Youth Survey 2026



July 2026

Youth Survey: Community Engagement Report

wyndhamcity
city. coast. country

Engagement overview

Wyndham's biennial Youth Survey invites young people aged 12–25 who live, study, work, play or spend time in Wyndham to share their experiences and ideas.

The survey provides important insights into the needs, interests and priorities of young people in our community. This feedback helps Council plan and deliver future Youth Services programs, activities and initiatives that better support young people in Wyndham.

The survey also gathers information about participants' demographics, interests and experiences, including topics such as community safety, mental health and wellbeing, and where young people go for support when they need it.

Community engagement was undertaken from Monday 2 February to Tuesday 30 June 2026. Young people were invited to participate through an online survey on The Loop, pop-up engagement sessions held across Wyndham, and additional outreach activities delivered through existing Youth Services programs and events. Young people who participated in the survey could go into the running to win a PlayStation 5 or a $750 Nike voucher.

The survey received 1,035 responses in total. Not all respondents completed the full survey, as highlighted in the results below.

Council will continue to survey young people via Youth Forums and surveys as well as sharing and highlighting the changing needs of young people with stakeholders who work with young people in Wyndham.

How did the community get involved?

The below tables outline the ways we engaged with the community and the activities undertaken to promote the engagement.

1,035 surveys completed	**3,432** page views on The Loop page	**1,967** total visitors to The Loop page
58 direct emails	**980** pop up event attendees	

Online promotion	A range advertisements were run via social media. These included a mix of paid and organic advertisements. • Engagement: 53 • Reach: 6,993

Other communication activities	• Emails to 638 recipients • Articles in Wyndham News • Media Release • Digital screen tiles (including a QR code to The Loop page) at all Community Centres and Facilities • Stakeholder distribution via Council e-newsletters and direct emails • What's On Termly Program Flyer • Young Person of the Month Leadership Subscription Newsletter • Network Meetings such as Wyndham Workers with Young People and Community Support Leadership Forum • Regular promotion including Youth Services programs and Drop-ins • Youth-led promotion and advocacy via Youth Voice and Civic Participation programming • Secondary School Engagements through SRC's and Compass • Career Expos and Events such as Harmony Day • General interactions including food relief and reception waiting area

What did we hear?

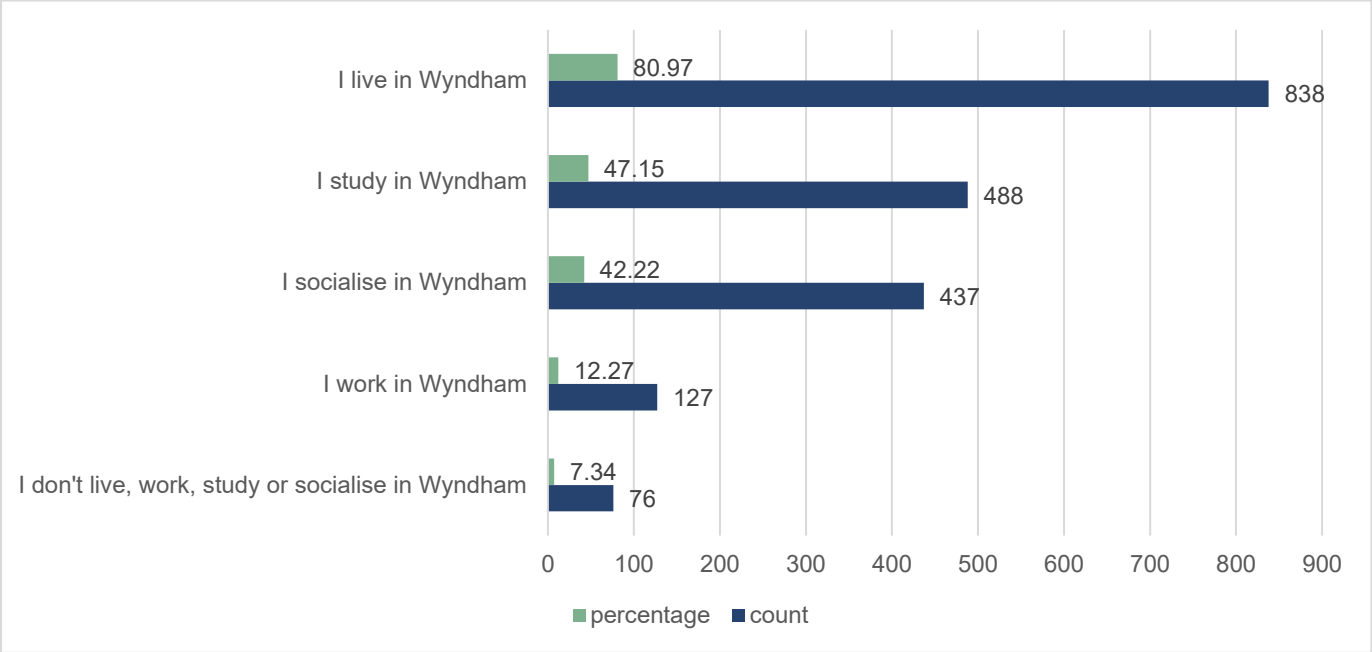
1,035 responses were received from community members during the engagement period online. The below highlights the feedback received via The Loop online survey during the engagement process.

Demographics

Question 1: What year were you born?

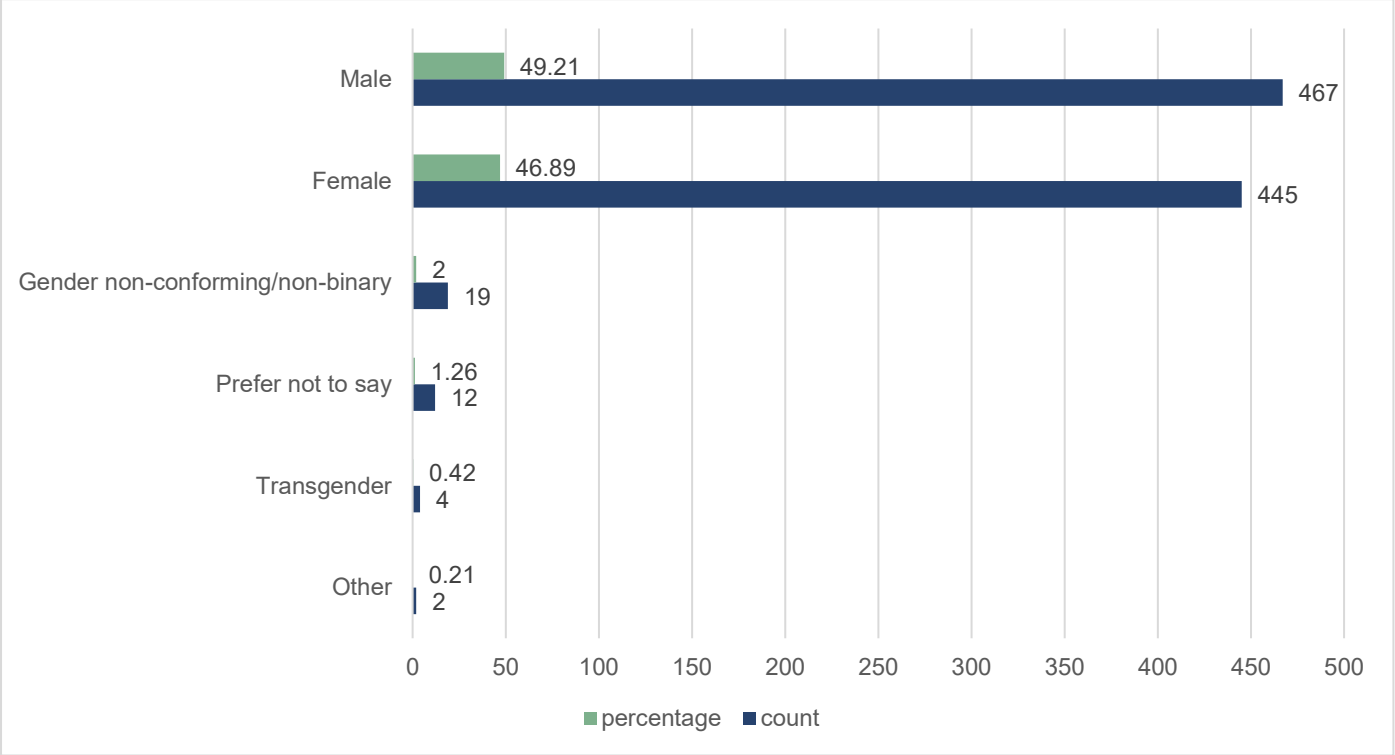
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
2000	0.58%	6
2001	0.97%	10
2002	0.87%	9
2003	0.87%	9
2004	1.26%	13
2005	2.13%	22
2006	3.09%	32
2007	3.77%	39
2008	7.44%	77
2009	11.59%	120
2010	14.40%	149
2011	17.68%	183
2012	14.78%	153
2013	16.52%	171
2014	2.80%	29
2015	0.29%	3
Other	0.97%	10
Total	100.00%	1035

Question 2: What is your connection to Wyndham?

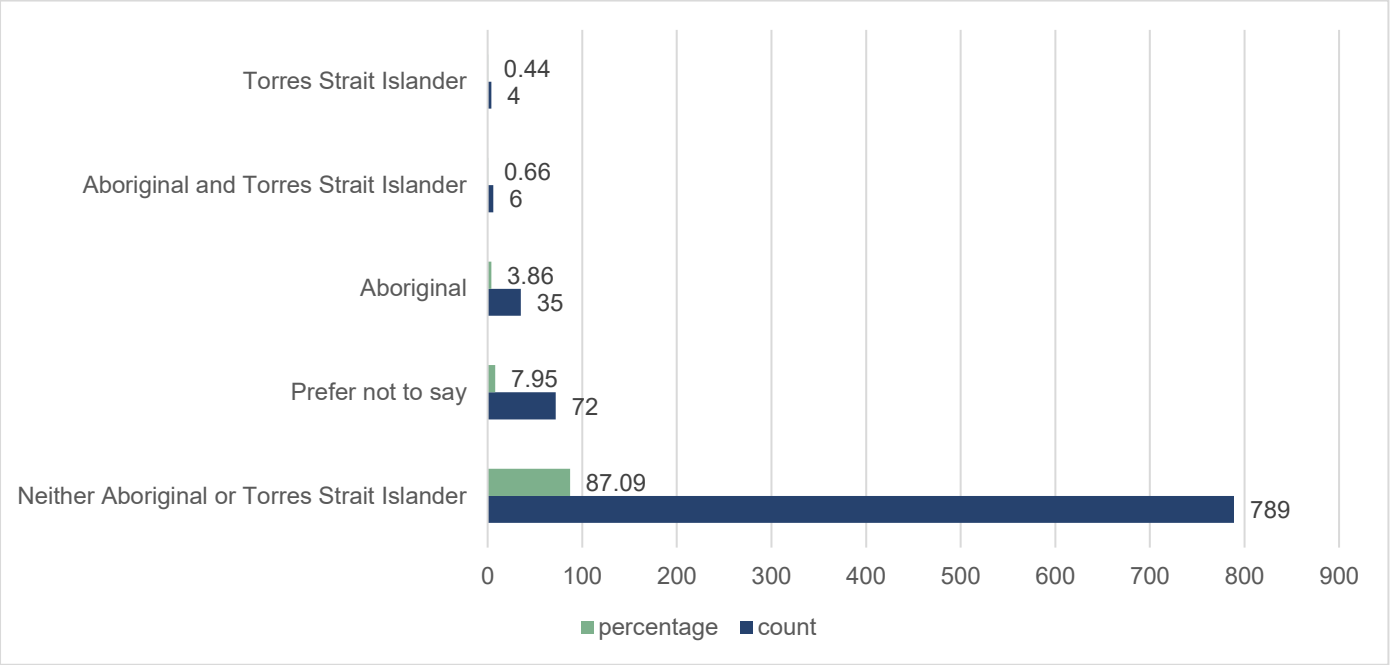


Note, the survey asked for feedback from young people aged 12-25 who have a connection to Wyndham. 86 community members didn't fit these criteria and were stopped from completing the remainder of the survey post Question 2.

Question 3: How do you identify?



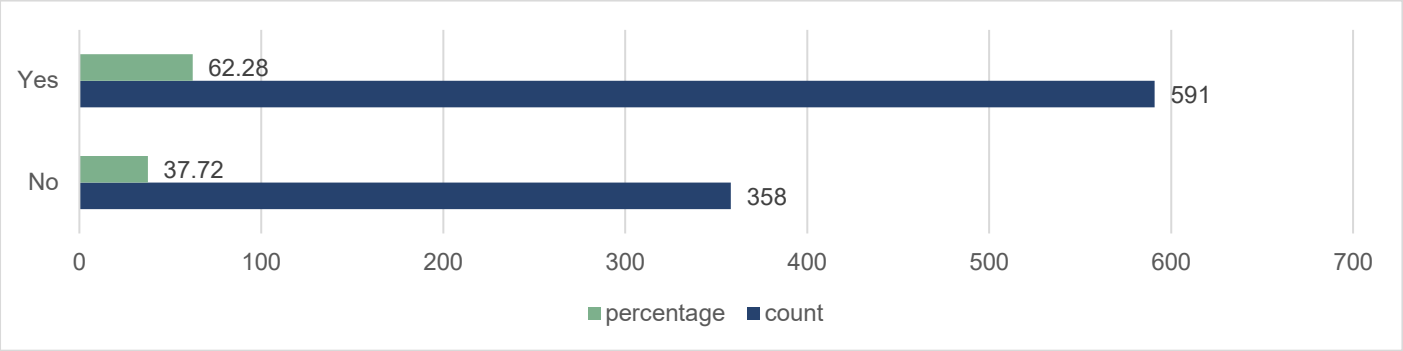
Question 4: Do you identify as...



Question 5: What country were you born in?

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Australia	57.89%	550
Bangladesh	0.32%	3
Burma (Myanmar)	0.63%	6
China	0.95%	9
Ethiopia	0.95%	9
Fiji	0.32%	3
India	14.95%	142
Indonesia	0.42%	4
Italy	0%	0
Malaysia	0.63%	6
Malta	0%	0
New Zealand	5.79%	55
Pakistan	2.11%	20
Philippines	0.63%	6
Serbia / Montenegro (fmr Yugoslavia)	0.11%	1
Singapore	0.21%	2
Somalia	0.11%	1
South Sudan	0.32%	3
Sri Lanka	0.32%	3
Thailand	2.11%	20
United Kingdom	0.74%	7
Vietnam	0.53%	5
Other	10.00%	95
Total	100.00%	950

Question 6: Do you speak a language other than English at home?

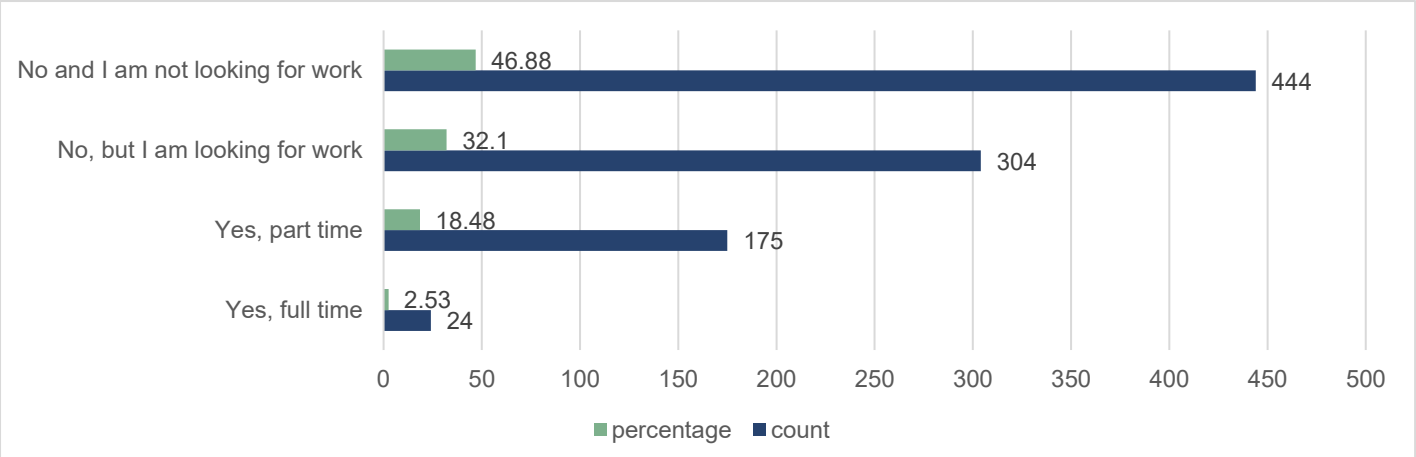


Question 7: Suburb

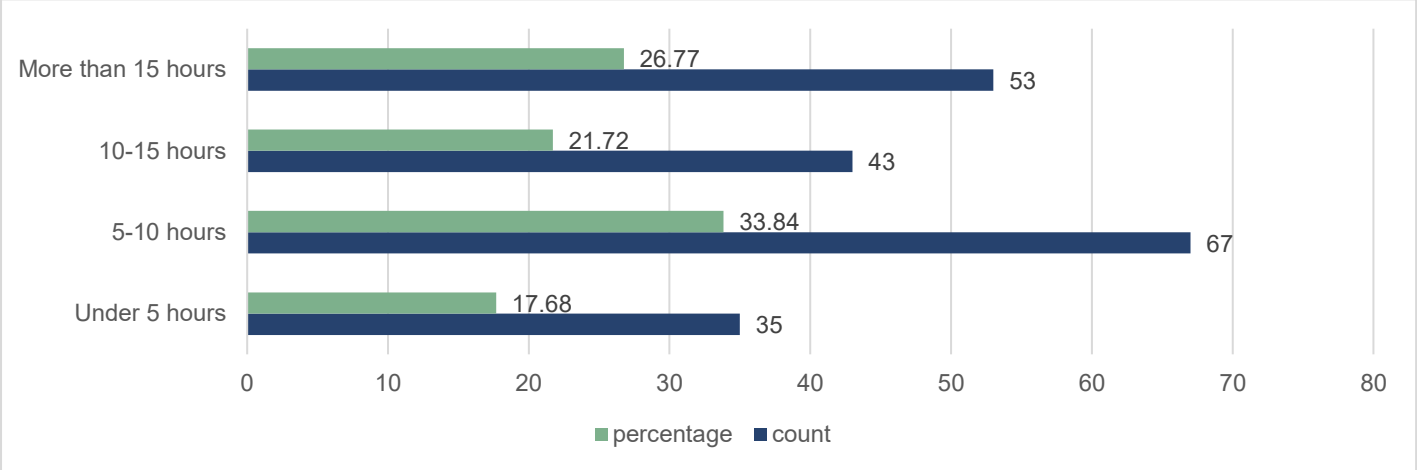
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Cocoroc	0.11%	1
Eynesbury	0.21%	2
Hoppers Crossing	9.87%	94
Laverton	0.84%	8
Laverton North	0.11%	1
Little River	0.11%	1
Mambourin	2.42%	23
Manor Lakes	14.08%	134
Mount Cottrell	0%	0
Point Cook	22.27%	212
Tarneit	9.98%	95
Truganina	5.04%	48
Werribee	17.96%	171
Werribee South	0.84%	8
Williams Landing	2.10%	20
Wyndham Vale	11.66%	111
Quandong	0.11%	1
Other	2.31%	22
Total	100.00%	952

Employment

Question 8: Are you currently working?

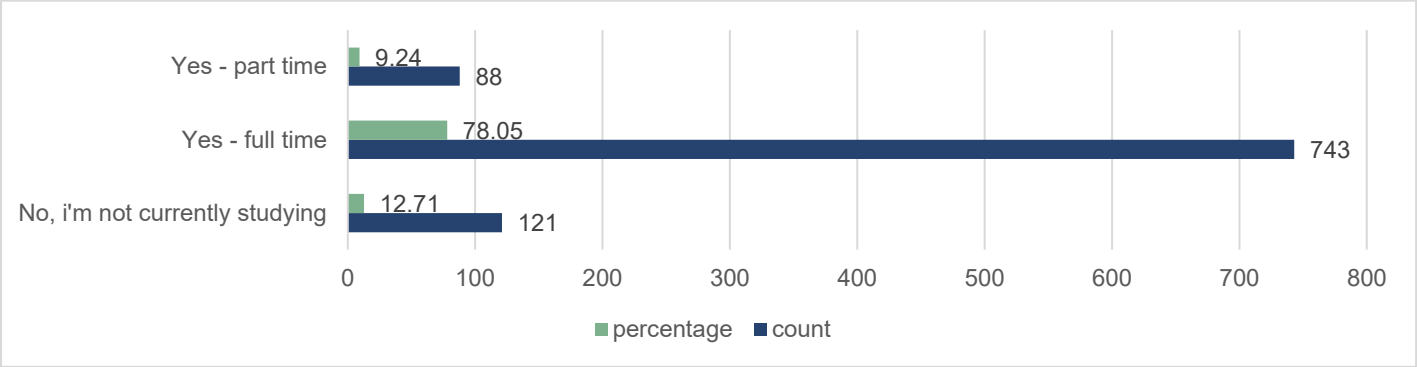


Question 9: How many hours do you work in an average week? *Note, this question was only answered by those who are currently working.*

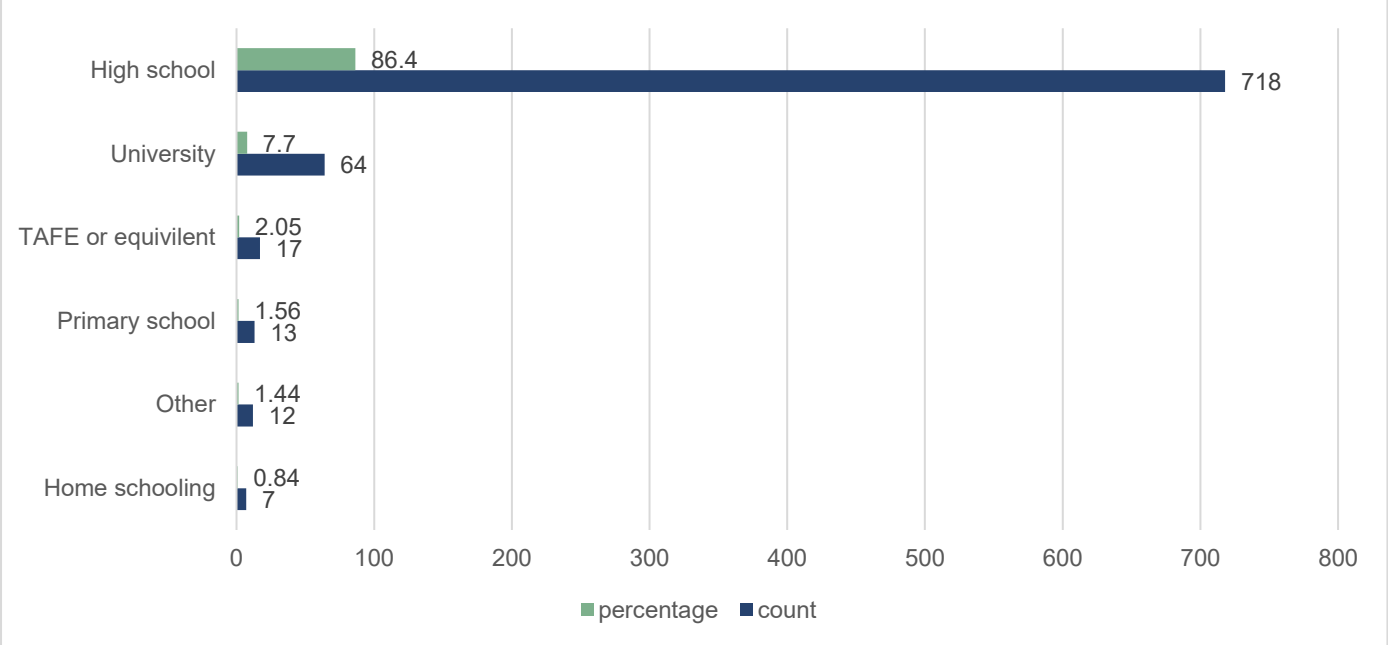


Education

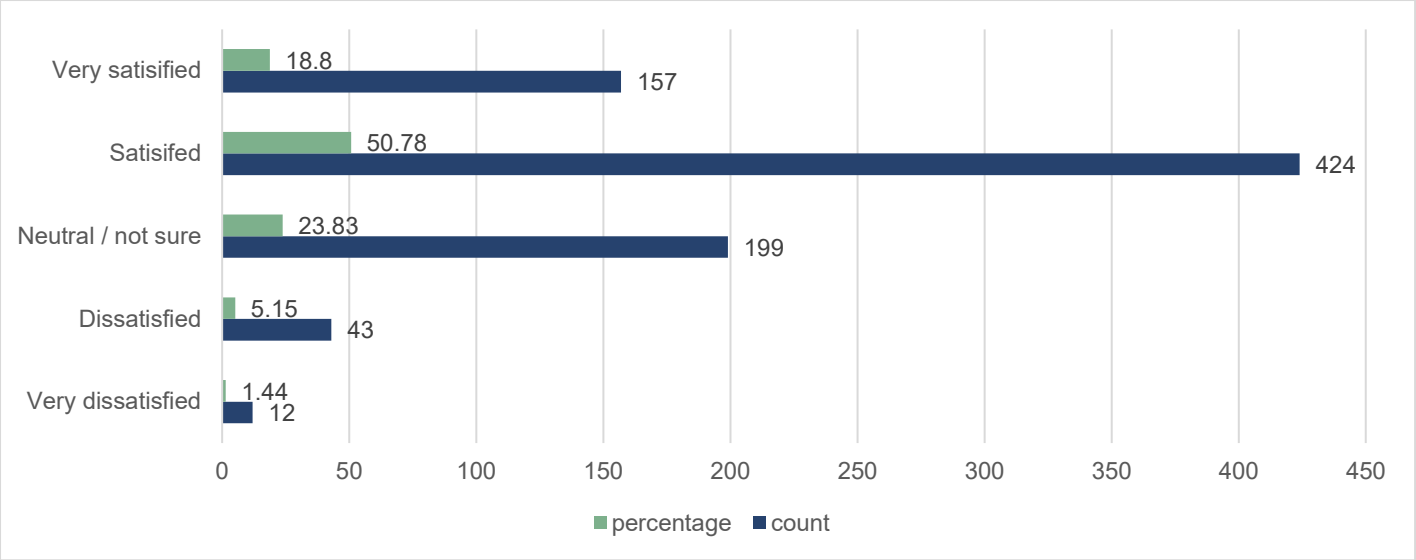
Question 10: Are you currently studying?



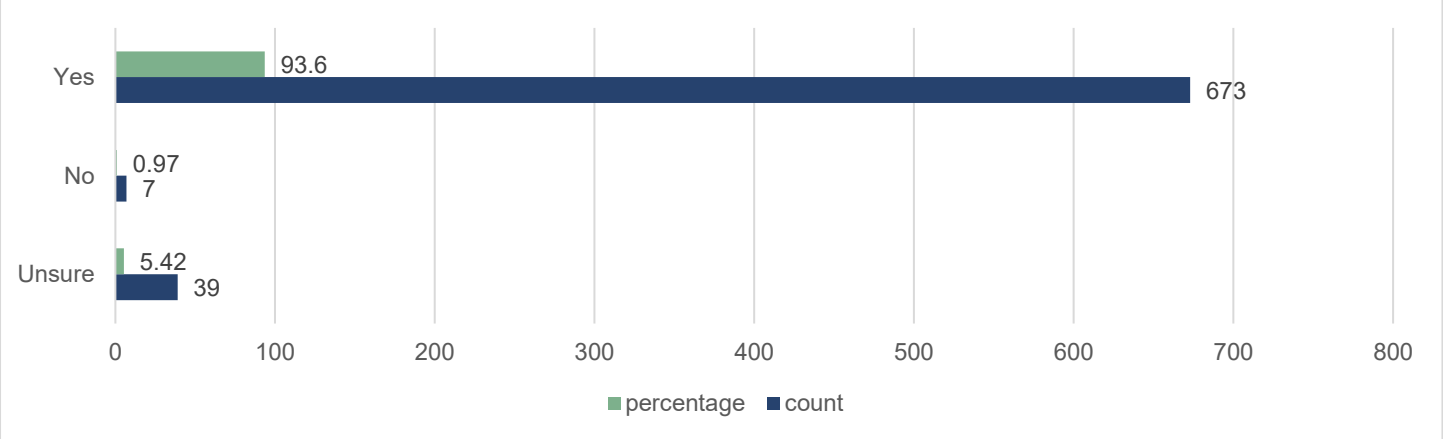
Question 11: Where are you currently studying? *Note, questions 11-14 were only answered by those who are currently studying.*



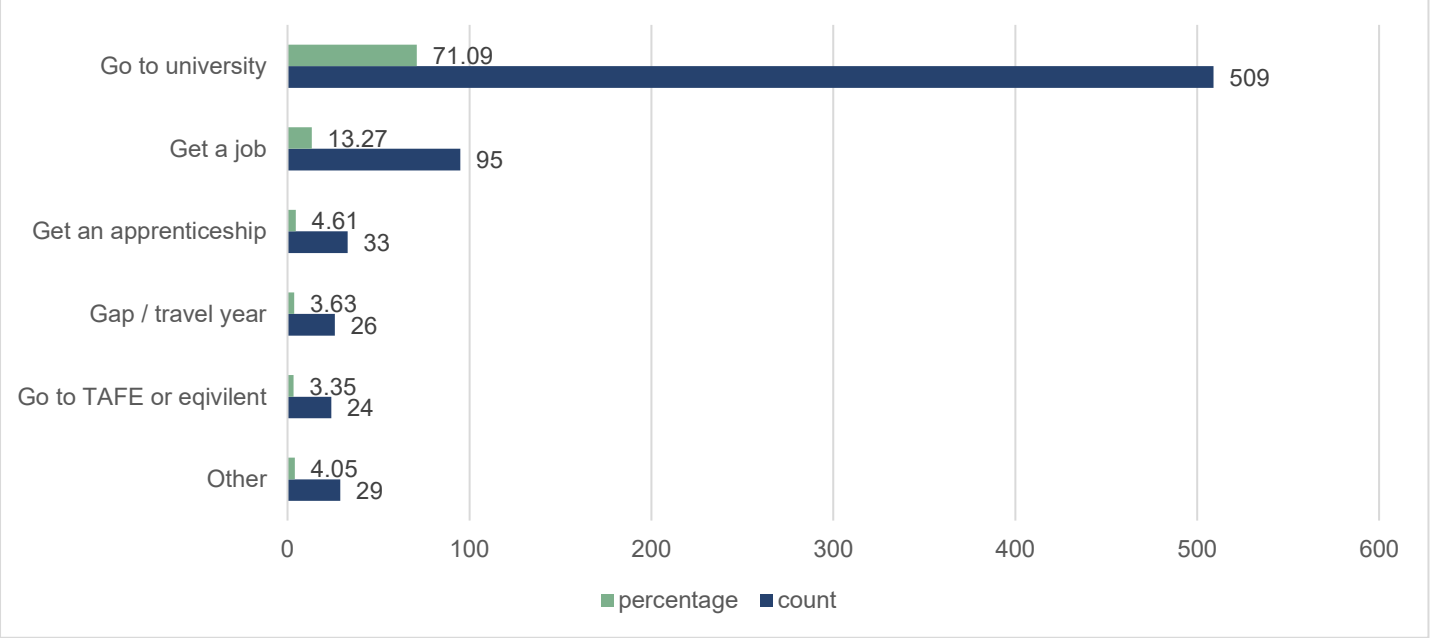
Question 12: How satisfied are you with your studies?



Question 13: Do you plan on completing Year 12?



Question 14: What are you planning on doing after you leave school?



Question 15: Is there anything that is impacting your ability to work or study? *Note, respondents could select more than one of the below options.*

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Academic ability	16.2	146
Cultural responsibilities	3.77	34
Discrimination	4.99	45
Family responsibilities	13.65	123
Financial difficulty	12.76	115
Lack of family support	5.44	49
Lack of information	11.32	102
Lack of jobs	13.32	120
Lack of school support	9.43	85
Job requirements	6.55	59
Mental health	21.98	198
Physical health	5.77	52
Transport	14.43	130
Where you live	7.88	71
I don't have any barriers to study or work	40.29	363
Other	5.77	52
Total		901

Miscellaneous

Question 16: In the past 12 months, have you been involved in any of the following activities / groups? *Note, respondents could select more than one of the below options.*

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Sports - as a participant	56.30%	536
Sports - as a spectator	25.00%	238
Volunteering	26.68%	254
Student leadership groups or activities	27.21%	259
Arts, cultural or music activities	26.05%	248
Youth groups and activities	28.99%	276
Religious groups and activities	24.79%	236
Environmental groups and activities	6.51%	62
Political groups and activities	3.36%	32
None of the above	16.49%	157
Total		952

Question 17: Thinking about the past year, how much have these things worried or affected you personally?.

Answer Choices	Not at all	A little	Quite a bit	A lot	Weighted average
Stress, pressure or feeling overwhelmed	138	337	282	181	2.54
Mental health and emotional wellbeing	261	316	212	141	2.25
Physical health or body image	283	350	173	123	2.15
Bullying, harassment or online abuse	686	173	42	26	1.36
Feeling unsafe or experiencing violence	622	224	52	31	1.45

Family or relationship conflict	484	275	125	47	1.72
Money worries or cost of living	411	283	159	77	1.89
Alcohol, drugs, vaping or gambling	813	66	31	19	1.2
Unfair treatment or discrimination	589	237	75	27	1.5
Social media or technology impacts	505	282	94	50	1.67
Climate change or environmental issues	517	278	94	38	1.63
World events or global conflicts	416	272	159	78	1.89
Social media ban	604	177	76	75	1.59

Question 18: Looking back over the past year, which one issue has affected or worried you the most?

Note, because many responses contained multiple issues, themes were coded multiple times where relevant. Percentages therefore do not total 100%.

Theme	Count	Percentage
Education, Study Pressure & Academic Performance • Education was the most frequently mentioned issue across all responses. • Many young people reported feeling pressure to achieve strong academic results and secure future study opportunities. • VCE, ATAR scores and university entry were significant concerns for secondary school students. • Students commonly described feeling overwhelmed by assessments, deadlines and balancing school with other commitments. • Academic pressure was frequently linked to stress, anxiety and concerns about future pathways.	165	31%
Mental Health, Stress & Wellbeing • Mental health was one of the most prominent concerns among respondents. • Many young people described experiencing anxiety, stress and emotional exhaustion. • Mental health challenges were often interconnected with school pressure, family issues and financial concerns. • Several respondents referenced difficulties accessing support or managing ongoing mental health conditions. • Feelings of being overwhelmed emerged consistently throughout responses.	145	27%
Cost of Living & Financial Pressure • Young people are increasingly aware of economic pressures affecting their families and futures. • Housing affordability and future home ownership featured in several responses. • Respondents reported concerns about rising prices, groceries, petrol and household expenses. • Financial stress was often linked to future employment and education decisions. • Some young people expressed concern about the long-term financial security of their generation.	75	14%
Future Uncertainty, Career & Employment • Many respondents were uncertain about what they wanted to do after school. • Access to employment and finding suitable work opportunities were common concerns. • Young people expressed pressure to make the "right" career or study decisions. • Concerns about employability and future financial independence were frequently raised. • Future uncertainty often appeared alongside academic stress and financial worries.	65	12%

Family Issues & Home Life • Family circumstances were a major influence on young people's wellbeing. • Respondents described family conflict, parental separation and difficult home environments. • A number of young people experienced grief following the loss of family members. • Family financial hardship was also identified as a source of stress. • Family challenges frequently contributed to mental health concerns.	60	11%
Body Image, Appearance & Self-Confidence • Body image remains a significant issue for many young people. • Social expectations and appearance standards influenced self-confidence and wellbeing. • Several respondents specifically mentioned weight concerns and body shaming. • Social media was often identified as contributing to body image pressures. • Body image concerns commonly overlapped with mental health challenges.	40	8%
Friendships, Relationships & Social Belonging • Social connection remains an important concern, particularly for younger respondents. • Transition periods such as changing schools or starting high school created anxiety about making friends. • Several young people reported losing friendships or feeling excluded. • Respondents highlighted concerns about belonging and feeling accepted by peers. • Friendship difficulties often impacted confidence and emotional wellbeing.	38	7%
Bullying, Discrimination & Harassment • Bullying remains a significant challenge for a portion of young people. • Respondents reported experiences of racism, religious discrimination and body shaming. • Online bullying and social media-related harassment were also mentioned. • Young people from culturally diverse backgrounds described experiences of prejudice and exclusion. • Experiences of bullying frequently contributed to mental health and self-esteem impacts.	35	7%
Global Issues, Wars & Climate Change • A notable proportion of young people are concerned about issues beyond their immediate community. • International conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, were frequently referenced. • Climate change and environmental sustainability remained important concerns. • Respondents expressed anxiety about the future state of the world. • Global events were often linked to feelings of uncertainty, fear and helplessness.	32	6%
Health, Disability & Medical Issues • Health concerns ranged from physical illnesses and injuries to neurodiversity-related challenges. • ADHD and autism were commonly referenced among respondents discussing daily life impacts. • Several young people described significant medical procedures or long-term health conditions. • Health concerns often affected participation in school, sport or social activities. • Physical and mental health challenges were frequently interconnected.	28	5%
Community Safety, Crime & Transport • Some respondents were concerned about increasing crime and violence in the community. • Young people reported feeling unsafe in some public spaces. • Reliable transport was a recurring issue, particularly for students travelling to school or university. • Long commute times and public transport cancellations impacted access to education and employment. • Safety concerns were often linked to neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.	25	5%

Social Media & Technology • The proposed social media ban was one of the most frequently referenced technology-related concerns. • Many young people felt social media plays an important role in maintaining friendships and social connections. • Some respondents identified social media as negatively affecting wellbeing and body image. • Concerns about emerging technologies, including AI and misinformation, also emerged. • Technology was viewed as both a benefit and a source of concern for young people.	24	5%

Question 19: What do you think would help most with this issue?

Note, because many responses contained multiple issues, themes were coded multiple times where relevant. Percentages therefore do not total 100%.

Theme	Count	Percentage
Mental Health Support, Counselling & Someone to Talk To • This was the most common solution identified by young people. • Many respondents wanted easier access to counselling and professional mental health support. • There was strong demand for free, confidential and anonymous services. • Young people frequently mentioned the importance of simply having someone to talk to. • Several respondents highlighted the need to reduce stigma around seeking help. **Example responses:** • 'Counselling for teens' • 'Someone to talk to' • 'Therapy' • 'More accessible and anonymous support services'	155	29%
School, Study Support & Reduced Academic Pressure **Mental health was one of the most prominent concerns among respondents.** • Many young people connected their biggest concern directly to school-related pressures. • Students wanted additional tutoring, study resources and academic support. • Calls for reduced workload, fewer assignments and less pressure were common. • Respondents highlighted the value of supportive teachers and accessible learning environments. • Several students suggested education system reform, particularly around exams and assessments. **Example responses:** • 'More support at school' • 'Tutor' • 'Less homework' • 'Reduce pressure on students'	140	26%
Support from Family, Friends & Trusted Adults • Relationships remain central to how young people manage challenges. • Family support was particularly important when dealing with stress, grief, mental health and future uncertainty. • Respondents valued trusted adults who listen and provide guidance. • Friends were frequently identified as a significant source of emotional support. • Young people emphasised the importance of being understood and supported rather than judged. **Example responses:**	95	18%

• 'My family' • 'Talking it through with people I trust' • 'Friends and family' • 'My mum'		
Employment, Career & Future Pathway Opportunities • Many respondents wanted greater access to local jobs and work experience. • Career guidance was identified as an important support need. • Young people expressed a desire for clearer future pathways. • Several respondents believed gaining employment would reduce both financial and personal stress. • Respondents highlighted challenges accessing youth-friendly employment opportunities. **Example responses:** • 'Getting a job' • 'Career counsellors' • 'More local job opportunities' • 'Workshops for work'	55	10%
Financial Relief & Cost of Living Action • Responses reflected strong concern about financial security. • Many young people wanted government intervention to ease living costs. • Housing affordability and rental costs were recurring topics. • Respondents frequently linked financial stress to future wellbeing. • Some identified budgeting and financial literacy as useful supports. **Example responses:** • 'Lower prices on groceries' • 'Cost of living relief' • 'Wage increase' • 'More financial support'	52	10%
Personal Coping Skills & Self-Management • Many respondents recognised the importance of developing personal coping strategies. • Time management and organisation were frequently suggested. • Others emphasised mindfulness, self-reflection and maintaining balance. • Young people often described wanting practical tools to manage stress. • Responses indicate an appetite for skill-building and resilience programs. **Example responses:** • 'Better time management' • 'Mindfulness' • 'Learning how to calm it down' • 'Taking a break'	48	9%
Community Connection, Activities & Social Opportunities • Many respondents wanted more opportunities to connect with peers. • Young people identified social connection as an important protective factor. • There was demand for more youth-focused activities, programs and events. • Respondents wanted spaces where they could build friendships and belonging. • Several suggested interest-based groups and community hubs. **Example responses:** • 'More youth groups' • 'Community events' • 'Activities for young people' • 'Making friends'	40	8%
Government, Policy & System Change • Some young people viewed their concerns as requiring structural solutions.	38	7%

• Respondents called for stronger government action on affordability, discrimination and global issues. • Several highlighted the importance of youth representation in decision-making. • Political leadership and accountability emerged as recurring themes. • Young people often connected personal experiences to broader policy contexts. **Example responses:** • 'Better decisions in parliament' • 'Policy changes' • 'Government action' • 'Advocacy and representation'		
Anti-Bullying, Inclusion & Safer Environments • Respondents wanted stronger responses to bullying and discrimination. • Young people highlighted the need for safer and more inclusive environments. • Many believed schools could do more to address bullying behaviour. • Education around respect, diversity and inclusion was frequently suggested. • Respondents wanted clearer consequences for harmful behaviour. **Example responses:** • 'More education on bullying' • 'Stopping bullying' • 'Safer environments' • 'Teachers better equipped to handle situations'	32	6%
Improved Services, Transport & Community Infrastructure • Transport emerged as a practical barrier affecting education, employment and social participation. • Many respondents called for more buses, improved reliability and better connectivity. • Young people also identified the need for better funded schools and community services. • Access to facilities and local opportunities influenced overall wellbeing. • Responses highlighted infrastructure gaps in Wyndham's growing communities. **Example responses:** • 'A bus route' • 'More reliable public transport' • 'More funding for schools' • 'Better transport'	28	5%
Health, Exercise & Healthy Lifestyle Supports • Respondents viewed physical health as an important contributor to wellbeing. • Exercise and sport were commonly identified as stress management tools. • Some young people wanted improved access to healthcare and medical support. • Healthy routines were often linked to better mental health outcomes. • Respondents highlighted the value of regular physical activity. **Example responses:** • 'Working out' • 'Sport' • 'Exercise' • 'Better access to medical care'	25	5%
Social Media & Technology Changes • Most comments focused on opposition to the social media ban. • Young people viewed social media as a key tool for maintaining friendships and connection. • Some respondents preferred education and safer practices rather than restrictions. • A smaller number suggested stronger protections against misinformation and harmful content. • Several respondents raised concerns about AI and technology impacts. **Example responses:**	22	4%

• ‘Remove the social media ban’ • ‘Teach us how to use it safely’ • ‘Social media back’ • ‘Better guidelines’		

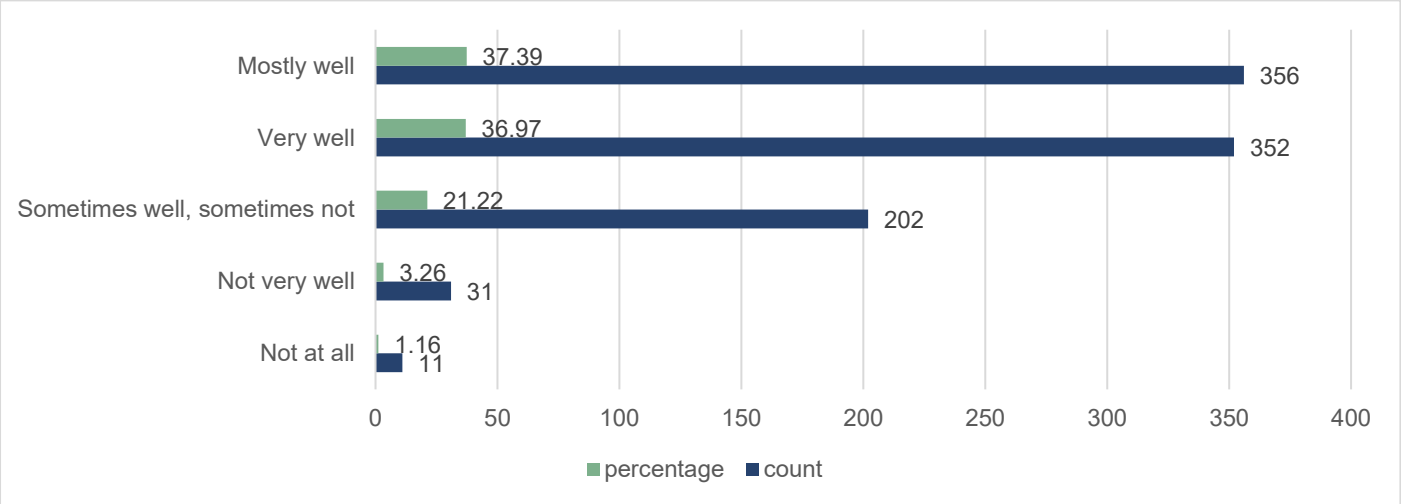
Question 20: Where would you go to for help for important issues in your life? *Note, respondents could select more than one of the below options.*

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Brother or sister	36.99%	347
Parents or guardians	66.84%	627
Relatives or family friends	23.77%	223
Friends	63.43%	595
Community services	8.64%	81
A doctor or health professional	14.50%	136
School Counsellor	13.54%	127
Teacher	20.26%	190
Internet	16.31%	153
Social media	11.41%	107
Other	6.18%	58
Total	100.00%	938

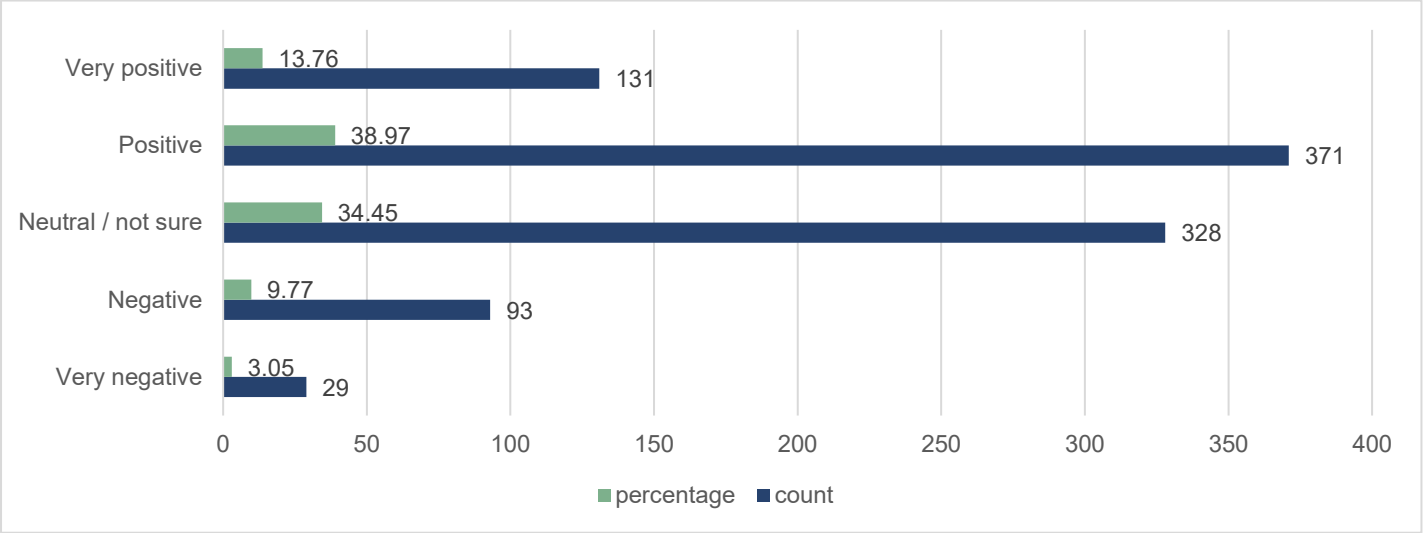
Question 21: How often do you feel you can voice your opinions about important issues..

	None of the time	Some of the time	All of the time	Count	Weighted average
With your family	107	437	408	952	2.32
With your friends	79	485	388	952	2.32
At school, TAFE or university	342	511	99	952	1.74
In public life	448	434	70	952	1.6

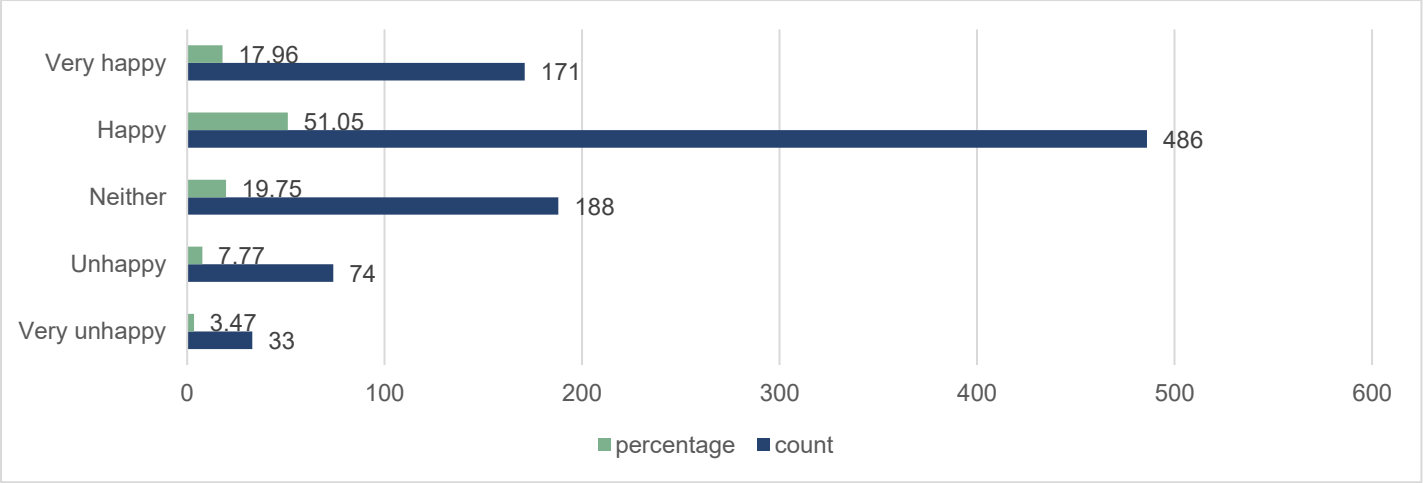
Question 22: Overall, how well does your family or household get along?



Question 23: How do you feel when you think about the future?



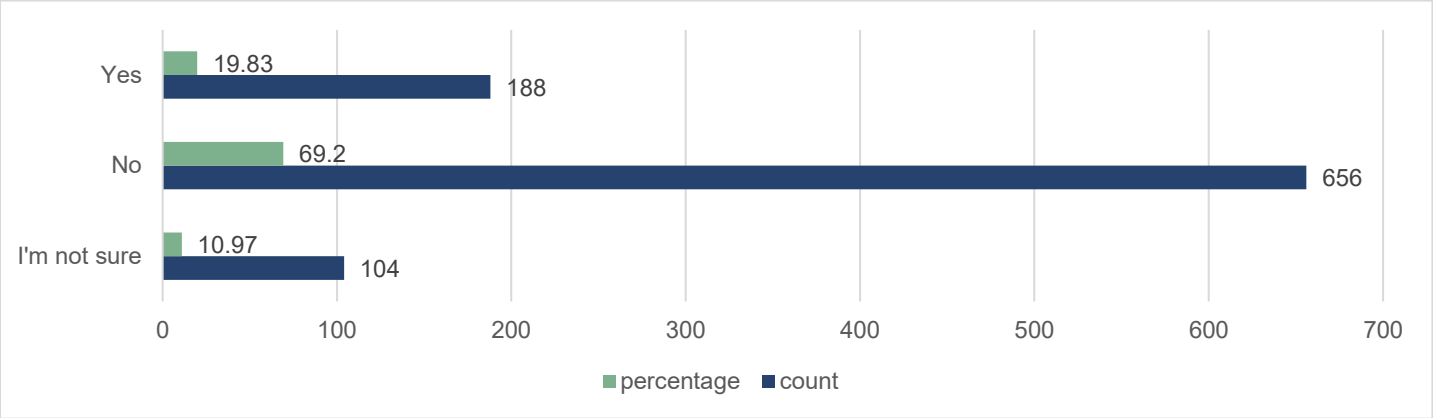
Question 24: How happy are you with your life overall?



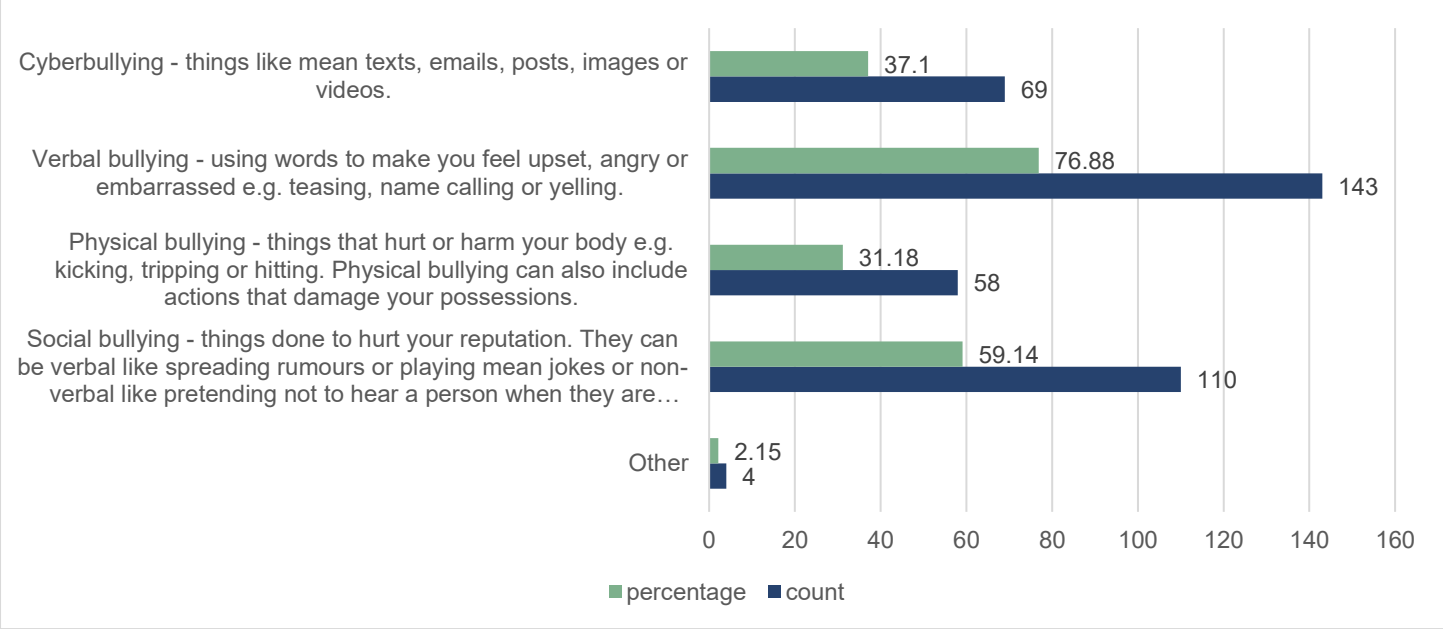
Question 25: How important are each of the following in your life?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral / not sure	Slightly important	Not important at all	Average weight
Culture	360	285	136	100	71	2.2
Family relationships	643	210	57	25	17	1.49
Friendships	617	250	53	21	11	1.49
Financial security	529	248	113	35	27	1.72
Getting a job	504	256	98	53	41	1.81
Mental health	580	214	81	43	34	1.67
Physical health	580	253	64	35	20	1.59
Study or satisfaction at school	523	263	108	29	29	1.72

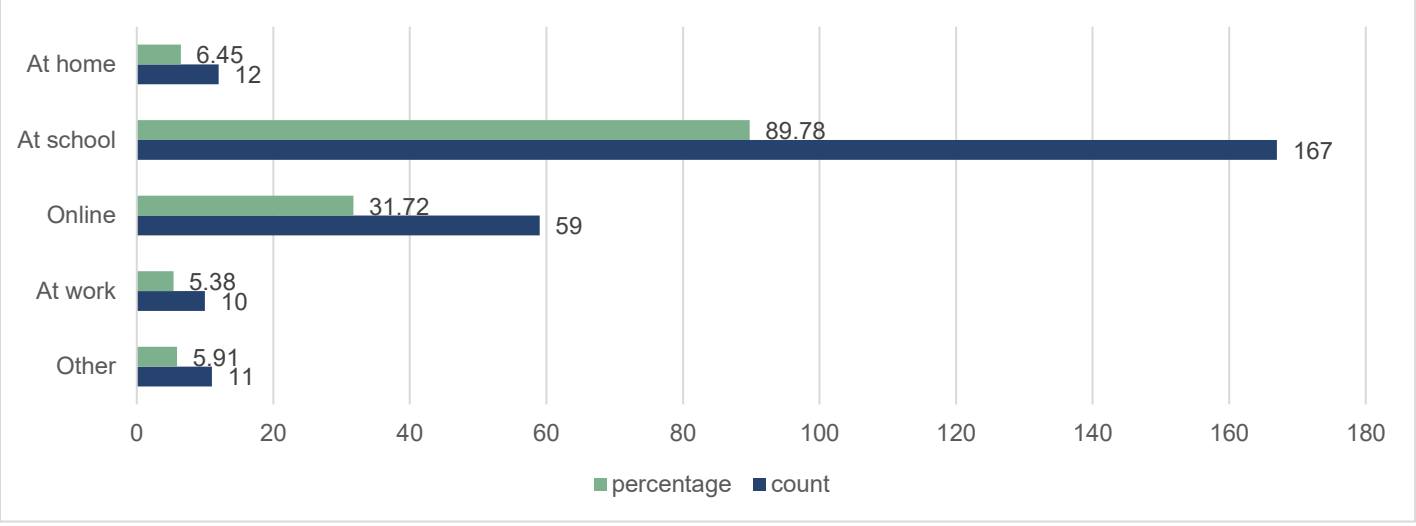
Question 26: In the last year have you experienced any bullying?



Question 27: What type of bullying have you experienced? *Note, questions 27-29 were only answered by those who responded 'Yes' to Question 26.*



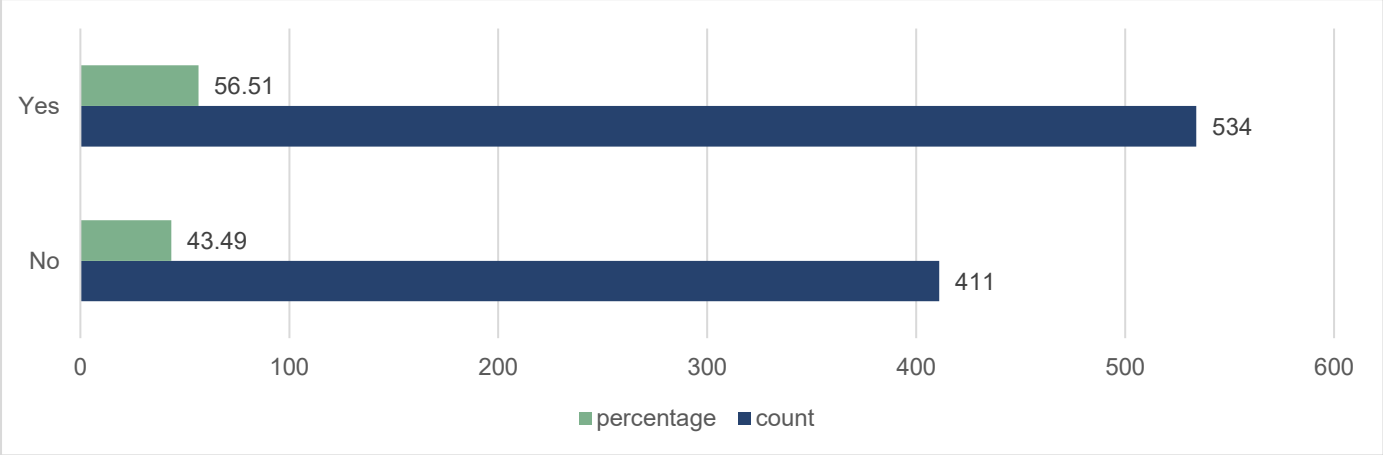
Question 28: Where were you bullied?



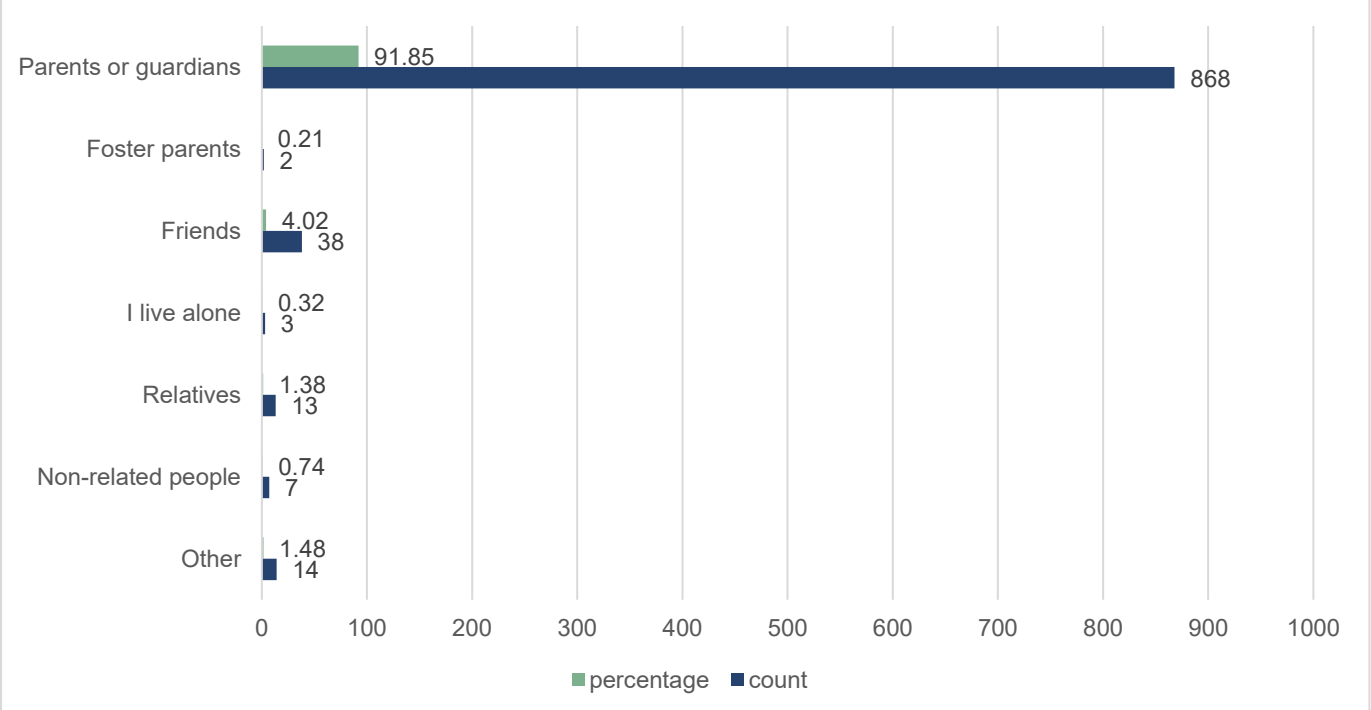
Question 29: What helped you deal with the bullying? *Note, respondents could select more than one of the below options.*

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Walking away from the situation	43.01%	80
Confronting the bully	17.74%	33
Distracting yourself with other things (e.g. reading or exercising etc.)	47.31%	88
Talking to a support person (e.g. School Counsellor, Mental Health Professional etc.)	23.12%	43
Changing schools	6.99%	13
Talking to friends	32.80%	61
Talking to family	29.57%	55
Nothing has helped deal with the bullying	19.35%	36
Other	3.76%	7
Total		186

Question 30: Have you seen or witnessed bullying in the last year?



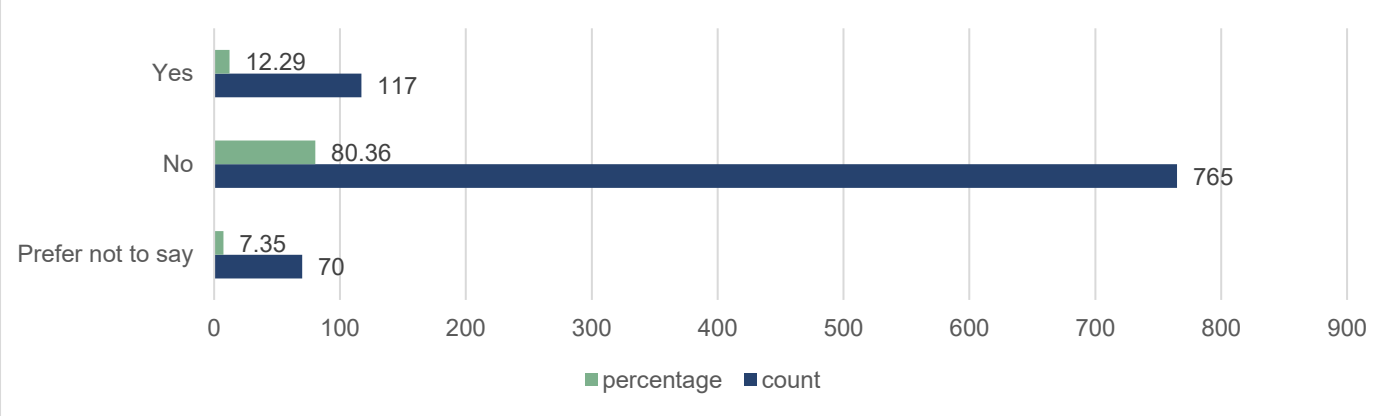
Question 31: In the last 12 months, who did you spend more of your time living with?



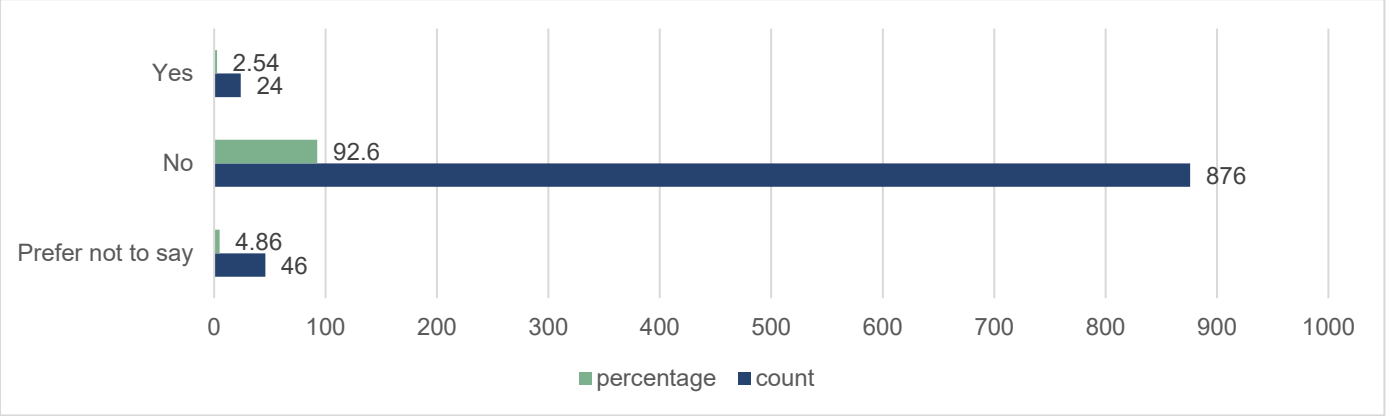
Question 32: Overall, how well does your current housing meet your needs in relation to the following?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral / not sure	Slightly important	Not important at all	Average weight
Access to services you need	577	230	91	27	10	1.57
Distance from public transport	478	240	147	36	28	1.81
Distance to your family and friends	425	250	156	55	45	1.97
Number of bedrooms	557	231	105	25	12	1.61
Comfort (things like light and temperature)	593	231	80	17	10	1.52

Question 33: Do you have a long-term health condition or disability?



Question 34: Are you the main provider of unpaid care for an older person or someone with a disability, mental illness, or chronic illness?

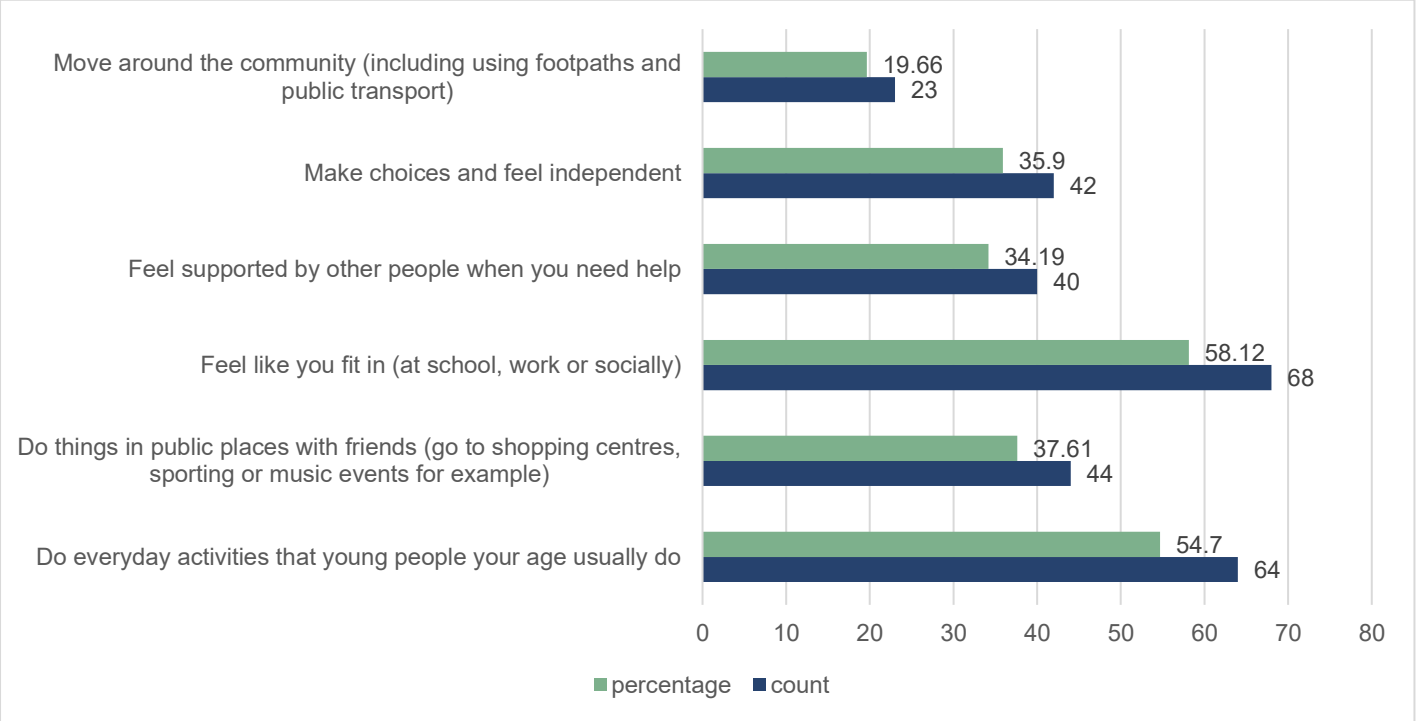


Question 35: What type of disability or long term health condition do you have? *Note, questions 35-36 were only responded to by those who responded 'Yes' to Question 33.*

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Physical disability	11.11	13
Intellectual or cognitive disability	3.42	4
Autism Spectrum	24.79	29
Vision	4.27	5
Hearing	2.56	3
Neurological Disability	11.11	13
Psychosocial Disability	5.98	7

Prefer not to say	11.97	14
Other	24.79	29
Total	**100%**	**117**

Question 36: Does your disability make it hard for you to do any of the following?



In person engagement

In addition to the online and digital communications and promotion, the Youth Survey was actively promoted through a range of in-person engagement opportunities to maximise participation from young people across Wyndham. Survey promotion was incorporated into existing Youth Services programs, including seasonal programs, drop-in sessions, and events, allowing staff to engage directly with young people and encourage survey completion.

Youth participants involved in the Youth Voice and Civic Participation programs also played an important role in promoting the survey to their peers. Further promotion occurred through secondary school partnerships via Student Representative Councils (SRCs) and Compass, multiple career expos, Youth Services led events such as Harmony Day, network meetings including the Wyndham Workers with Young People Network and Community Support Leadership Forum, and everyday interactions with community members accessing Youth Services, including food relief and Youth Centre reception areas.

These face-to-face engagement opportunities complemented the broader communication campaign and helped ensure the survey reached a diverse cross-section of young people, and stakeholders who work or interact directly with the wider young community and families of Wyndham.

Next steps

Responses will help guide Wyndham City's Youth Services programs, activities and facilities over the next year. The results will also be shared with other organisations that support young people across the community.