

Appendix 1 - Technical notes

Sampling method and strategy

A stratified random sample of children and young people enrolled in Year 3 to Year 12 (in 2016) across WA was drawn. The sampling frame of 1,069 schools comprised all schools in WA teaching the relevant years.

Stratification was by geographic location (metropolitan and regional) and educational sector (government, Catholic, independent).

The desired sample size for the main sample was 1,400 students (random sample) and for the additional sample 600 students (non-random sample). The anticipated response rates were 80 per cent for schools and 10 per cent for students.

A list of 166 schools was selected (141 selected randomly, 25 non-randomly). Schools were selected in three stages following a lower than expected response rate from schools.

A direct approach was made to principals of all selected schools to request the involvement of students in their school.

Of the 166 invited schools:

- 104 school principals agreed to participate (this represents a response rate of 63%)
- 2 schools participated remotely (no CCYP staff member present)
- 6 schools cancelled consultations due to a zero-response rate from students
- 80 schools were part of the main sample
- 18 schools were part of the additional sample
- 47 schools were in a regional area
- 4 schools were education support centres
- 1 school was a remote community school.

When the principal's consent was obtained specific year levels from Year 3 to Year 12 within those schools were then selected, determined by the size of the school and the needs of the school and its students (for example, Year 12 students had limited availability due to exams).¹⁴⁵ Students and their parents/guardians in the selected year levels were provided with information about the consultation including consent forms for both students and parents/guardians.

In total, 1,812 students across 98 schools participated in the survey and 1,174 students participated in the group discussion.

Sample characteristics

The characteristics of the student sample are presented in Table A2.1.

The characteristics of the sampled schools are in Table A2.2.

Table A2.1: Sample characteristics (main sample only)

| | N | Student sample % | Population % |
|---|-------|------------------|--------------|
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 611 | 42.0 | 51.0 |
| Female | 838 | 57.6 | 49.0 |
| Other* | 6 | 0.4 | n/a |
| School year | | | |
| Primary (Year 3 to Year 6) | 774 | 53.2 | 43.3 |
| Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12) | 681 | 46.8 | 56.7 |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status | | | |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 113 | 7.8 | 6.9 |
| Not Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander | 1,342 | 92.2 | 93.1 |
| Where born | | | |
| Australia | 1,161 | 79.8 | 80.2 |
| Elsewhere | 294 | 20.2 | 19.8 |
| Location of student's school | | | |
| Metropolitan | 934 | 64.2 | 78.5 |
| Regional | 521 | 35.8 | 21.5 |
| School sector | | | |
| Government | n/a** | n/a** | 66.5 |
| Non-government | n/a** | n/a** | 33.5 |

* Gender option 'other' not available in Year 3 to Year 6 survey.

** Not available and not asked.

Source: Includes data from Department of Education WA 2016, *Statistical Reports* [various], <www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolinformation/detcms/navigation/statistical-reports/?page=1#toc1>; ABS 2017, *Migration, Australia, 2015-16*, cat. no. 3412.0, <www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3412.02015-16?OpenDocument>; ABS 2016, *Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2016*, cat. no. 3101.0, <www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3101.0Jun%202016?OpenDocument>

Table A2.2: School characteristics (main sample only)

| | N | Student sample % | Population % |
|---|-----|------------------|--------------|
| Location of school | | | |
| Metropolitan | 52 | 65.0 | 64.0 |
| Regional | 28 | 35.0 | 36.0 |
| School sector | | | |
| Government | 57 | 71.3 | 72.0 |
| Non-government | 23 | 28.8 | 28.0 |
| School tier (primary or secondary) | | | |
| Primary (Year 3 to Year 6) | 42* | 48.8 | 63.8 |
| Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12) | 44* | 51.2 | 36.2 |

* Includes six schools teaching both primary and secondary year levels.

Source: Includes data from Department of Education WA 2016, *Statistical Reports* [various], <www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolinformation/detcms/navigation/statistical-reports/?page=1#toc1>; ABS 2017, *Migration, Australia, 2015-16*, cat. no. 3412.0, <www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3412.02015-16?OpenDocument>; ABS 2016, *Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2016*, cat. no. 3101.0, <www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3101.0Jun%202016?OpenDocument>

Individual student survey

Separate surveys were developed for Year 3 to Year 6 students and Year 7 to Year 12 students based on selected questions from the New Zealand Youth'12 Survey, the most recent survey in New Zealand's Youth2000 national survey series.¹⁴⁶ Some additional demographic questions were added and the wording of other questions amended to reflect the Western Australian context.¹⁴⁷

In contextualising the survey for Western Australia, feedback was sought from the Reference Group and the survey was trialled with the Commissioner's 2016 Advisory Committees and two groups of primary school students.¹⁴⁸ These groups of students provided feedback on the wording of questions, the timing and the process of completing the survey. The final Year 7 to Year 12 survey comprised 68 questions and took between 20 and 35 minutes for students to complete. The Year 3 to Year 6 survey comprised 31 questions and took between 10 and 25 minutes for students to complete.

Further modifications were made to the Year 3 to Year 6 Survey to develop a survey for students in education support centres and schools.

See Appendix 2 for the survey questions.

The full version of each survey is available from the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA's website and upon request.

The surveys were delivered through the online platform SurveyGizmo. Audio versions of the survey questions were embedded in the survey to assist students with low English literacy.

Students completed the survey individually using hand-held internet devices and with the support of the Commissioner's and school staff (if and when required). A wireless internet connection was used to facilitate access to the survey, rather than relying on individual schools' networks.

Group discussions

The group discussions explored in more detail the themes identified in previous consultations by CCYP with children and young people and the themes underlying the survey questions. The four themes were learning, relationships, support and family. The final question of the individual survey was used as the introductory question for the group discussions.

The Reference Group provided feedback on the group discussion questions and they were trialled with the Commissioner's 2016 Advisory Committees and two groups of primary school students, who also provided feedback.

See Appendix 3 for the group discussion questions.

Most students sat in small groups (usually of three) for the discussion and responded independently to questions by writing on prepared A2 sheets, with the Commissioner's staff (and sometimes school staff) moving between groups to facilitate. For some schools a whole group discussion was facilitated and scribed by the Commissioner's staff.

For almost all students who took part in the group discussion it followed the individual survey. The majority of students completed the introductory question and then two other questions, however, factors including time constraints meant there were variations to this process.

The group discussion worksheets were transcribed then coded and analysed using NVivo 11 Pro software. Thematic analysis was used to identify, explore and report on themes arising from the analysis of group discussion data.

Parent survey

A parent survey was developed to explore parent's views on their child's experiences of school and learning. The questions for parents were closely aligned with the questions in the Year 7 to Year 12 individual student survey.

The parent survey comprised 34 questions. It is available from the Commissioner for Children and Young People WA's website and upon request.

Parents/guardians who provided consent for their child's participation in the consultation were asked to provide their email contact if they wished to participate in the parent survey. A link to the survey on SurveyGizmo was then provided to them following their child/children's participation.