that around two thirds (63.7%) of respondents from SA planned to go to university after school. Over one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (36.8%) and nearly three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (28.7%). Overall, 14.8% of young people from SA planned to go to TAFE or college, 9.1% reported plans to get an apprenticeship and 8.3% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (1.0%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from SA was to go to university a notably higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (70.3% compared with 54.7%). A greater proportion of female respondents also reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (34.4% compared with 20.6% of males). Conversely, four times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (16.2% compared with 4.0% of females).

Figure 7.1: Plans after leaving school

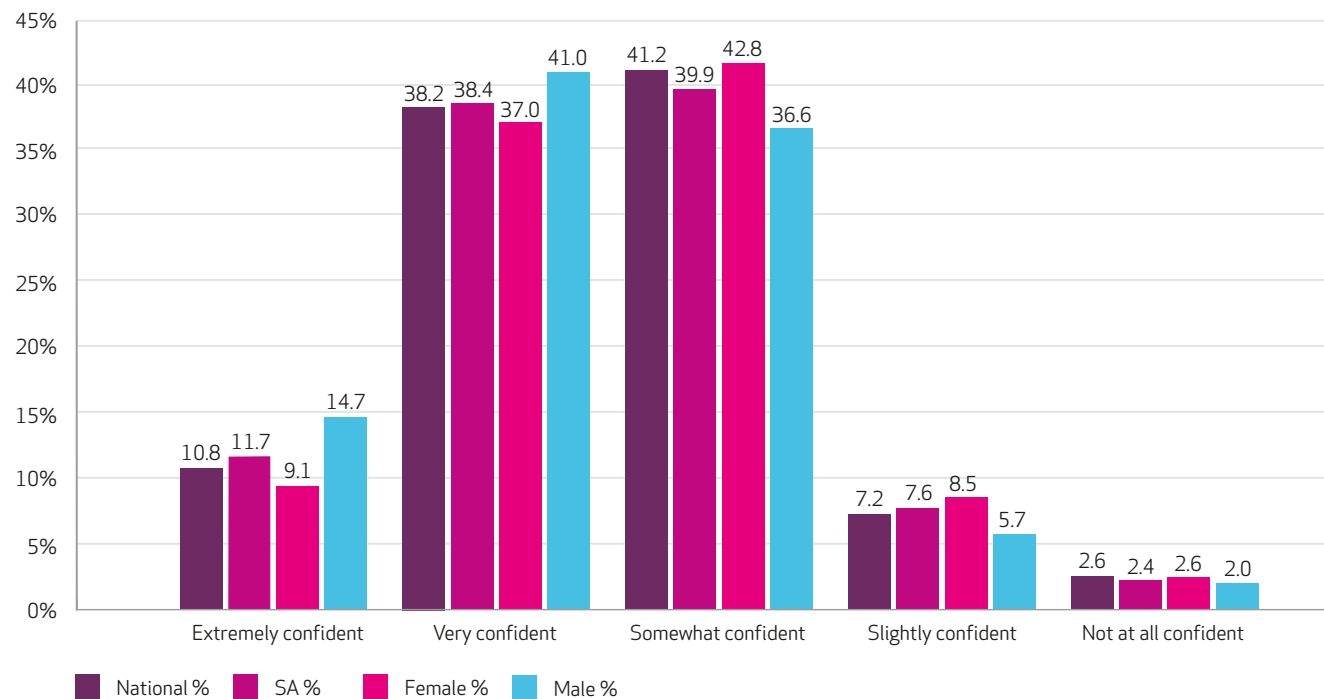


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Half (50.1%) of respondents from SA indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 11.7% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 38.4% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is comparable to the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, one in ten young people from SA were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.6% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 2.4% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (14.7% and 41.0% compared with 9.1% and 37.0%).

Figure 7.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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 (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Four in ten (39.4%) respondents from SA reported part-time employment. Six in ten SA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 37.8% reported that they were looking for work, while 22.4% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from SA that indicated they were working part-time is slightly higher than the 2017 and 2016 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from SA reported full-time employment (0.3% compared with 0.6%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (43.5% compared with 33.7% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (40.3% compared with 35.9% of females).

Table 7.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6
Employed part-time	42.1	39.4	43.5	33.7
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	37.8	35.9	40.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	22.4	20.2	25.5

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Four in ten (40.4%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (44.0%) than males (34.6%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 7.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

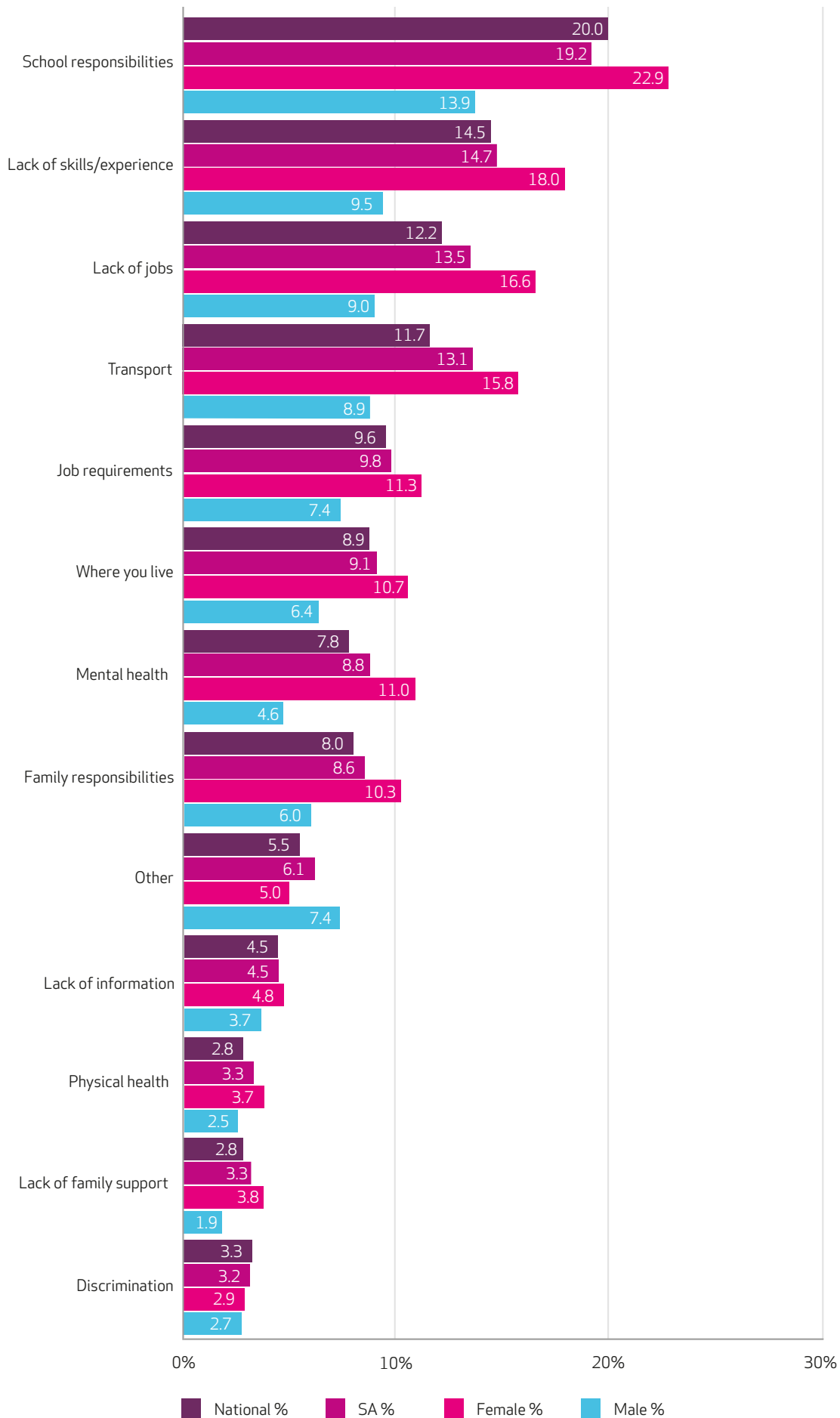
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in SA (19.2%, 14.7% and 13.5% respectively).
- Over one in eight respondents indicated that they saw *transport* as a barrier to finding work (13.1%).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.3, the top three barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 22.9% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on them finding work, compared with 13.9% of male respondents.
- Almost double the proportion of females reported *lack of skills/experience* as a barrier which may impact on their finding work (18.0% compared with 9.5% of males).
- Females were over twice as likely than males to indicate *mental health* as a barrier which may impact upon their finding work (11.0% compared with 4.6%).

Figure 7.3: Barriers to finding work



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

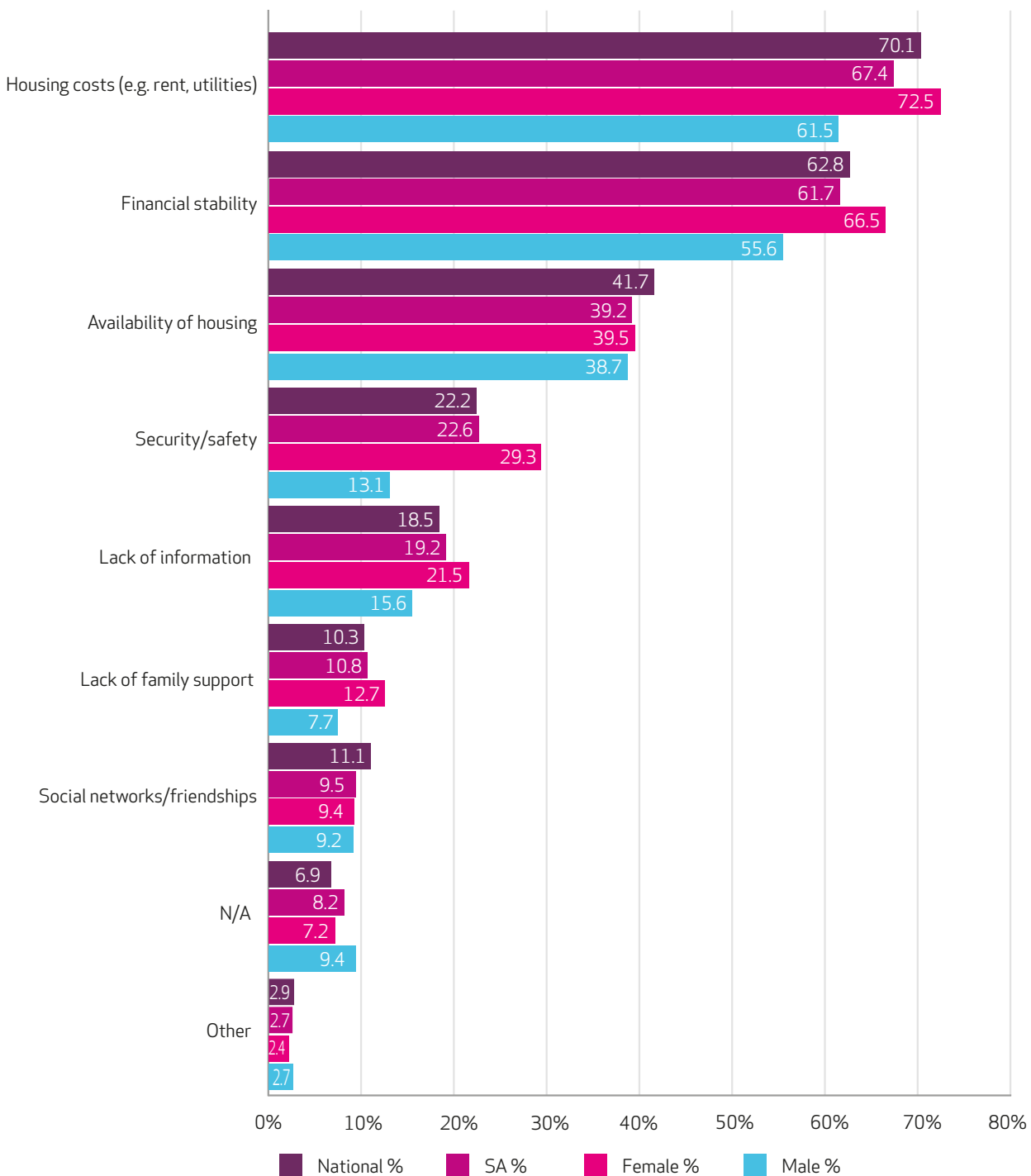
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, nearly seven in ten (67.4%) respondents from SA indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (61.7%) and *availability of housing* (39.2%). SA state results are generally consistent with national results.

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from SA reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (72.5% and 66.5% compared with 61.5% and 55.6% respectively). Over twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (29.3% compared with 13.1%).

Figure 7.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

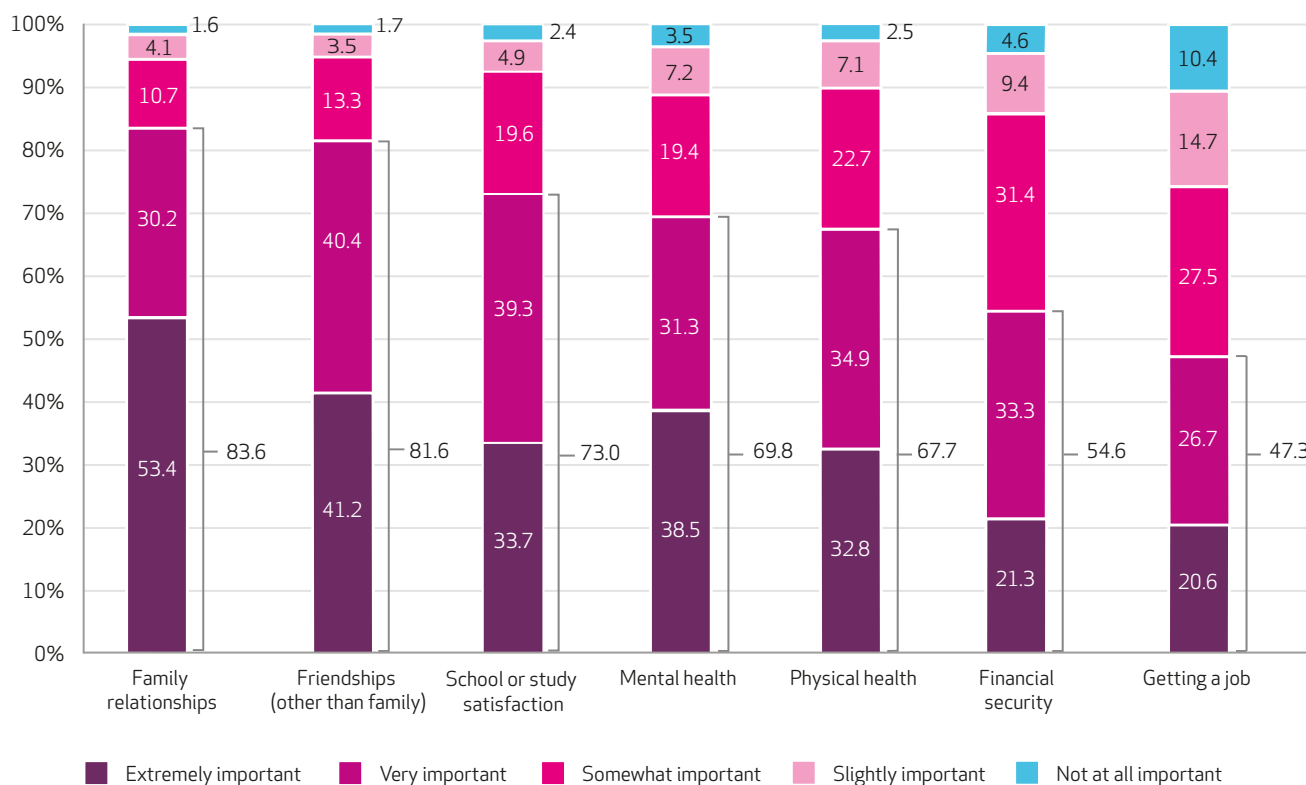
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 7.5, the items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

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

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 83.6% of respondents from SA (*extremely important*: 53.4%; *very important*: 30.2%). *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by 81.6% of SA respondents (*extremely important*: 41.2%; *very important*: 40.4%).
- Almost three quarters of young people from SA placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 33.7%; *very important*: 39.3%).
- Around seven in ten placed a high value on *mental health* (*extremely important*: 38.5%; *very important*: 31.3%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 32.8%; *very important*: 34.9%).
- Over half of SA respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 21.3%; *very important*: 33.3%).

Figure 7.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items for both females and males from SA, as shown in Table 7.4. The third highest rated item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 85.8% of females (*extremely important*: 59.4%; *very important*: 26.4%), compared with 81.9% of males (*extremely important*: 46.4%; *very important*: 35.5%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were equally highly valued by females (*extremely important*: 43.4%; *very important*: 38.5%) and males (*extremely important*: 38.5%; *very important*: 43.4%).

- School or study satisfaction was highly valued by 78.2% of females (extremely important: 38.9%; very important: 39.3%), compared with 66.8% of males (extremely important: 26.6%; very important: 40.2%).
- Almost three quarters (73.5%) of females highly valued mental health (extremely important: 42.2%; very important: 31.3%), compared with just under two thirds (65.2%) of males (extremely important: 33.3%; very important: 31.9%).

Table 7.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	59.4	26.4	9.5	3.6	1.1
Friendships (other than family)	43.4	38.5	13.0	3.6	1.4
School or study satisfaction	38.9	39.3	17.0	3.5	1.4
Mental health	42.2	31.3	18.3	6.1	2.2
Physical health	31.8	34.5	24.3	7.8	1.6
Financial security	21.1	34.5	32.5	8.6	3.2
Getting a job	20.3	27.1	28.0	14.7	9.9
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	46.4	35.5	11.8	4.4	1.9
Friendships (other than family)	38.5	43.4	13.1	3.4	1.6
School or study satisfaction	26.6	40.2	23.5	6.6	3.1
Mental health	33.3	31.9	21.1	8.9	4.7
Physical health	34.4	35.8	20.8	5.9	3.1
Financial security	21.2	32.4	30.0	10.4	6.1
Getting a job	20.7	27.0	26.7	14.9	10.7

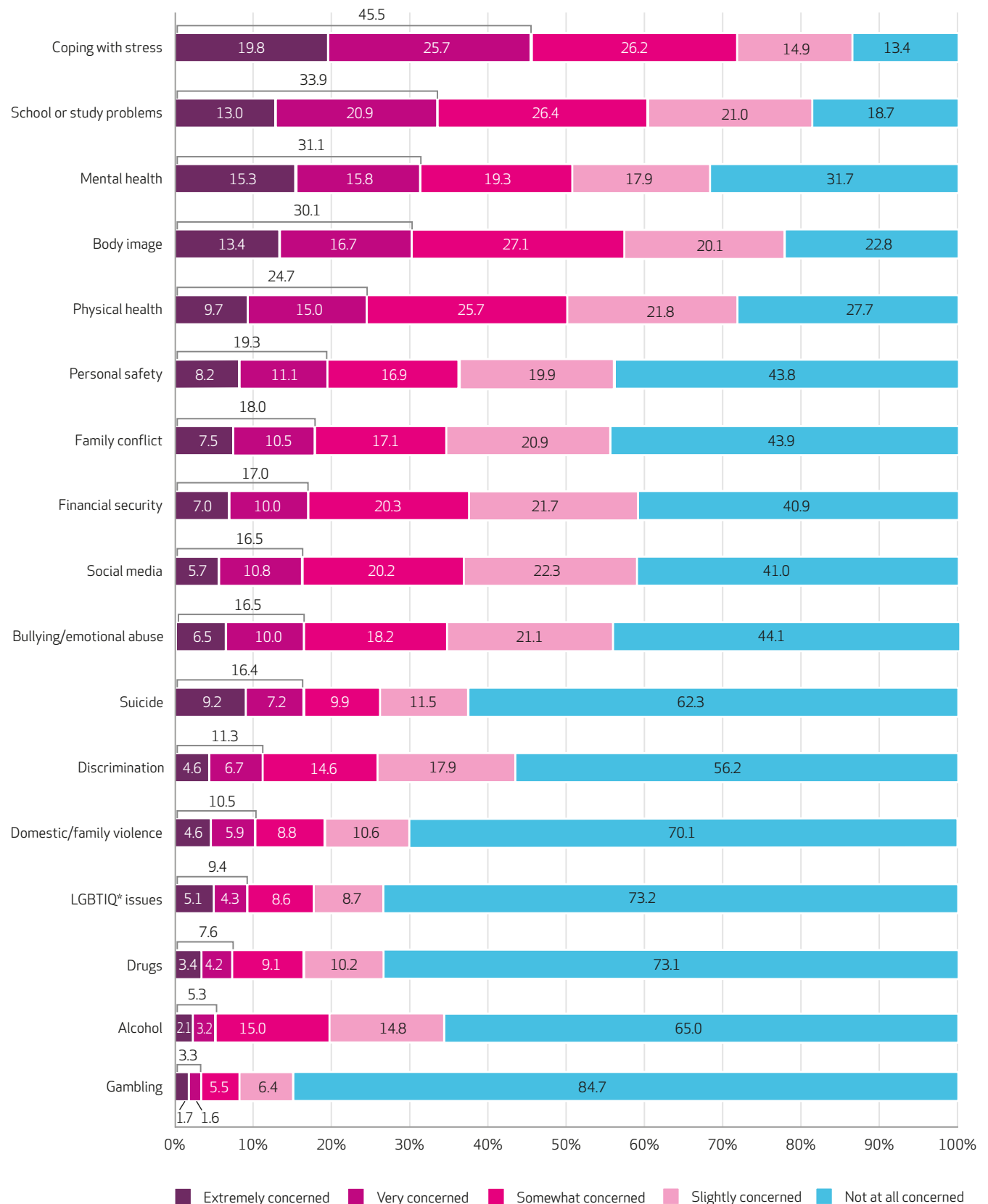
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 7.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 45.5% of respondents from SA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (19.8%) or *very concerned* (25.7%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for one third (33.9%) of young people from SA (*extremely concerned*: 13.0%; *very concerned*: 20.9%).
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for 31.1% of SA respondents (*extremely concerned*: 15.3%; *very concerned*: 15.8%).
- Three in ten (30.1%) young people from SA were either *extremely concerned* (13.4%) or *very concerned* (16.7%) about *body image*.

Figure 7.6: 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 from SA. The third most noted personal concern for females was *body image*, while for males from SA *mental health* was the third most noted personal concern. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for nearly six in ten (56.7%) females (*extremely concerned*: 26.0%; *very concerned*: 30.7%), compared with three in ten (29.6%) males (*extremely concerned*: 10.7%; *very concerned*: 18.9%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (41.8%) females (*extremely concerned*: 17.4%; *very concerned*: 24.4%), compared with around one in five (23.3%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.9%; *very concerned*: 16.4%).
- *Mental health* was a major concern for 38.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 19.1%; *very concerned*: 19.0%) and 20.6% of males (*extremely concerned*: 9.0%; *very concerned*: 11.6%).
- Four in ten (41.4%) females were concerned about *body image* (*extremely concerned*: 19.1%; *very concerned*: 22.3%), compared with around one in eight (14.1%) males (*extremely concerned*: 4.9%; *very concerned*: 9.2%).

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 %
Coping with stress	26.0	30.7	25.8	11.9	5.6
School or study problems	17.4	24.4	27.1	18.2	13.0
Mental health	19.1	19.0	21.5	16.8	23.6
Body image	19.1	22.3	28.5	17.7	12.5
Physical health	10.5	17.1	28.1	22.2	22.0
Personal safety	9.3	12.7	18.4	20.2	39.4
Family conflict	9.1	13.1	18.9	22.1	36.7
Financial security	7.7	11.4	22.9	22.3	35.7
Social media	7.3	13.6	22.9	23.0	33.2
Bullying/emotional abuse	7.9	11.6	20.4	21.4	38.7
Suicide	10.7	8.2	10.4	12.6	58.1
Discrimination	4.8	7.4	16.1	19.0	52.7
Domestic/family violence	5.2	6.2	9.6	10.7	68.4
LGBTIQ* issues	4.3	5.5	9.2	9.7	71.2
Drugs	3.1	4.4	8.9	10.1	73.5
Alcohol	1.8	3.7	16.0	15.3	63.2
Gambling	1.2	1.3	5.0	5.9	86.6

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 %
Coping with stress	10.7	18.9	27.5	19.2	23.7
School or study problems	6.9	16.4	25.7	24.5	26.4
Mental health	9.0	11.6	16.7	19.6	43.1
Body image	4.9	9.2	25.4	23.9	36.7
Physical health	8.4	11.8	22.6	21.9	35.3
Personal safety	6.4	8.8	14.7	20.0	50.0
Family conflict	5.0	7.0	14.6	19.6	53.8
Financial security	5.5	8.0	16.9	21.3	48.2
Social media	3.2	6.9	16.7	21.4	51.8
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.8	7.9	15.3	20.9	52.0
Suicide	6.1	5.8	9.1	10.0	69.0
Discrimination	3.3	5.5	12.3	17.1	61.8
Domestic/family violence	3.5	5.5	7.6	10.5	72.9
LGBTIQ* issues	4.5	2.7	7.7	7.4	77.6
Drugs	3.5	3.9	9.3	10.7	72.6
Alcohol	2.2	2.6	13.8	14.6	66.8
Gambling	2.0	2.2	6.1	7.0	82.6

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 7.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

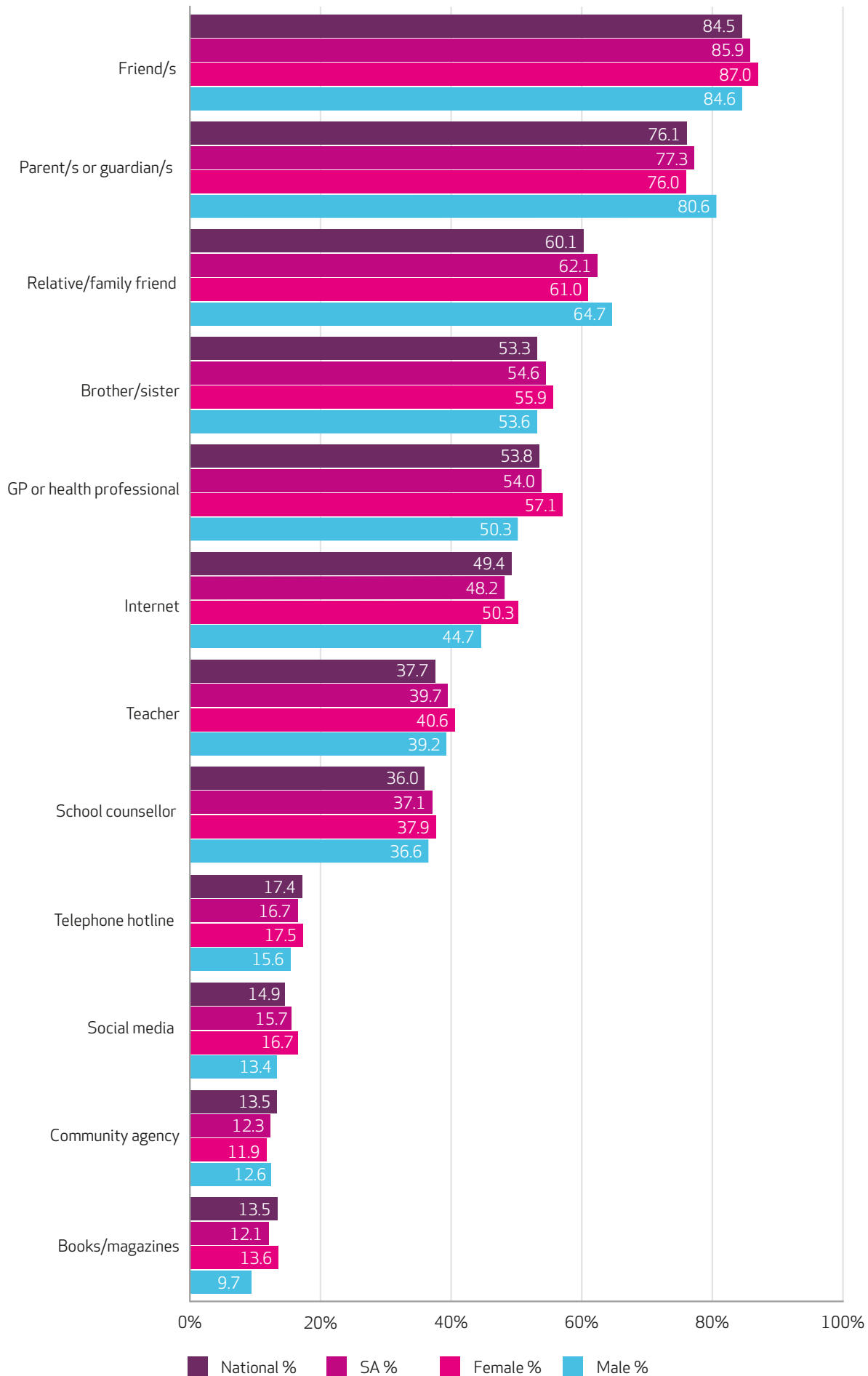
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from SA (85.9%, 77.3% and 62.1% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from SA indicated that they would go to their *brother/sister* (54.6%) or a *GP or health professional* (54.0%) for support.
- Just under half would turn to the *internet* (48.2%) for help with important issues in their lives, while under four in ten young people from SA indicated that they would turn to their *teacher* (39.7%) or *school counsellor* (37.1%) as a source of help.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 7.7, the top three sources of help for both males and females were consistent with the SA and national results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (87.0% compared to 84.6%).
- A slightly higher proportion of males than females indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (80.6% compared with 76.0%) and a *relative/family friend* for help (64.7% compared with 61.0%).
- Similar proportions of females and males from SA would go to their *brother/sister* (54.6% compared with 55.9%), a *teacher* (40.6% compared with 39.2%) or a *school counsellor* (37.9% compared with 36.6%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 7.6, three in ten young people from SA accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (29.3%). Over one in six young people from SA indicated that they used the internet to access *personal stories and testimonies* (17.8%), an *online quiz or assessment tool* (17.5%) or to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (17.5%).

Table 7.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	29.3	33.5	24.1
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	17.8	21.6	12.2
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	17.5	22.5	10.1
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	17.5	17.6	16.5
Information about available services	16.5	16.1	18.7	12.4
Counselling with a professional	11.8	11.6	13.7	8.7
Support group or forum	8.3	7.4	7.7	6.6
Other	7.7	8.2	6.0	10.5
Online course or program	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.7

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

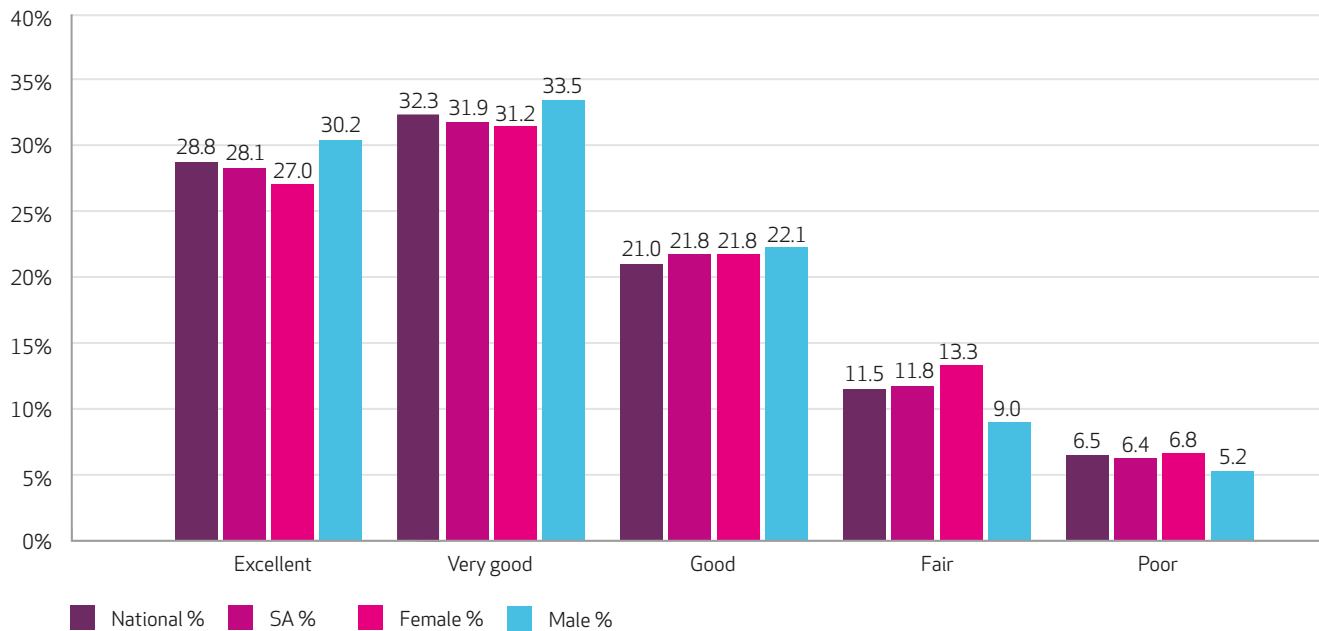
Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the SA state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (33.5% compared with 24.1%). For females from SA, *online quiz or assessment tool* (22.5%) and *personal stories or testimonies* (21.6%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from SA, the second and third most indicated sources of help accessed online were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.5%) and *find information about available services* (12.4%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 7.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from SA rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 28.1% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 31.9% rated it as *very good*. However, almost one in five young people from SA did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (11.8%) or *poor* (6.4%). A slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (30.2% compared with 27.0%). Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was either *fair* or *poor* (13.3% and 6.8% compared with 9.0% and 5.2% respectively).

Figure 7.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 7.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from SA were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 results for SA, although the order of the second and third issues was reversed.

- Four in ten (40.1%) young people from SA identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around one quarter of young people from SA identified *alcohol and drugs* (27.9%) and *equity and discrimination* (24.8%) as important issues in Australia today.
- One in five (20.0%) SA respondents identified *bullying* as an important issue.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have increasingly been identified by young people from SA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *the economy and financial matters* and *employment* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents from SA. However, males rated *alcohol and drugs* as the top issue in Australia, ahead of *mental health*.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (45.3% compared with 33.4%) and *equity and discrimination* (26.1% compared with 22.6%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a higher proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (33.7% compared with 24.2%).

Table 7.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	SA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2017 %	SA 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	40.1	45.3	33.4	29.8	17.0
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	27.9	24.2	33.7	31.0	28.5
Equity and discrimination	23.4	24.8	26.1	22.6	25.5	21.5
Bullying	17.4	20.0	23.8	14.8	13.1	10.0
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	12.0	12.6	11.5	9.4	11.0
The economy and financial matters	11.6	11.6	9.6	14.5	15.5	17.6
Employment	7.9	11.4	10.6	12.4	16.6	17.7
Health	11.4	9.6	9.1	10.2	7.3	9.0
Education	8.2	7.9	8.1	7.3	13.4	11.6
Societal values	6.7	7.9	9.6	5.3	3.0	3.7

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 7.8.

- As in previous years, the top three activities for young people from SA were *sports (as a participant)* (60.2%), *sports (as a spectator)* (37.0%) and *volunteer work* (33.0%).
- Three in ten (31.6%) SA respondents indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities*.
- Around one in five young people from SA reported participating in *student leadership activities* (20.4%) and *youth groups and activities* (19.7%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 7.8, the top activity for both females and males from SA was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second most indicated activity differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (37.5%), followed by *volunteer work* (36.8%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (43.8%) was the second top activity, ahead of *volunteer work* (27.6%).

- A total of 65.4% of male respondents and 57.0% of female respondents were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (43.8% compared with 32.4%).
- A higher proportion of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* (36.8% compared with 27.6%), *arts/cultural/music activities* (37.5% compared with 23.5%) and *student leadership activities* (23.8% compared with 16.0% respectively).

Table 7.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	60.2	57.0	65.4
Sport (as a spectator)	40.6	37.0	32.4	43.8
Volunteer work	36.8	33.0	36.8	27.6
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	31.6	37.5	23.5
Student leadership activities	27.4	20.4	23.8	16.0
Youth groups and activities	22.6	19.7	21.7	16.8
Religious groups/activities	18.8	16.0	17.6	13.5
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	7.6	8.4	6.2
Political groups/organisations	4.0	2.7	2.4	2.4

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 7.9 shows, the majority of young people from SA (60.4%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is consistent with the national results. A greater proportion of males than females from SA reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (66.6% compared with 56.7%), while a greater proportion of females than males reported feeling *not happy or sad* (33.1% compared with 25.9%).

Table 7.9: How happy young people are

	National %	SA %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	60.4	56.7	66.6
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	26.6	33.1	25.9
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	10.0	11.2	7.5

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 7.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from SA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Just over six in ten (61.8%) respondents from SA felt either *positive* (46.2%) or *very positive* (15.6%) about the future.
- Almost three in ten (28.4%) young people felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- One in ten respondents felt *negative* (6.8%) or *very negative* (3.0%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (19.0% compared with 13.1%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 7.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	SA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	SA 2017 %	SA 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	15.6	13.1	19.0	14.9	12.4
Positive	46.7	46.2	45.8	47.8	43.9	45.5
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	28.4	31.7	23.7	29.9	31.0
Negative	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.0	8.3
Very negative	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.8

Tasmania



Profile of respondents

In total, 1,715 young people from Tasmania (TAS) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (53.6%) of respondents from TAS were male and 42.9% were female.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 128 (7.7%) respondents from TAS identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 96 (5.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 12 (0.7%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 1.2% identified as both). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (7.0% compared with 6.5%).

Language background other than English

A total of 176 (10.6%) respondents from TAS stated that they were born overseas and 201 (12.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 47 languages other than English spoken at home in TAS, the most common were (in order of frequency): Chinese, French, German, Greek and Spanish.

Disability

A total of 129 (7.8%) respondents from TAS indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (7.7%) than females (5.0%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in TAS were (in order of frequency): learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities and blindness or vision impairment.

Education

As indicated in Table 8.1, 95.9% of respondents from TAS were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (96.7% compared with 95.9%), while a greater proportion of males (2.6%) than females (1.5%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from TAS reported that they were either *very satisfied* (12.3%) or *satisfied* (58.8%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.4% and 5.5%). As shown in Table 8.2, slightly higher proportions of females than males from TAS reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (12.8% and 60.9% compared with 11.8% and 58.0%).

Table 8.1: Participation in education

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	95.9	96.7	95.9
Studying part-time	2.3	1.8	1.8	1.5
Not studying	3.7	2.3	1.5	2.6

Table 8.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	TAS 2018 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2017 %	TAS 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	12.3	12.8	11.8	12.3	17.0
Satisfied	55.8	58.8	60.9	58.0	60.0	58.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	20.9	20.0	22.1	22.2	19.8
Dissatisfied	5.3	5.5	4.3	6.2	4.2	4.3
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.0

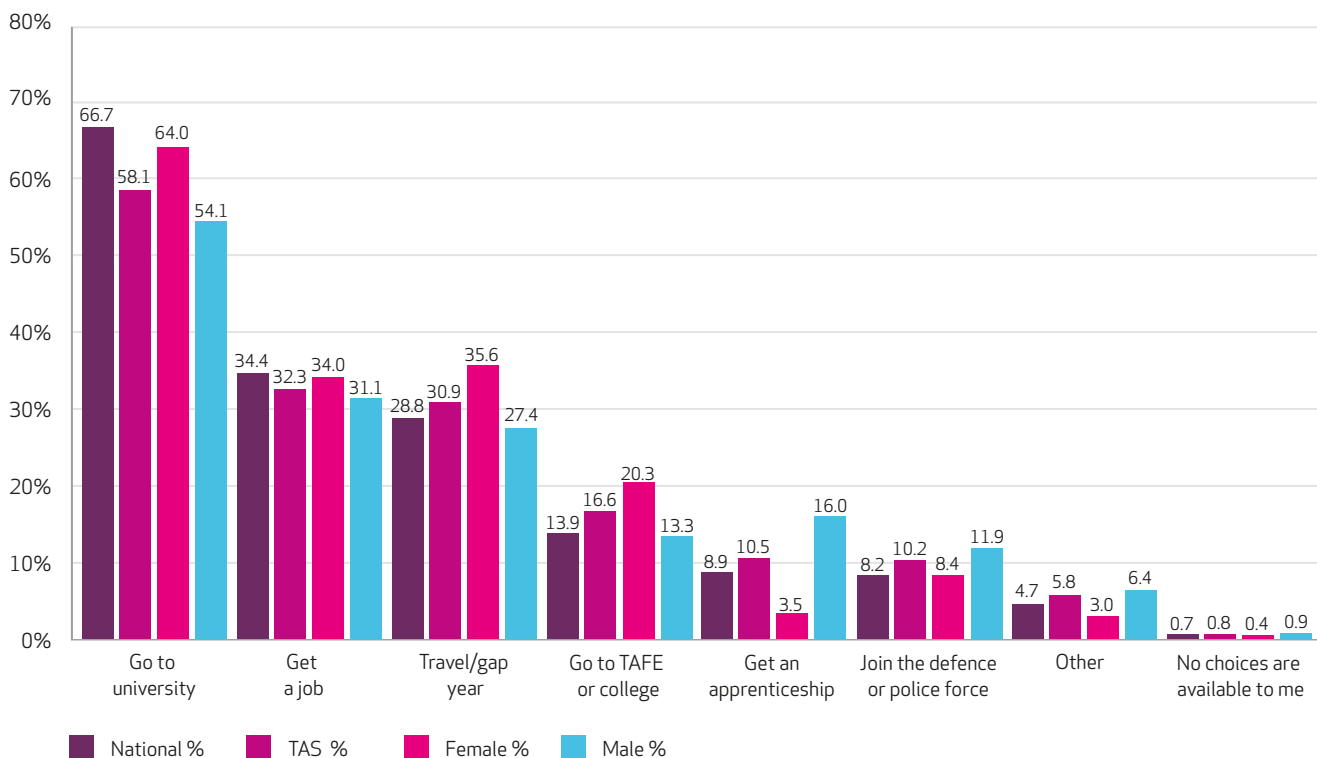
Of those who were still at school in TAS, 95.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Almost three times the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.1% compared with 2.1% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 8.1 shows that almost six in ten (58.1%) respondents from TAS planned to go to university after school. Around one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (32.3%) and three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (30.9%). Overall, 16.6% of young people from TAS planned to go to TAFE or college, 10.5% reported plans to get an apprenticeship and 10.2% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.8%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from TAS was to go to university, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (64.0% compared with 54.1%). A greater proportion of female respondents reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (35.6% compared with 27.4% of males). Conversely, over four times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (16.0% compared with 3.5% of females).

Figure 8.1: Plans after leaving school

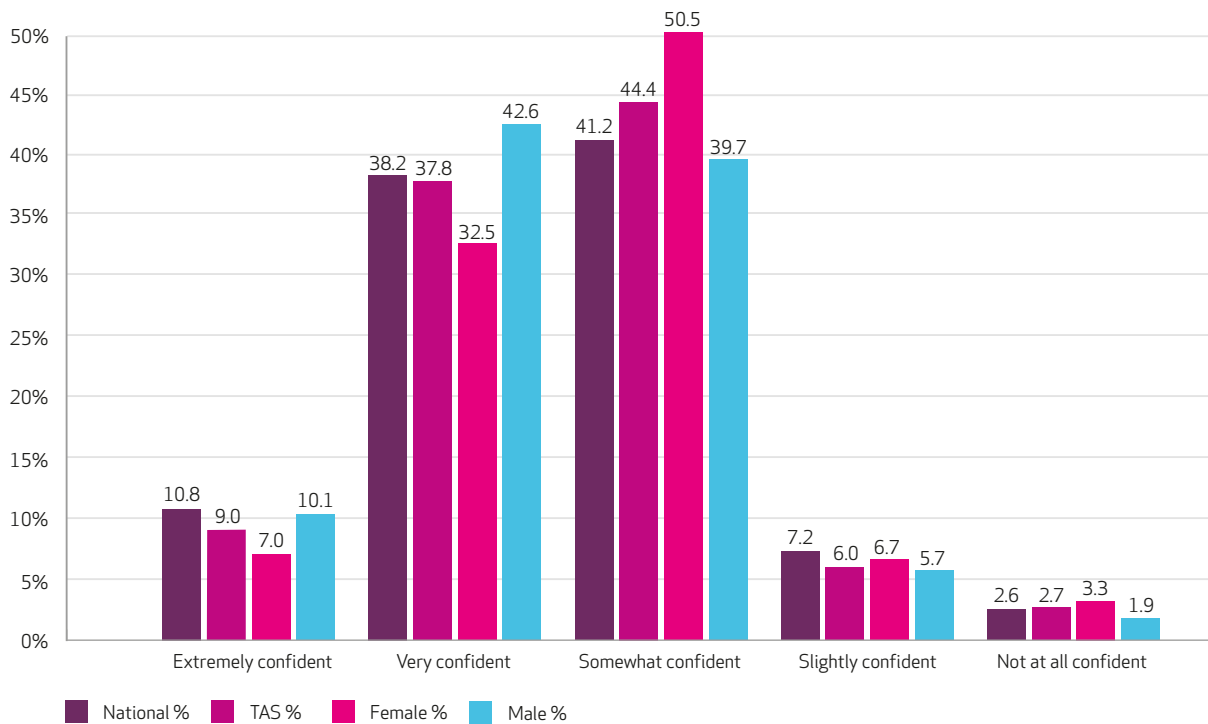


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Just under half (46.8%) of respondents from TAS indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 9.0% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 37.8% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is comparable to the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, close to one in ten young people from TAS were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 6.0% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 2.7% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. Higher proportions of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (10.1% and 42.6% compared with 7.0% and 32.5%).

Figure 8.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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 (0.4%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over four in ten (41.1%) respondents from TAS reported part-time employment. Nearly six in ten (58.5%) TAS respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 35.3% reported that they were looking for work, while 23.2% were not looking for work. These findings are consistent with the 2017 TAS results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from TAS reported full-time employment (0.3% compared with 0.6%), while a higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (47.5% compared with 36.2% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (37.3% compared with 32.7% of females).

Table 8.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6
Employed part-time	42.1	41.1	47.5	36.2
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	35.3	32.7	37.3
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	23.2	19.5	25.9

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Over one third (36.0%) of respondents from TAS indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (41.5%) than males (31.3%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 8.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

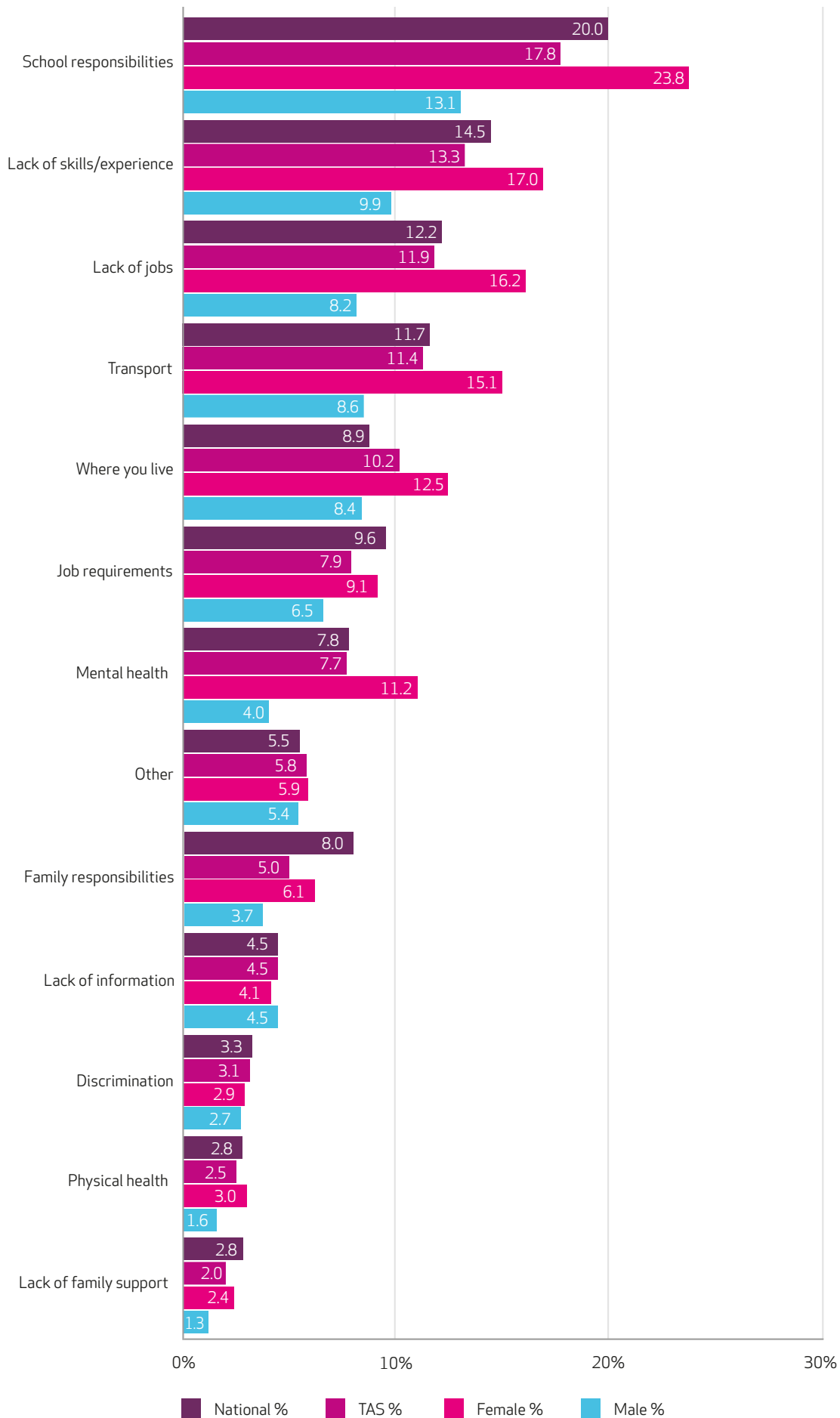
- *School responsibilities*, *lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in TAS (17.8%, 13.3% and 11.9% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw *transport* and *where you live* as barriers to finding work (11.4% and 10.2% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.3, the top two barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities* and *lack of skills/experience*. *Lack of jobs* was the third most common barrier for females (16.2%), while the third most common barrier for males from TAS was *transport* (8.6%). A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 23.8% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared with 13.1% of male respondents.
- Almost twice the proportion of females than males reported *lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* as barriers which may impact on their finding work (17.0% and 16.2% compared with 9.9% and 8.2%).
- Females were also more likely than males to indicate *transport*, *where you live* and *job requirements* as barriers impacting upon their finding work (15.1%, 12.5% and 9.1% compared with 8.6%, 8.4% and 6.5% respectively).

Figure 8.3: Barriers to finding work



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

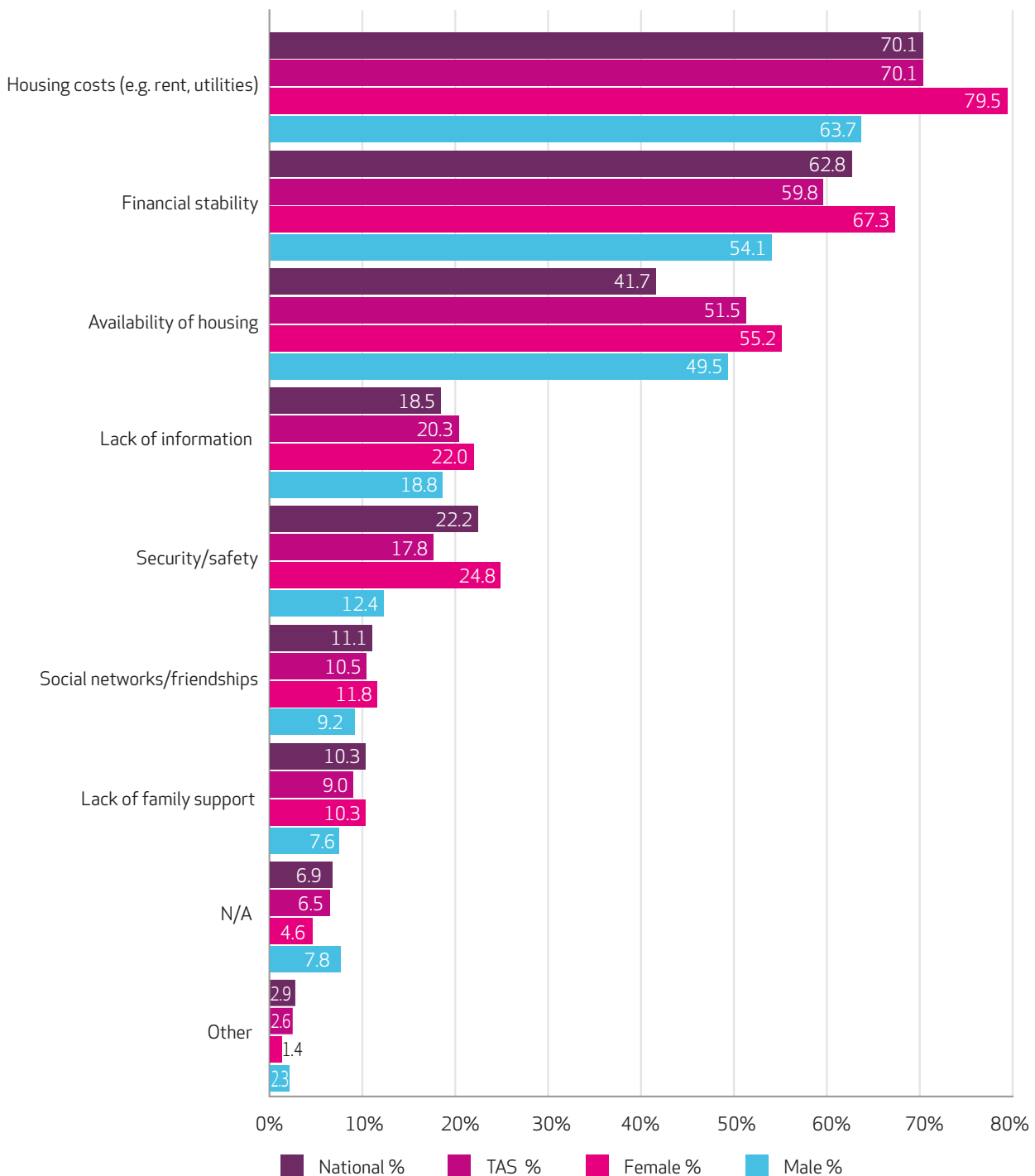
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, seven in ten (70.1%) respondents from TAS indicated that *housing costs (e.g. rent, utilities)* would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (59.8%) and *availability of housing* (51.5%). TAS state results were generally consistent with national results, although a higher proportion of young people from TAS indicated *availability of housing* as a potential barrier (51.5% compared with 41.7%).

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from TAS reported *housing costs (e.g. rent, utilities)* and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (79.5% and 67.3% compared with 63.7% and 54.1% respectively). Twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (24.8% compared with 12.4%).

Figure 8.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

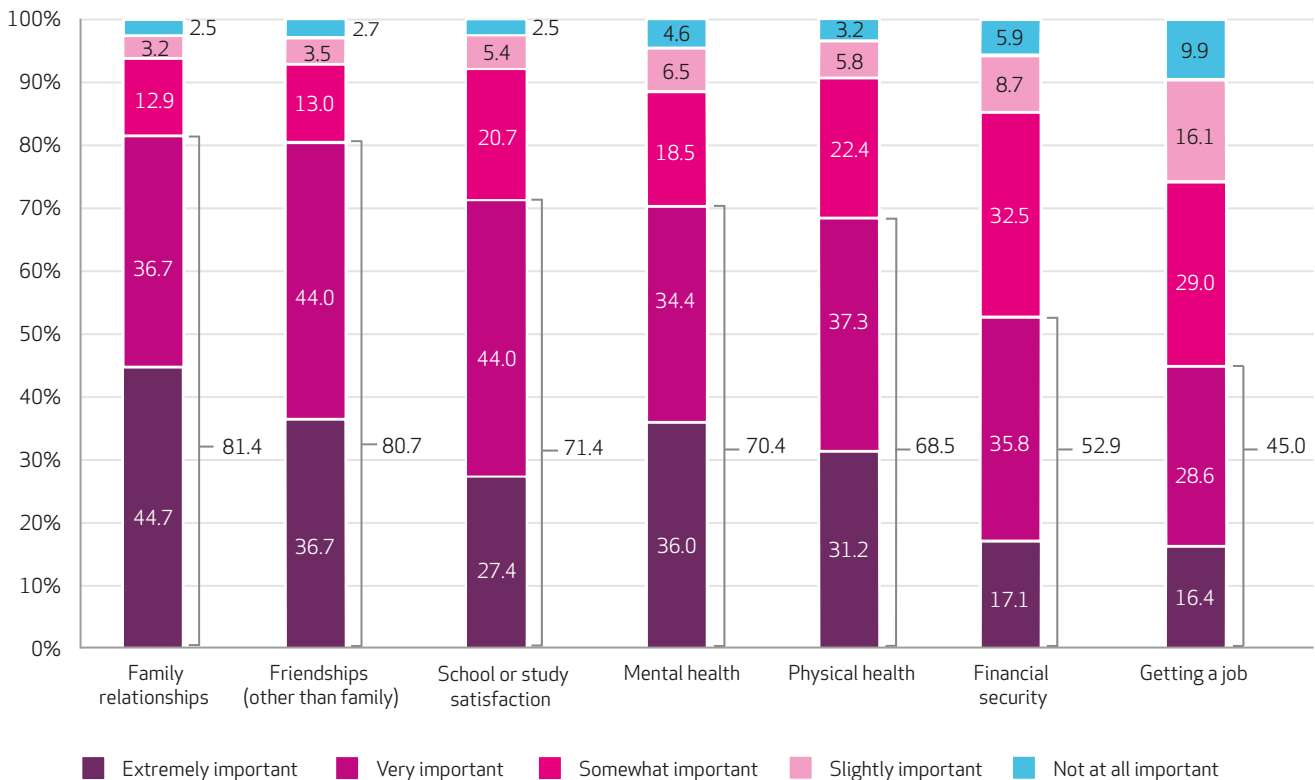
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 8.5, the items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

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

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 81.4% of respondents from TAS (*extremely important*: 44.7%; *very important*: 36.7%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by eight in ten (80.7%) TAS respondents (*extremely important*: 36.7%; *very important*: 44.0%).
- Around seven in ten respondents placed a high value upon *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 27.4%; *very important*: 44.0%), *mental health* (*extremely important*: 36.0%; *very important*: 34.4%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 37.3%).
- Over half of TAS respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 17.1%; *very important*: 35.8%).

Figure 8.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items by both females and males from TAS, as shown in Table 8.4. However, the order of these items differed: *family relationships* was top for females, while *friendships (other than family)* was top for males. The third highest rated item for females was *mental health*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 86.4% of females (*extremely important*: 52.7%; *very important*: 33.7%), compared with 79.3% of males (*extremely important*: 39.2%; *very important*: 40.1%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by 84.0% of females (*extremely important*: 39.9%; *very important*: 44.1%), compared with 79.8% of males (*extremely important*: 35.1%; *very important*: 44.7%).

- Over three quarters (78.2%) of females highly valued *mental health* (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 36.7%), compared with around two thirds (65.4%) of males (*extremely important*: 31.8%; *very important*: 33.6%).
- *School or study satisfaction* was highly valued by 77.6% of females (*extremely important*: 32.4%; *very important*: 45.2%), compared with 67.9% of males (*extremely important*: 23.9%; *very important*: 44.0%).

Table 8.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	52.7	33.7	10.2	2.9	0.5
Friendships (other than family)	39.9	44.1	11.6	3.4	1.0
School or study satisfaction	32.4	45.2	18.8	2.7	0.8
Mental health	41.5	36.7	16.1	4.4	1.4
Physical health	29.7	39.1	25.1	5.0	1.1
Financial security	14.2	39.4	35.1	8.0	3.2
Getting a job	13.6	33.5	29.5	16.1	7.3
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	39.2	40.1	15.0	3.0	2.7
Friendships (other than family)	35.1	44.7	14.3	3.5	2.4
School or study satisfaction	23.9	44.0	22.2	7.1	2.7
Mental health	31.8	33.6	20.9	8.1	5.6
Physical health	32.5	37.0	20.7	6.5	3.4
Financial security	18.9	33.5	31.2	9.5	6.9
Getting a job	18.7	25.3	29.0	16.3	10.6

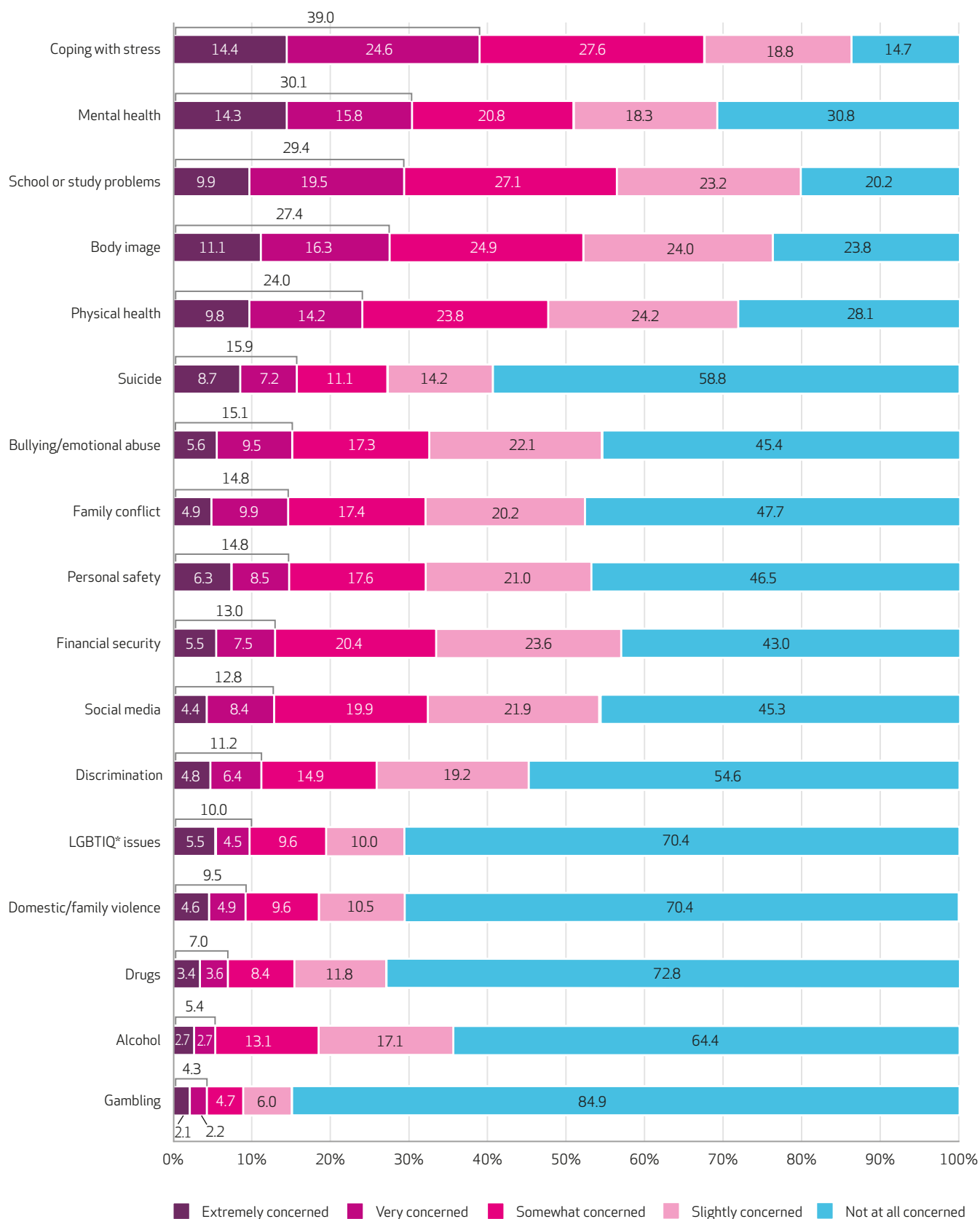
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 8.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked 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*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* results at the national level, although the order of the second and third items is reversed.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with almost four in ten (39.0%) respondents from TAS indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (14.4%) or *very concerned* (24.6%) about this issue.
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for three in ten (30.1%) TAS respondents (*extremely concerned*: 14.3%; *very concerned*: 15.8%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 29.4% of young people in TAS (*extremely concerned*: 9.9%; *very concerned*: 19.5%).
- Over one quarter (27.4%) of young people from TAS were either *extremely concerned* (11.1%) or *very concerned* (16.3%) about *body image*.

Figure 8.6: 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 was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from TAS. The second and third most noted personal concerns for females were *body image* and *mental health*, while for males from TAS *school or study problems* was the second most noted personal concern, ahead of *mental health*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for over half (52.8%) of females (*extremely concerned*: 21.4%; *very concerned*: 31.4%), compared with almost three in ten (28.1%) males (*extremely concerned*: 8.4%; *very concerned*: 19.7%).
- Over four in ten (43.3%) females were concerned about *body image* (*extremely concerned*: 17.5% *very concerned*: 25.8%), compared with around one in eight (14.0%) males (*extremely concerned*: 5.0%; *very concerned*: 9.0%).
- *Mental health* was a major concern for 39.8% of females (*extremely concerned*: 20.2%; *very concerned*: 19.6%) and 21.9% of males (*extremely concerned*: 8.9%; *very concerned*: 13.0%).
- Almost one quarter (22.6%) of males were concerned about *school or study problems* (*extremely concerned*: 8.3%; *very concerned*: 14.3%), compared with over one third (37.7%) of females (*extremely concerned*: 11.6%; *very concerned*: 26.1%).

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 %
Coping with stress	21.4	31.4	28.6	13.8	4.8
Mental health	20.2	19.6	24.4	16.2	19.6
School or study problems	11.6	26.1	28.6	21.0	12.7
Body image	17.5	25.8	28.3	19.2	9.2
Physical health	9.0	18.0	28.3	26.6	18.0
Suicide	9.4	10.5	11.6	15.7	52.9
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.1	13.6	20.4	23.7	36.2
Family conflict	5.7	13.4	22.8	20.1	38.0
Personal safety	7.3	12.3	19.4	21.8	39.2
Financial security	5.5	8.8	25.5	24.9	35.3
Social media	4.3	11.7	23.4	25.5	35.0
Discrimination	4.6	8.3	17.0	21.0	49.1
LGBTIQ* issues	4.7	6.2	14.2	11.5	63.4
Domestic/family violence	4.9	6.0	10.8	9.7	68.7
Drugs	2.6	3.9	8.7	11.7	73.1
Alcohol	1.2	2.2	15.2	17.6	63.8
Gambling	1.1	1.8	5.9	5.2	86.0

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 %
Coping with stress	8.4	19.7	27.3	23.1	21.5
Mental health	8.9	13.0	18.4	20.5	39.2
School or study problems	8.3	14.3	26.6	25.7	25.0
Body image	5.0	9.0	23.0	28.4	34.5
Physical health	9.4	11.3	20.7	23.0	35.6
Suicide	7.0	4.7	10.6	13.2	64.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.3	6.7	14.7	21.7	52.5
Family conflict	3.6	7.2	13.4	20.3	55.4
Personal safety	5.1	5.3	16.3	21.1	52.2
Financial security	4.3	6.4	17.1	22.9	49.3
Social media	3.9	5.7	18.1	19.7	52.7
Discrimination	4.1	5.2	13.6	17.9	59.1
LGBTIQ* issues	4.8	3.0	6.0	8.7	77.5
Domestic/family violence	3.3	4.3	8.9	11.2	72.3
Drugs	3.4	3.4	8.1	11.7	73.4
Alcohol	3.2	3.0	11.6	17.1	65.2
Gambling	2.3	2.4	3.6	6.3	85.3

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 8.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

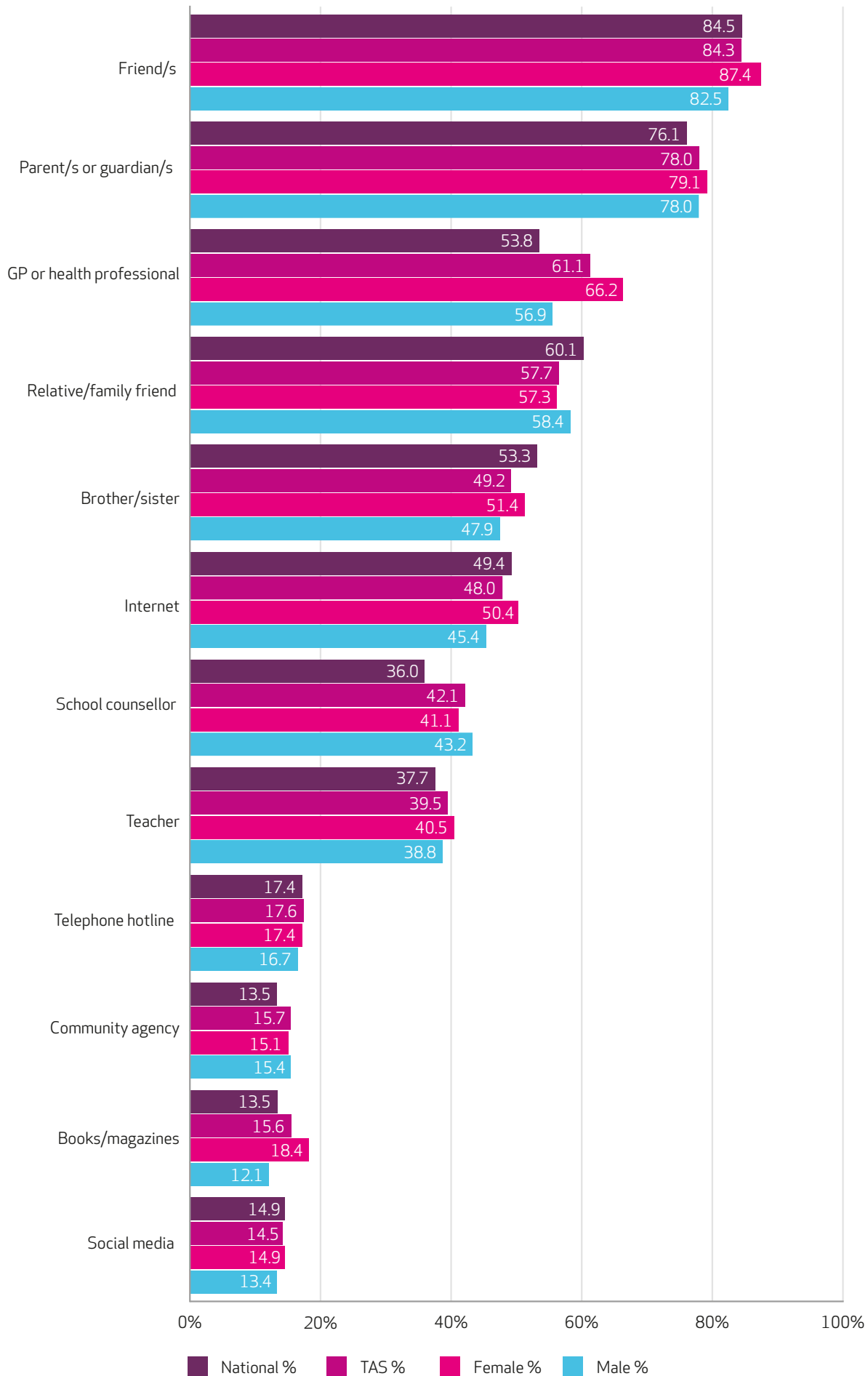
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *GP or health professional* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from TAS (84.3%, 78.0% and 61.1% respectively).
- Around six in ten respondents from TAS indicated that they would go to their *relative/family friend* (57.7%), while around half would turn to their *brother/sister* (49.2%) or the *internet* (48.0%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around four in ten young people from TAS indicated that they would turn to their *school counsellor* (42.1%) or *teacher* (39.5%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 8.7, *friend/s* and *parent/s or guardian/s* were the top two sources for both females and males from TAS, which is consistent with the TAS state level and national results. Females from TAS rated *GP or health professional* as their third most commonly cited source of help, whereas males indicated a *relative/family friend* was their third source.

- A higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (87.4% compared with 82.5%).
- Similar proportions of female and male respondents indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (79.1% compared with 78.0%) and a *relative/family friend* (57.3% compared with 58.4%) for help.
- Higher proportions of females than males indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (66.2% compared with 56.9%), their *brother/sister* (51.4% compared with 47.9%), or the *internet* (50.4% compared with 45.4%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 8.6, three in ten young people from TAS accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (29.7%) and over one in six indicated that they used the internet to access *information about available services* (17.8%). Around one in six young people from TAS also indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (17.4%), *personal stories or testimonies* (16.7%) and to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (15.1%).

Table 8.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	29.7	35.4	24.9
Information about available services	16.5	17.8	21.9	14.0
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	17.4	24.6	11.1
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	16.7	22.6	11.3
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	15.1	15.2	14.7
Counselling with a professional	11.8	12.9	15.5	10.1
Support group or forum	8.3	8.6	7.8	8.2
Other	7.7	7.9	5.0	8.6
Online course or program	5.2	4.9	3.7	5.2

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

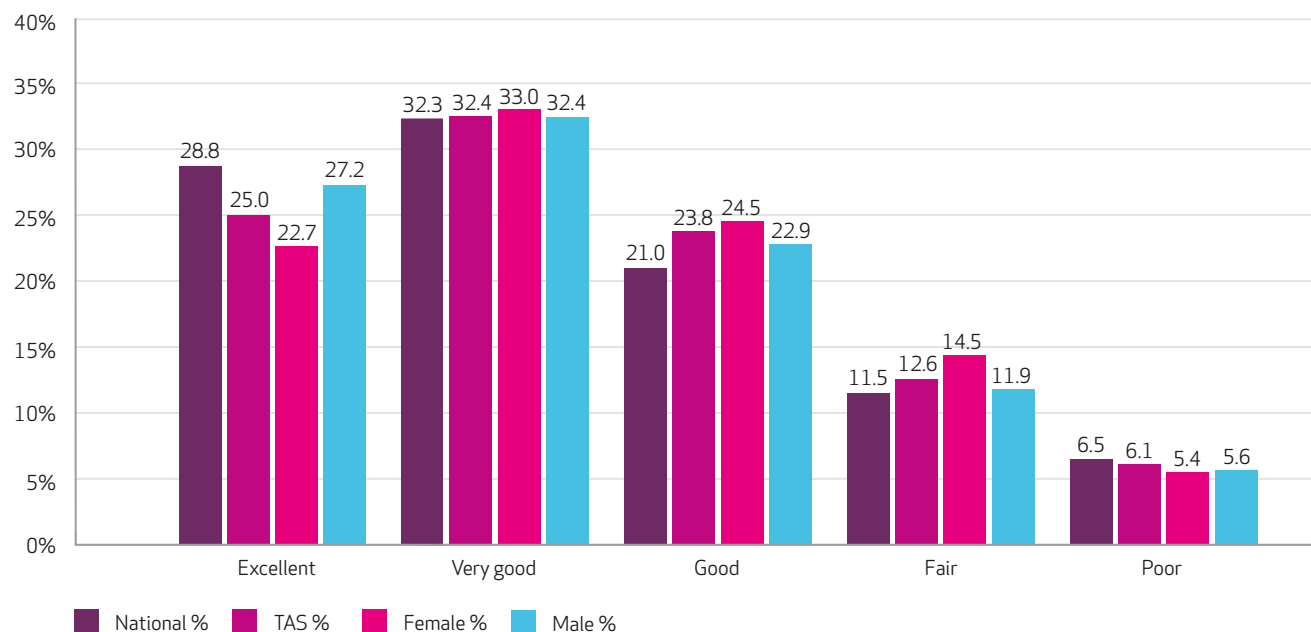
Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the TAS state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (35.4% compared with 24.9%). For females from TAS, *online quiz or assessment tool* (24.6%) and *personal stories or testimonies* (22.6%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used to seek support. For males from TAS, the second and third sources of online support were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (14.7%) and find *information about available services* (14.0%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 8.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from TAS rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 25.0% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 32.4% rated it as *very good*. However, almost one in five young people from TAS did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (12.6%) or *poor* (6.1%). A slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (27.2% compared with 22.7% respectively).

Figure 8.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 8.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from TAS were *mental health*, *equity and discrimination* and *alcohol and drugs*. This is consistent with the 2017 results for TAS, although the order of the second and third issues was reversed.

- Four in ten young people from TAS (40.6%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Over one quarter of young people from TAS identified *equity and discrimination* (26.4%) and over one in five identified *alcohol and drugs* (21.4%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Around one in six TAS respondents identified *the environment* (15.3%) as an important issue in Australia.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *homelessness/housing* have been increasingly identified by young people from TAS as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *population issues* and *alcohol and drugs* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health* was the top issue for both female and male respondents from TAS. The second and third most important issues for females were *equity and discrimination* and *homelessness/housing*, whereas the second and third most important issues in Australia for males were *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (46.6% compared with 37.3%) and *equity and discrimination* (28.4% compared with 24.4%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (26.0% compared with 15.7%).

Table 8.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	TAS 2018 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2017 %	TAS 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	40.6	46.6	37.3	33.1	17.1
Equity and discrimination	23.4	26.4	28.4	24.4	27.6	27.9
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	21.4	15.7	26.0	29.8	26.7
The environment	9.2	15.3	16.7	14.2	13.9	14.1
Health	11.4	14.5	13.2	16.2	9.1	13.4
Homelessness/housing	9.2	14.1	17.6	11.0	8.2	7.8
Bullying	17.4	13.0	13.7	13.0	11.3	10.4
The economy and financial matters	11.6	11.9	11.9	11.5	9.1	13.8
Employment	7.9	9.7	10.6	8.8	11.7	13.1
Population issues	6.7	9.4	10.6	8.5	12.8	17.2

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 8.8.

- As in 2017, the top three activities for young people from TAS were *sports (as a participant)* (66.5%), *sports (as a spectator)* (41.4%) and *arts/cultural/music activities* (38.7%).
- Almost four in ten (38.2%) TAS respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- Three in ten young people from TAS reported participating in *student leadership activities* (30.8%), while just over one in five had taken part in *youth groups and activities* (21.6%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 8.8, the top activity for both females and males from TAS was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second most indicated activity differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *volunteer work* (46.8%), followed by *arts/cultural/music activities* (45.7%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (45.2%) was the second top activity, ahead of *arts/cultural/music activities* (31.8%).

- A total of 71.6% of male respondents and 61.1% of female respondents from TAS were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (45.2% compared with 36.3%).
- Higher proportions of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (45.7% compared with 31.8%), *volunteer work* (46.8% compared with 30.8%) and *student leadership activities* (33.5% compared with 28.7%).

Table 8.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	66.5	61.1	71.6
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	41.4	36.3	45.2
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	38.7	45.7	31.8
Volunteer work	36.8	38.2	46.8	30.8
Student leadership activities	27.4	30.8	33.5	28.7
Youth groups and activities	22.6	21.6	26.0	17.4
Religious groups/activities	18.8	14.9	16.9	12.1
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	14.2	17.7	10.3
Political groups/organisations	4.0	5.1	5.0	3.9

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 8.9 shows, the majority of young people from TAS (61.7%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is consistent with the national results. A greater proportion of males than females from TAS reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (66.3% compared with 57.7%).

Table 8.9: How happy young people are

	National %	TAS %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	61.7	57.7	66.3
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	28.1	31.5	25.4
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	10.1	10.8	8.3

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 8.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from TAS felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Six in ten respondents (60.9%) from TAS felt either *positive* (47.1%) or *very positive* (13.8%) about the future.
- Almost three in ten (28.2%) young people felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Around one in ten respondents felt *negative* (7.9%) or *very negative* (2.9%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (16.9% compared with 9.6%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 8.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	TAS 2018 %	Female %	Male %	TAS 2017 %	TAS 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	13.8	9.6	16.9	15.5	15.7
Positive	46.7	47.1	45.4	49.4	45.0	45.8
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	28.2	32.2	25.2	28.9	28.2
Negative	6.8	7.9	9.4	6.6	7.3	6.6
Very negative	3.1	2.9	3.4	1.9	3.2	3.6

Victoria



Profile of respondents

In total, 5,132 young people from Victoria (VIC) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (58.5%) of respondents from VIC were female and 38.5% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 134 (2.7%) respondents from VIC identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 91 (1.8%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 28 (0.6%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.3% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (3.5% compared with 1.3%).

Language background other than English

A total of 607 (12.1%) respondents from VIC stated that they were born overseas and 962 (19.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 81 languages other than English spoken at home in VIC, the most common were (in order of frequency): Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Greek and Arabic.

Disability

A total of 278 (5.6%) respondents from VIC indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (6.5%) than females (3.8%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in VIC were (in order of frequency): autism, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disabilities and blindness or vision impairment.

Education

As indicated in Table 9.1, 95.1% of respondents from VIC were studying full-time. A slightly higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (96.6% compared with 93.6%), while a greater proportion of males (4.0%) than females (2.1%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from VIC reported that they were either *very satisfied* (14.2%) or *satisfied* (57.2%) with their studies. Less than one in ten were *dissatisfied* or *very dissatisfied* (5.1% and 1.2%). As shown in Table 9.2, a greater proportion of males from VIC reported feeling *very satisfied* (17.1% compared with 12.3%), while a higher proportion of females felt *satisfied* with their studies (59.8% compared with 54.6%).

Table 9.1: Participation in education

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	95.1	96.6	93.6
Studying part-time	2.3	1.8	1.3	2.4
Not studying	3.7	3.1	2.1	4.0

Table 9.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	VIC 2018 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2017 %	VIC 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	14.2	12.3	17.1	14.4	18.9
Satisfied	55.8	57.2	59.8	54.6	59.7	57.0
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	22.2	22.3	21.3	20.2	19.0
Dissatisfied	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.3	4.5	3.8
Very dissatisfied	1.8	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.1	1.2

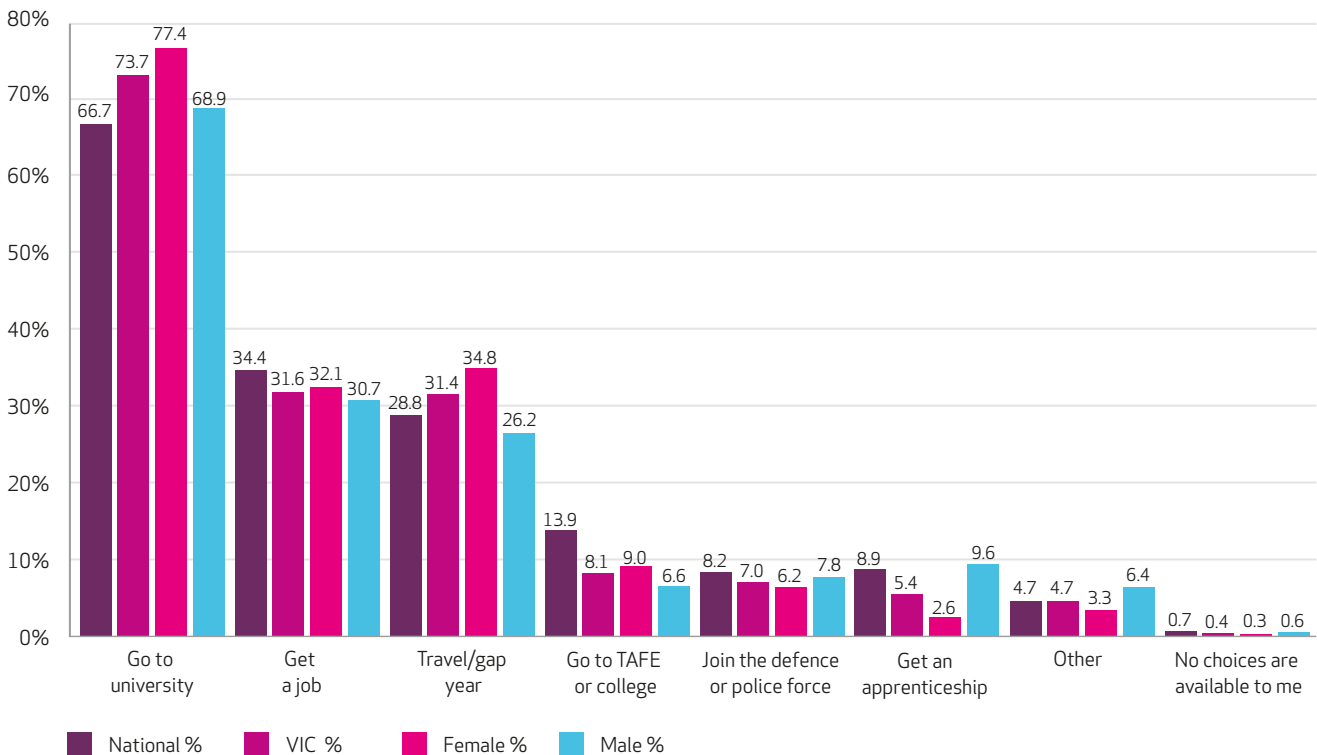
Of those who were still at school in VIC, 97.6% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Similar proportions of males and females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (2.9% compared with 2.0% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 9.1 shows that nearly three quarters (73.7%) of respondents from VIC planned to go to university after school. Just over three in ten respondents reported plans to get a job after school (31.6%) or travel/gap year plans (31.4%). Overall, 8.1% of young people from VIC planned to go to TAFE or college, 7.0% planned to join the defence or police force and 5.4% reported plans to get an apprenticeship. A small minority of respondents (0.4%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from VIC was to go to university, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (77.4% compared with 68.9%). A greater proportion of female respondents reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (34.8% compared with 26.2% of males). Conversely, more than three times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (9.6% compared with 2.6% of females).

Figure 9.1: Plans after leaving school

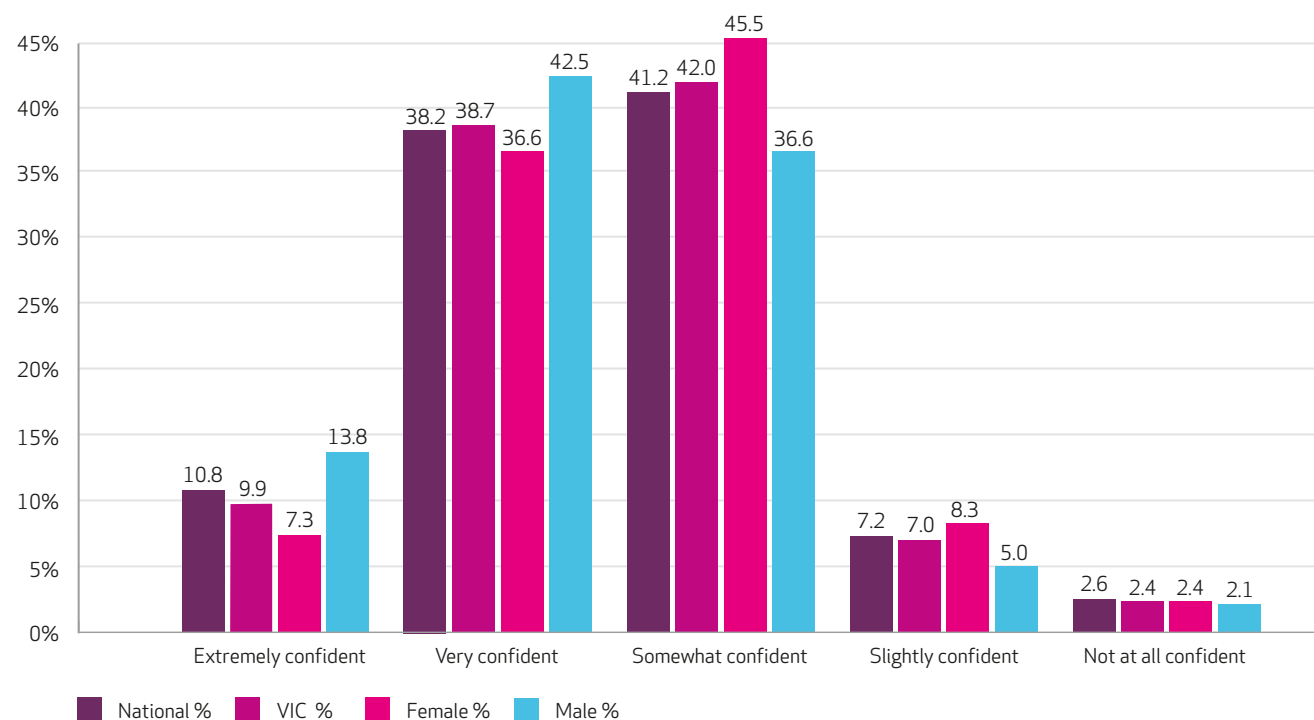


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Nearly half (48.6%) of respondents from VIC indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve their study/work goals: 9.9% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 38.7% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is comparable to the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, close to one in ten young people from VIC were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 7.0% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 2.4% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (13.8% and 42.5% compared with 7.3% and 36.6%).

Figure 9.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who indicated that they have 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 (0.5%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Just under half (46.8%) of respondents from VIC reported part-time employment. Over half (52.7%) of VIC respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 30.4% reported that they were looking for work, while 22.3% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from VIC that indicated they were working part-time is slightly higher than the 2017 and 2016 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from VIC reported full-time employment (0.2% compared with 0.6%), while a much higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (52.6% compared with 37.8% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (34.1% compared with 28.2% of females).

Table 9.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.6
Employed part-time	42.1	46.8	52.6	37.8
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	30.4	28.2	34.1
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	22.3	19.0	27.5

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Over one third (35.7%) of respondents from VIC indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (37.9%) than males (31.8%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 9.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

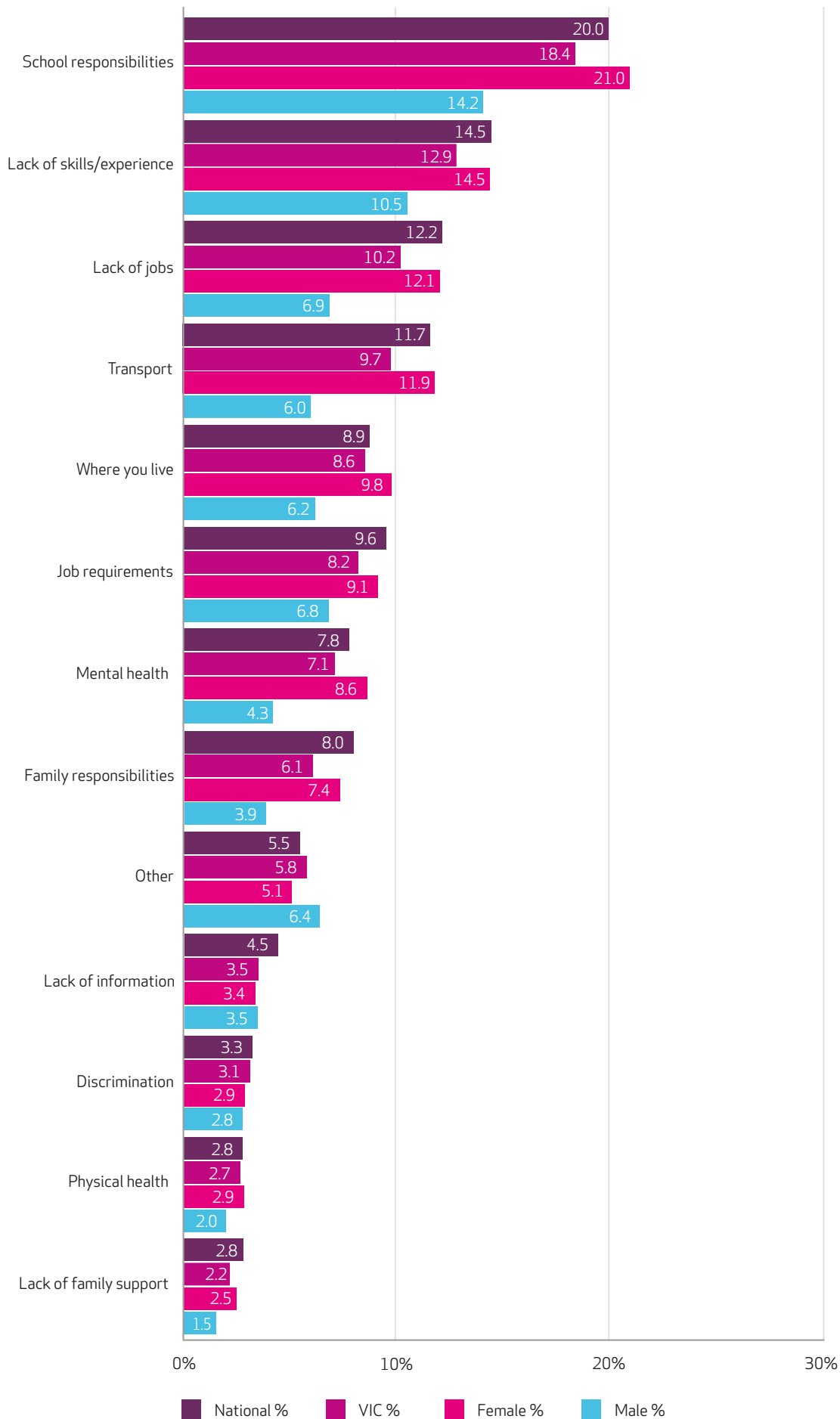
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in VIC (18.4%, 12.9% and 10.2% respectively).
- Around one in ten respondents indicated that they saw *transport* and *where you live* as barriers to finding work (9.7% and 8.6% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.3, the top three barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- A total of 21.0% of female respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a barrier which may impact on their finding work, compared to 14.2% of male respondents.
- Females were also more likely than males to indicate *lack of skills/experience, lack of jobs* and *transport* as barriers which may impact upon their finding work (14.5%, 12.1% and 11.9% compared to 10.5%, 6.9% and 6.0% respectively).
- Twice the proportion of female than male respondents indicated *mental health* as a barrier which may impact upon their finding work (8.6% compared with 4.3%).

Figure 9.3: Barriers to finding work



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

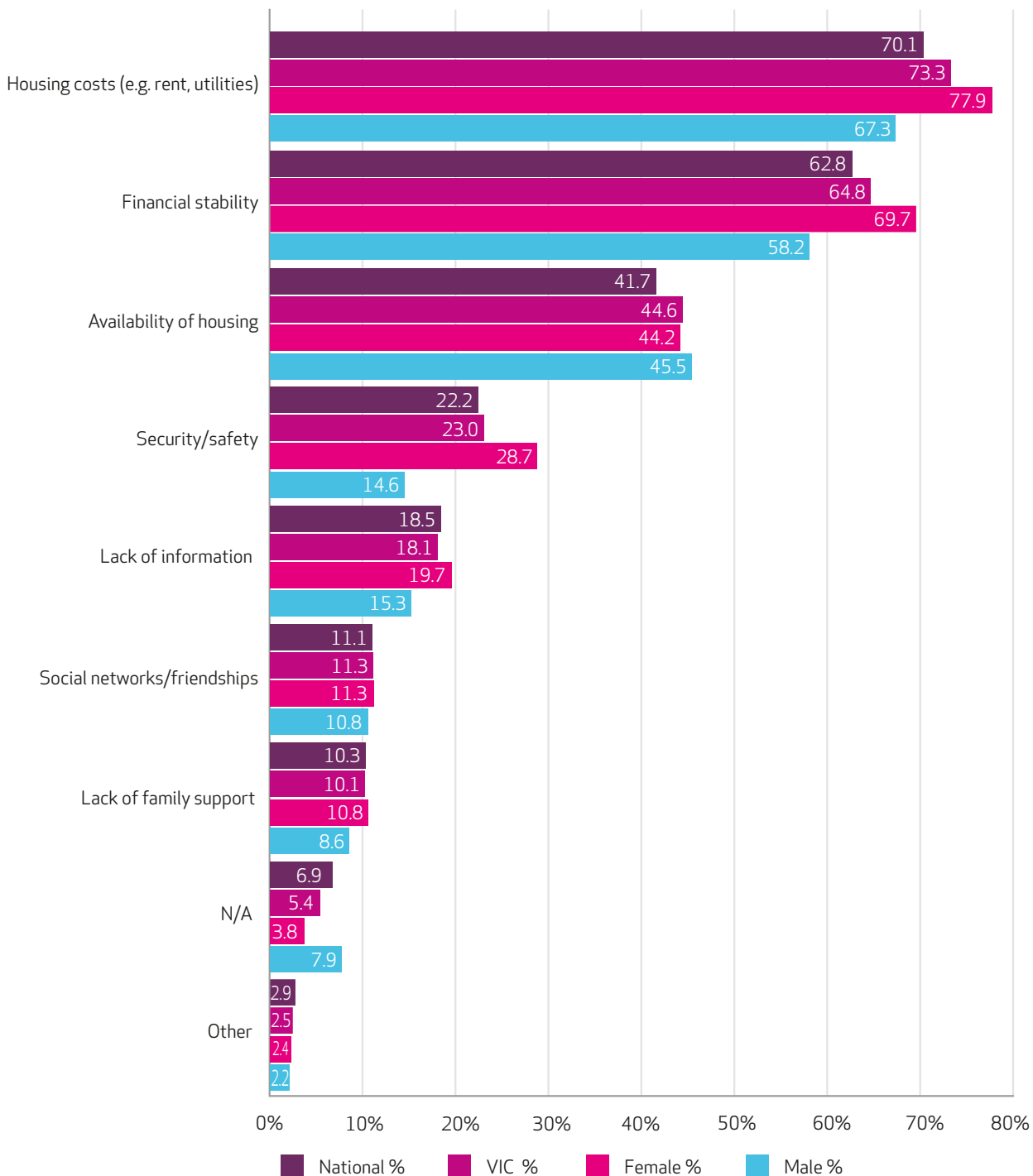
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, nearly three quarters (73.3%) of respondents from VIC indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (64.8%) and *availability of housing* (44.6%). VIC state results are generally consistent with national results, although a slightly higher proportion of young people from VIC indicated *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) (73.3% compared with 70.1%) and *availability of housing* (44.6% compared with 41.7%) were potential barriers.

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from VIC reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (77.9% and 69.7% compared to 67.3% and 58.2% respectively). Nearly twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (28.7% compared with 14.6%).

Figure 9.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

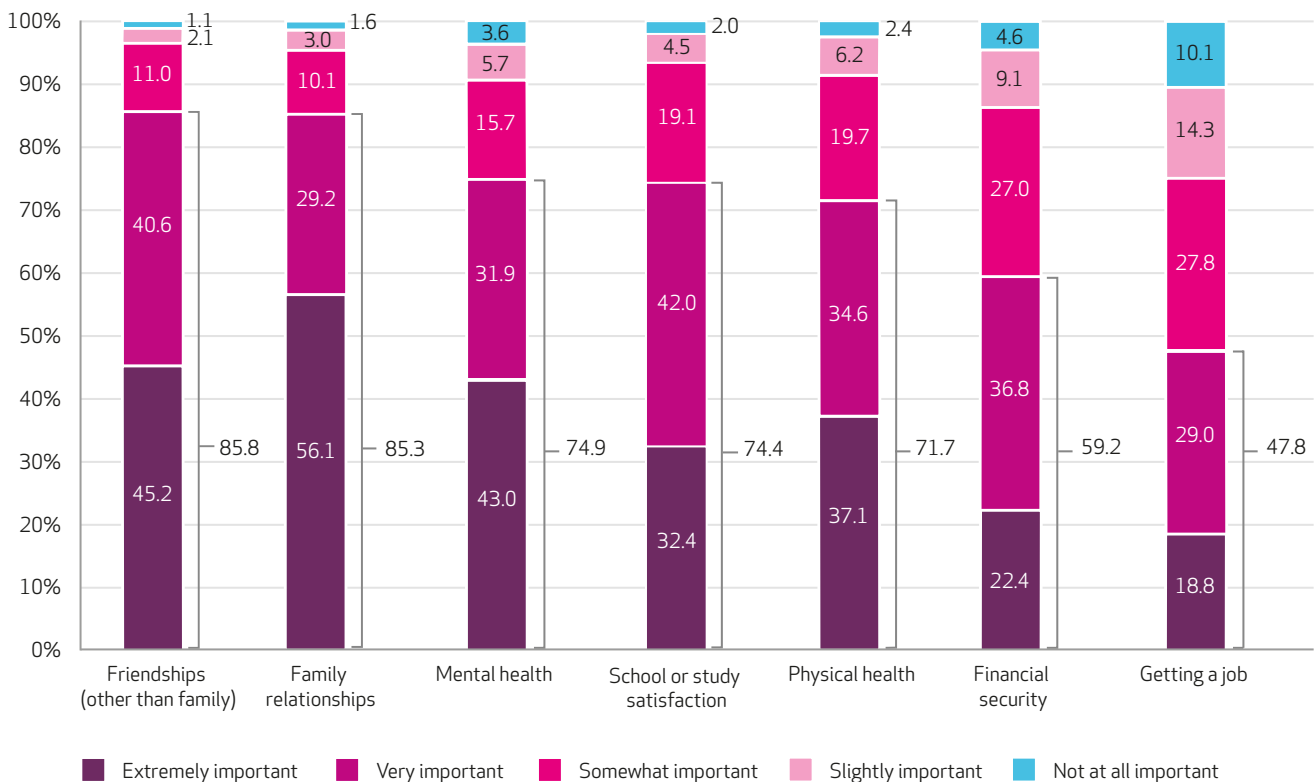
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 9.5, the items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item.

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

- *Friendships (other than family)* were very highly valued by 85.8% of respondents from VIC (*extremely important*: 45.2%; *very important*: 40.6%).
- *Family relationships* were also valued highly by 85.3% of respondents from VIC (*extremely important*: 56.1%; *very important*: 29.2%).
- Nearly three quarters of young people from VIC placed a high value upon *mental health* (*extremely important*: 43.0%; *very important*: 31.9%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 32.4%; *very important*: 42.0%).
- Over seven in ten (71.4%) VIC respondents placed a high value upon *physical health* (*extremely important*: 37.1%; *very important*: 34.6%).

Figure 9.5: 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 the two most highly valued items by both females and males from VIC, as shown in Table 9.4. However, the order of these items differed: *family relationships* was top for females, while *friendships (other than family)* was top for males. The third highest rated item for females was *mental health*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 87.5% of females (*extremely important*: 60.4%; *very important*: 27.1%) compared with 83.2% of males (*extremely important*: 50.4%; *very important*: 32.8%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were similarly highly valued by nearly seven in eight females (*extremely important*: 48.0%; *very important*: 38.9%) and males (*extremely important*: 41.5%; *very important*: 43.8%).

- Almost eight in ten females (79.6%) highly valued *mental health* (*extremely important*: 47.0%; *very important*: 32.6%), compared with around seven in ten (68.8%) males (*extremely important*: 37.3%; *very important*: 31.5%).
- *Physical health* was highly valued by over seven in ten females and males from VIC (72.4% compared with 71.9%).

Table 9.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	48.0	38.9	10.3	2.1	0.7
Family relationships	60.4	27.1	8.8	2.9	0.9
Mental health	47.0	32.6	13.7	4.8	1.9
School or study satisfaction	35.0	42.8	17.1	3.8	1.2
Physical health	36.7	35.7	19.9	5.9	1.8
Financial security	22.8	37.9	27.6	8.3	3.4
Getting a job	18.5	31.4	28.4	13.1	8.6
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Friendships (other than family)	41.5	43.8	11.6	2.1	0.9
Family relationships	50.4	32.8	12.1	3.0	1.7
Mental health	37.3	31.5	18.6	7.2	5.5
School or study satisfaction	28.9	41.8	21.5	5.3	2.4
Physical health	38.1	33.8	19.1	6.4	2.6
Financial security	21.6	35.7	26.4	10.4	5.9
Getting a job	18.5	25.9	27.3	16.3	11.9

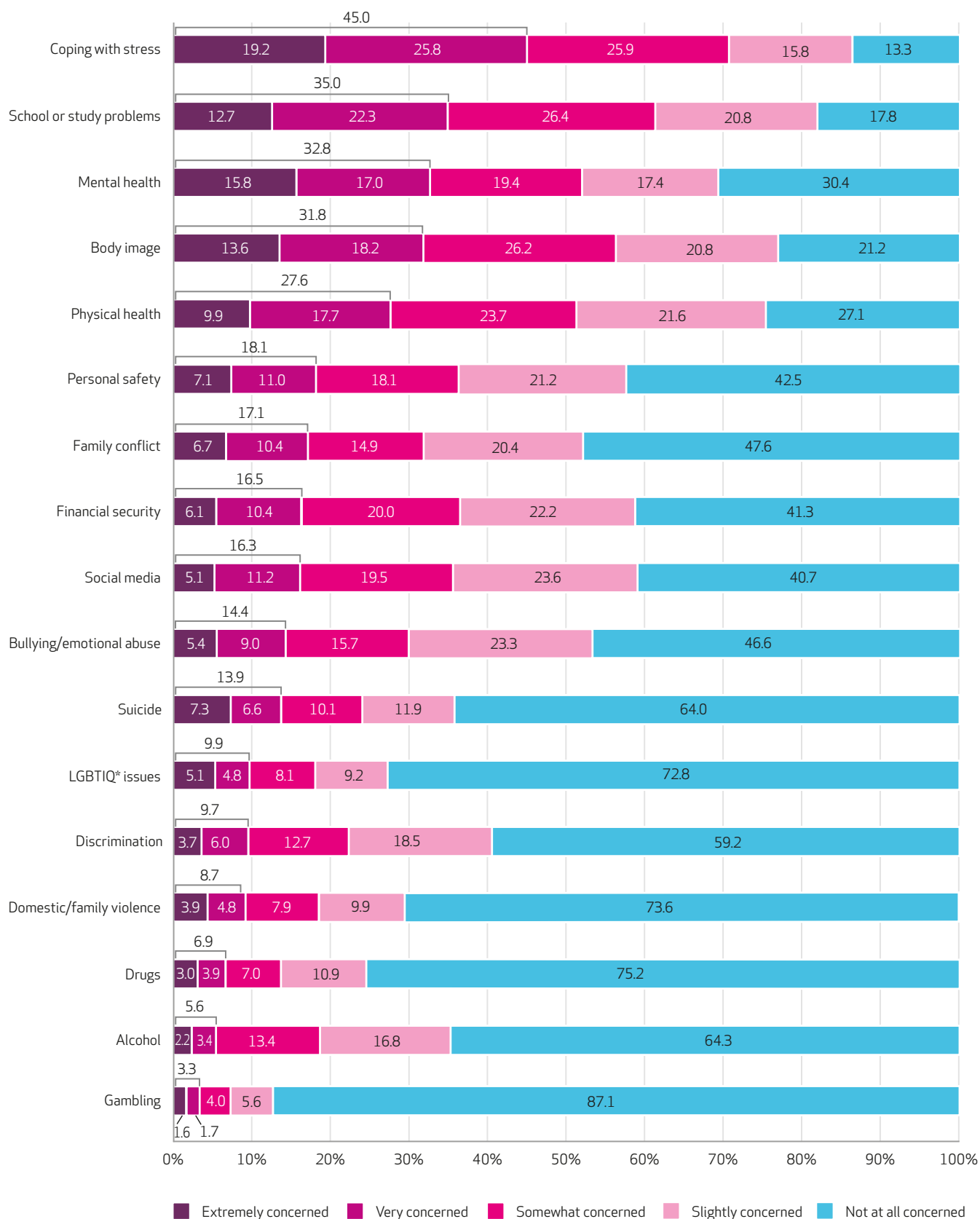
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 9.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked 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*, *school or study problems* and *mental health*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with 45.0% of respondents from VIC indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (19.2%) or *very concerned* (25.8%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over one third (35.0%) of young people from VIC (*extremely concerned*: 12.7%; *very concerned*: 22.3%).
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for nearly one in three (32.8%) VIC respondents (*extremely concerned*: 15.8%; *very concerned*: 17.0%).
- Over three in ten (31.8%) young people from VIC were either *extremely concerned* (13.6%) or *very concerned* (18.2%) about *body image*.

Figure 9.6: 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 from VIC. The third most noted personal concern for females was *body image*, while for males from VIC *mental health* was the third most noted concern. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for nearly six in ten (56.9%) females from VIC (*extremely concerned*: 24.9%; *very concerned*: 32.0%), compared with just under three in ten (27.4%) males (*extremely concerned*: 10.7%; *very concerned*: 16.7%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (42.6%) females (*extremely concerned*: 16.4%; *very concerned*: 26.2%), compared with around one in five (23.9%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.8%; *very concerned*: 17.1%).
- Twice the proportion of females (40.9%) than males (20.4%) indicated *mental health* was a major concern.
- Four in ten (41.7%) females were concerned about *body image* (*extremely concerned*: 17.9%; *very concerned*: 23.8%), compared with one in six (16.9%) males (*extremely concerned*: 6.6%; *very concerned*: 10.3%).

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 %
Coping with stress	24.9	32.0	25.4	11.6	6.2
School or study problems	16.4	26.2	26.5	19.0	11.9
Mental health	19.7	21.2	21.2	16.0	21.8
Body image	17.9	23.8	28.7	18.1	11.5
Physical health	11.2	21.4	25.6	20.5	21.2
Personal safety	8.4	12.9	19.9	20.6	38.2
Family conflict	8.2	12.3	17.5	21.7	40.3
Financial security	6.7	12.5	22.9	22.6	35.4
Social media	6.3	13.4	22.8	23.9	33.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	6.0	10.1	18.0	24.3	41.6
Suicide	7.8	7.3	11.3	13.6	60.1
LGBTIQ* issues	4.6	5.7	9.0	10.1	70.6
Discrimination	3.2	6.7	14.4	19.1	56.6
Domestic/family violence	3.9	4.9	8.6	10.9	71.6
Drugs	2.4	4.0	7.1	11.1	75.4
Alcohol	1.5	3.8	14.8	17.8	62.2
Gambling	1.0	1.4	3.8	5.0	88.8

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 %
Coping with stress	10.7	16.7	27.3	22.3	23.0
School or study problems	6.8	17.1	26.5	23.9	25.7
Mental health	9.3	11.1	16.9	19.8	42.9
Body image	6.6	10.3	22.8	25.0	35.3
Physical health	7.5	12.8	20.9	23.2	35.7
Personal safety	4.7	8.4	15.4	22.3	49.2
Family conflict	3.9	7.5	11.1	18.7	58.7
Financial security	5.0	7.3	15.7	22.2	49.8
Social media	2.8	8.1	14.8	22.7	51.6
Bullying/emotional abuse	3.8	7.5	12.4	22.3	54.0
Suicide	5.9	5.5	8.2	9.7	70.7
LGBTIQ* issues	4.4	3.3	6.9	7.6	77.8
Discrimination	3.6	4.9	10.4	17.4	63.7
Domestic/family violence	3.1	4.4	7.0	8.3	77.2
Drugs	3.4	4.0	6.6	10.5	75.6
Alcohol	2.8	2.8	11.6	15.3	67.5
Gambling	2.0	2.0	4.2	6.6	85.2

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 9.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

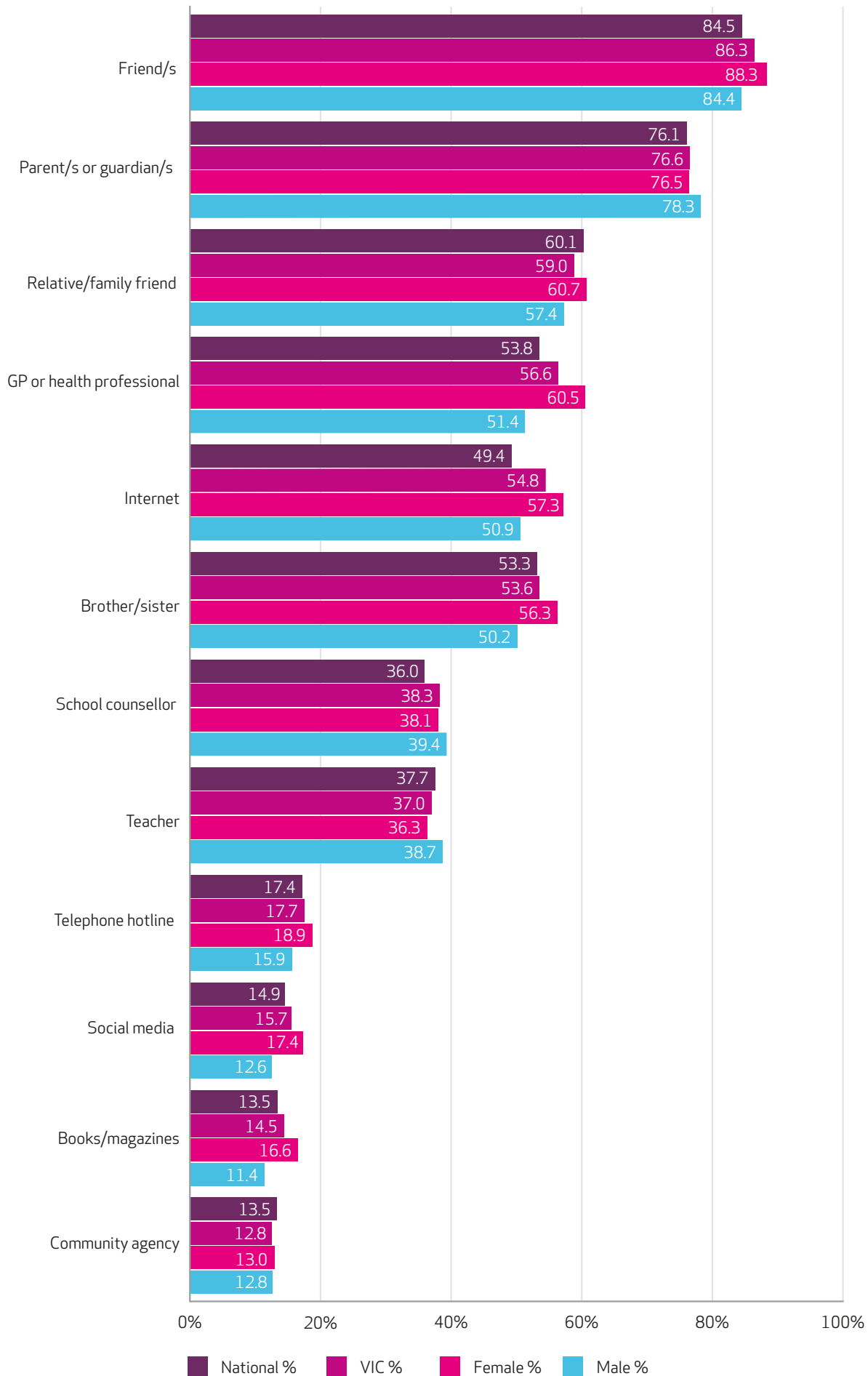
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from VIC (86.3%, 76.6% and 59.0% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from VIC indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (56.6%), turn to the *internet* (54.8%) or their *brother/sister* (53.6%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around four in ten young people from VIC indicated that they would go to a *school counsellor* (38.3%) or a *teacher* (37.0%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 9.7, the top three sources of help for both males and females were consistent with the VIC and national results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (88.3% compared to 84.4%).
- Similar proportions of female and male respondents indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (76.5% compared with 78.3%) and a *relative/family friend* for help (60.7% compared with 57.4%).
- Higher proportions of females than males from VIC would access a *GP or health professional* (60.5% compared with 51.4%), the *internet* (57.3% compared with 50.9%) or turn to their *brother/sister* (56.3% compared with 50.2%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 9.6, more than one third of young people from VIC accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (35.2%) and over one in five indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (21.1%). Around one in six young people from VIC indicated that they used the internet to access *information about available services* (18.8%), *personal stories and testimonies* (18.3%) or to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (15.1%).

Table 9.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	35.2	39.5	29.4
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	21.1	26.6	12.8
Information about available services	16.5	18.8	21.3	15.1
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	18.3	21.6	13.4
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	15.1	15.5	14.5
Counselling with a professional	11.8	11.8	14.2	7.9
Support group or forum	8.3	8.9	8.4	9.4
Other	7.7	7.1	5.1	9.3
Online course or program	5.2	4.9	4.4	5.5

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

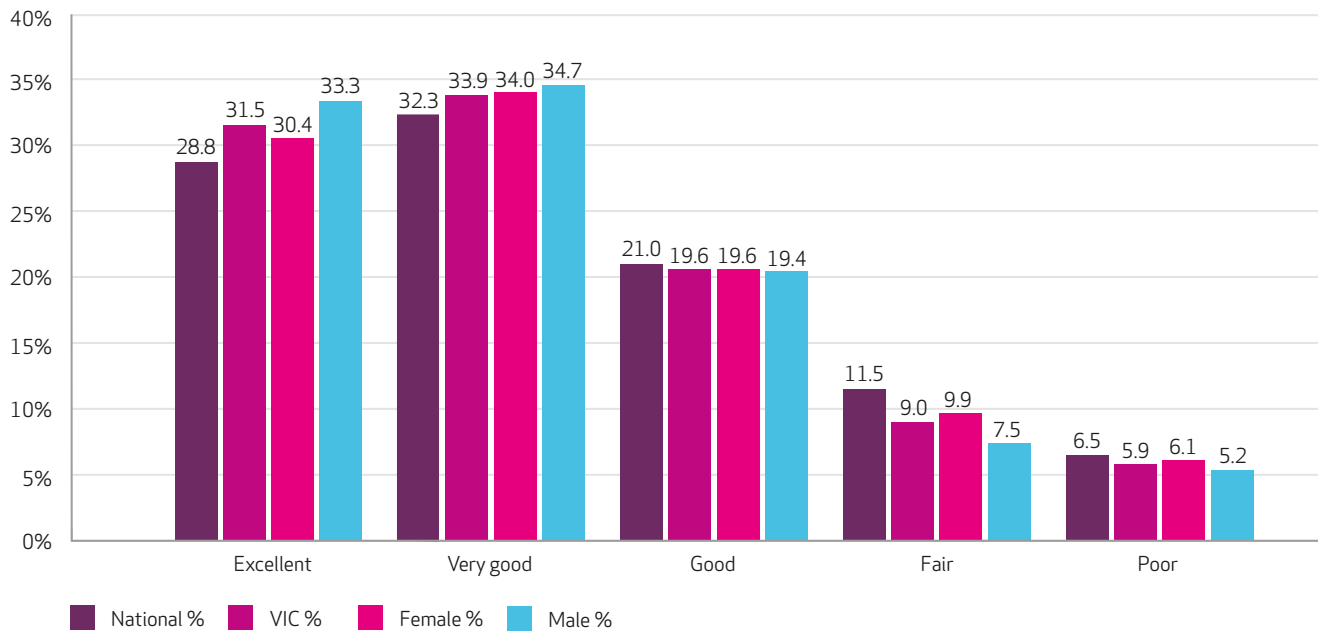
Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the VIC state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (39.5% compared with 29.4%). For females from VIC, *online quiz or assessment tool* and *personal stories or testimonies* (26.6% and 21.6%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from VIC, the second and third sources of online support were to source *information about available services* and to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (15.5% and 14.5%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 9.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from VIC rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 31.5% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 33.9% rated it as *very good*. However, nearly one in six young people from VIC did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (9.0%) or *poor* (5.9%). A slightly higher proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (33.3% compared with 30.4% respectively).

Figure 9.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 9.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from VIC were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 results for VIC, although the order of the top three items has changed.

- Over four in ten young people from VIC (43.1%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Around three in ten young people from VIC identified *alcohol and drugs* (30.5%) and *equity and discrimination* (27.1%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Just under one in six respondents from VIC identified *crime, safety and violence* (15.3%) and *bullying* (15.0%) as important issues.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have increasingly been identified by young people from VIC as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *the environment* and *the economy and financial matters* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents from VIC.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (50.0% compared with 34.0%) and *equity and discrimination* (28.8% compared with 24.5%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a slightly higher proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (31.8% compared with 29.7%).

Table 9.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	VIC 2018 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2017 %	VIC 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	43.1	50.0	34.0	29.7	18.4
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	30.5	29.7	31.8	29.9	25.3
Equity and discrimination	23.4	27.1	28.8	24.5	29.9	30.6
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	15.3	16.4	14.0	15.0	15.6
Bullying	17.4	15.0	16.5	13.4	8.9	8.8
Homelessness/housing	9.2	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.5	8.9
Health	11.4	12.2	12.2	12.5	8.2	8.7
The economy and financial matters	11.6	10.6	8.9	13.0	12.0	13.3
The environment	9.2	9.1	8.9	9.5	12.0	13.8
Education	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	11.7	10.3

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 9.8.

- As in previous years, the top two activities for young people from VIC were *sports (as a participant)* (67.1%) and *sports (as a spectator)* (46.3%). The third most reported activity was *volunteer work* (39.0%).
- Over one third (34.9%) of respondents from VIC indicated that they had participated in *arts/cultural/music activities*.
- Almost three in ten young people from VIC reported participating in *student leadership activities* (28.4%), while around one in five had taken part in *youth groups and activities* (19.3%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 9.8, the top activity for both females and males from VIC was *sports (as a participant)*. However, second and third most indicated activities differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *volunteer work* (40.9%), followed by *sports (as a spectator)* (40.0%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (56.2%) was the second top activity, ahead of *volunteer work* (36.2%).

- A total of 62.0% of female respondents and 75.6% of male respondents from VIC were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A much larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (56.2% compared with 40.0%).
- Higher proportions of female than male respondents were involved in *volunteer work* (40.9% compared with 36.2%), *arts/cultural/music activities* (36.4% compared with 32.2%) and *student leadership activities* (30.2% compared with 26.0%).

Table 9.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	67.1	62.0	75.6
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	46.3	40.0	56.2
Volunteer work	36.8	39.0	40.9	36.2
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	34.9	36.4	32.2
Student leadership activities	27.4	28.4	30.2	26.0
Youth groups and activities	22.6	19.3	19.1	19.2
Religious groups/activities	18.8	15.8	16.0	15.0
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	11.8	12.1	10.9
Political groups/organisations	4.0	4.0	2.7	4.9

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 as *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 9.9 shows, the majority of young people from VIC (66.2%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is slightly higher than the national result. A greater proportion of males than females from VIC reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (71.7% compared with 63.0%), while a greater proportion of females than males reported feeling *not happy or sad* (27.5% compared with 21.1%).

Table 9.9: How happy young people are

	National %	VIC %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	66.2	63.0	71.7
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	24.9	27.5	21.1
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	8.9	9.4	7.1

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 9.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from VIC felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Around two thirds (64.5%) of respondents from VIC felt either *positive* (48.4%) or *very positive* (16.1%) about the future.
- Just over one quarter of young people from VIC (26.5%) felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Under one in ten young people felt *negative* (6.3%) or *very negative* (2.7%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *positive* and *very positive* about the future (70.0% compared with 61.7%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 9.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	VIC 2018 %	Female %	Male %	VIC 2017 %	VIC 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	16.1	13.9	19.3	16.2	17.9
Positive	46.7	48.4	47.8	50.7	47.6	49.3
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	26.5	29.9	21.0	26.7	24.4
Negative	6.8	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.9	6.3
Very negative	3.1	2.7	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.2

Western Australia



Profile of respondents

In total, 3,202 young people from Western Australia (WA) aged 15 to 19 years responded to Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*.

Gender breakdown

Over half (54.8%) of respondents from WA were female and 40.0% were male.

Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

A total of 215 (6.8%) respondents from WA identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of this total, 179 (5.7%) respondents identified as Aboriginal, while 22 (0.7%) identified as Torres Strait Islander (the remaining 0.4% identified as both). A higher proportion of male than female respondents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (7.2% compared with 5.1%).

Language background other than English

A total of 809 (26.0%) respondents from WA stated that they were born overseas and 628 (20.2%) young people reported speaking a language other than English at home. Of the 69 languages other than English spoken at home in WA, the most common were (in order of frequency): Filipino/Tagalog, Afrikaans, Chinese, German and Malay.

Disability

A total of 236 (7.7%) respondents from WA indicated that they had a disability, with a greater proportion of males (9.7%) than females (4.1%) reporting a disability. The most frequently cited disabilities in WA were (in order of frequency): autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

Education

As indicated in Table 10.1, 90.4% of respondents from WA were studying full-time. A higher proportion of female than male respondents reported that they were studying full-time (92.8% compared with 87.8%), while a greater proportion of males (9.1%) than females (3.8%) reported not studying at all.

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, ranging from *very satisfied* to *very dissatisfied*. As in previous years, the majority of respondents from WA reported that they were either *very satisfied* (9.1%) or *satisfied* (52.9%) with their studies. One in ten were *very dissatisfied* or *dissatisfied* (2.7% and 7.5%). As shown in Table 10.2, a slightly higher proportion of females than males from WA reported feeling *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with their studies (9.2% and 55.3% compared with 8.7% and 52.1%).

Table 10.1: Participation in education

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Studying full-time	94.0	90.4	92.8	87.8
Studying part-time	2.3	3.3	3.4	3.0
Not studying	3.7	6.3	3.8	9.1

Table 10.2: Satisfaction with studies

	National 2018 %	WA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2017 %	WA 2016 %
Very satisfied	12.9	9.1	9.2	8.7	8.6	9.7
Satisfied	55.8	52.9	55.3	52.1	53.6	51.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24.2	27.8	27.7	28.0	29.1	31.0
Dissatisfied	5.3	7.5	6.3	8.4	6.5	5.9
Very dissatisfied	1.8	2.7	1.6	2.8	2.2	2.0

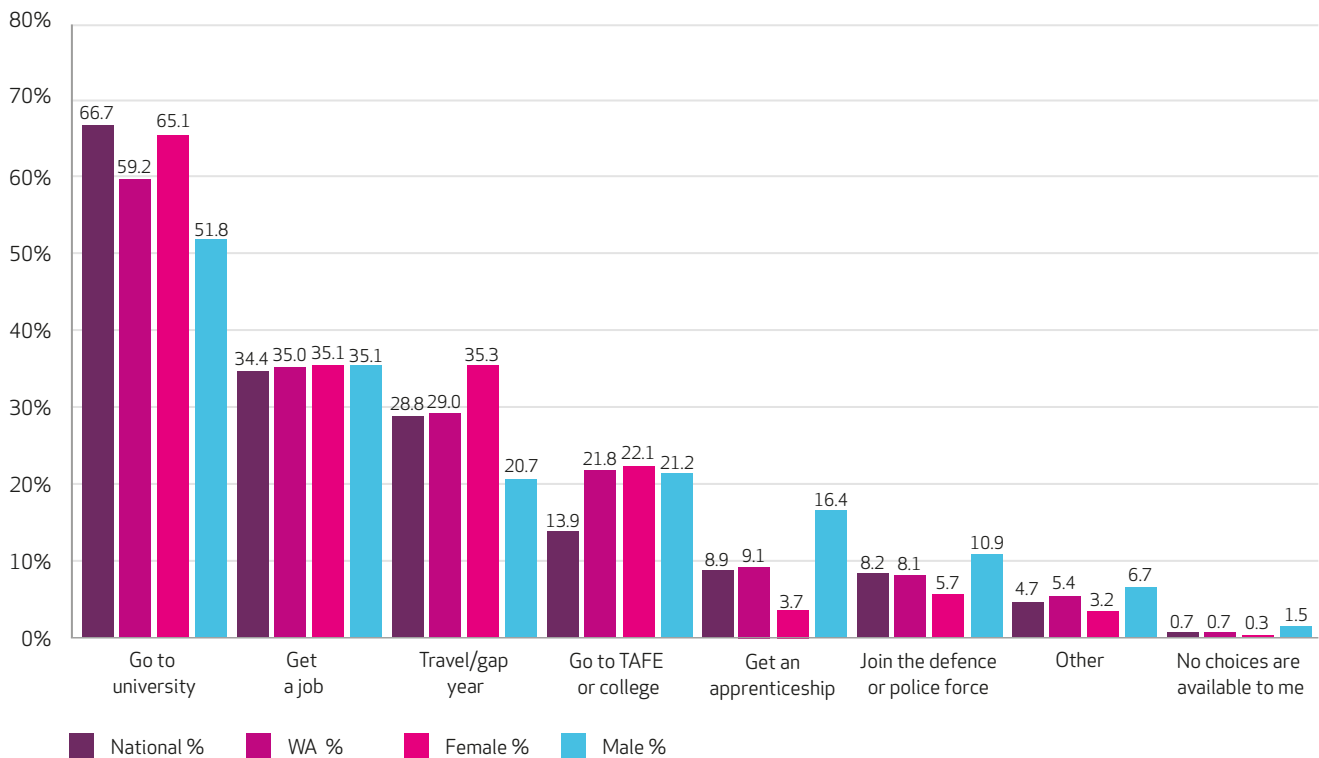
Of those who were still at school in WA, 95.4% stated that they intended to complete Year 12. Almost twice the proportion of males than females indicated that they did not intend to complete Year 12 (6.2% compared with 3.3% respectively).

Respondents who were still at school were also asked what they planned to do after leaving school. Figure 10.1 shows that almost six in ten (59.2%) respondents from WA planned to go to university after school. Just over one third of respondents reported plans to get a job after school (35.0%) and around three in ten indicated travel/gap year plans (29.0%). Overall, 21.8% of young people from WA planned to go to TAFE or college, 9.1% reported plans to get an apprenticeship and 8.1% planned to join the defence or police force. A small minority of respondents (0.7%) indicated feeling no choices are available to me after leaving school.

Gender differences

While the most frequently chosen plan among both female and male respondents from WA was to go to university, a higher proportion of females than males stated that they planned to do so (65.1% compared with 51.8% respectively). A greater proportion of female respondents reported travel/gap year plans after leaving school (35.3% compared with 20.7% of males). Conversely, over four times the proportion of males indicated that they were planning to get an apprenticeship (16.4% compared with 3.7% of females).

Figure 10.1: Plans after leaving school

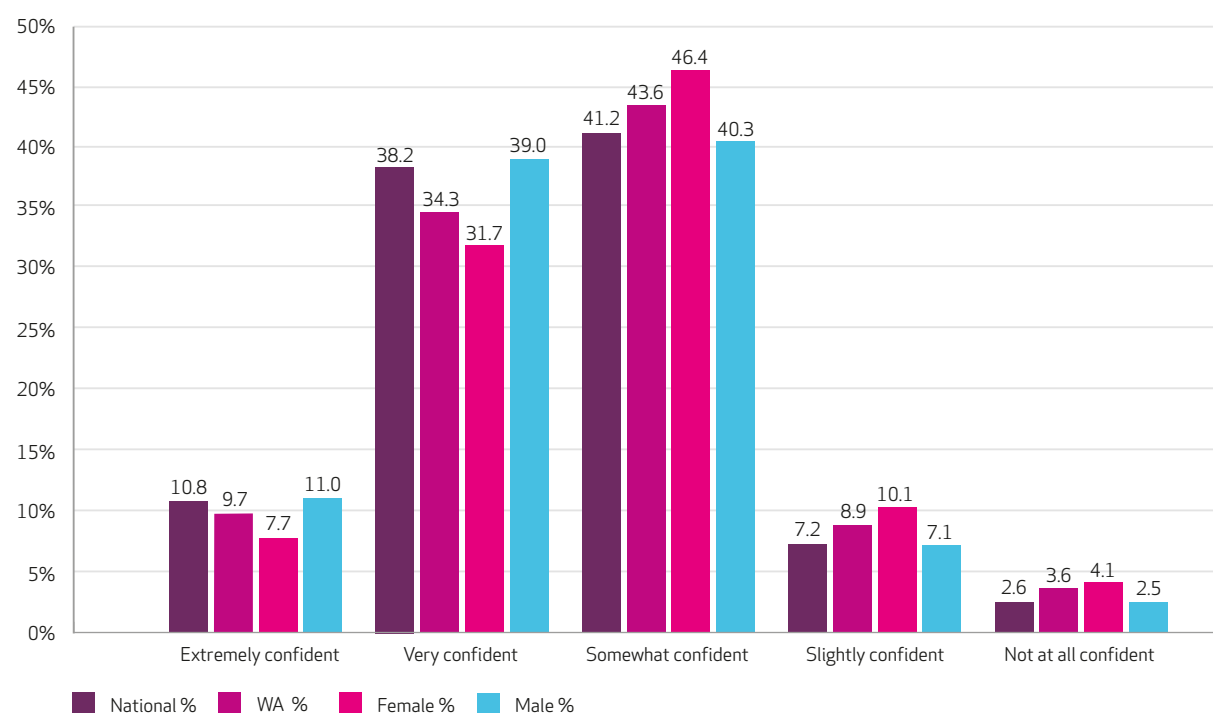


Note: Respondents were able to choose more than one option. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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

In 2018, respondents were asked how confident they were in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after finishing school. Responses for this question were rated on a 5 point scale from *extremely confident* to *not at all confident*. Over four in ten (44.0%) respondents from WA indicated high levels of confidence in their ability to achieve study/work goals: 9.7% indicated that they were *extremely confident* and 34.3% indicated that they were *very confident*. This is slightly lower than the national level results (10.8% *extremely confident*; 38.2% *very confident*). However, one in seven young people from WA were less confident in their ability to achieve their goals: 8.9% reported feeling *slightly confident*, while 3.6% were *not at all confident* in their ability to achieve their study/work goals after school. A higher proportion of male than female respondents reported feeling *extremely confident* or *very confident* (11.0% and 39.0% compared with 7.7% and 31.7%).

Figure 10.2: Confidence in achieving study/work goals



Employment

Respondents were asked whether they currently have paid work. Those who answered that they have 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 (1.0%) of respondents who reported paid employment were employed full-time. However, this is not surprising given the percentage of respondents who were still at school. Over one third (36.2%) of respondents from WA reported part-time employment. Six in ten WA respondents reported that they were not in paid employment: 40.5% reported that they were looking for work, while 22.3% were not looking for work. The proportion of young people from WA that indicated they were looking for work is slightly higher than the 2017 and 2016 results.

Gender differences

Similar proportions of female and male respondents from WA reported full-time employment (0.8% compared with 1.1%), while a much higher proportion of female respondents were employed part-time (42.0% compared with 29.1% of males). Conversely, a greater proportion of male respondents were looking for work (45.2% compared with 37.1% of females).

Table 10.3: Participation in paid employment

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Employed full-time	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.1
Employed part-time	42.1	36.2	42.0	29.1
Not in paid employment, looking for work	34.7	40.5	37.1	45.2
Not in paid employment, NOT looking for work	22.5	22.3	20.1	24.6

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

Barriers to finding work

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there are any barriers which impact on them finding work. Over four in ten (44.9%) respondents indicated that they felt there are barriers, with a greater proportion of females (48.6%) than males (40.0%) reporting the presence of barriers.

Respondents who indicated the presence of barriers were asked to indicate from a number of items the barrier/s that were preventing them from finding work. Figure 10.3 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated each item to be a barrier.

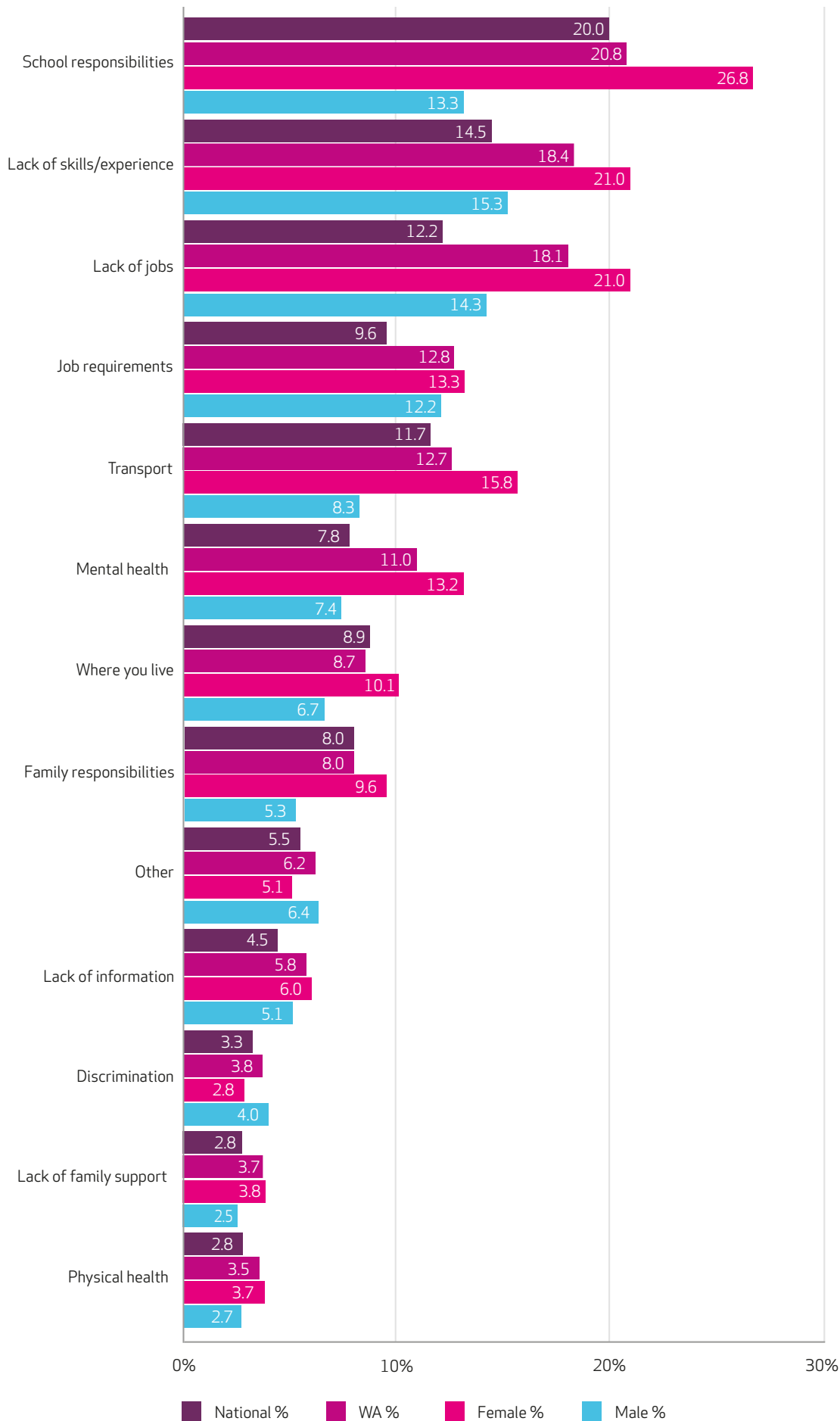
- *School responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs* were the three most commonly cited barriers to young people finding work in WA (20.8%, 18.4% and 18.1% respectively).
- One in eight respondents indicated that they saw *job requirements* or *transport* as barriers to finding work (12.8% and 12.7% respectively).

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.3, the top three barriers for both genders were *school responsibilities, lack of skills/experience* and *lack of jobs*. A greater proportion of females than males indicated the majority of the items were barriers to them finding work.

- Twice the proportion of female than male respondents saw *school responsibilities* as a major barrier which may impact on their finding work (26.8% compared with 13.3%).
- A higher proportion of females reported *lack of skills/experience* as a barrier which may impact on their finding work (21.0% compared with 15.3% of males).
- Females were also more likely than males to indicate the *lack of jobs, transport* and *mental health* as barriers which may impact upon their finding work (21.0%, 15.8% and 13.2% compared with 14.3%, 8.3% and 7.4% respectively).

Figure 10.3: Barriers to finding work



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

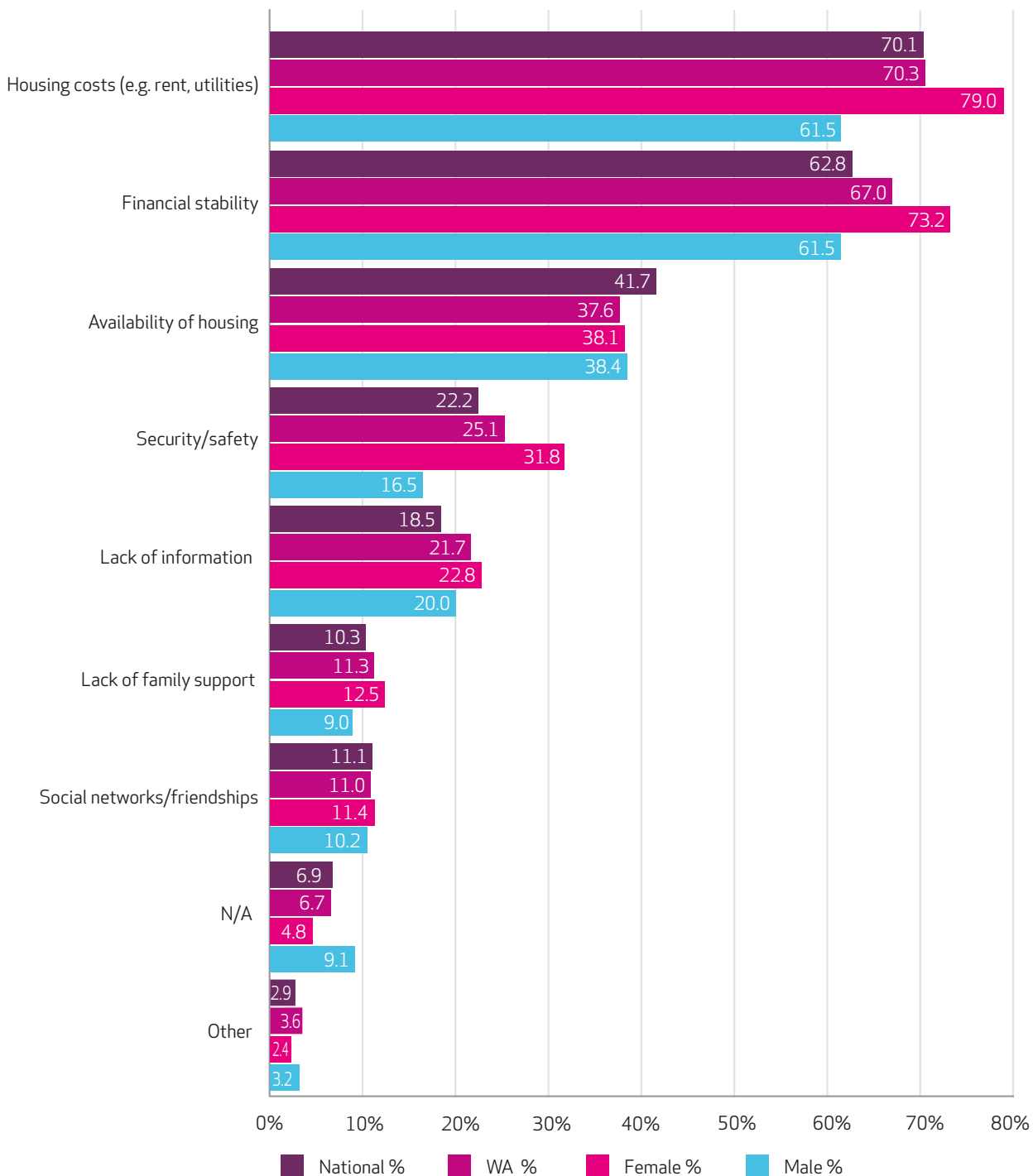
Barriers to moving out of home

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked whether they felt there were any barriers which may impact upon them moving out of home in the future. Of those that responded, seven in ten (70.3%) respondents from WA indicated that *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) would be a future barrier to moving out of home, followed by *financial stability* (67.0%) and *availability of housing* (37.6%). WA state results are generally consistent with national results, although a higher proportion of young people from WA indicated *financial stability* as a potential barrier (67.0% compared with 62.8%).

Gender differences

Greater proportions of females than males from WA reported *housing costs* (e.g. rent, utilities) and *financial stability* as barriers to moving out of home (79.0% and 73.2% compared with 61.5% and 61.5% respectively). Nearly twice the proportion of females reported *security/safety* as a potential barrier to moving out of home in the future compared to the proportion of males (31.6% compared with 16.5%).

Figure 10.4: Barriers to moving out of home



Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

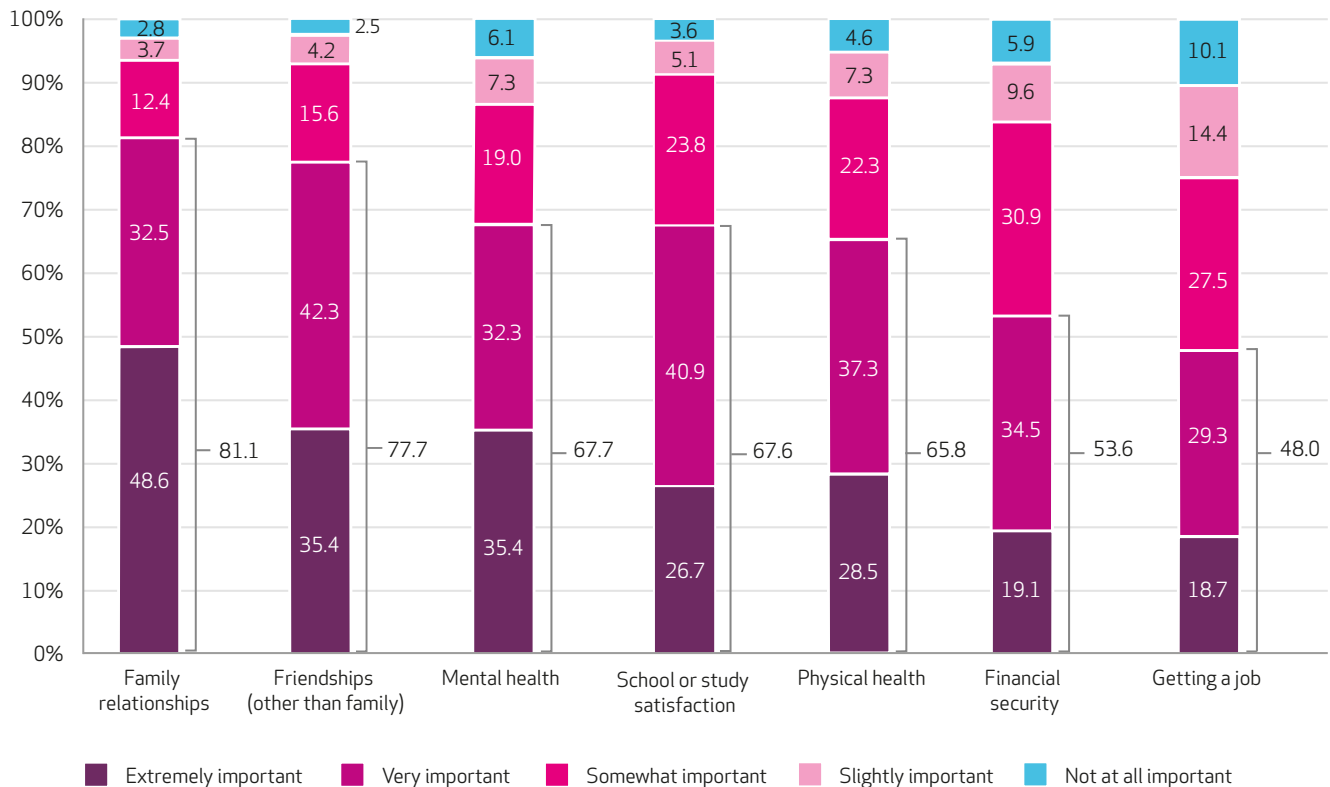
What do young people value?

Young people were again asked how much they valued *family relationships*, *financial security*, *friendships (other than family)*, *getting a job*, *mental health*, *physical health* and *school or study satisfaction*. Responses for these items were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely important* to *not at all important*. In Figure 10.5, 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 for respondents from WA this year were *family relationships*, *friendships (other than family)* and *mental health*. The next most valued items were *school or study satisfaction* and *physical health*.

- *Family relationships* were very highly valued by 81.1% of respondents from WA (*extremely important*: 48.6%; *very important*: 32.5%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were also valued highly by over three quarters (77.7%) of WA respondents (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 42.3%).
- Around two thirds of respondents placed a high value upon *mental health* (*extremely important*: 35.4%; *very important*: 32.3%), *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 26.7%; *very important*: 40.9%) and *physical health* (*extremely important*: 28.5%; *very important*: 37.3%).
- Over half of WA respondents highly valued *financial security* (*extremely important*: 19.1%; *very important*: 34.5%).

Figure 10.5: What young people value



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

Gender differences

Family relationships and *friendships (other than family)* were the two most highly valued items by both females and males from WA, as shown in Table 10.4. The third highest rated item for females was *school or study satisfaction*, whereas for males the third highest rated item was *physical health*. The proportion of female respondents who highly valued these and almost all of the other items was higher than the proportion of males.

- *Family relationships* were highly valued by 83.5% of females (*extremely important*: 55.2%; *very important*: 28.3%), compared with 80.0% of males (*extremely important*: 41.2%; *very important*: 38.8%).
- *Friendships (other than family)* were highly valued by 79.6% of females (*extremely important*: 38.7%; *very important*: 40.9%), compared with 76.9% of males (*extremely important*: 31.2%; *very important*: 45.7%).

- Over seven in ten females highly valued *mental health* (*extremely important*: 39.4%; *very important*: 32.2%) and *school or study satisfaction* (*extremely important*: 31.1%; *very important*: 43.4%), compared with around six in ten males for both items (*extremely important*: 30.5%; *very important*: 33.4%; and *extremely important*: 21.6%; *very important*: 38.8%, respectively).
- *Physical health* was similarly highly valued by two thirds of females and males from WA (66.4% compared with 66.0%).

Table 10.4: What young people value by gender

Females	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	55.2	28.3	11.6	3.2	1.5
Friendships (other than family)	38.7	40.9	14.9	4.3	1.3
Mental health	39.4	32.2	17.7	6.9	3.7
School or study satisfaction	31.1	43.4	20.2	3.9	1.4
Physical health	28.7	37.7	22.1	7.9	3.5
Financial security	19.7	36.1	30.3	9.6	4.3
Getting a job	17.7	31.1	28.6	14.2	8.4
Males	Extremely important %	Very important %	Somewhat important %	Slightly important %	Not at all important %
Family relationships	41.2	38.8	13.1	4.3	2.6
Friendships (other than family)	31.2	45.7	16.4	4.2	2.5
Mental health	30.5	33.4	21.3	7.8	6.9
School or study satisfaction	21.6	38.8	28.4	6.5	4.7
Physical health	28.9	37.1	23.2	6.4	4.4
Financial security	18.0	32.9	32.7	10.0	6.3
Getting a job	21.6	38.8	28.4	6.5	4.7

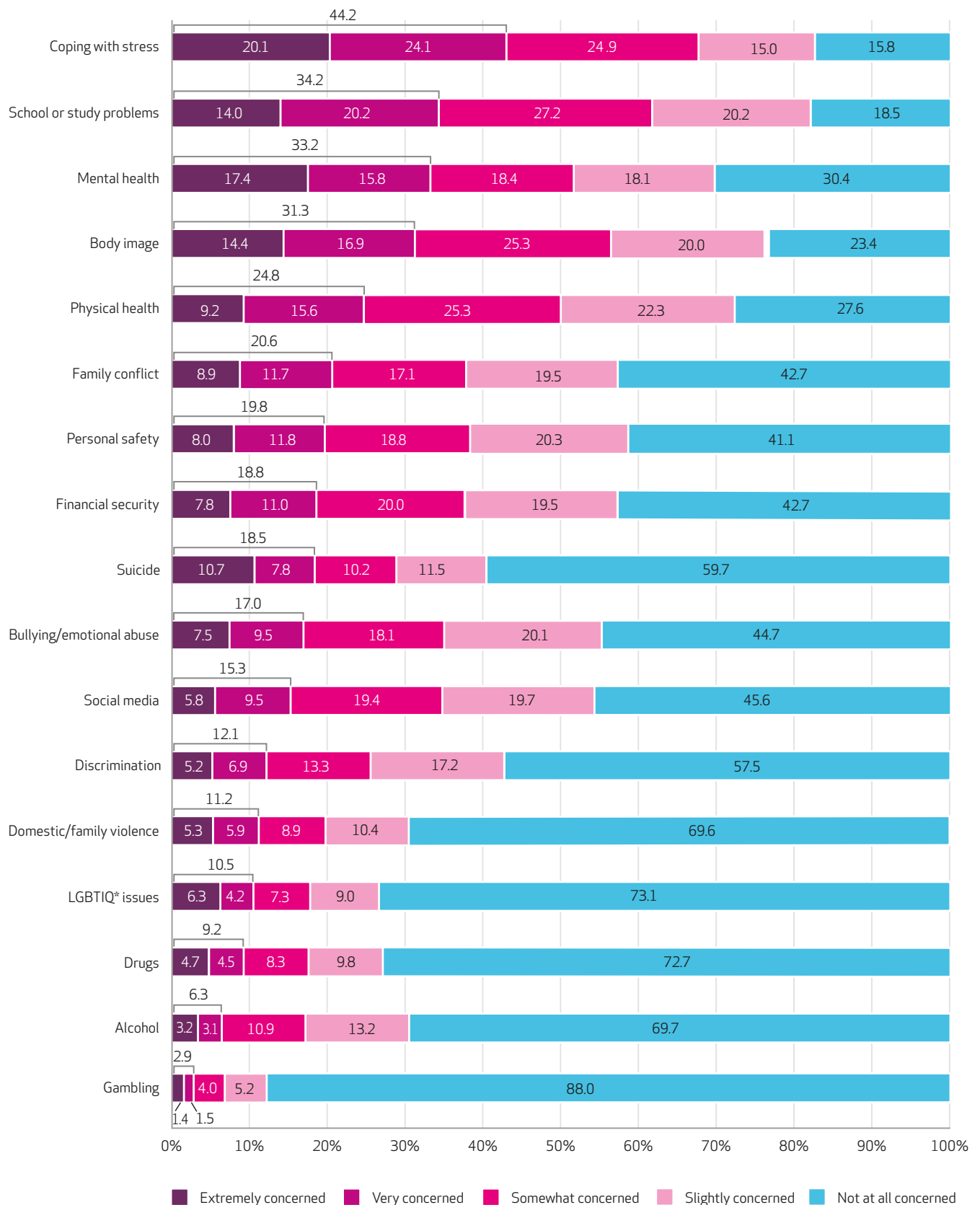
Note: Items were ranked according to the summed responses for *extremely important* and *very important* for each item. Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What issues are of personal concern to young people?

Respondents were asked to rate how concerned they were about a number of issues, shown in Figure 10.6. Responses were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *extremely concerned* to *not at all concerned*. The items were ranked in order of 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*. These results are consistent with the *Youth Survey 2018* findings at the national level.

- *Coping with stress* was the top issue of concern, with over four in ten (44.2%) respondents from WA indicating that they were either *extremely concerned* (20.1%) or *very concerned* (24.1%) about this issue.
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for 34.2% of young people from WA (*extremely concerned*: 14.0%; *very concerned*: 20.2%).
- *Mental health* was also a highly rated issue of concern for one third (33.2%) of WA respondents (*extremely concerned*: 17.4%; *very concerned*: 15.8%).
- Just over three in ten (31.3%) young people from WA were either *extremely concerned* (14.4%) or *very concerned* (16.9%) about *body image*.

Figure 10.6: 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 was the top issue of personal concern for both females and males from WA. The second and third most noted personal concerns for females were *body image* and *school or study problems*, while for males from WA *school or study problems* was the second most noted personal concern, ahead of *mental health*. The proportion of females concerned about these issues (and many of the other issues) was much higher than the proportion of males.

- *Coping with stress* was a major concern for 56.8% of females (*extremely concerned*: 26.8%; *very concerned*: 30.0%), compared with 27.6% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.6%; *very concerned*: 17.0%).
- *School or study problems* was a major concern for over four in ten (41.8%) females (*extremely concerned*: 17.6%; *very concerned*: 24.2%), compared with around one in five (23.8%) males (*extremely concerned*: 8.5%; *very concerned*: 15.3%).
- *Mental health* was a major concern for 41.1% of females (*extremely concerned*: 21.7%; *very concerned*: 19.4%) and 21.9% of males (*extremely concerned*: 10.3%; *very concerned*: 11.6%).
- Over twice the proportion (42.2%) of females were *extremely concerned* (19.5%) or *very concerned* (22.7%) about *body image* (compared with 16.0% of males: *extremely concerned*: 6.5%; *very concerned*: 9.5%).

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 %
Coping with stress	26.8	30.0	25.1	11.6	6.5
School or study problems	17.6	24.2	28.1	18.5	11.7
Mental health	21.7	19.4	20.8	17.1	21.1
Body image	19.5	22.7	27.7	18.0	12.1
Physical health	9.8	17.8	29.0	23.2	20.1
Family conflict	10.6	15.2	19.1	21.1	33.9
Personal safety	9.0	12.7	21.1	21.5	35.7
Financial security	8.2	13.8	21.1	22.9	34.0
Suicide	11.8	9.3	11.3	12.1	55.5
Bullying/emotional abuse	9.3	11.7	20.4	21.3	37.3
Social media	7.0	12.1	22.6	20.3	38.0
Discrimination	5.2	8.2	15.3	18.6	52.7
Domestic/family violence	6.1	6.7	9.5	11.0	66.7
LGBTIQ* issues	5.9	5.9	9.3	10.5	68.4
Drugs	4.2	4.9	8.6	10.2	72.1
Alcohol	3.1	3.6	12.1	14.3	66.9
Gambling	0.4	1.5	4.1	3.9	90.0

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 %
Coping with stress	10.6	17.0	25.2	20.5	26.8
School or study problems	8.5	15.3	26.5	23.9	25.9
Mental health	10.3	11.6	15.6	20.0	42.5
Body image	6.5	9.5	22.9	23.9	37.2
Physical health	7.6	13.0	21.2	21.8	36.4
Family conflict	5.6	7.8	14.3	18.1	54.2
Personal safety	5.7	10.9	15.7	19.2	48.5
Financial security	6.0	7.2	18.7	22.9	45.1
Suicide	7.5	5.9	8.6	10.9	67.1
Bullying/emotional abuse	4.4	6.9	15.1	18.7	54.8
Social media	3.3	6.6	14.7	20.0	55.5
Discrimination	3.6	4.8	10.5	16.3	64.7
Domestic/family violence	3.3	5.0	8.0	9.4	74.3
LGBTIQ* issues	4.5	2.1	4.2	7.7	81.6
Drugs	4.3	4.3	7.3	9.3	74.8
Alcohol	2.1	2.1	8.7	12.2	74.8
Gambling	1.5	1.3	3.5	7.0	86.7

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

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

Where do young people go to 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. Figure 10.7 shows the percentage of respondents who indicated that they would go to the particular source for support.

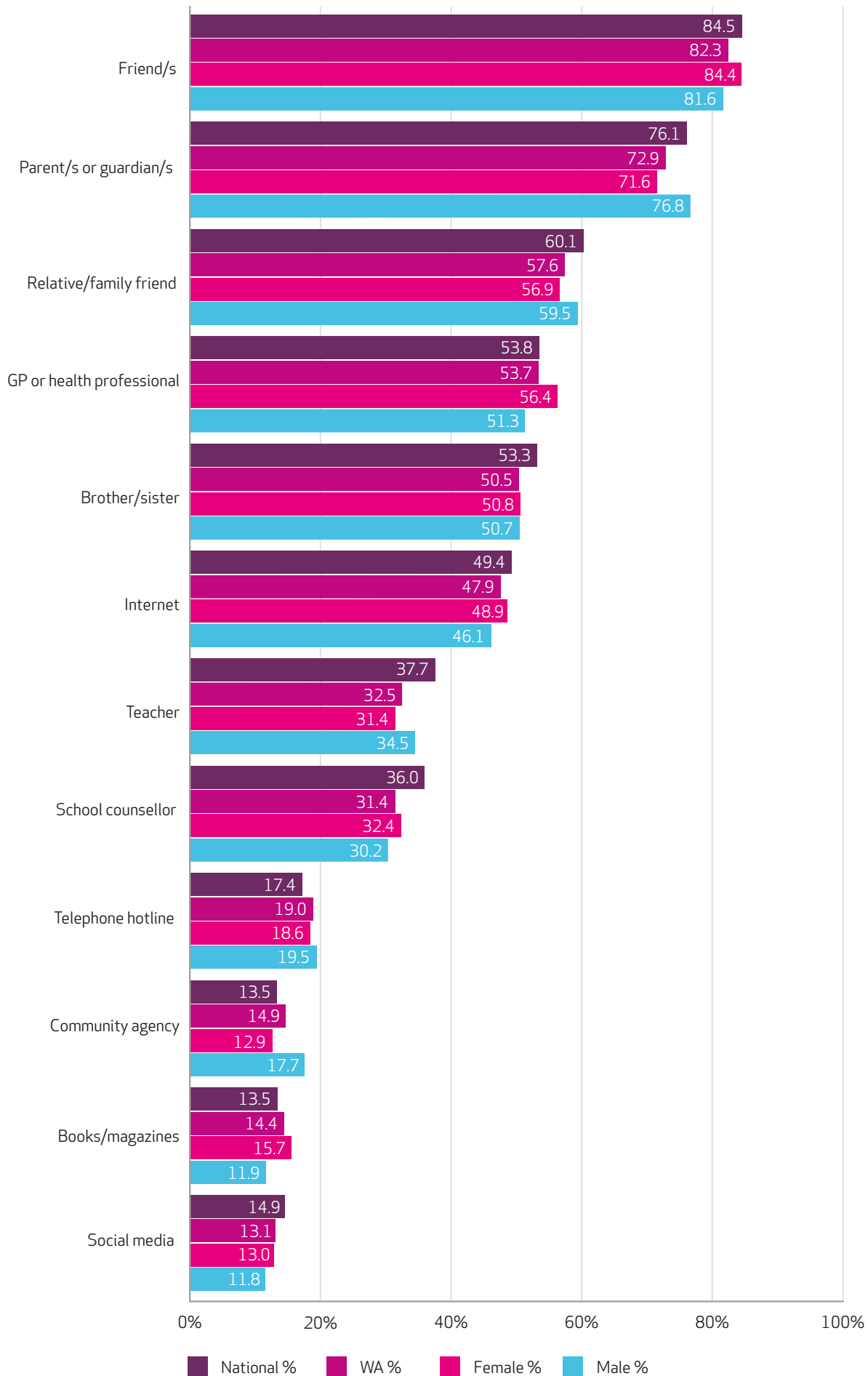
- *Friend/s, parent/s or guardian/s* and *relative/family friend* were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people from WA (82.3%, 72.9% and 57.6% respectively).
- Over half of respondents from WA indicated that they would go to a *GP or health professional* (53.7%) or their *brother/sister* (50.5%), while just under half would turn to the *internet* (47.9%) for help with important issues in their lives.
- Around three in ten young people from WA indicated that they would turn to their *teacher* (32.5%) or *school counsellor* (31.4%) as a source of help with important issues.

Gender differences

As shown in Figure 10.7, the top three sources of help for both males and females were consistent with the WA and national results.

- A slightly higher proportion of females than males indicated that they would go to *friend/s* for help with important issues (84.4% compared with 81.6%).
- A higher proportion of males than females indicated that they would go to their *parent/s or guardian/s* (76.8% compared with 71.6%) and a *relative/family friend* for help (59.5% compared with 56.9%), whereas a greater proportion of females indicated they would go to a *GP or health professional* (56.4% compared with 51.3%).
- Similar proportions of females and males from WA would go to their *brother/sister* (50.8% compared with 50.7%) or the *internet* (48.9% compared with 46.1%) for support.

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 state frequency.

For the first time in 2018, young people were asked if they had used the internet for help with important issues in their lives and to indicate which sources of support they had accessed from a list of services/sources. As indicated in Table 10.6, three in ten young people from WA accessed the internet for *information about specific issues* (30.0%) and nearly one in five indicated that they used the internet to access an *online quiz or assessment tool* (19.3%). Around one in six young people from WA also noted accessing the internet for *personal stories and testimonies* (17.3%), to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.9%) and for *information about available services* (16.3%).

Table 10.6: Internet use for important issues

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Information about specific issues	31.0	30.0	34.8	24.6
Online quiz or assessment tool	19.0	19.3	25.7	10.9
Personal stories or testimonies	17.4	17.3	20.9	12.3
Chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience	16.5	16.9	17.0	16.0
Information about available services	16.5	16.3	19.1	12.7
Counselling with a professional	11.8	11.7	14.0	8.7
Support group or forum	8.3	9.3	8.7	9.4
Other	7.7	8.5	5.5	9.8
Online course or program	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.7

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

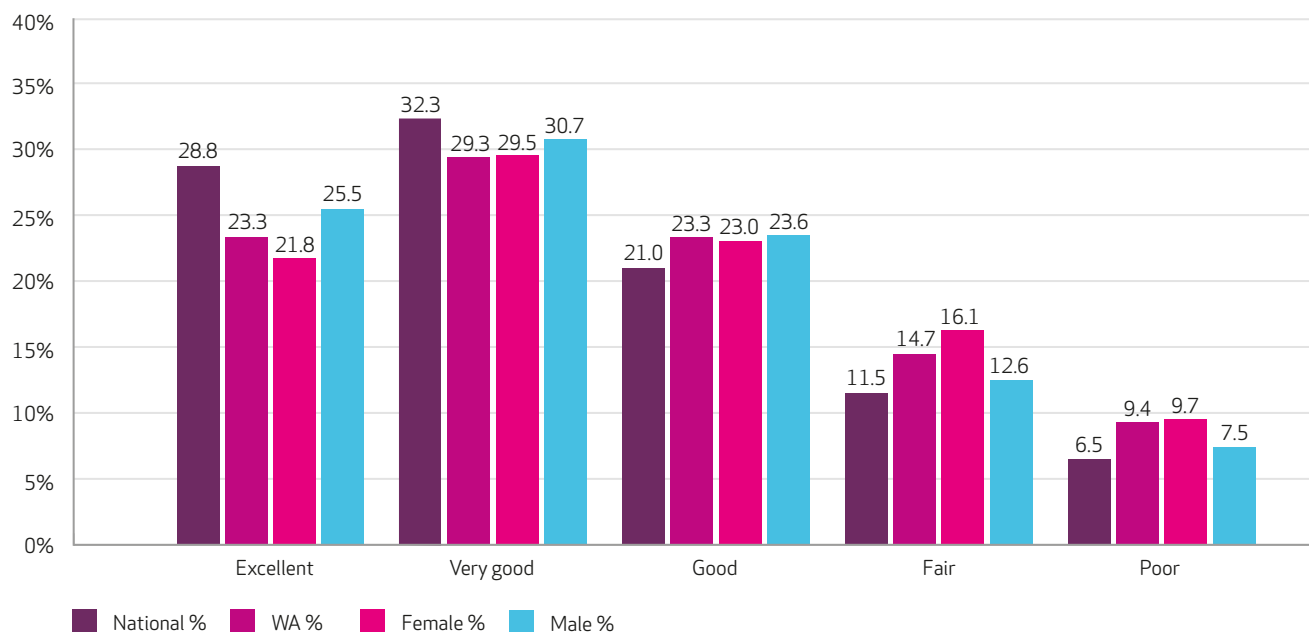
Gender differences

As shown in Table 10.6, there were differences between females and males in relation to their use of the internet to seek help for important issues. The most indicated source of help accessed on the internet for females and males was consistent with the WA state level results. However, a greater proportion of females indicated that they would access the internet for *information about specific issues* than males (34.8% compared with 24.6%). For females from WA, *online quiz or assessment tool* and *personal stories or testimonies* (25.7% and 20.9%) were the second and third most indicated online sources used for support. For males from WA, the second and third most indicated sources of help accessed online were to *chat one-on-one with someone who has had a similar experience* (16.0%) and find *information about available services* (12.7%).

How well do young people feel their family gets along?

Respondents were asked how well they felt their family gets along with one another. Responses to this question were rated on a 5 point scale, ranging from *excellent* to *poor*. Figure 10.8 shows that, in line with national results, the majority of respondents from WA rated their family's ability to get along very positively: 23.3% indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* and 29.3% rated it as *very good*. However, almost one quarter of young people from WA did not report such a positive experience of family relationships; they rated their family's ability to get along as either *fair* (14.7%) or *poor* (9.4%). A slightly greater proportion of male than female respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *excellent* (25.5% compared with 21.8% respectively). Conversely, a higher proportion of female than male respondents indicated that their family's ability to get along was *fair* or *poor* (16.1% and 9.7% compared with 12.6% and 7.5% respectively).

Figure 10.8: Family's ability to get along



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 most important in Australia today. The information provided by respondents was categorised and is listed in order of frequency in Table 10.7. In 2018, the top three issues identified by young people from WA were *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination*. This is consistent with the 2017 and 2016 results for WA, although the order of the first and second issues was reversed.

- Over four in ten young people from WA (42.2%) identified *mental health* as an important issue in Australia today.
- Over one third of young people from WA identified *alcohol and drugs* (35.9%) and over one in five saw *equity and discrimination* (22.2%) as important issues in Australia today.
- Over one in six (18.2%) WA respondents identified *bullying* as an important issue.
- Since 2016, *mental health* and *bullying* have been increasingly identified by young people from WA as key issues facing the nation. Conversely, concerns about *education* and *employment* have declined since 2016.

Gender differences

In line with the state results, *mental health*, *alcohol and drugs* and *equity and discrimination* were the top three issues for both female and male respondents from WA. However, males rated *alcohol and drugs* as the top issue in Australia, ahead of *mental health*.

- A greater proportion of female than male respondents identified *mental health* (49.5% compared with 34.3%) and *equity and discrimination* (23.8% compared with 20.4%) as important issues facing Australia today.
- Conversely, a greater proportion of males than females identified *alcohol and drugs* as an important issue (40.4% compared with 33.1%).

Table 10.7: Most important issues in Australia today

	National 2018 %	WA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2017 %	WA 2016 %
Mental health	43.0	42.2	49.5	34.3	34.4	33.0
Alcohol and drugs	28.7	35.9	33.1	40.4	37.9	38.0
Equity and discrimination	23.4	22.2	23.8	20.4	29.2	24.8
Bullying	17.4	18.2	21.7	14.2	11.7	10.0
The economy and financial matters	11.6	12.0	10.2	14.9	13.1	13.2
Crime, safety and violence	13.5	11.9	12.8	10.8	8.3	9.5
Employment	7.9	10.3	9.2	12.4	13.6	13.2
Health	11.4	9.6	10.1	9.3	6.9	7.7
Education	8.2	9.5	10.3	8.6	13.9	14.1
Homelessness/housing	9.2	8.2	8.7	7.8	5.9	5.8

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

What activities are young people involved in?

Young people were asked to identify the activities that they have been involved in over the past year from the list of options shown in Table 10.8.

- As in previous years, the top two activities for young people from WA were *sports (as a participant)* (57.9%) and *sports (as a spectator)* (35.8%). The third most reported activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (35.7%).
- One third (33.2%) of WA respondents indicated that they had participated in *volunteer work*.
- Around one in five young people from WA reported participating in *youth groups and activities* (22.6%) and *student leadership activities* (19.6%).

Gender differences

As shown in Table 10.8, the top activity for both females and males from WA was *sports (as a participant)*. However, the second and third most indicated activities differed between genders. For females, the second activity was *arts/cultural/music activities* (40.9%), followed by *volunteer work* (39.2%). For males, *sports (as a spectator)* (38.3%) was the second top activity, ahead of *arts/cultural/music activities* (28.9%).

- Similar proportions of female (59.1%) and male (58.7%) respondents from WA were involved in *sports (as a participant)* over the past year.
- A larger proportion of male than female respondents were involved in *sports (as a spectator)* (38.3% compared with 34.6%).
- Higher proportions of female than male respondents were involved in *arts/cultural/music activities* (40.9% compared with 28.9%), *volunteer work* (39.2% compared with 26.4%) and *student leadership activities* (23.1% compared with 14.8%).

Table 10.8: Activities young people were involved in over the past year

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Sports (as a participant)	63.2	57.9	59.1	58.7
Sports (as a spectator)	40.6	35.8	34.6	38.3
Arts/cultural/music activities	36.4	35.7	40.9	28.9
Volunteer work	36.8	33.2	39.2	26.4
Youth groups and activities	22.6	22.6	21.7	23.6
Student leadership activities	27.4	19.6	23.1	14.8
Religious groups/activities	18.8	14.3	14.2	13.4
Environmental groups/activities	11.1	10.0	10.4	8.4
Political groups/organisations	4.0	3.7	3.8	2.5

Note: Items are listed in order of state frequency.

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 feeling *very sad*, 5 indicates *not happy or sad*, and 10 indicates they felt *very happy*. In line with recommendations from the authors of this question,¹ responses were standardised on a scale of 0–100, in which 100 is rated as the happiest. For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorised into three groupings: 70–100 range as *happy/very happy*; 40–60 as *not happy or sad*; 0–30 as *very sad/sad*. As Table 10.9 shows, the majority of young people from WA (55.2%) responded in the range 70 to 100, which indicates that most young people felt happy overall with their lives. This is slightly lower than the national result. A greater proportion of males than females from WA reported feeling *happy/very happy* with their lives as a whole (60.9% compared with 52.5%).

Table 10.9: How happy young people are

	National %	WA %	Female %	Male %
Happy/Very happy (70-100)	62.3	55.2	52.5	60.9
Not happy or sad (40-60)	27.7	31.4	33.4	29.3
Very sad/Sad (0-30)	10.0	13.4	14.3	9.8

How do young people feel about the future?

Young people were asked how positive they felt about the future and to rate their response on a 5 point scale from *very positive* to *very negative*. Table 10.10 shows that, in line with the national results, the majority of respondents from WA felt either *very positive* or *positive* about the future.

- Almost six in ten (57.4%) respondents from WA felt either *positive* (45.8%) or *very positive* (11.6%) about the future.
- Three in ten (30.9%) respondents felt *neither positive nor negative* about the future.
- Over one in ten respondents felt *negative* (7.9%) or *very negative* (3.8%) about the future.
- A higher proportion of males than females reported feeling *very positive* about the future (13.8% compared with 10.0%).

¹ Robert A. Cummins and Anna LD. Lau, *Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC) (English)*, 3rd ed. (Melbourne, VIC: Australian Centre on Quality of Life, Deakin University, 2005) <<http://www.acqol.com.au/uploads/pwi-sc/pwi-sc-english.pdf>>

Table 10.10: Feelings about the future

	National 2018 %	WA 2018 %	Female %	Male %	WA 2017 %	WA 2016 %
Very positive	15.5	11.6	10.0	13.8	13.5	14.3
Positive	46.7	45.8	44.4	47.9	44.3	44.7
Neither positive nor negative	27.9	30.9	33.5	27.2	30.0	31.9
Negative	6.8	7.9	8.7	6.7	8.2	7.2
Very negative	3.1	3.8	3.5	4.3	3.9	5.4

Acknowledgements

Mission Australia would like to thank the many educational institutions, youth and community organisations, government agencies, corporates, philanthropic organisations and others who helped to raise awareness and engage young people in the *Youth Survey 2018*.

These include:

- Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)
- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)
- Advance Diversity Services
- Alpine Shire Council
- Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia)
- Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth
- batyr
- Brimbank City Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Burnie City Council
- Butterfly Foundation
- Carers NSW
- CareSouth - Shoalhaven Youth Support Service
- Central Coast Community Council (CCCC)
- Central Desert Regional Council
- Central Grampians LLEN
- Centrecare - Kalgoorlie
- Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS) QLD
- City of Darwin
- City of Greater Geelong
- City of Mandurah
- City of Onkaparinga
- City of Port Phillip Youth Services Network
- City of Rockingham
- City of Swan
- City of Sydney
- City of Whittlesea
- Community Legal Centres NSW
- Darwin and Rural Workers with Youth Network
- District Council of Streaky Bay
- Echo Youth and Family Services
- Ethnic Communities Council NSW
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA)
- Fusion Youth
- Gippsland PHN
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Greater Bunbury Youth Sector
- headspace (Darwin)
- Health Networks (Department of Health, WA)
- Hillsong Australia Youth
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Inner West Council (NSW)
- Junction Australia - Kangaroo Island Community Centre
- Life Saving Victoria
- Maribyrnong City Council - Phoenix Youth Club
- Midcoast Council
- Migration Council - Young Women's Advisory Group
- MOIRA (Disability and Youth Services)
- Multicultural NSW (NSW Government)
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN)
- National Children's Commissioner
- National Union of Students
- New South Wales Council of Social Service (NCOSS)
- Northern Midlands Council (TAS)
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)
- Office of the Children's Commissioner (NT)
- Our Watch
- P&Cs Queensland
- Peninsula Health (VIC)
- Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC)
- ReachOut
- Regional Development Australia - Murraylands and Riverland
- Rise Network (WA)
- Scouts QLD
- Settlement Council of Australia
- Settlement Services International
- Shelter NSW
- Shire of Harvey
- Shire of Wongan Ballidu
- Sociology @ the University of Wollongong
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Swan City Youth Service
- The Australian Sociological Association (TASA)
- The Salvation Army - Youth Department
- Together SA/Wellbeing of Adelaide Youth
- Town of East Fremantle
- Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)
- Volunteering Australia
- Wellington Shire Council
- Wombat Housing and Support Services
- Yarra Ranges Council
- Yfoundations
- YMCA NSW
- YMCA SA
- YMCA Victoria
- Youth Action
- Youth Affairs Council of SA
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Affairs Network (QLD)
- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Youth Work WA
- Youth+ Edmund Rice Education Australia
- YouthLink (WA)

Mission Australia would also like to acknowledge the many organisations and individuals who promoted the survey via social media.

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 28,286 young people who completed Mission Australia's *Youth Survey 2018*. Our special thanks to them, the staff of Mission Australia and the many other organisations who supported their involvement.

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