

4111.0



Youth, Australia: A Social Report

1997



NEW ISSUE

Youth, Australia: A Social Report

1997

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 16 DEC 1997

ABS Catalogue No. 4111.0

ISBN 0 642 23272 5

© Commonwealth of Australia 1997

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from the Australian Government Publishing Service. Requests or inquiries concerning reproduction should be addressed to the Manager, Commonwealth Information Services, Australian Government Publishing Service, GPO Box 84, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

In all cases the ABS must be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of an ABS publication or other product.

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

INQUIRIES

- For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back page of this publication.
- For further information about these statistics, contact Jeff Carlton on Perth (08) 9360 5374.

CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	v
Symbols and other usages	vi
Main findings	1
Youth indicators summary tables	4
 1 Young people in the population	
The youth population	6
Geographic distribution	8
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth	9
Youth born overseas	11
Overseas students	14
Additional tables	16
 2 Living arrangements and housing	
Living arrangements	19
Indigenous youth	21
Partnering	22
Youth mobility	24
Housing	25
Additional table	28
 3 Health	
Health risk factors	29
Medical conditions	33
Health-related actions	35
Cause of death	36
Indigenous youth	39
 4 Education	
Participation in education	40
Education and work	45
Educational attainment	46
Literacy	49
Additional tables	51
 5 Working Life	
Labour force status	55
Labour force participation	56
Employed young people	59
Unemployed youth	63
Additional tables	67

6	Income	
	Income distribution	69
	Sources of income	72
	Young income units	74
	Expenditure	76
7	Social Participation	
	Time use	79
	Sport and physical activities	80
	Cultural activities	81
	Indigenous youth and culture	83
	Community participation	84
	Concern for safety and the environment	86
	Religious activities	87
	Additional tables	89
8	Crime and Safety	
	Young people in prison	92
	Victims	94
	Satisfaction with police services	96
	Young women's safety	96
	Indigenous youth	98

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

List of references	101
Glossary	102

PREFACE

The aim of this publication is to describe social conditions of the youth population across a number of aspects of young people's lives. *Youth Australia: A Social Report* brings data together from the ABS and other official sources. Youth are defined as those aged 15 to 24 years, in line with internationally accepted standards. This age group encompasses differing stages, not only of physical development, but also of educational and employment status, living arrangements, dependency and citizenship.

The information is presented in eight chapters, and organised by major areas of social concern: population, living arrangements and housing, health, education, working life, income, social participation, crime and safety. The report also includes summary tables which illustrate the changes that have taken place over the last decade and highlight State and Territory differences.

The production of this report reflects domestic and international concern with issues affecting young people, and with the need to produce regular national social reports on specific population groups. *Youth Australia: A Social Report* is intended to be the first of a regular series of publications focusing on population groups. Others planned will focus on children and older people.

ABS publications draw extensively on information provided by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABBREVIATIONS

CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NH&MRC	National Health & Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Survey
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

SYMBOLS

n.a.	not available
p	preliminary data
*	this estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
**	subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (relative standard error greater than 50%)
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable

OTHER USAGES

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals.

MAIN FINDINGS

POPULATION

At 30 June 1997 there were 2,667,700 young people aged 15–24 years in Australia. They made up 14% of the total population. As the population ages the youth share of the total population is expected to fall to about 12% by mid next century.

There were approximately 72,000 Indigenous youth in the population. This is 2.7% of all youth. Nearly 15% of young people were born overseas. The most significant overseas birthplace is UK and Ireland. However, the proportion of young overseas born from the UK and Ireland is declining having fallen from 33% in 1986 to 15% in 1996.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Young people are deferring marriage and child bearing and spending longer in the parental home. In 1996, 88% of 15–19 year-olds and 46% of 20–24 year-olds were still living with their parents.

Marriage rates have declined considerably and when young people form a partnership they are much more likely to be in a de facto relationship. Among 20–24 year-olds 20% were in a partnership and 50% of these were de facto relationships.

HEALTH

Young women and men are generally healthier than the older adult population. They experience less illness, have fewer visits to doctors and take less medication. In 1995 19% of 15–24 year-olds had visited a doctor in the last two weeks compared with 26% of people 25 years and over.

Rates of smoking are higher for young people. In 1995 30% of 18–24 year-olds were current smokers compared with 23% of those over 25. While half as likely as older people to be overweight or obese, younger people (particularly young women) are more than twice as likely to be underweight.

Deaths among young people occur relatively infrequently and deaths of young males outnumber those of young females by a factor of 3:1. The leading cause of death is motor vehicle accidents followed by suicide.

EDUCATION

Among youth, there has been an increase in education participation at both secondary and tertiary level. Over the last 10 years retention rates to year 12 have risen from 49% to 71%. Participation in tertiary education has risen to 29% of the 20–24 age group.

The vast majority of applications to enrol in educational institutions are successful. Only 2% of 15–19 year-olds and 1% of 20–24 year-olds who had applied to enrol in 1996 failed to gain a place.

WORK

As young people spend longer in education, so participation in the labour force has declined, particularly for those aged 15–19 years. Those in this age group who are working are more likely to be in part-time jobs.

Young people are at higher risk of unemployment than older people. In August 1997 the youth unemployment rate was 16% compared with 8% for all persons. Unemployed young people accounted for 37% of all unemployed persons.

INCOME

Youth incomes are generally low as a result of their delayed entry to the full-time work force. One in five young people receive no regular income and are dependent on their parents for income support.

Over the last ten years full time earnings of young people have declined relative to those of adults (aged over 25 years). In 1995 the average weekly earnings of young people aged 20–24 years who were employed full time was 72% of adult earnings, down from 77% in 1985. The corresponding proportions for 15–19 year-olds were 45% in 1995 and 48% in 1985.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Young people spent more of their leisure time on social life and entertainment, 2.3 hours per day compared with 1.5 hours per day for persons 25 and over. Young people play more sport and attend more sporting events than older people with males more involved than females.

Young people are less likely to be involved in volunteer work in the community than older people.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Young people are over-represented in the criminal justice system. They made up 29% of the prison population in 1995, although this is down from 39% in 1985. The majority of young prisoners were male and 25 % were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Young women are more at risk of violence than older women. In 1996 16% of women aged 18–24 years had experienced incidents of violence in the previous 12 months compared with 5% of women 25 years and over.

YOUTH INDICATORS—National summary(a)

	Units	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
YOUTH POPULATION												
Estimated resident population												
15–19 years	'000	1 347.2	1 386.3	1 407.7	1 413.2	1 402.4	1 364.1	1 322.4	1 292.9	1 275.6	1 268.1	1 279.0
20–24 years	'000	1 336.7	1 327.2	1 325.8	1 335.9	1 358.4	1 396.8	1 430.1	1 442.2	1 438.7	1 427.9	1 396.7
Males aged 15–24 years	'000	1 369.0	1 382.2	1 391.5	1 399.4	1 405.9	1 405.9	1 402.3	1 393.7	1 383.9	1 374.6	1 364.1
Females aged 15–24 years	'000	1 315.0	1 331.3	1 342.0	1 349.7	1 354.8	1 354.9	1 350.2	1 341.4	1 330.4	1 321.3	1 311.7
Youth proportion of total population	%	16.8	16.7	16.5	16.4	16.2	16	15.7	15.5	15.2	14.9	14.6
Proportion of all youth living with family												
15–19 years	%	89.8	89.3	88.9	89.3	88.7	88.8	88.9	88.9	86.4	86.5	86.3
20–24 years	%	42.0	42.5	43.3	44.7	46.8	47.2	47.4	46.1	44.7	45.2	44.5
LABOUR FORCE												
Youth participation rate	%	69.6	68.7	69.1	70.5	70.4	67.6	68.3	66.8	68.4	69.7	70.3
Youth employment rate	%	85.5	85.4	87.2	89.6	86.8	82.9	80.5	81.4	83.8	85.6	85.2
Youth unemployment rate	%	14.5	14.6	12.8	10.4	13.2	17.1	19.5	18.6	16.2	14.4	14.8
Unemployed youth as a proportion of all 15–24 year-olds	%	10.1	10.0	8.9	7.3	9.3	11.5	13.3	12.4	11.1	10.1	10.4
Proportion of employed youth who worked full-time	%	79.8	76.9	77.4	74.8	73.8	69.9	66.5	66.6	64.7	64.0	61.6
EDUCATION												
Proportion of all youth attending												
School	%	n.a.	n.a.	25.3	24.8	24.9	25.8	n.a.	25.5	25.9	25.6	26.1
Higher education	%	n.a.	n.a.	8.7	9.8	n.a.	11.9	n.a.	13.0	12.8	13.6	13.9
TAFE	%	n.a.	n.a.	8.2	8.7	n.a.	8.8	n.a.	8.9	8.4	8.5	9.0
Year 12 retention rates												
Males	%	45.6	49.4	53.4	55.5	58.3	66.1	72.5	71.9	69.9	66.7	65.9
Females	%	52.1	57.0	61.8	65.2	69.9	76.7	82.0	81.4	79.9	77.9	77.0
HEALTH												
Leading causes of death												
Suicide	no.	361	417	448	380	439	462	455	400	431	434	407
Motor vehicle traffic accidents	no.	1 040	989	1 010	931	785	696	604	599	588	594	546
Youth suicide as a proportion of all suicides	%	18.2	18.6	20.4	18.1	20.3	19.6	19.8	19.2	19.1	18.3	17.0
CRIME AND JUSTICE												
Proportion of all prisoners less than 25 years old	%	36.5	35.7	34.8	33.0	33.2	33.0	32.2	30.4	29.6	28.8	n.a.

(a) Reference periods for population estimates and projections are at 30 June, labour force data at August and education figures at September each year.

YOUTH INDICATORS—State summary

	Units	Reference period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
YOUTH IN THE POPULATION											
Estimated resident population											
15–19 years	'000	Jun 1996	422.7	314.4	242.8	98.0	128.4	33.8	13.8	25.1	1 279.0
20–24 years	'000	Jun 1996	462.9	347.9	265.1	105.4	136.8	32.7	17.2	28.5	1 396.7
Males aged 15–24 years	'000	Jun 1996	450.7	337.0	258.8	104.1	136.3	33.7	16.3	27.1	1 364.1
Females aged 15–24 years	'000	Jun 1996	434.8	325.4	249.1	99.3	128.8	32.8	14.7	26.5	1 311.7
Youth proportion of total population	%	Jun 1996	14.3	14.5	15.2	13.8	15.0	14.0	17.0	17.4	14.6
Projected youth proportion of total population	%	2051	11.8	11.5	11.9	11.0	11.8	10.1	13.7	12.3	11.7
LABOUR FORCE											
Youth participation rate	%	Aug 1996	68.5	70.1	71.9	69.5	74.8	68.1	66.9	71.0	70.3
Youth employment rate	%	Aug 1996	86.9	85.2	83.5	82.3	86.5	79.1	87.8	82.6	85.2
Youth unemployment rate	%	Aug 1996	13.1	14.7	16.5	17.7	13.5	20.9	12.2	17.4	14.8
Unemployed youth as a proportion of all 15–24 year-olds	%	Aug 1996	9.0	10.3	11.9	12.3	10.1	14.2	8.2	12.4	10.4
Proportion of employed youth who worked full-time	%	Aug 1996	63.2	60.6	63.7	57.2	59.0	63.9	62.7	54.9	61.6
EDUCATION											
Proportion of all youth attending											
School	%	Sep 1996	27.0	28.2	23.7	26.5	20.8	28.7	30.5	27.5	26.1
Higher education	%	Sep 1996	12.8	15.9	13.2	14.2	13.7	8.8	9.5	22.2	13.9
TAFE	%	Sep 1996	10.9	8.9	5.8	7.7	12.0	6.9	3.6	6.7	9.0
Year 12 retention rates											
Males	%	Sep 1996	62.9	68.3	71.3	62.6	64.6	49.4	40.4	91.7	65.9
Females	%	Sep 1996	72.7	82.7	82.0	74.6	77.0	56.9	41.7	90.8	77.0
HEALTH											
Leading causes of death											
Suicide	no.	1995	123	107	93	39	53	11	4	4	434
Motor vehicle accident	no.	1995	191	122	142	45	63	19	18	6	606
Youth suicide as a proportion of all suicides	%	1995	16.1	18.9	18.8	19.5	24.3	16.7	17.4	11.8	18.3
CRIME AND JUSTICE											
Youth proportion of all crime victims	%	1995	29.1	32.1	29.0	34.5	29.3	35.8	23.4	36.6	30.4
Proportion of all prisoners less than 25 years old	%	1995	26.8	20.8	34.6	30.7	35.0	38.1	28.4	27.2	28.8

CHAPTER 1

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE POPULATION

THE YOUTH POPULATION

At 30 June 1997, there were 2,667,700 young people aged 15–24 years in Australia. Of these, 1,361,700 (or 51%) were males and 1,306,000 were females.

There were greater numbers in the older ages in this group, with 1,373,000 (or 51%) 20–24 year-olds, compared with 1,294,700 15–19 year-olds.

Population change

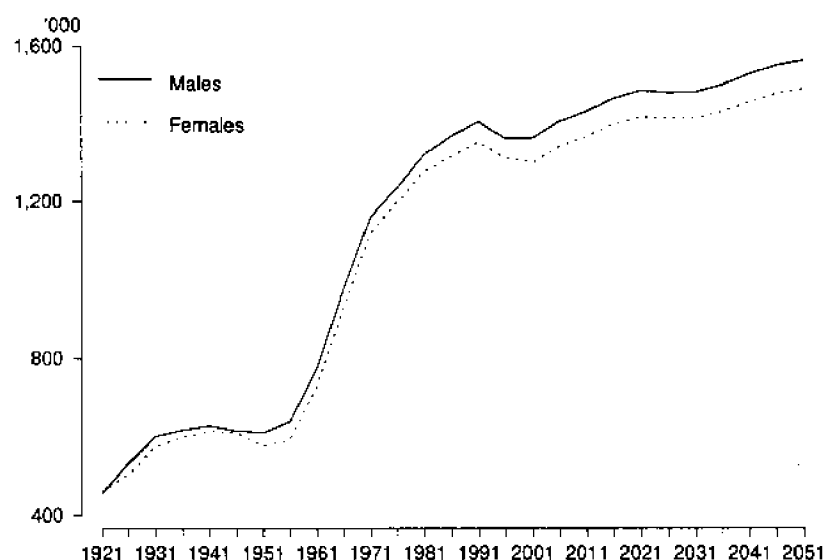
Australia's youth population has tripled in numbers since 1921, although rates of growth varied over this period. Numbers of young people rose between 1921 and the start of the 1930s, then negligible growth rates were evident until the 1950s—a result of the falling birth rates throughout the 1920s and the start of the depression years.

A sharp increase in the youth population occurred from 1955 to 1971 (an average annual growth rate of 4%), where the number of 15–24 year-olds almost doubled. This rise was largely due to the increasing birth rates experienced from 1937 through to the war years, and also to the post-war baby boom.

Growth since 1971 eased slightly from the previous two decades, as the children of the 'baby boomers' grew older. The number of youth peaked in 1991, where there were 2,760,800 young people in Australia. From 1991 to present, numbers have declined.

Changes in the numbers of young men and women have mirrored each other, with young men outnumbering young women. The traditional excess of male births over female births largely explains this difference, which has been about 40,000 to 60,000 since the 1960s.

1.1 YOUTH NUMBERS



Source: Unpublished demographic data, *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia* (Cat. no. 3201.0), *Projections of the Populations of Australia: States and Territories, 1995–2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0).

Population change continued

Population projections indicate that numbers of 15–24 year-olds will decline until around the turn of the century, and then increase slowly over the following half century. Young men are expected to continue to outnumber young women in the population over this period.

An ageing population

Youth made up 17% of the total population in 1921—and this proportion rose steadily to over 18% in 1932. From this point the youth share dropped sharply, to a trough of 13% in 1956. This trend mirrored the fall in birth rates between World War I and the mid-1930s. The 'baby boom' saw a reversal in the youth share, increasing in every year to 1971 before flattening out and eventually peaking in 1979 at 18%, equivalent to the early-1930s level.

This proportion has since consistently declined in all years to 1996—when youth made up 15% of the total Australian population (15% of males; 14% of females). Along with the increasing proportion of older people, this trend is expected to continue well into the twenty-first century, despite the expectation that youth numbers will grow—by 2046, young men are expected to make up only 12% of all males, and young women, 11% of the total female population.

The changing age structure of the Australian population can largely be explained by declining fertility rates, and to a lesser extent, decreasing death rates and decreasing levels of overseas migration.

1.2 YOUTH, Proportion of the total Australian population



Source: Unpublished demographic data, *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia* (Cat. no. 3201.0), *Projections of the Populations of Australia: States and Territories, 1995–2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of young people varies among States and Territories. In 1996, in Tasmania and South Australia, which have relatively older population profiles, young people comprised around 14% of the population. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, although the least populous, had the highest proportions of youth in their populations (both over 17%), and the lowest proportions of persons aged 60 years and over (10% and 5% respectively).

1.3 YOUTH, States and Territories—30 June 1996p

State/Territory	Males.....		Females.....		Persons.....	
	'000	% of all males	'000	% of all females	'000	% of all persons
New South Wales	450.7	14.6	434.8	13.9	885.5	14.3
Victoria	337.0	15.0	325.4	14.1	662.4	14.5
Queensland	258.8	15.5	249.1	15.0	507.6	15.2
South Australia	104.1	14.3	99.3	13.3	203.4	13.8
Western Australia	136.3	15.4	128.9	14.7	265.1	15.0
Tasmania	33.7	14.4	32.8	13.7	66.5	14.0
Northern Territory	16.3	17.0	14.7	17.1	31.0	17.0
Australian Capital Territory	27.1	17.7	26.5	17.1	53.6	17.4
Australia	1 364.1	15.0	1 311.7	14.3	2 675.7	14.6

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics: 1996 Census Edition (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Australia's population is highly urbanised. In 1996, 63% of all Australians lived in major urban centres—that is, towns and cities with a population of 100,000 people or more (see Glossary for more details on *Section of State*).

1.4 SECTION OF STATE—August 1996

Section of state	AGE (YEARS).....				
	0-14	15-24	25-59	60 and over	All persons
	%	%	%	%	%
Major urban	58.7	66.4	63.5	62.5	62.7
Other urban	25.3	21.8	22.0	25.6	23.3
Locality	2.9	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.5
Rural balance	13.2	9.8	12.0	9.0	11.4
Total(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total(a)	3 852.1	2 609.0	8 575.9	2 855.4	17 892.4

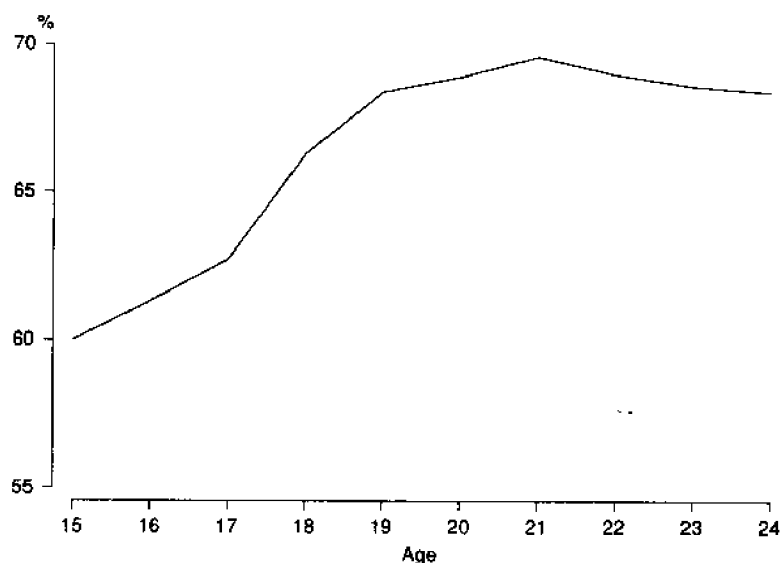
(a) Includes off-shore, shipping and migratory collection districts.

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION *continued*

These major urban centres offer young people, particularly older teenagers and those in their twenties, opportunities for work and higher education not otherwise available in rural areas or smaller urban centres. In the 1996 Census, over 66% of 15–24 year-olds were enumerated in major urban centres, compared with 59% of those aged 14 years or less, 64% of 25–59 year-olds and 62% of seniors.

Only 12% of all youth were enumerated in either a rural locality or other rural area.

1.5 YOUTH, Proportion enumerated in major urban centres

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUTH

Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, based on the 1996 Census, numbered Indigenous 15–24 year-olds at 71,900, or 2.7% of all Australian youth. This is an increase of 14% over the corresponding figure for 1991 (61,700), when Indigenous youth were 2.2% of all youth.

1.6 INDIGENOUS YOUTH(a), Proportion of all Australian youth

Year	Males.....		Females.....		Persons.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
1986	29.0	2.1	28.0	2.1	57.0	2.1
1991	31.5	2.2	30.2	2.2	61.7	2.2
1996(b)	36.0	2.6	35.9	2.7	71.9	2.7

(a) Experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

(b) Based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

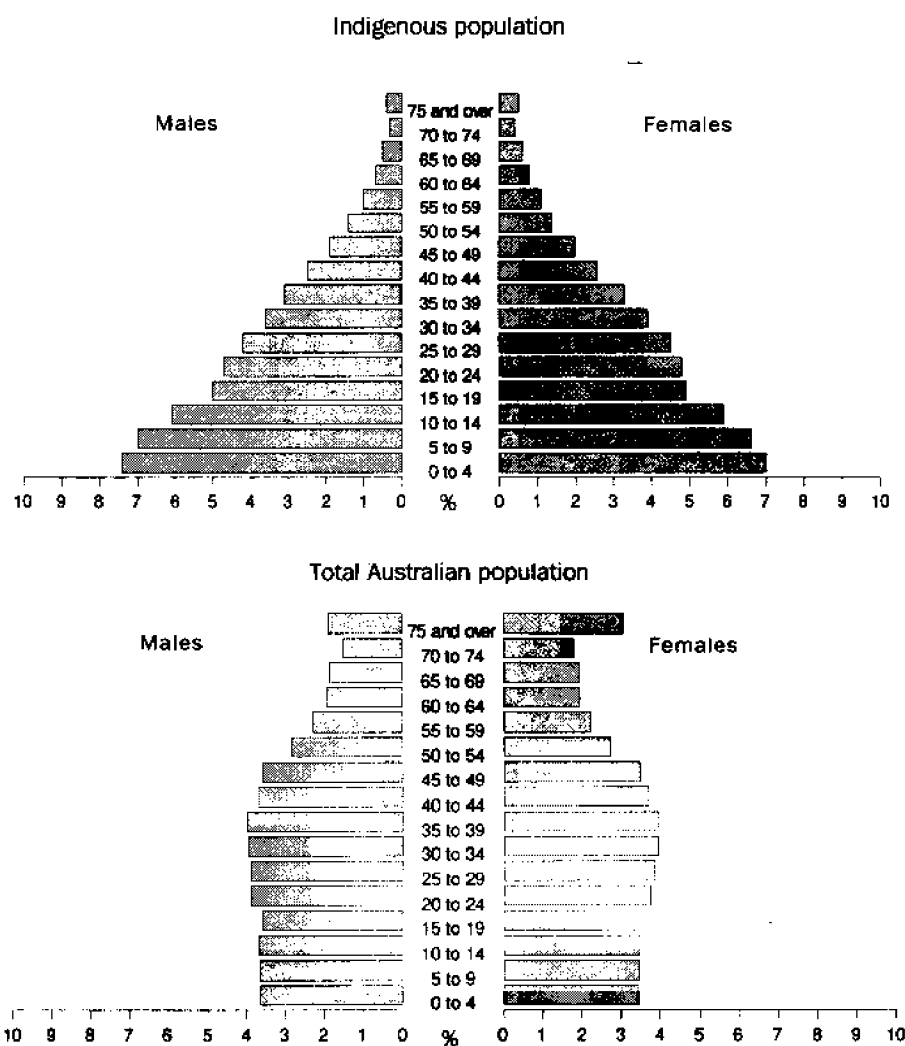
Source: *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, 30 June 1986 to 30 June 1991* (Cat. no. 3230.0), *Australian Demographic Statistics, March quarter 1997* (Cat. no. 3101.0).

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUTH *continued*

Estimates of the total Indigenous population increased by 31% over the five years between 1991 and 1996, while the total Australian population increased by only 6%. The large increase in the Indigenous population can be explained by:

- Higher fertility rates among Indigenous women than non-Indigenous women;
- Many children of Indigenous origin may have one rather than two parents of Indigenous origin;
- Greater willingness by Indigenous people to nominate their Indigenous origins at the 1996 census and more effective enumeration of Indigenous people by the ABS than the 1991 Census.

The age structure of the Indigenous population differs widely from that of the total Australian population. Higher birth rates and mortality rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contribute to a younger age structure than the rest of the population. In 1996, 59% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was less than 25 years of age, compared with 36% of the total population.

1.7 INDIGENOUS(a) AND TOTAL AUSTRALIAN POPULATION—30 June 1996p

(a) Experimental estimates of the Indigenous population.

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics*, March quarter 1997 (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Geographic distribution

Whereas Australian youth as a whole are concentrated in major urban centres (67%) Indigenous youth, along with the whole Indigenous population, have a more even urban/rural distribution, although this varies between the States and Territories. In 1996, the largest proportion of Indigenous youth (41%) were in urban areas of between 1,000 and 100,000. Almost one-third (32%) were in major urban centres (i.e. with populations of 100,000 or more), and the other 27% were living in small communities or rural areas.

The highest concentrations of Indigenous youth in rural areas were in the Northern Territory (34%), while the lowest were in the populous south-east of Australia.

1.8 INDIGENOUS YOUTH, Section of State—1996

SECTION OF STATE.....					
	Major urban	Other urban	Locality	Rural balance	Total(a)
	%	%	%	%	'000
New South Wales	42.3	42.7	5.0	9.9	18.6
Victoria	49.3	39.2	1.6	9.9	3.9
Queensland	30.4	46.1	10.9	12.5	18.4
South Australia	47.1	29.6	3.7	19.5	3.8
Western Australia	31.1	36.0	12.2	20.6	9.6
Tasmania	22.8	50.7	7.7	18.7	2.7
Northern Territory	..	38.8	27.1	34.1	9.7
Australian Capital Territory	98.8	..	0.0	1.2	0.6
Australia	31.8	41.1	10.6	16.5	67.5
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Australia	21.4	27.7	7.2	11.1	67.5

(a) Includes off-shore, shipping and migratory collection districts.

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

YOUTH BORN OVERSEAS

Migration from overseas countries has been a major factor affecting the size and make-up of Australia's population for most of this century. In 1996, there were 4,209,000 overseas-born persons permanently residing in Australia (or 23% of the population)—422,000 of these were aged 15–24 years.

Nearly 16% of young people were born overseas, compared with almost twice this proportion among people aged 25 years and over (30%). This is a reflection of the older age structure among the overseas-born population, which, broadly, is a consequence of the ageing of those who arrived in the large immigration waves of the post-war years and during the mid-1950s to late 1960s.

Country of birth

The level and composition of migrants to Australia has shifted dramatically, particularly since the mid-1970s, following changes to Australian immigration policies. Typically, the major sources of migrants to this country have been the United Kingdom and Ireland. In recent decades, however, a declining proportion of total migrants have been from

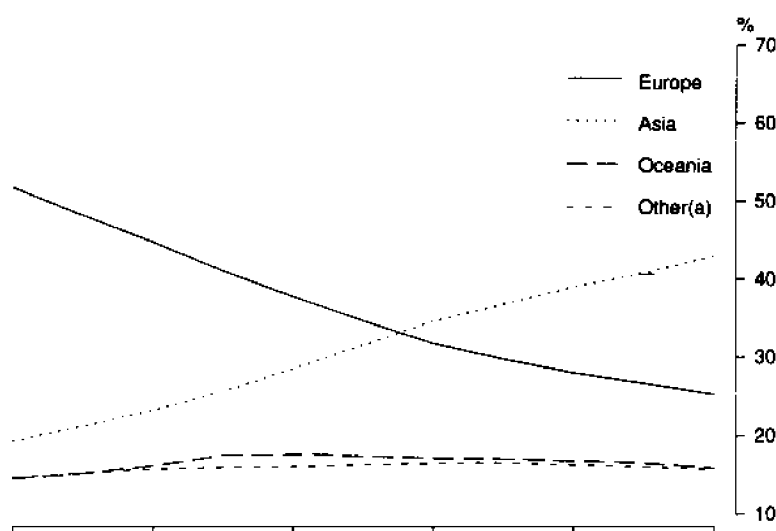
Country of birth continued

persons born in the United Kingdom and Ireland. As a consequence, their share of Australia's overseas-born youth has fallen, from 33% in 1986, to 15% in 1996 (see table 1.17).

Young people in Australia who were born overseas are now more likely to be from Asian countries (43%) than from European countries (25%). In contrast, as little as a decade earlier, in 1986, over half (52%) of overseas-born were from Europe, while 19% were from Asian countries.

Over the same period, young people from the countries which comprise Oceania (most commonly New Zealand) have comprised between 15% and 18% of overseas-born youth.

1.9 OVERSEAS-BORN YOUTH, Major regions of origin



(a) Includes the Americas, Africa and the Middle East.

Source: *Migration, Australia* (Cat. no. 3412.0), *Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth, Age and Sex, Australia* (Cat. no. 3221.0).

Recent migration trends

Since World War II, numbers of settler arrivals have fluctuated, reflecting Australian Government immigration policies, and the economic and political situations in countries of origin. Over the course of the 1990s, total settler arrivals fell to a low in 1993–94, then increased in subsequent years to 1995–96, before falling again in 1996–97.

Numbers of 15–24 year-old settler arrivals have followed the same pattern, from 20,800 in 1989–90 to a low of 12,100 in 1993–94, and rising again to 15,800 in 1995–96. Young women have outnumbered young men among settler arrivals throughout the 1990s.

Lower planning levels for 1997–98 (68,000 under the Migration Program and 12,000 under the Humanitarian Program) are likely to lead to further falls in the total intake of settler arrivals in the coming year.

1.10 SETTLER ARRIVALS IN THE 1990s

Year(a)	MALES.....		FEMALES.....		PERSONS.....	
	15-24 years	All males	15-24 years	All females	15-24 years	All persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1990	9.7	60.2	11.1	61.0	20.8	121.2
1991	8.4	60.2	10.5	61.5	18.9	121.7
1992	7.1	52.9	9.3	54.5	16.4	107.4
1993	5.2	36.5	7.5	39.8	12.6	76.3
1994	4.9	33.0	7.2	36.8	12.1	69.8
1995	5.6	40.8	8.4	46.6	14.1	87.4
1996	6.3	44.8	9.5	54.3	15.8	99.1
1997	5.6	40.9	7.9	44.9	13.5	85.8

(a) Year ended 30 June.

Source: *Migration, Australia* (Cat. no. 3412.0), *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (Cat. no. 3404.0).

Age of settlers

Settler arrivals generally have a younger age structure than the Australian population. In 1995-96, 68% of settler arrivals were aged less than 35 years compared with 52% of the Australian resident population. While 15-19 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds comprised 6% and 10% respectively of settler arrivals, peak arrivals occurred among those aged 25-29 years (14%) and 30-34 years (13%).

Settlers - country of origin

In 1995-96, the highest number of settlers, among all age groups, were New Zealand-born (12,300), followed by United Kingdom and Ireland-born (12,100). For the first time on record the United Kingdom and Ireland ceased to be the largest supplier of settlers. The level of settler arrivals from New Zealand has fluctuated considerably over the past 20 years, facilitated by visa-free entry available under the Trans Tasman Travel Arrangement. The number of settler arrivals from China tripled between 1994-95 and 1995-96 (to 11,200), making it the third largest source of settlers.

The major countries of birth of 15-24 year-old settler arrivals were largely the same as those of other age groups. Among youth, the highest numbers of settler arrivals were also born in New Zealand (2,700), followed by those from Viet Nam (1,100), China (900) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (800).

The age structures of settlers varied depending on country of origin. In 1995-96, countries with a high proportion of youth among their migrants to Australia were Lebanon (46%), Iraq (44%), Viet Nam (38%), and Indonesia (29%).

1.11 YOUTH SETTLER ARRIVALS(a), Major countries of birth

Country of birth	1986.....		1991.....		1996.....	
	'000	% total intake	'000	% total intake	'000	% total intake
New Zealand	4.5	26.1	2.1	11.3	2.7	17.2
Viet Nam	2.1	12.2	4.0	21.0	1.1	7.1
China	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.5	0.9	5.5
United Kingdom and Ireland	1.8	10.2	2.1	11.4	0.8	5.3
Philippines	0.7	3.9	1.0	5.6	0.7	4.1
Iraq	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	3.5
Lebanon	0.8	4.8	1.0	5.2	0.6	3.8
Indonesia	0.2	1.4	0.3	1.4	0.5	3.0
Hong Kong	0.4	2.6	0.9	4.6	0.5	2.9
All settler arrivals	17.4	100.0	18.9	100.0	15.8	100.0

(a) Year ended 30 June.

Source: Unpublished migration data.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Long-term visitor movements are becoming increasingly important elements of Australian migration patterns. Over the last twenty years, long-term overseas visitor arrivals (those intending to remain for 12 months or longer) have more than trebled—from 21,700 in 1975–76 to 84,400 in 1995–96.

Education is the dominant reason for long-term visits to Australia. In 1995–96, 43,800 (or 52%) long-term visitors were students, taking advantage of Australia as a provider of high quality, internationally recognised education at a relatively low cost.

Not surprisingly, the majority (70%) of these students were young people. These 30,800 young students represent 79% of youth visiting long-term, a vast increase on the 46% arriving for educational purposes in 1986.

While not considered part of the Australian population, a much smaller proportion (although numerically much larger) of short-term visitors gave education as their main reason for visiting Australia (3% or 118,300). Nearly two-thirds of these (63% or 74,600) were aged 15–24 years.

1.12 OVERSEAS VISITOR ARRIVALS(a), Purpose

	1986.....		1991.....		1996.....	
	15-24 years	All persons	15-24 years	All persons	15-24 years	All persons
Arrival type and purpose	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Short-term						
Education	11.8	22.8	32.5	57.2	74.6	118.3
Other(b)	148.5	1 240.7	312.4	2 170.2	487.8	3 847.8
Long-term						
Education	6.0	8.8	14.0	21.0	30.8	43.8
Other(b)	7.0	28.4	7.8	34.6	8.0	40.6
All arrivals						
Education	17.8	31.7	46.5	78.2	105.4	162.1
Other(b)	155.5	1 269.1	320.2	2 204.8	495.9	3 888.4
Total arrivals	173.3	1 300.7	366.6	2 283.0	601.3	4 050.5

(a) Year ended 30 June.

(b) Includes not stated.

Source: Unpublished migration data.

Source countries

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region were the main source of overseas students. In 1995-96, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan were the major countries of origin for short- and long-term visitors who travelled to Australia for educational purposes—collectively these countries represented 57% of 15-24 year-old overseas students in 1995-96.

1.13 YOUTH ARRIVALS FOR EDUCATION(a), Countries of residence

	1986.....		1991.....		1996.....	
Country of residence	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Indonesia	1.1	5.9	4.1	8.9	14.1	13.4
Hong Kong	1.1	6.2	6.9	14.8	12.9	12.3
Malaysia	6.6	37.3	8.1	17.3	12.6	12.0
Singapore	0.7	3.8	3.4	7.3	10.3	9.7
Japan	0.7	4.1	4.5	9.6	9.8	9.3
South Korea	0.1	0.5	2.0	4.3	8.2	7.8
United States of America	1.1	6.1	2.4	5.1	5.7	5.4
Taiwan	0.0	0.1	1.4	2.9	5.5	5.2
Thailand	0.2	1.0	1.5	3.3	4.9	4.6
Papua New Guinea	1.6	9.1	2.3	4.9	2.4	2.3
Other countries	4.2	23.8	8.6	18.4	17.4	16.5
All countries	17.8	100.0	46.5	100.0	105.4	100.0

(a) Year ended 30 June. Includes short- and long-term visitor arrivals.

Source: Unpublished migration data.

ADDITIONAL TABLES

1.14 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

Age (years)	1986.....		1996p.....	
	'000	%	'000	%
MALES				
0-14	1 896.1	23.7	2 005.2	22.0
15	148.5	1.9	132.1	1.4
16	139.2	1.7	130.4	1.4
17	137.6	1.7	130.1	1.4
18	132.8	1.7	130.6	1.4
19	130.3	1.6	132.1	1.4
20	130.5	1.6	134.4	1.5
21	132.6	1.7	138.5	1.5
22	137.0	1.7	140.5	1.5
23	139.4	1.7	145.0	1.6
24	140.9	1.8	150.4	1.6
Total 15-24	1 369.0	17.1	1 364.1	15.0
25-59	3 674.3	45.9	4 425.8	48.6
60 and over	1 060.8	13.3	1 313.2	14.4
All males	8 000.2	100.0	9 108.3	100.0
FEMALES				
0-14	1 803.4	22.5	1 906.5	20.7
15	142.5	1.8	125.9	1.4
16	133.0	1.7	123.6	1.3
17	131.6	1.6	123.3	1.3
18	126.7	1.6	124.1	1.4
19	124.9	1.6	126.8	1.4
20	125.7	1.6	129.0	1.4
21	128.3	1.6	134.0	1.5
22	131.8	1.6	135.9	1.5
23	134.3	1.7	141.3	1.5
24	136.2	1.7	147.7	1.6
Total 15-24	1 315.0	16.4	1 311.7	14.2
25-59	3 559.0	44.4	4 384.5	47.6
60 and over	1 340.8	16.7	1 600.5	17.4
All females	8 018.2	100.0	9 203.1	100.0
PERSONS				
0-14	3 699.5	23.1	3 911.7	21.4
15	291.0	1.8	258.1	1.4
16	272.2	1.7	254.0	1.4
17	269.2	1.7	253.4	1.4
18	259.5	1.6	254.7	1.4
19	255.3	1.6	258.8	1.4
20	256.2	1.6	263.4	1.4
21	260.9	1.6	272.5	1.5
22	268.8	1.7	276.4	1.5
23	273.8	1.7	286.3	1.6
24	277.1	1.7	298.1	1.6
Total 15-24	2 683.9	16.8	2 675.7	14.6
25-59	7 233.4	45.2	8 810.3	48.1
60 and over	2 401.5	15.0	2 913.7	15.9
All persons	16 018.4	100.0	18 311.5	100.0

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia, June 1986* (Cat. no. 3201.0), unpublished population estimates.

1.15 YOUTH POPULATION, Time series(a)

Year	Males.....		Females.....		Persons.....	
	'000	% of all males	'000	% of all females	'000	% of all persons
1921	457.9	16.5	462.8	17.2	920.7	16.9
1926	533.7	17.3	505.4	17.0	1 039.1	17.2
1931	602.2	18.1	577.9	18.0	1 180.1	18.1
1936	617.7	18.0	602.0	18.0	1 219.7	18.0
1941	627.9	17.5	614.9	17.4	1 242.8	17.5
1946	615.1	16.4	610.2	16.4	1 225.3	16.4
1951	611.0	14.4	579.5	13.9	1 190.5	14.1
1956	637.7	13.4	594.3	12.8	1 232.0	13.1
1961	776.1	14.6	729.3	14.0	1 505.4	14.3
1966	981.4	16.8	933.2	16.2	1 914.6	16.5
1971	1 159.3	17.7	1 117.6	17.2	2 276.9	17.4
1976	1 236.5	17.6	1 197.7	17.1	2 434.1	17.3
1981	1 320.6	17.7	1 278.3	17.1	2 598.9	17.4
1986	1 369.0	17.1	1 315.0	16.4	2 683.9	16.8
1991	1 405.9	16.3	1 354.9	15.6	2 760.8	16.0
1996	1 364.1	15.0	1 311.7	14.2	2 675.7	14.6
2006	1 405.3	13.9	1 343.0	13.1	2 748.3	13.5
2016	1 466.1	13.4	1 400.6	12.6	2 866.7	13.0
2026	1 481.3	12.7	1 413.9	11.8	2 895.1	12.3
2036	1 501.5	12.3	1 432.3	11.4	2 933.8	11.8
2046	1 551.1	12.3	1 478.8	11.3	3 029.8	11.8

(a) Figures from 1971–1996 are estimated resident population data. From 2006–2046, Series A population projections are used (see Glossary).

Source: Unpublished demography data, *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia* (Cat. no. 3201.0), *Projections of the Populations of Australia: States and Territories, 1995–2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0).

1.16 YOUTH, Section of State—1996

SECTION OF STATE.....					
	Major urban	Other urban	Locality	Rural balance	Total(a)
	%	%	%	%	'000
New South Wales	70.4	19.6	1.7	8.1	859.8
Victoria	71.3	18.2	1.2	9.3	640.8
Queensland	55.1	29.2	2.4	13.2	503.1
South Australia	73.4	15.5	2.0	9.1	196.9
Western Australia	68.0	20.3	2.1	9.2	259.6
Tasmania	31.1	46.8	4.6	17.3	64.4
Northern Territory	..	69.3	9.9	20.4	31.7
Australian Capital Territory	99.3	..	0.1	0.5	52.3
Australia	66.4	21.8	1.9	9.8	..
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Australia	1 732.1	567.8	50.6	255.4	2 605.9

(a) Includes off-shore, shipping and migratory collection districts.

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

1.17 COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Country of birth	15-24 YEARS		25 YEARS AND OVER			
	1986.....		1996.....		1986	1996
	'000	%	'000	%	%	%
Australia	2 268.6	84.5	2 272.7	84.3	71.4	69.6
United Kingdom and Ireland	139.1	5.2	63.5	2.4	10.3	9.5
New Zealand	45.6	1.7	47.4	1.8	1.5	1.9
Viet Nam	21.8	0.8	34.1	1.3	0.5	0.9
Malaysia	16.2	0.6	27.1	1.0	0.3	0.5
Hong Kong and Macau	6.6	0.2	23.4	0.9	0.2	0.5
Philippines	4.3	0.2	14.8	0.5	0.3	0.6
South Africa	6.2	0.2	11.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
Lebanon	12.4	0.5	9.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
India	5.7	0.2	7.5	0.3	0.4	0.6
China	2.2	0.1	7.2	0.3	0.4	0.8
United States of America	6.6	0.2	7.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Other countries	148.7	5.5	169.1	6.3	13.9	13.7
All countries	2 683.9	100.0	2 694.7	100.0	9 634.9	11 712.4

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth, Age and Sex, Australia* (Cat. no. 3221.0),
Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0).

1.18 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Country	1995(a).....			2050(a).....		
	Total population	15-24 years	Median age	Total population	15-24 years	Median age
	millions	%	years	millions	%	years
Australia	18.1	14.8	33.6	28.0	12.0	41.3
Canada	29.5	13.3	34.5	39.9	12.2	40.8
China	1 221.5	18.1	27.6	1 606.0	12.4	39.2
France	58.0	14.0	36.1	60.5	11.8	42.8
Germany	81.6	11.7	38.1	64.2	9.5	50.0
Greece	10.5	14.1	38.1	8.6	9.8	49.2
Hong Kong	5.9	14.6	34.1	4.9	8.6	53.0
Indonesia	197.6	20.8	23.1	318.8	13.3	37.7
Italy	57.2	14.2	38.1	43.6	9.2	52.0
Japan	125.1	14.9	39.3	110.0	10.5	47.4
Korea (Republic of)	45.0	18.6	29.1	56.5	12.6	40.6
Malaysia	20.1	18.1	21.7	38.1	13.4	37.8
New Zealand	3.6	15.5	32.1	4.7	12.5	40.2
Papua New Guinea	4.3	20.4	20.0	9.6	13.9	34.1
Philippines	67.6	20.0	20.6	129.5	14.0	36.7
Singapore	2.8	14.7	32.2	3.3	11.7	42.9
United Kingdom	58.3	13.0	36.0	61.6	12.0	41.6
United States of America	263.2	13.6	34.2	349.0	12.4	40.3
Viet Nam	74.5	19.9	21.1	143.6	13.7	37.7
World total	5 716.4	18.0	25.3	9 833.2	13.9	36.2

(a) Medium variant projection.

Source: United Nations *World Population Prospects, 1994 Revision*.

CHAPTER 2

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOUSING

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

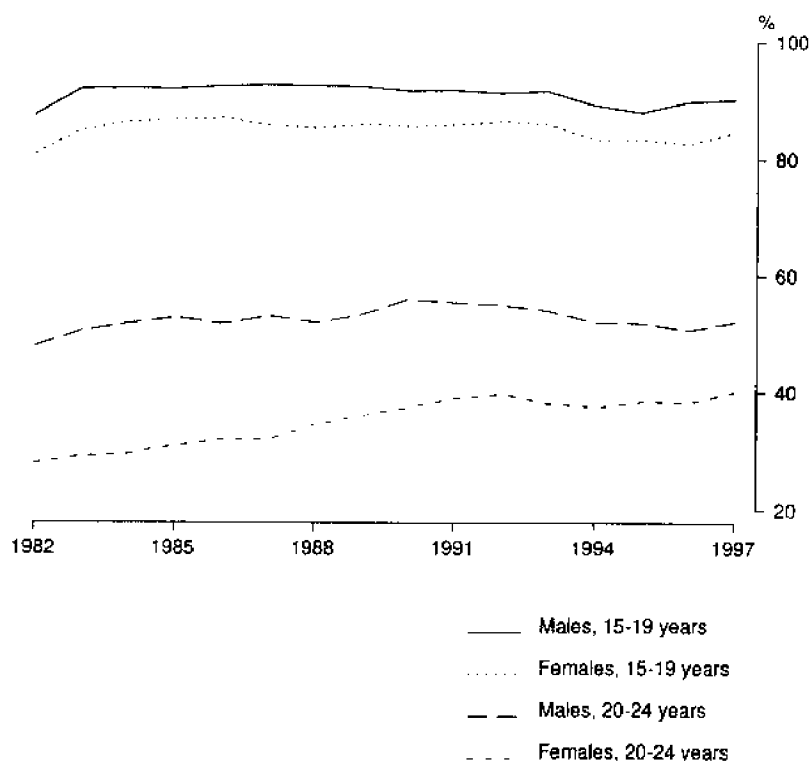
The living arrangements of young people reflect their steps towards independence. These are complex and may not trace a smooth path from the family of their parents to the household or family of their own. Many young people are still heavily reliant on support from parents, as they complete their education, at school or tertiary level. A high proportion are in a transitional stage since they are working part-time, or are unemployed, and have not yet achieved financial independence. Other young people have gained greater independence through establishment of their own households and families.

Living with parents

In June 1997, 88% of 15–19 year-olds and 46% of 20–24 year-olds—66% of all young people were living with their parents. Increased participation in education, the deferral of partnering, child-bearing and home purchase have been associated with increasing proportions of young people remaining longer in their parents home.

In 1982, 61% of young people lived with their parents. By 1990 this had increased to 68%, with slight declines in subsequent years. While women leave home earlier than men, the gap between young men and women has decreased over time.

2.1 PROPORTION LIVING WITH PARENTS



Source: *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia* (Cat. no. 6224.0).

Household relationships

In June 1997, three-quarters (73%) of 15–19 year-olds who were living with their parents were dependent students. In comparison, more than three-quarters (78%) of 20–24 year-olds who were living with their parents had completed their education.

Just under half (49%) of 20–24 year-olds had established a separate household. One-fifth were living as a partner in a couple relationship (8% with dependent children), and another 20% were in group households.

Women leave home and marry at younger ages than men. They are therefore less likely than men to be at home with their parents in young adulthood. Almost twice as many young women (15%) as young men (8%) had formed partnerships. Young women were also more likely than young men to have children, either in couple partnerships (74,100), or as lone parents (52,800). In comparison, about 40,000 young men had children.

2.2 RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD—1997

Relationship in household	MALES.....			FEMALES.....			PERSONS
	15-19	20-24	15-24	15-19	20-24	15-24	15-24
	years	years	years	years	years	years	years
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Partner							
with dependants	*0.3	5.8	3.1	1.1	10.7	6.0	4.6
without dependants	*0.4	8.5	4.6	2.0	14.9	8.7	6.6
Lone parent	*0.0	*0.0	*0.0	1.3	7.1	4.3	2.1
Dependent student(a)	60.9	9.6	34.6	67.1	10.4	37.8	36.2
Non-dependent child	29.3	42.6	36.1	17.5	29.7	23.8	30.1
Other family member	3.1	5.5	4.4	3.4	4.8	4.1	4.2
Lone person	0.9	6.2	3.6	1.1	3.6	2.4	3.0
Not living alone	5.0	21.8	13.6	6.5	18.8	12.8	13.2
All persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All persons	618.2	652.8	1 271.0	593.4	633.4	1 226.8	2 497.8

(a) Excludes persons aged 20–24 years attending school. Also excludes sons or daughters aged 15–24 years who are classified as husbands, wives or lone parents.

Source: *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 1997*
(Cat. no. 6224.0).

INDIGENOUS YOUTH

The 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey provided a detailed picture of the living arrangements of young Indigenous Australians. When compared with their counterparts in the total Australian population, Indigenous 15–24 year-olds were more likely to live with their parents following completion of their education, to be living with relatives other than their parents, or have formed their own families. They were less likely to live alone, or in group households.

In particular, 29% of Indigenous youth were living as partners in couples (with or without dependent children), or as lone parents, compared with 15% of all Australian youth in 1994.

In 1994, 2% of Indigenous 15–24 year-olds, compared with 14% of all young Australians, were living in group households.

2.3 INDIGENOUS YOUTH, Relationship in household—1994

Relationship in household	AGE GROUP (YEARS)..... 15–24 YEARS.....				
	15–19	20–24	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%	%	%
Partner in couple	6.7	34.5	17.9	23.7	20.8
Lone parent	3.8	13.3	*1.3	16.3	8.6
Dependent student	2.3	3.0	3.3	2.0	2.7
Non-dependent child	61.8	22.8	46.3	37.7	42.1
Other related family member	13.8	13.1	15.7	11.2	13.5
Lone person	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.4
Unrelated individual	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.9	2.6
Group household member	*1.0	2.4	1.9	*1.5	1.7
Visitor	*0.4	1.8	*1.2	*1.1	1.1
Resident of non-private dwelling	5.0	4.1	7.6	*1.4	4.6
All Indigenous youth	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All Indigenous youth	30.9	31.6	31.9	30.5	62.5

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Australia's Indigenous Youth (Cat. no. 4197.0)

PARTNERING

Young people are forming partnerships later, and when they do these are more likely to be de facto relationships rather than registered marriages. In 1996 relatively few (2%) 15–19 year-olds were living together in a partnership but for those who were, the vast majority (78%) were in a de facto relationship. Among 20–24 year-olds the proportion in a partnership had increased to (20%) and these were evenly divided between de facto relationships and registered marriages. The incidence of de facto relationships in the population over 25 years is considerably lower (8% of partnerships).

2.4 SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Age—1996

	15–19 years	20–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%
Proportion married	2.2	20.4	64.2
Proportion of marriages which are de facto	78.4	50.4	8.2

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

Registered marriage

As a consequence of deferred partnering and the increased incidence of de facto in preference to registered marriages, marriage rates among young people are declining and the median age at first marriage is increasing.

In the ten years to 1996 first marriage rates among young people were cut by more than half, for both males and females in both age groups. The largest decrease in first marriage rates over this period was for 20–24 year-old women— from 112 per 1,000 in 1986, to 56 per 1,000 in 1996.

Also over the last 10 years the median age at first marriage has risen from 25.6 to 27.6 years for males and from 23.5 to 25.7 years for females.

2.5 AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a)

	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	1986(b)	1991	1996	1986(b)	1991	1996
Age (years)	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate
15–19	2.4	1.9	1.0	15.2	9.5	5.5
20–24	63.4	46.6	30.1	112.0	82.4	55.7

(a) Per 1,000 population of single persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June for each year shown.

(b) These rates have been affected by late registrations in NSW.

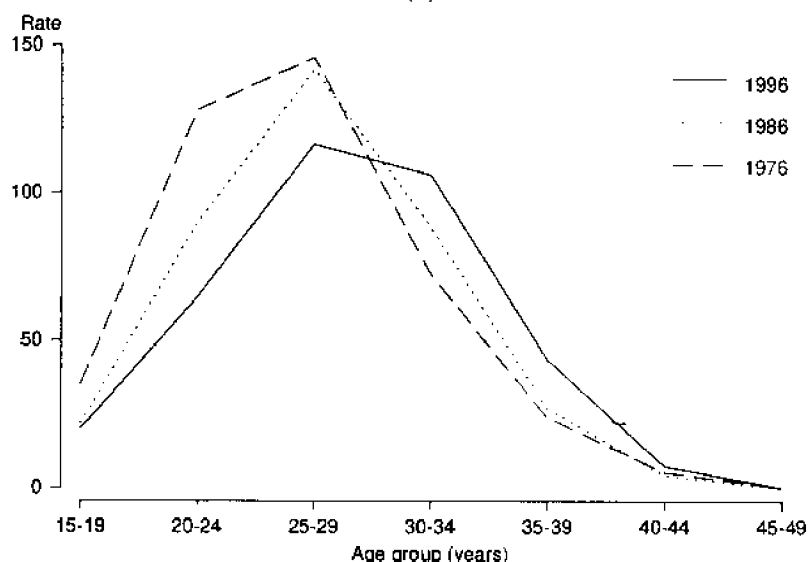
Source: *Marriages and Divorces, 1996* (Cat. no. 3310.0).

Births

Australia's total fertility rate has been falling over the last two decades, reaching its lowest recorded level in 1996, at just under 1.8 children per woman. At the same time, there has been shifting of fertility to older ages.

As a consequence, young women's contribution to the total fertility rate has declined. Between 1976 and 1996, the proportional contribution of women aged 20–24 years declined from 31% to 18%, and for 15–19 year-olds, from 9% to 6%.

2.6 AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 women.

Source: *Births, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 3301.0)

Although young women are being represented in lesser proportions in birth statistics, a relatively high number of ex-nuptial births are to mothers aged under 25 years.

In 1996, women aged 20–24 years accounted for 33% of all ex-nuptial confinements. Teenage mothers accounted for 16% of ex-nuptial confinements, compared with 5% of all confinements.

Trends in ex-nuptial births are also consistent with high proportions of de facto relationships among young people. The prevalence of lone mothers (42% of mothers aged 15–24 years) indicates that children born to young mothers are much less likely to have a resident father than children born to older mothers.

2.7 TOTAL CONFINEMENTS, Age and nuptiality—1996

Age group (years)	All confinements.....		Ex-nuptial confinements.....	
	no.	%	no.	%
19 and under	12 429	5.0	11 202	16.3
20–24	44 421	17.7	22 884	33.3
25 and over	193 513	77.3	34 728	50.5
Total	250 363	100.0	68 814	100.0

Source: *Births, Australia, 1996* (Cat no. 3301.0)

YOUTH MOBILITY

Young people are more likely than older people to move residence. In 1996, 36% of 20–24 year-olds had moved from one residence to another in the last year, compared with 15% for persons aged 25 years and over. The need to pursue education in centralised urban institutions, entry to the full-time workforce and changing family status have played a part in the increased mobility of young people. However, for many of these people, especially the 15–19 years age group, these moves were associated with the movement of their families, rather than steps towards independent living.

The 1992 Survey of Families in Australia found that over half of the young people who had moved within the previous five years (51%) had moved from their last usual residence for family reasons. Most commonly, the main reason for moving was to be with or near their family (30%), particularly for 15–19 year-olds—54% of them had moved for this reason.

Only 8% of 15–24 year-olds reported moving to be independent of their family. Another 10% of young people who had moved did so to form their own partnerships, either by marrying or establishing a de facto relationship.

Employment and education purposes, respectively, had motivated 8% and 6% of young people to move. Housing choices motivated another 13%.

2.8 MOBILITY OF THE POPULATION, Age—1996

	Age group (years).....		
	15–19	20–24	25 and over
	%	%	%
Moved in previous year	19.9	36.1	14.7
Moved 1–5 years ago	20.0	22.4	24.6
Did not move	51.7	31.2	53.1
Other(a)	8.4	10.3	7.6
All persons	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000
All persons	1 287.1	1 341.9	11 431.3

(a) Includes overseas visitors, Australian residents who were overseas one or five years ago, and not stated.

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data)

HOUSING

Type of tenure

Few young people own or are purchasing their home. Most commonly, they live rent-free with their parents, or are renting. Socio-economic factors, such as family, labour force and educational status are important determinants of the tenure of youth housing.

In the 1994 Australian Housing Survey, 6% of 15–24 year-olds were purchasing their home. Employed young people were more likely to be purchasing their home (8%) than unemployed youth (2%) or those not in the labour force (3%).

Overall, one-quarter of young people were renting their homes, while 21% were boarders and nearly half (47%) were living rent-free. Most youth who were not in the labour force were living rent-free (71%).

2.9 YOUTH, Tenure type and labour force status—1994

TENURE TYPE.....							
	Owner	Purch- aser	Renter	Boarder	Rent free	Total(a).....	
Labour force status	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
Employed	0.7	8.5	28.3	25.9	36.4	100.0	1 569.3
Unemployed	*0.6	2.3	29.2	23.5	44.3	100.0	339.5
Not in labour force	*0.4	3.1	17.1	8.2	70.9	100.0	738.7
All youth	0.6	6.2	25.3	20.6	47.0	100.0	2 647.4

(a) Includes 'other' tenure types.

Source: 1994 Australian Housing Survey, unpublished data.

Homeless youth

The 1995 House of Representatives *Report on Aspects of Youth Homelessness* (the Morris Report) argued that young people may be regarded as homeless—if they are living without family assistance, either with no accommodation; in temporary, or emergency accommodation; or in other longer term supported accommodation.

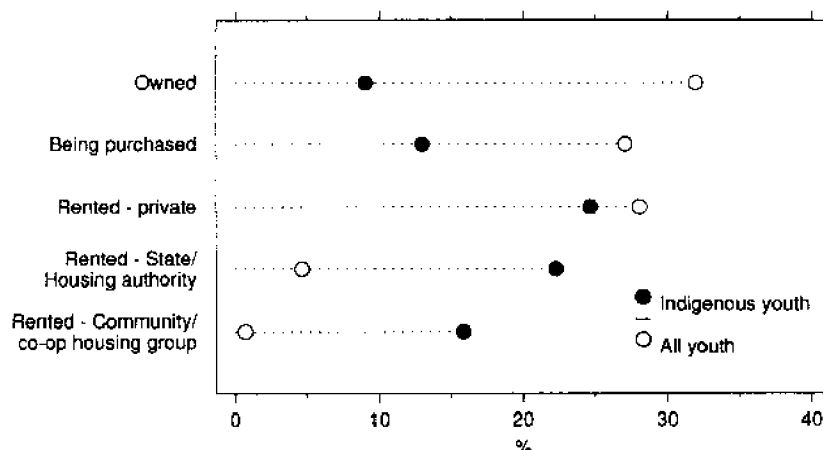
Over recent years, many estimates have been advanced of the numbers of young Australians who are homeless. After reviewing evidence, the Morris Report concluded that, in May 1991, there were between 15,000 and 19,000 homeless aged 12–24 years. Focusing on 12–18 year-olds, the report found that the number of homeless in this age group had doubled from 8,000–10,000 a night in May 1991 to 21,000 in May 1994.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) funds the provision of transitional supported accommodation and related support services to homeless people. Young people constitute one of the major target groups for the program. The SAAP National Data Collection report for July to December 1996 estimated that 47,100 separate clients received support on one or more occasions in the six-month period. Clients aged 15–19 years were the single largest group, comprising 20% of all clients. Those aged 20–24 years constituted 16% of the total.

Indigenous youth

In the 1996 Census, 63,800 Indigenous youth were living in private dwellings. Only 22% were living in dwellings which were owned or were being purchased by the household, compared with 59% of all Australian youth.

Over two-thirds (68%) of Indigenous youth in private dwellings lived in rented accommodation, compared with 36% of all Australian 15–24 year-olds. Of those who were living in rented accommodation, most lived in accommodation provided by State or other government housing agencies (33%) or by community organisations (24%).

2.10 HOUSEHOLDS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, Tenure type—1996

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished data).

In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 31% of Indigenous young people living in private dwellings reported that their dwelling did not satisfy the needs of the household. Most commonly, the dwellings were in need of repair, or lacked enough bedrooms or living area. Indigenous youth in rural areas expressed the highest level of dissatisfaction with their dwellings (46%).

Housing affordability

One measure of housing affordability is the proportion of income which is consumed by housing costs. In 1994, 45% of young income units (see Glossary) were spending more than one-quarter of their income on housing costs, compared with 29% of income units where the reference person was aged 25 years or over.

Housing costs had most impact on young one-parent income units. Almost one-third (30%) of these had weekly housing costs which were more than half of their income. This group also had the lowest mean weekly income (\$274).

Housing affordability *continued*

Young couples without dependents had the highest mean weekly housing costs (\$149) of any of the income unit types, but they also reported the highest mean weekly income. Their capacity for dual incomes, and shared costs is reflected in the lower proportion of these income units whose housing costs exceed 25% of their income (26%).

2.11 YOUNG INCOME UNITS(a), Housing affordability—1994

Weekly housing costs as a proportion of income	INCOME UNIT TYPE.....					
	Couple only	Couple with dependents	One-parent	Lone person	All income units.....	
	%	%	%	%	'000s	%
More than 25%	26.4	57.3	62.6	45.4	284.9	44.8
More than 50%	*3.4	*9.2	30.0	13.6	83.3	13.1
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Mean weekly income (\$)	856	550	274	358	430	..
Mean housing costs (\$)	149	138	99	77	91	..

Source: 1994 Australian Housing Survey (unpublished data)

ADDITIONAL TABLE

2.12 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS, Marriages and births

Country	CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES(a).....		TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(b).....		AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES(c).....		
	Reference year	rate	Reference year	rate	Reference year	15-19 years	20-24 years
						rate	rate
Australia	1996	5.8	1996	1.8	1996	20.1	64.6
Canada	1994	5.4	1992	1.8	1990	25.8	83.3
France	1992	4.7	1992	1.8	1991	9.1	73.2
Greece	1994	5.7	1992	1.4	1992	18.9	79.9
Hong Kong	1993	7.0	1993	1.2	1993	6.8	42.2
Indonesia	1986	7.4	1992	3.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Italy	1994	5.0	1994	1.3	1991	8.0	49.7
Japan	1994	6.3	1993	1.4	1993	3.9	41.2
Korea (Republic of)	1993	7.0	1993	1.7	1993	4.0	73.2
Malaysia	n.a.	n.a.	1992	3.7	1990	18.5	123.9
New Zealand	1994	6.3	1992	2.1	1992	33.8	95.3
Papua New Guinea	n.a.	n.a.	1992	4.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Singapore	1994	8.4	1994	1.8	1994	7.6	48.8
Sweden	1993	3.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	1993	5.9	1993	1.8	1993	30.9	81.8
United States of America	1993	9.0	1992	2.1	1991	63.5	115.7

(a) Per 1,000 of population.

(b) Represents the number of children a woman could expect to have in her lifetime given the fertility patterns prevailing at the time.

(c) Per 1,000 women.

Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 3310.0), *Births, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 3301.0)

CHAPTER 3

HEALTH

Overall young people are the healthiest group in the population. This is because while serious illness may occur at any time during a person's life, prevalence rates for most illnesses increase with age. Mortality rates also increase with age, particularly in older age groups. However, young people's future health is affected by their health-related behaviour. Young people's life style and health-related behaviour is also responsible for much of their mortality, with almost three-quarters of all deaths among young people being the result of accidents, poisoning, or violence.

HEALTH RISK FACTORS

1989-90 and 1995

In the 1989-90 and the 1995 National Health Surveys, risk factor data was not collected for all 15-24 year-olds, so the following data on health risk factors report on a subset of the youth population—18-24 year-olds (see the Glossary for a description of Alcohol consumption, Body mass and Exercise levels).

Generally, in the five years to 1995, the health risk factors of young people improved, as was the case with people aged 25 years and over. The proportion of 18-24 year-olds who drank alcohol at medium or high risk levels declined from 14% to 9%. Similarly, the proportion who smoked fell from 36% to 30%.

The proportion of those aged 25 years and over who smoked also fell over time, due to an increase in the proportion who had given up smoking. However, among 18-24 year-olds, the decrease in smokers was due to an increase in the proportion who had never smoked.

Higher proportions of young people are exposed to health risk factors than those aged 25 years and over. In both 1989-90 and 1995, greater proportions of young people smoked and had medium or high risk drinking levels than older people. Young people were more than twice as likely to be underweight as older people.

3.1 SELECTED HEALTH RISK FACTORS

Health risk factor	1989-90.....		1995.....	
	18-24 years	25 years and over	18-24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%
<i>Smoker status</i>				
Smoker	36.0	27.0	30.2	22.7
Ex-smoker	10.4	25.6	11.7	30.0
Never smoked	53.7	47.4	58.1	47.4
<i>Alcohol consumption</i>				
Did not drink	36.6	37.7	45.5	44.4
Low risk	49.6	51.7	45.2	47.5
Medium risk	7.9	6.6	5.3	5.2
High risk	6.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
<i>Exercise level</i>				
Did not exercise	25.3	37.7	25.5	35.4
Low	31.7	32.3	34.4	34.1
Medium	19.1	16.2	18.9	16.8
High	24.0	13.8	21.2	13.7
<i>Body mass</i>				
Underweight	22.1	9.9	17.7	7.4
Acceptable weight	53.0	47.3	47.9	40.5
Overweight	15.9	30.0	17.0	31.6
Obese	3.7	9.6	4.9	11.9
Not stated/not known	5.3	3.2	12.5	8.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	1 937.3	10 506.8	1 911.8	11 476.1

Source: National Health Survey, Lifestyle and Health, 1989-90 (Cat. no. 4366.0), 1995
National Health Survey (unpublished data).

Male/female differences

In 1995, rates of smoking were higher among young men than young women (32% compared with 28%). However the gap between males and females is considerably less for 18-24 years olds than for those over 25 years. While rates of smoking have generally declined, this is much less so for young women.

The proportion of young women who did not drink alcohol in the previous week was considerably higher than young men (51% compared with 40%). Furthermore young men were almost four times more likely to drink at high risk levels than their female counterparts.

In general, men aged 18-24 years exercised more than women of the same age, although this gap decreased as age increased. Twice the proportion of young men were exercising at high levels as young women (28% and 14% respectively).

In 1995, 26% of young women were underweight and 16% were overweight. In comparison, 27% of young men were overweight or obese. Excess weight or obesity was more prevalent among both men and women over the age of 25 than among young people.

3.2 SELECTED HEALTH RISK FACTORS—1995

Health risk factor	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	18-24 years	25 years and over	18-24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%
<i>Smoker status</i>				
Smoker	32.2	26.4	28.1	19.1
Ex-smoker	10.2	36.2	13.3	24.0
Never smoked	57.6	37.4	58.6	56.9
<i>Alcohol consumption</i>				
Did not drink	39.7	33.3	51.5	55.1
Low risk	49.8	56.2	40.5	39.1
Medium risk	4.2	5.7	6.4	4.6
High risk	6.4	4.8	1.7	1.2
<i>Exercise level</i>				
Did not exercise	23.7	35.3	27.4	35.5
Low	28.8	30.2	40.1	37.9
Medium	19.3	17.4	18.5	16.2
High	28.2	17.1	14.1	10.4
<i>Body mass</i>				
Underweight	9.4	3.3	26.3	11.2
Acceptable weight	52.6	38.5	43.0	42.3
Overweight	22.0	40.1	11.7	23.4
Obese	5.2	12.1	4.5	11.8
Not stated/not known	10.7	5.9	14.4	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	969.5	5 621.3	942.3	5 856.9

Source: 1995 National Health Survey (unpublished data).

Relationship with self-assessed health status

Generally, young people had a more positive perception of their health status than those aged 25 years and over. Most 18–24 year-olds considered themselves to be in good health or better (90%). Among the population aged 25 years or more, 81% thought they were in good, very good or excellent health. Young men were more likely to consider their health to be very good or excellent than young women (65% compared with 57%).

Youth reporting a health risk factor generally assessed their health as poorer than those who did not report that risk factor. Among 18–24 year-olds, 55% of those who did not exercise, 43% of those who were obese, 47% of current smokers, and 50% of high risk drinkers, assessed their health status as excellent/very good, compared with 62% of this age group as a whole.

The reverse can also be observed—greater proportions of non-smokers, those who did not drink, and those with high exercise levels, were reported as being in excellent or very good health.

3.3 YOUTH, Health risk factors and self-assessed health status—1995

SELF-ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS.....

Health risk factors	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Total.....	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	'000
<i>Smoking</i>							
Current smoker	10.9	36.0	36.5	14.5	2.0	100.0	577.2
Ex-smoker	18.0	40.9	30.5	10.0	*0.7	100.0	224.0
Never smoked	27.8	42.0	23.9	5.8	0.5	100.0	1 110.5
<i>Alcohol consumption level</i>							
Did not drink	26.8	37.4	28.0	7.1	0.7	100.0	869.5
Low risk	23.1	41.2	27.9	6.8	1.1	100.0	864.0
Medium risk	22.1	35.9	32.1	8.5	*1.3	100.0	100.9
High risk	18.4	31.4	35.2	13.2	*1.7	100.0	77.3
<i>Exercise level</i>							
Did not exercise	17.0	35.3	30.2	12.0	2.1	100.0	487.2
Low	18.1	40.3	37.3	9.9	0.7	100.0	657.1
Medium	21.1	43.4	17.9	7.6	0.9	100.0	361.8
High	32.9	42.4	14.6	4.8	*0.3	100.0	405.7
<i>Body mass</i>							
Underweight	20.3	38.9	29.2	10.3	1.2	100.0	339.0
Acceptable weight	25.1	42.0	25.4	6.9	0.6	100.0	915.5
Overweight	18.9	39.8	30.0	10.6	*0.7	100.0	324.2
Obese	9.6	31.5	38.9	17.0	2.9	100.0	93.3
Not stated/not known	17.8	38.0	33.3	9.2	1.8	100.0	239.8
Total	21.5	40.1	28.5	8.9	1.0	100.0	1 911.8
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	'000
Total	672.4	1 083.2	714.0	215.0	25.7	100.0	1 911.8

Source: 1995 National Health Survey (unpublished data).

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Recent illness

In 1995, almost two-thirds (63%) of all young people reported having a recent medical condition in the two weeks prior to interview, although most were relatively minor ailments. More young women (69%) than young men (58%) reported recent medical conditions. This was also true among the total population—73% of all females, and 65% of all males reported a recent condition.

Headache was the most common condition reported—by 17% of youth. It was also the most commonly reported condition for all people.

The next most frequently reported recent illness conditions were asthma (8%), the common cold (6%), dental problems (5%), hayfever (4%), and influenza (4%). Of these six leading conditions, four were respiratory conditions.

The prevalence of most conditions was greater among young women than young men. However, young men were more likely to report dislocations and strains, bruising and crushing, and open wounds.

3.4 YOUTH, Recent illness(a)—1995

Type of condition	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%
Headache	13.1	20.3	16.6
Asthma	7.8	8.5	8.1
Common cold	5.4	7.3	6.3
Dental problems	3.8	5.3	4.5
Hayfever	3.8	3.7	3.7
Influenza	3.3	4.2	3.7
Acne	3.0	3.5	3.3
Cough or sore throat	2.4	3.4	2.9
Dislocations, sprains, strains	3.5	1.9	2.7
Disorders of menstruation	—	5.6	2.7
Eczema, dermatitis	1.5	3.9	2.7
Sinusitis	1.6	2.3	1.9
Back trouble	1.8	2.0	1.9
Migraine	0.6	2.0	1.3
Burns and scalds	1.1	1.4	1.2
Bruising and crushing	1.3	1.0	1.2
Herpes	0.5	1.5	1.0
Open wounds	1.1	0.9	1.0
Youth who reported a recent medical condition	57.9	69.1	63.4
Youth who did not report a recent medical condition	42.1	30.9	36.6
Total youth	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Only the most commonly reported conditions are shown. Persons may have reported more than one type of recent condition and therefore components may not add to the totals shown.

Source: 1995 National Health Survey (unpublished data).

Long-term conditions

In 1995, almost two-thirds (66%) of young people reported a medical condition which had lasted or was expected to last 6 months or more, although many of these were sight disorders which were corrected by wearing glasses. In common with the total population, more women aged 15–24 years (71%) reported long-term conditions than young men (61%)(see Long-term conditions in the Glossary).

The next most common long-term conditions affecting young people apart from sight disorders (myopia, hypermetropia and astigmatism) were conditions relating to the respiratory system (hayfever, asthma and sinusitis).

Sight disorders were reported in much greater proportions by young women than young men.

3.5 YOUTH, Long-term conditions(a)—1995

	Males	Females	Persons
Type of condition	%	%	%
Hayfever	17.0	19.7	18.3
Myopia/Short-sighted	11.9	21.2	16.5
Asthma	13.9	15.8	14.8
Sinusitis	7.5	10.4	8.9
Hypermetropia/far-sighted	5.5	12.3	8.8
Allergy (unspecified)	5.4	7.8	6.6
Astigmatism	2.4	4.4	3.4
Bronchitis/emphysema	2.4	4.2	3.3
Deafness (complete or partial)	3.0	2.6	2.8
Eczema, dermatitis	1.7	2.8	2.2
Arthritis	1.2	3.0	2.1
Back trouble (unspecified)	1.9	1.8	1.9
Migraine	0.9	1.9	1.4
Varicose veins	0.5	2.1	1.3
Hypertension	1.0	1.4	1.2
Youth who reported a long-term medical condition	61.0	70.7	65.8
Youth who did not report a long-term medical condition	39.0	29.3	34.2
Total youth	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Only the most commonly reported conditions are shown. Persons may have reported more than one type of recent condition and therefore components may not add to the totals shown.

Source: 1995 National Health Survey (unpublished data).

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS

In both 1989–90 and 1995, about 70% of 15–24 year-olds reported that they had taken a health-related action in the two weeks prior to the survey, compared with more than 80% of older people.

The most common health-related action taken by young people was use of medication (65% in 1989–90; 62% in 1995). Additionally, nearly 17% of young people consulted a doctor in 1989–90, and 19% in 1995. Similar patterns were observed for people aged 25 years and over.

Young people were more likely to have had a day off from school or work than their older counterparts (in both 1989–90 and 1995).

3.6 HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS(a)

Type of action	1989–90.....		1995.....	
	15–24 years	25 years and over	15–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%
Medication use(b)	64.5	76.1	62.2	76.4
Doctor consultation	16.5	21.9	18.7	25.9
Days off work/school	11.3	4.9	10.7	5.5
Consultation with other health professional	8.3	9.9	9.3	10.7
Other health-related contact(c)	6.9	4.4
Dental consultation	4.8	4.8	5.1	5.4
Days of reduced activity	8.3	10.5	4.7	6.6
Casualty/emergency/outpatients visits	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.9
Day clinic visit(c)	1.3	1.7
Hospitalisation	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.9
Persons who took action(d)	69.9	80.2	70.4	81.2
Persons who took no action	30.1	19.8	29.6	18.8
Total persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Taken in the two weeks prior to the survey.

(b) Includes vitamins, minerals and natural and herbal medicines.

(c) Not collected in 1989–90.

(d) Persons may have taken more than one action, therefore components may not add to totals.

Source: National Health Survey, *Health-related Actions, Australia, 1989–90* (Cat. no. 4375.0),

National Health Survey, Summary of Results, Australia, 1995 (Cat. no. 4364.0).

CAUSE OF DEATH

In 1996, there were 1,817 deaths among 15–24 year-olds. Male deaths (1,405) far outnumbered female deaths (412), a ratio of over 3 male deaths for every female death.

Three-quarters (76%) of all deaths among young men and over half (56%) of deaths among young women were from accidents, poisonings and violence. Most of these were from motor vehicle accidents or suicide, accounting for 30% and 22% respectively of all deaths among young people.

In contrast, among people aged 25 years and over, only 6% of all male deaths and 3% of all female deaths were from accidents, poisonings and violence.

Other common causes of death among youth in 1996 were neoplasms (mainly cancer), which caused 7% of deaths among 15–24 year-olds, and mental disorders (predominantly drug dependence) (6%).

Among older people, the major causes of deaths were diseases of the circulatory system (predominantly heart disease), and neoplasms.

3.7 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATHS(a)—1996

Cause	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	15–24 years	25 years and over	15–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%
Accidents, poisonings and violence (external causes)				
Motor vehicle accidents	31.0	1.3	26.9	0.6
Suicide and self inflicted injury	25.0	2.4	13.6	0.7
Other	19.6	2.6	15.1	1.6
Total	75.6	6.3	55.6	3.0
Neoplasms	5.7	30.1	10.9	25.8
Mental disorders	6.5	2.1	5.6	3.5
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	3.6	2.1	5.6	2.5
Diseases of the circulatory system	2.7	40.4	4.4	46.3
Congenital anomalies	1.4	0.1	3.4	0.2
All other causes	4.6	18.8	14.6	18.8
Total deaths	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	no.	no.	no.	no.
Total deaths	1 405	65 486	412	59 156

(a) Includes only most common causes of death, for 15–24 year-olds.

Source: *Causes of Death, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 3303.0).

Suicide

Youth suicide rates are lower than for some other age groups. In 1996, male suicide rates were highest among 25–44 year-olds, and those aged 75 years and over. For females, the highest incidence of suicides was in the 45–54 years age group. However, because deaths among young people are relatively infrequent, suicide is the second most common cause of death in 15–24 year-olds, after motor vehicle accidents.

In the last 20 years, age-specific suicide rates among young men have risen although there have been some fluctuations from year to year. In 1996 the rate was 25 deaths per 100,000 of the population, two and a half times the rate in 1978.

For young women, rates have fluctuated over the period due to the small numbers involved and no significant trend is evident.

Suicide rates for young males are 4-6 times greater than for young females.

3.8 SUICIDE RATES(a)

Year	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	15–24 years	All persons	15–24 years	All persons
	rate(a)	rate(b)	rate(a)	rate(b)
1978	10	16	4	7
1982	19	17	3	6
1986	21	19	5	6
1987	24	22	6	6
1988	28	21	4	6
1989	24	20	3	5
1990	27	20	4	5
1991	27	21	6	6
1992	27	21	6	5
1993	25	19	4	4
1994	27	21	4	5
1995	25	21	6	5
1996	25	21	4	5

(a) Age-specific death rates per 100,000 of mid-year population for each relevant year.

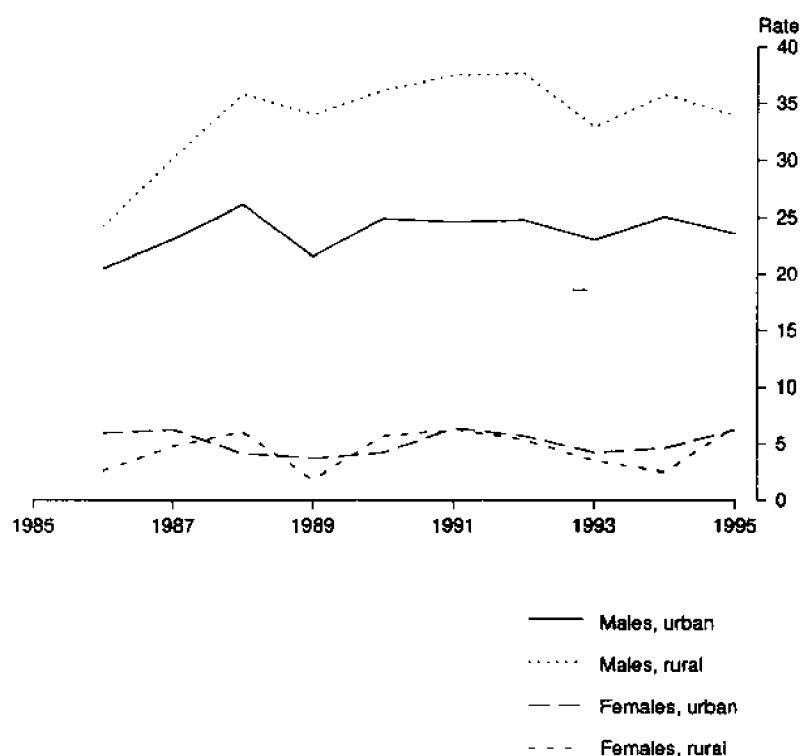
(b) Per 100,000 of mid-year population for each relevant year.

Source: *Suicides, Australia, 1982–92* (Cat no. 3309.0), *Causes of Death, Australia* (Cat. no. 3303.0).

Urban/rural rates of suicide

Suicide rates among young men living in rural areas continue to exceed those of young men in urban areas (see Urban/rural in Glossary). In 1986 the age-specific suicide rate in rural areas was 24 deaths per 100,000 males aged 15–24 years, compared with a rate of 20 in urban areas. In 1995, after increases in suicide levels in both regions, the male youth suicide rate in rural areas was 34 deaths per 100,000 males, compared with the urban rate of 24.

Suicide rates among urban and rural young women were comparable in 1995, at around 6 to 7 deaths per 100,000 of population—this similarity in level can generally be observed through the 1990s.

3.9 YOUTH, Suicide rates(a)

(a) Age-specific death rates per 100,000 of mid-year population for each relevant year.

Source: Cause of death statistics (unpublished data).

INDIGENOUS YOUTH

Within the Indigenous youth population, more males considered themselves to be in excellent health (27%) than did females (19%). Indigenous females most commonly (40%) regarded their health as being good, whereas males most commonly stated their health was very good (34%).

Despite the well documented health disadvantages of Indigenous persons in Australia, similar proportions of young Indigenous males and females stated that they were in fair or poor health (8% and 7% respectively), as did all Australian youth in the 1995 National Health Survey (8% of males and 9% of females). As a general rule, however, care should be exercised when comparing data from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 1995 National Health Survey due to differences in the way in which self perception questions on health are interpreted.

Health-related actions

In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, only 38% of Indigenous youth reported taking any health-related actions in the previous fortnight. In the 1995 National Health Survey, 70% of all young people reported that they undertook some kind of health-related action in the preceding fortnight, although the more extensive list of responses available in the 1995 survey might partially explain this difference.

As with the total youth population, use of medication was the most frequently reported health-related action among Indigenous youth (25%). Nearly 16% of Indigenous youth had consulted a doctor, and about one in eight (12%) reported reducing their daily activities.

Among each of the health-related actions reported, Indigenous youth were less likely to take an action than the total Indigenous population.

3.10 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, Health-related actions(a)—1994

	15-24 years	All persons
	%	%
Used medication	24.9	32.1
Consulted doctor	15.8	18.8
Reduced daily activities	12.0	12.6
Visited emergency/outpatients clinic	6.8	7.8
Consulted nurse	4.8	5.3
Consulted Aboriginal Health Worker	4.2	6.0
Used bush medicine	3.6	3.7
Admitted to hospital	1.8	2.5
Persons who took action(b)	37.9	44.4
Persons who took no action	62.1	55.6
Total persons	100.0	100.0

(a) Taken in the two weeks prior to the survey.

(b) People may have reported more than one type of action.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
1994: *Health of Indigenous Australians* (Cat no. 4395.0).

CHAPTER 4

EDUCATION.....

PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION

Over recent years educational policies have focused on the demand for a better educated labour force. Correspondingly, educational choices for individuals have been increasingly viewed as determinants of career paths, or insurance against the risk of unemployment. Consequently participation in education beyond the compulsory attendance age of 15 years (16 years in Tasmania) has increased steadily since the late 1980s.

In September 1988, 1,174,600 young people were attending educational institutions, representing 44% of the 15–24 year-old population. In 1996, 1,358,300 young people (51%) were attending educational institutions (see table 4.13).

The participation rate for persons aged 15–19 years increased from 66% in 1988 to 75% in 1996. Participation increased at both the secondary and tertiary levels. The increase in participation among persons aged 20–24 years (from 20% in 1988 to 29% in 1996) was due almost entirely to greater participation at the tertiary level.

Full-time school students

In 1996, there were 624,000 full-time school students aged 15–19 years. Above age 15 (16 in Tasmania), when schooling is no longer compulsory, participation rates tend to decline. In 1996, 92% of 15 year-olds were full-time school students. In comparison the rate declined to 80% for 16 year-olds and 59% for 17 year-olds. Participation rates were also higher for females than for males (50% compared with 47%).

4.1 FULL-TIME SCHOOL STUDENTS—1996

Age (years)	MALES.....		FEMALES.....		PERSONS.....	
	Partici- pation rate		Partici- pation rate		Partici- pation rate	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
15	121.2	91.0	117.0	93.3	238.2	92.1
16	99.6	77.0	101.2	83.0	200.8	79.9
17	72.1	55.3	77.9	63.1	150.0	59.1
18	16.2	12.4	13.5	10.9	29.8	11.7
19	2.9	2.2	2.3	1.8	5.2	2.0
Total aged 15–19 years	312.0	47.5	311.9	50.2	624.0	48.8

Source: *Schools, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4221.0)

Apparent retention rates to Year 12

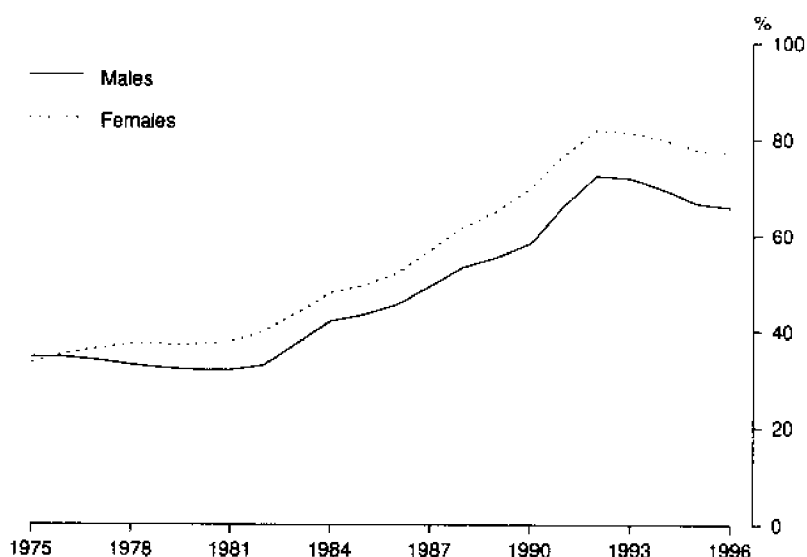
In the late 1970s, apparent retention rates (see Glossary) to Year 12 were typically around 35% overall. Throughout the 1980s considerable increases occurred in retention rates, particularly among students attending government schools. Increasingly, students completed the highest level of secondary schooling. In 1980 the apparent retention rate to Year 12 was 34%, but by 1990 it had increased to 64%. The rate continued to increase sharply, peaking at 77% in 1992.

Having reached a peak in 1992, Year 12 retention rates have since declined, falling to 71% overall in 1996. The female rate (77%) has remained substantially higher than the male rate (66%).

Over the last 20 years the increase in Year 12 apparent retention rates has been more pronounced among females than males, with the retention rates for females consistently higher than for males. In 1980 the female retention rate was five percentage points higher than for males (37% for females and 32% for males). This difference grew to twelve percentage points in 1990, when the retention rates were 58% for males and 70% for females.

The increase in retention rates throughout the 1980s and early 1990s has been attributed to a number of factors including changing labour markets, increased financial assistance for low income families, the abolition of unemployment benefits for 16 and 17 year-olds, changes in attitudes to girls' education, and major changes to secondary school curricula which encouraged students to complete the senior years of school.

4.2 APPARENT RETENTION RATES TO YEAR 12



Source: *Schools, Australia* (Cat. no. 4221.0)

Analysis of the decline in retention rates since 1992 has been recently conducted by Lamb (1996), who reported that the downturn in school completion rates varies among the States and is more pronounced in government schools. Using data from the Australian Youth Survey, Lamb's analysis indicated that the decline in school completion

Apparent retention rates to Year 12 *continued*

has been greater for males in rural areas and for males from unskilled manual backgrounds.

Lamb has suggested reasons which may account for these trends, including:

- growth in the range of vocational education and training opportunities offered by TAFE colleges and other training providers;
- an increase in the number of available apprenticeships and traineeships following an improvement in the economy;
- increased reliance on direct entry to the labour market as the employment situation improved;
- a declining perception among young people of the economic and social value of staying on at school.

Indigenous youth

School participation rates for Indigenous young people decline significantly with age and remain below those for the population as a whole.

In 1994 the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey reported that 81% of Indigenous 15 year-olds were still at school. This was considerably lower than the participation rate of 92% for all 15 year-olds in the same year.

After age 15, the participation rate for Indigenous students fell away more rapidly than for all students. For 16 and 17 year-old Indigenous youth the school participation rates were 57% and 31% respectively, compared with 80% and 60% for all 16 and 17 year-olds in 1994.

Indigenous females were likely to remain at school longer than Indigenous males. For 15 year-olds, the school participation rate for males was 77% compared with 86% for females, but by age 17, the rates were 29% and 35% respectively.

4.3 SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RATES—1994

Age (years)	INDIGENOUS PERSONS(a).....			ALL PERSONS(b).....		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%	%	%	%
15	77	86	81	91	94	92
16	49	64	57	77	83	80
17	29	35	31	56	63	60
18	4	7	6	14	12	13

(a) 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

(b) Schools data collected August 1994.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994: Detailed Findings* (Cat. no. 4190.0); *Schools, Australia, 1994* (Cat. no. 4221.0)

Educational enrolments

Despite the recent decline in school retention rates, there continues to be strong demand for places in educational institutions, which include schools, higher education establishments, colleges of technical and further education, and public and private colleges.

In May 1996, more than three-quarters (78%) of 15–19 year-olds and 35% of 20–24 year-olds had applied to enrol in educational institutions. The majority of these applications were successful, with just 2% of 15–19 year-olds and 1% of 20–24 year-olds failing to gain placement for 1996.

Furthermore, the majority of young people who were successful in gaining places in educational institutions for 1996 took up their places immediately. Only 2% of males and 3% of females in both the 15–19 years and 20–24 years age groups chose to defer their places in 1996.

4.4 EDUCATIONAL ENROLMENT STATUS—May 1996

	SEX.....		LABOUR FORCE STATUS.....			
	Males	Females	Emp- loyed	Unemp- loyed	Not in labour force	All youth
15–19 YEARS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Applied to enrol for 1996						
Studying in May 1996	73.0	75.0	63.0	50.1	93.2	74.0
Deferred placement	1.8	2.6	3.5	4.2	*0.2	2.2
Unable to gain placement	1.6	1.8	2.4	4.5	*0.2	1.7
Did not apply to enrol for 1996	23.6	20.6	31.0	41.3	6.5	22.1
All persons aged 15–19 years	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All persons aged 15–19 years	651.2	620.7	592.5	152.2	527.1	1 271.8
20–24 YEARS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Applied to enrol for 1996						
Studying in May 1996	31.7	31.4	27.0	24.4	55.3	31.5
Deferred placement	2.3	2.8	2.4	6.5	*0.7	2.6
Unable to gain placement	1.4	1.2	1.2	*2.8	*0.6	1.3
Did not apply to enrol for 1996	64.6	64.7	69.3	66.3	43.4	64.6
All persons aged 20–24 years	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All persons aged 20–24 years	707.8	691.1	1 023.7	138.5	236.6	1 398.9

Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1996* (Cat. no. 6227.0)

Attendance at post-secondary educational institutions

In 1996 there were 663,500 young people undertaking post-secondary or tertiary education. Of these, 56% were in higher education and 36% were attending technical and further education (TAFE) institutions. The balance were attending business colleges, industry skills centres or other educational institutions (see table 4.14).

Although nearly two-thirds (65%) were attending tertiary institutions full-time, the proportion of full-time students varied by the type of institution. Of those in higher education, 87% were full-time, compared with 36% of those at TAFE.

There were proportionally more people aged 15-19 years studying full time than people aged 20-24 years. The proportions who were studying full-time or part-time also varied with age group. Almost all 15-19 year-olds who were in higher education (95%) were studying full-time, compared with 83% of 20-24 year-olds. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of 20-24 year-old TAFE students were studying part-time, whereas a smaller majority (54%) of 15-19 year-old TAFE students were part-time.

Also more male TAFE students than female TAFE students studied part-time. In 1996, 64% of 15-19 year-old male TAFE students and 79% of 20-24 year-olds were studying part-time. Only 39% of female 15-19 year-olds at TAFE were part-time students, while 64% of female 20-24 year-olds were studying part-time.

Higher education

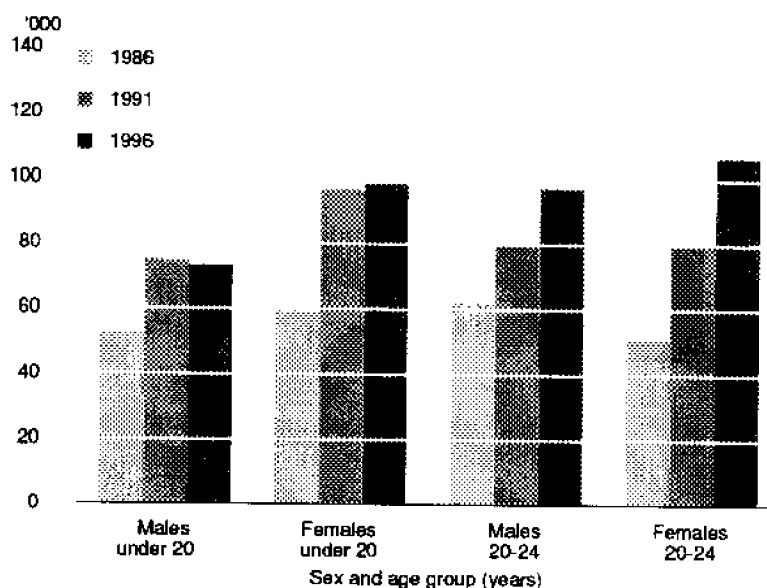
Following the increases in school participation and retention rates noted since the early 1980s, there has been a substantial increase in the numbers of young people subsequently undertaking higher education courses.

According to the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs Higher Education Student Collection, the number of students aged 19 years and under who were enrolled in higher education award courses increased by 54% over the ten years from 1986 to 1996. The number of 20-24 year-old students increased by 80% over the same period.

Much of this growth stems from greater female participation in higher education. In 1986 more young men than young women were enrolled in higher education courses, but by 1996, 15-24 year-old women outnumbered their male counterparts.

The increase in female enrolments has been most pronounced for 20-24 year-olds. The number of females in this age group who were enrolled in higher education doubled in the ten years to 1996.

4.5 HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS—1986–1996



Source: DEETYA, *Selected Higher Education Student Statistics*, 1996

EDUCATION AND WORK

Many young people undertaking further education are also in the labour force. In 1996, 70% of 15–24 year-olds who were studying at a tertiary institution for a recognised educational qualification were also employed either full-time or part-time, or unemployed (see table 4.15).

In 1996, the largest proportion of 15–24 year-old male students who were also employed were studying for a skilled vocational qualification (38%). A further 37% were studying for a bachelor degree. Of those not in the labour force, nearly three-quarters (74%) were studying for a bachelor degree.

Among young female tertiary students, half of those who were also employed were studying for a bachelor degree compared with 63% of those not in the labour force.

For more information about those combining full or part-time work with full or part-time study, please refer to Chapter 6.

Vocational education and training

Many young people undertake vocational education and training courses to equip them with practical work-related skills. Vocational courses run by TAFE institutions and private training providers are increasingly seen as providing young people with the skills needed by employers. According to data compiled by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), 39% of all TAFE clients (students) enrolled in vocational courses in 1996 were aged 15–24 years.

Young males make up a larger proportion of TAFE clients than young females. In 1996, 22% of all TAFE clients were 15–24 year-old males, compared with 17% for 15–24 year-old females. This contrasts with the pattern among older TAFE clients, with males and females aged 25 years and over contributing 30% each to the total number of clients.

Apprentices

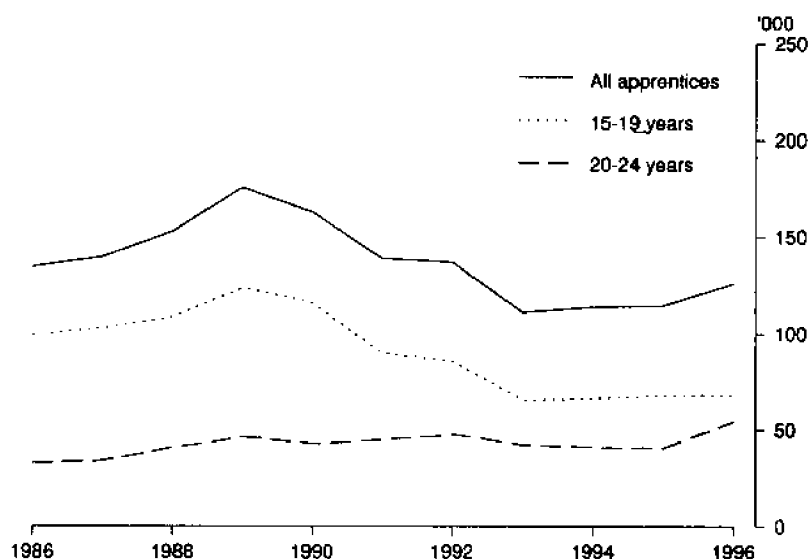
Over the past decade, the number of young people in apprenticeships has fluctuated. In 1986 there were 132,800 15–24 year-olds in apprenticeships. These numbers rose to 170,300 in 1989 and thereafter declined, reaching a low of 108,000 in 1994. However, since 1994, the number of apprentices has gradually risen, and in 1996 there were 122,300 young people in apprenticeships.

Overall, apprentice numbers declined by 8% in the ten years to 1996.

A decade ago, the majority of apprentices were aged 15–19 years. In 1986 there were 99,500 15–19 year-old apprentices representing 74% of all apprentices. In 1996, however, just over half (54%) of apprentices were aged 15–19 years (a total of 67,800).

Females continue to be under-represented among apprentices. Between 1986 and 1996 the proportion of apprentices who were female increased by only one percentage point, from 11% in 1986 to 12% in 1996.

4.6 APPRENTICES BY AGE GROUP—1986–96



Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia* (Cat. no. 6227.0)

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment among 15–19 year-olds is low, since many teenagers are still studying. In May 1996, of the relatively few who had completed post-school qualifications (4%), most had completed basic or skilled vocational qualifications.

Nearly three quarters of 15–19 year-olds (73%) were still studying, the majority still at school. Almost a quarter (23%) of the age group had left school but not enrolled in tertiary studies.

Older youth are more likely to have acquired post-school qualifications, having had time since leaving school to complete a post-secondary course. In 1996, 41% of 20–24 year-olds had obtained a post-school qualification.

Among 20–24 year-olds, just over one-fifth (21%) had completed either a skilled or basic vocational qualification, 9% had gained an undergraduate or associate diploma, and 11% had completed a bachelor degree or higher.

4.7 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT—May 1996

	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-64 years
<i>Educational attainment</i>	%	%	%
With post-school qualifications			
Higher degree	*0.0	*0.1	2.1
Postgraduate diploma	*0.0	0.8	2.6
Bachelor degree	*0.0	10.1	10.1
Undergraduate diploma	*0.0	1.7	3.3
Associate diploma	0.7	6.9	6.6
Skilled vocational qualification	1.2	12.2	16.2
Basic vocational	2.3	8.8	6.7
<i>Total</i>	4.1	40.6	47.7
Without post-school qualifications			
Completed highest level of school			
Attending tertiary in May 1996	17.7	19.8	1.2
Not attending tertiary in May 1996	8.4	17.3	12.4
Did not complete highest level of school			
Attending tertiary in May 1996	5.7	2.4	1.4
Not attending tertiary in May 1996	14.7	19.5	37.2
<i>Total</i>	46.5	59.1	52.3
Still at school	49.4	*0.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1996* (Cat. no. 6227.0)

Indigenous educational attainment

The level of educational attainment of Indigenous youth, while below that for all Australian youth, has increased over time.

In 1994, slightly more than one quarter (27%) of Indigenous 15-24 year-olds had left school prior to Year 10, compared with more than half (53%) of older Indigenous people.

A higher proportion (13%) of Indigenous youth had completed schooling to Year 12 level, when compared with Indigenous people aged 25 years and older (4%).

4.9 INDIGENOUS PERSONS, Educational attainment—1994

Level of attainment	15-24 YEARS.....			25 YEARS AND OVER
	Males	Females	Persons	Persons
	%	%	%	%
Still at school	19.2	22.0	20.6	*0.1
Below Year 10	31.2	23.4	27.4	52.7
Year 10	26.9	31.8	29.3	25.0
Year 12	12.4	12.8	12.6	3.7
Post-school qualifications	10.3	10.1	10.2	18.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	31.9	30.5	62.5	122.2

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994: Australia's Indigenous Youth (Cat. no. 4197.0)

Educational aspiration

It is not always possible for young people to take advantage of educational opportunities. In the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia, many young people not studying reported that they would like to undertake further study. Others were studying part-time, but wished to study full-time. It was estimated that 155,400 15-19 year-olds and 410,800 20-24 year-olds fell into these categories.

For those aged 15-19 years, the reasons most often reported as barriers to education were the lack of availability of education facilities or places (35%) and inability to afford the costs of education (24%). Among 20-24 year-olds, obstacles to education commonly included an economic need to keep working (22%), the costs of education (21%), and difficulties posed by working hours (21%).

While 22% of young people reported that they were unable to undertake study due to a lack of educational facilities, courses or places, it should be noted that many of these may not have applied to study. The proportion of applicants who are unsuccessful in gaining a place in an educational institution is very low. In 1996 just 2% of 15-24 year-olds who applied to study failed to gain a place (see table 4.4).

4.10 YOUTH EXPERIENCING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION(a)—1992

	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-24 years
Reasons	%	%	%
Family reasons			
Caring for children	*4.3	7.7	6.7
Other domestic/family responsibilities(b)	*2.0	4.8	4.0
Other reasons			
Cannot afford to stop working	12.6	22.1	19.5
Cannot afford education costs	24.1	21.3	22.1
Own ill health/disability	*1.5	*1.6	1.6
Business/work hours	10.4	20.7	17.9
Education facilities/courses/places not available	34.6	17.3	22.1
No particular reason	*4.5	5.9	5.5
Other reason	22.3	18.1	19.3
Total experiencing barrier to education(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000
Total experiencing barrier to education(c)	155.4	410.3	566.2

(a) Comprises those persons not studying who wanted to study and persons studying part-time who wanted to study full-time.

(b) Includes caring for sick, disabled or elderly relatives.

(c) Persons could report multiple reasons for not studying and therefore components do not add to total.

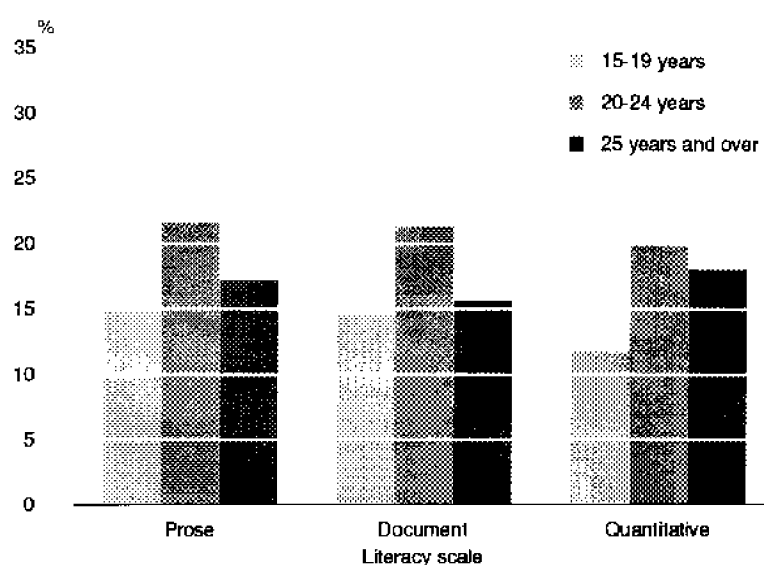
Source: *Focus on Families: Education and Employment* (Cat. no. 4421.0)

LITERACY

In today's society people require considerable literacy skills in order to read, comprehend and apply information from a range of sources.

According to a 1996 survey of Aspects of Literacy, young people had higher levels of literacy than older people. However, the proportion of 15-19 year-olds with good to very good literacy skills (Level 4/5) was below that for 20-24 year-olds, and for persons aged 25 years and over, on all three literacy scales of prose, document or quantitative literacy. For example, 12% of 15-19 year-olds were at the highest level on the quantitative scale, compared with 20% of 20-24 year-olds and 18% of persons aged 25 years and over. This may be because many teenagers have not yet completed their education, and their literacy skills are still developing (see table 4.16).

Among older youth, there were consistently larger proportions of 20-24 year-olds than of older persons at the highest level of literacy skills. On the prose scale, 22% of 20-24 year-olds were at Level 4/5, compared with 17% of persons aged 25 years and over. On the document scale the proportions at the highest skill level were 18% and 16% respectively.

4.11 PROPORTION AT HIGHEST LEVEL ON EACH LITERACY SCALE—1996

Source: *Aspects of Literacy: Assessed Skill Levels, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4228.0)

The literacy performances of males and females aged 15–19 years were similar on the document scale, but there were some interesting differences on the prose and quantitative scales. On the prose scale, there were proportionally more 15–19 year-old females than males at Levels 2, 3 and 4/5. Consequently the proportion of teenage males with very poor skills (Level 1) was higher than that of females (20% compared with 10%).

On the quantitative scale, however, the proportion of 15–19 year-old males at the highest level of literacy (15%) exceeded the proportion of 15–19 year-old females at the same level (8%). At Levels 1, 2 and 3 there were proportionally fewer males than females in the 15–19 years age group.

Among 20–24 year-olds there was a similar but less pronounced pattern of differences between males and females on both the document and quantitative scales. On the prose scale, however, there were larger proportions of females at the higher levels of literacy (70% of females at Levels 3 and 4/5, compared with 57% of males). Furthermore, there were proportionally fewer 20–24 year-old males with very poor literacy skills (11%) than there were in the 15–19 years age group (20%).

ADDITIONAL TABLES

4.12 EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES

Year	15-19 years %	20-24 years %	15-24 years..... %	'000
ATTENDING SECONDARY				
1988	48.8	0.3	25.3	683.5
1989	48.1	*0.2	24.8	675.4
1990	48.7	0.4	24.9	678.9
1991	52.0	0.6	25.8	706.2
1992	53.3	0.5	25.8	704.8
1993	53.8	0.5	25.5	692.0
1994	54.5	0.3	25.9	697.4
1995	54.1	0.7	26.6	686.1
1996(a)	54.1	*0.4	26.1	694.8
ATTENDING TERTIARY				
1988	17.2	19.2	18.2	491.1
1989	18.7	21.1	19.9	541.0
1990	18.8	21.9	20.3	553.6
1991	19.3	24.6	22.0	601.4
1992	19.9	25.9	23.0	630.1
1993	20.3	26.5	23.6	640.0
1994	19.4	25.8	22.8	614.4
1995	19.6	27.7	23.7	645.5
1996	20.5	29.0	24.9	683.5
TOTAL				
1988	66.0	19.5	43.5	1 174.6
1989	66.8	21.3	44.7	1 216.5
1990	67.4	22.3	45.2	1 232.5
1991	71.3	25.2	47.9	1 307.6
1992	73.2	26.4	48.8	1 334.9
1993	74.1	27.0	49.2	1 332.0
1994	74.0	26.3	48.7	1 311.8
1995	73.7	28.3	50.4	1 331.6
1996	74.6	29.4	51.0	1 358.3

(a) 1996 figures differ from Table 4.1 due to different source data.

Source: *Participation in Education, Australia* (Cat. no. 6272.0)

4.13 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE—1996

	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-24 years
	'000	'000	'000
MALES			
Higher education			
Full-time	53.0	99.6	152.6
Part-time	4.4	17.8	22.2
Total	57.4	117.5	174.8
TAFE			
Full-time	25.1	16.4	41.5
Part-time	43.7	61.9	105.6
Total	68.7	78.2	147.0
Other(a)	9.6	10.6	20.2
Attending post-secondary			
Full-time	82.6	117.6	200.1
Part-time	53.1	88.8	142.0
Total males attending post-secondary	135.7	206.4	342.0
FEMALES			
Higher education			
Full-time	67.3	102.7	170.1
Part-time	1.9	23.1	25.1
Total	69.3	125.9	195.3
TAFE			
Full-time	27.9	17.1	45.1
Part-time	17.7	30.7	48.3
Total	45.5	47.8	93.5
Other(a)	11.2	21.5	32.7
Attending post-secondary			
Full-time	101.7	126.9	228.5
Part-time	24.6	68.5	93.0
Total females attending post-secondary	126.0	195.4	321.5
PERSONS			
Higher education			
Full-time	120.3	202.5	322.7
Part-time	6.3	41.1	47.3
Total	126.6	243.5	370.1
TAFE			
Full-time	53.1	33.6	86.6
Part-time	61.3	92.5	153.9
Total	114.3	126.2	240.5
Other(a)	20.6	32.2	52.9
Attending post-secondary			
Full-time	184.1	244.2	428.5
Part-time	77.5	157.4	235.0
Total attending post-secondary	261.7	401.9	663.5

(a) Includes business colleges, industry skills centres and other educational institutions.

Source: Participation in Education, Australia, September 1996 (Cat. no. 6272.0)

4.14 TERTIARY STUDENTS, Course and labour force status—1996

LABOUR FORCE STATUS.....					
level	Course	Emp-loyed	Unemp-loyed	Not in labour force	Total
.....					
MALES, 15-24 YEARS					
		%	%	%	'000
Postgraduate diploma or higher		3.5	*2.4	*2.9	10.6
Bachelor degree		36.8	44.6	73.7	155.0
Undergraduate diploma		4.2	*2.0	*3.0	11.8
Associate diploma		14.0	21.3	8.2	41.4
Skilled vocational		37.9	20.9	6.0	88.4
Basic vocational		3.1	*8.8	*3.8	12.2
Total male tertiary students		100.0	100.0	100.0	322.6
.....					
		'000	'000	'000	'000
Total male tertiary students		204.3	24.9	93.4	322.6
.....					
FEMALES, 15-24 YEARS					
		%	%	%	'000
Postgraduate diploma or higher		6.9	*1.8	*3.3	16.0
Bachelor degree		50.4	53.1	63.2	161.9
Undergraduate diploma		5.6	*6.7	5.0	16.3
Associate diploma		15.6	*16.1	15.2	46.0
Skilled vocational		13.0	*7.6	7.4	32.3
Basic vocational		7.5	*8.5	*4.3	19.5
Total female tertiary students		100.0	100.0	100.0	296.8
.....					
		'000	'000	'000	'000
Total female tertiary students		183.5	22.4	90.9	296.8
.....					
PERSONS, 15-24 YEARS					
		%	%	%	'000
Postgraduate diploma or higher		5.1	*2.1	3.1	26.6
Bachelor degree		43.2	48.6	68.5	316.8
Undergraduate diploma		4.8	*4.2	4.0	28.1
Associate diploma		14.7	18.8	11.7	87.4
Skilled vocational		26.2	14.6	6.7	120.7
Basic vocational		5.2	8.7	4.0	31.7
Total tertiary students		100.0	100.0	100.0	619.4
.....					
		'000	'000	'000	'000
Total tertiary students		387.8	47.3	184.3	619.4

Source: Participation in Education, Australia, September 1996 (Cat. no. 6272.0)

4.15 LITERACY, Assessed skill levels—1996

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4/5	Total.....	
Sex and age (years)	%	%	%	%	%	'000
PROSE SCALE						
Males						
15-19	19.6	29.6	37.3	13.4	100.0	622.3
20-24	11.2	32.3	37.5	19.0	100.0	693.1
25 and over	22.3	27.4	34.4	15.9	100.0	5 291.7
Females						
15-19	9.7	31.1	42.8	16.4	100.0	593.3
20-24	7.8	21.6	46.4	24.2	100.0	674.9
25 and over	20.9	27.0	33.5	18.6	100.0	5 345.3
Persons						
15-19	14.8	30.4	40.0	14.9	100.0	1 215.6
20-24	9.5	27.0	41.9	21.6	100.0	1 368.0
25 and over	21.6	27.2	33.9	17.3	100.0	10 637.2
DOCUMENT SCALE						
Males						
15-19	13.2	31.6	39.6	15.6	100.0	622.3
20-24	9.1	27.7	41.4	21.8	100.0	693.1
25 and over	20.4	26.2	35.5	17.9	100.0	5 291.7
Females						
15-19	10.7	34.0	41.8	13.5	100.0	593.3
20-24	8.9	24.3	45.9	20.9	100.0	674.9
25 and over	23.0	29.9	33.7	13.3	100.0	5 345.3
Persons						
15-19	12.0	32.8	40.7	14.6	100.0	1 215.6
20-24	9.0	26.0	43.6	21.3	100.0	1 368.0
25 and over	17.4	28.0	34.6	15.6	100.0	10 637.2
QUANTITATIVE SCALE						
Males						
15-19	15.7	32.9	36.4	15.0	100.0	622.3
20-24	10.4	24.6	42.4	22.6	100.0	693.1
25 and over	18.4	23.2	33.6	22.3	100.0	5 291.7
Females						
15-19	17.1	37.4	37.2	8.3	100.0	593.3
20-24	11.2	28.8	42.4	19.6	100.0	674.9
25 and over	22.6	29.4	34.2	13.8	100.0	5 345.3
Persons						
15-19	16.4	35.1	36.8	11.7	100.0	1 215.6
20-24	10.8	26.7	42.4	20.1	100.0	1 368.0
25 and over	20.5	26.3	35.1	18.0	100.0	10 637.2

Source: *Aspects of Literacy: Assessed Skill Levels, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4228.0)

CHAPTER 5

WORKING LIFE.....

In recent years substantial change has been taking place in the youth labour market. Although employment is fundamental for young people to become financially independent, many of the new jobs available are part-time or casual and may offer little in the way of career opportunities.

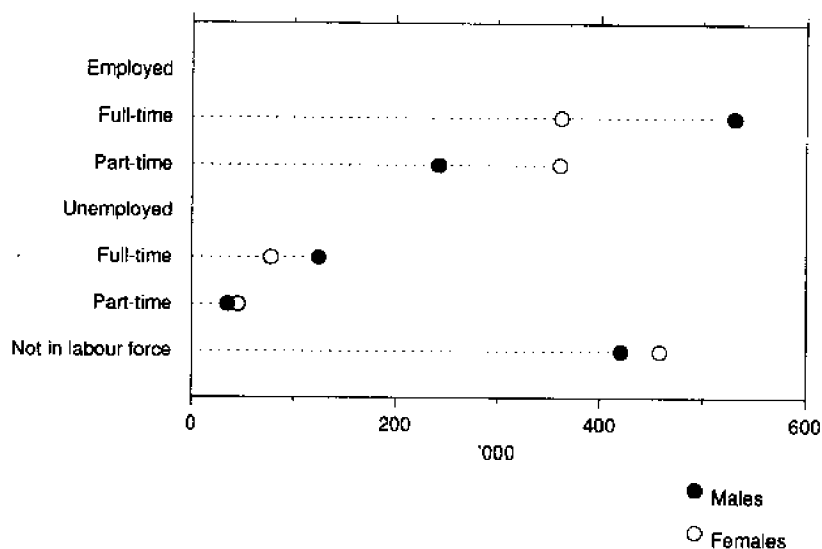
Accompanying these changes is the loss of full-time job opportunities, particularly in the manufacturing industries. The unemployment rate among young people is consistently higher than for all persons. Associated with this is the increased participation in education and deferral of entry to the full-time workforce.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

In August 1997, two-thirds of all 15–24 year-olds (67%) were in the labour force, the majority of whom (84%) were employed.

Fewer young women were in the labour force than young men (65% compared with 69%), and they were also more likely to be in part-time employment. Of employed young women, 50% were working part-time compared with 31% of employed young men (see table 5.16).

5.1 YOUTH, Labour force status—August 1997



Source: *Labour Force, Australia, August 1997* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Age

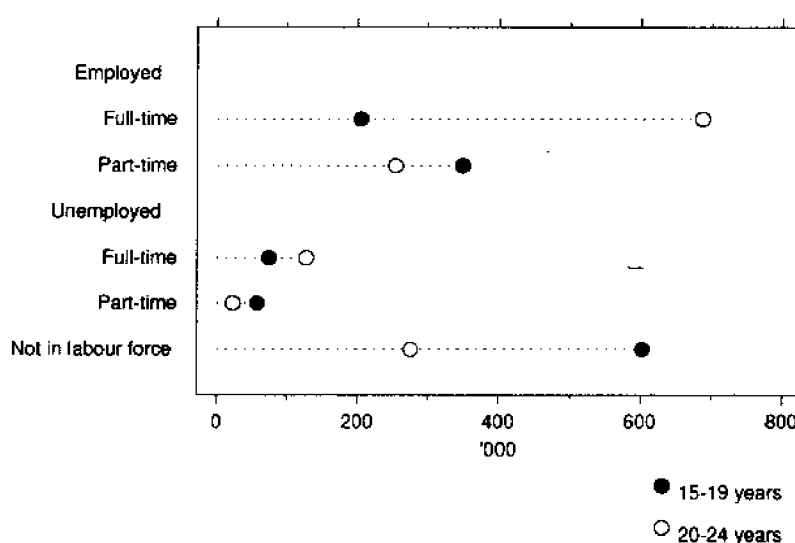
Young people's labour force status varies with age as they make the transition from full-time study to full-time work. Among 15–19 year-olds, 53% were in the labour force, compared with 80% of 20–24 year-olds.

For young people in the labour force, the unemployment rate was higher for 15–19 year-olds (19%) than for 20–24 year olds (14%). In comparison, only 7% of people aged 25 years and over who were in the labour force were unemployed.

Age continued

Many 15–19 year-olds were studying full-time, and were therefore more likely to be employed part-time (348,500, or 63% of employed 15–19 year-olds) than full-time (204,900). Nonetheless, among unemployed 15–19 year-olds, more were looking for full-time work (56% or 74,900) than part-time work (44% or 57,800).

Many 20–24 year-olds were either in full-time employment or were looking for full-time work. Nearly three times as many 20–24 year olds were employed full-time (687,600) than were employed part-time (254,300), and among those who were unemployed, more than five times as many were looking for full-time work (127,300) than were looking for part-time work (23,500).

5.2 LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND AGE—August 1997

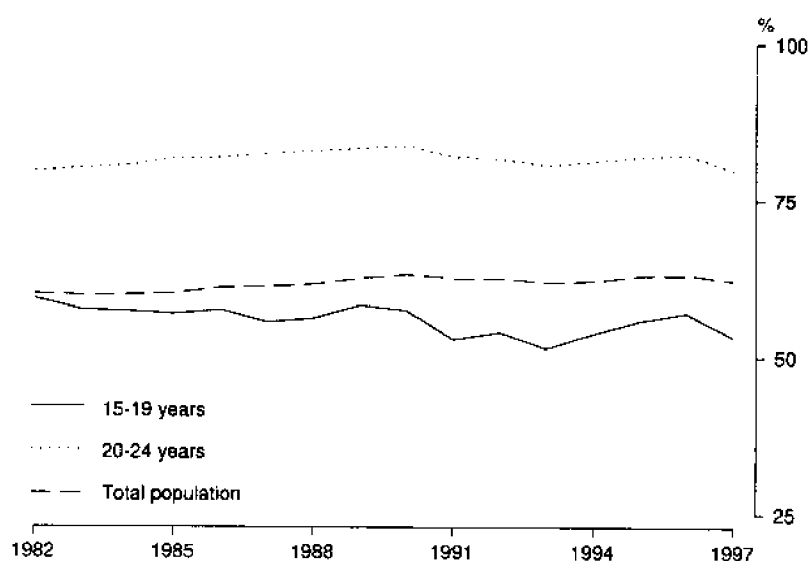
Source: *Labour Force, Australia, August 1997* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Over the 15 years to 1997 the extent of labour force participation by young people has fluctuated, particularly for teenagers (see table 5.17). While participation among the total population increased from 60% in 1982 to 62% in 1997, labour force participation among 15–19 year-olds declined by six percentage points (from 59% to 53%).

A major factor in this decline has been the increased participation in education among this age group and consequent delayed entry into the labour force. At the same time, for those in the labour force, there has been a shift from full-time to part-time work.

5.3 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



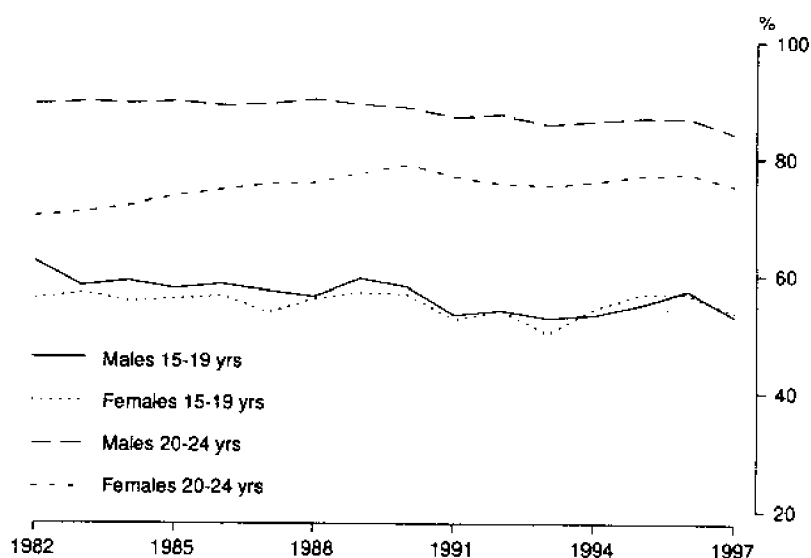
Source: *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

In the 15–19 years age group, participation rates for males and females have been similar over the last 15 years.

Among 20–24 year-olds labour force participation rates are higher for males than females, reflecting withdrawal of women from the labour force associated with child bearing. However due to increased education participation and delays in partnering and birth of the first child, the gap between men and women has decreased over time.

For males aged 20–24 years, the labour force participation rate declined from 89% to 84% over the 15 years to 1997. However, over the same period female participation in the labour force among this age group increased, from 70% to 75%.

5.4 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



Source: *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

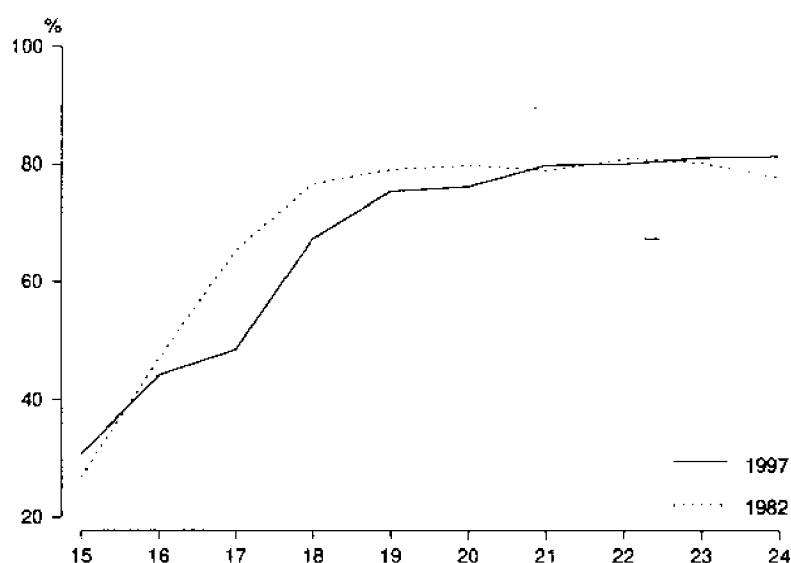
Age

For 15 year-olds, participation in the labour force was higher in August 1997 than in August 1982 (31% compared with 27%). This increase has been associated with a substitution of full-time work for part-time employment. In August 1982, 12,500 15 year-olds were employed full-time. By 1997, this number had fallen to 1,800, while the numbers who were employed part-time increased to 55,100.

Unemployed young people aged 15–17 are more likely to be seeking part-time work than full-time work. This pattern reverses at age 18 with the completion of school.

As a result of increased educational attendance, the labour force participation rates for young people between the ages of 16 and 22 years were generally lower in 1997 than they were in 1982.

5.5 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, Age



Source: *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Indigenous youth

According to the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, Indigenous youth reported lower rates of labour force participation than those for all Australian youth (see table 5.18). The participation rate for male Indigenous 15–24 year-olds was 69%, compared with 73% among all males in this age group.

This difference was attributable to lower labour force participation by Indigenous teenagers (52% for male Indigenous 15–19 year-olds, compared with 57% for all 15–19 year-old males). Indigenous males aged 20–24 years reported comparable labour force participation rates (87%) with their counterparts in the total youth population (88%).

Young Indigenous females are much less likely than all young females to be participating in the labour force. In particular participation rates for Indigenous women aged 20–24 years were 24 percentage points lower than those for all women in this age group (55% compared with 79%). This difference reflects the higher fertility among young Indigenous women.

Projected labour force participation

In the years to 2011, young people are expected to account for a declining proportion of the total labour force, dropping from 21% in 1995 to 18% in 2011. This reflects not only the ageing of the population, but also an expectation that overall labour force participation by young people will continue to decline.

Among 15–19 year-olds, rates are projected to fall by five percentage points for both males and females between 1995 and 2011.

The participation rate for young men aged 20–24 years is projected to decline by two percentage points, although 20–24 year-old women are expected to increase their participation by almost three percentage points.

5.6 PROJECTED LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Age (years)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES									
15–19	56.7	56.0	55.3	54.7	54.0	53.4	52.8	52.1	51.5
20–24	88.4	88.1	87.8	87.6	87.3	87.1	86.9	86.7	86.5
FEMALES									
15–19	58.1	55.5	54.9	54.3	53.7	53.2	52.6	52.0	51.4
20–24	78.9	79.4	79.9	80.4	80.7	81.0	81.3	81.5	81.7

Source: *Labour Force Projections, Australia, 1995–2011* (Cat. no. 6260.0).

EMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE

In 1997, 57% of all young men and 55% of all young women were employed. Because many teenagers were still studying, proportionally more 20–24 year-olds than 15–19 year-olds were employed. Among 20–24 year-olds, 71% of males and 66% of females were employed, compared with 42% for 15–19 year-old males and 44% for 15–19 year-old females.

In recent years, the proportion of young people working part-time has grown significantly. In 1977 only 14% of employed young people worked part-time. By August 1997, half of all employed 15–24 year-old women and almost one-third (31%) of all employed young men worked part-time.

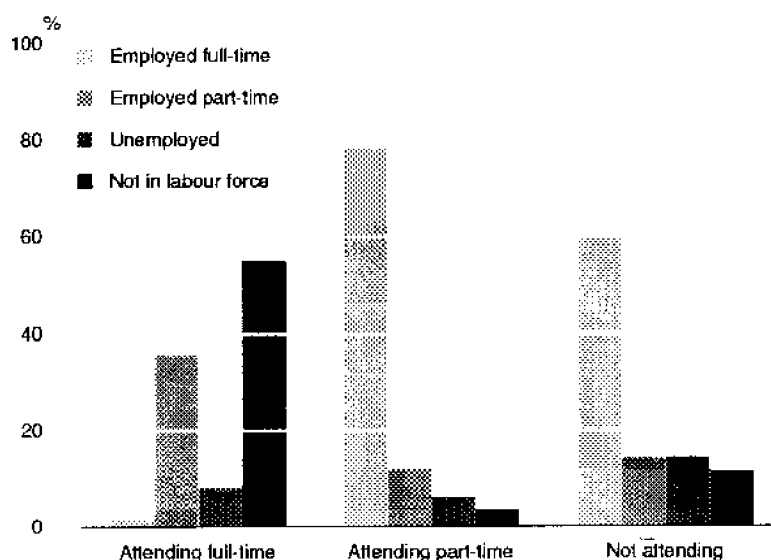
Education and employment

A key characteristic of youth employment is the extent to which it is combined with participation in schooling or tertiary education. In May 1996, half (1,343,100) of 15–24 year-olds were studying, mostly (81%) full-time. Of these students, 47% were also employed, either part-time or full-time.

There were links between young people's educational participation and the nature of their employment. Most part-time students (78%) held a full-time job. And while the majority (55%) of full-time students were not in the labour force, 96% of those who were employed, were working part-time.

Education and employment *continued*

As 15–19 year-olds were most likely to be full-time students (66%), so their employment was predominantly (61%) in part-time work. In contrast, 20–24 year-olds were more likely to be working full-time and studying part-time than their younger counterparts.

5.7 YOUTH, Educational attendance—May 1996

Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1996* (Cat. no. 6227.0).

Educational attainment

Young people's employment options are closely linked with educational attainment. In 1996, among 20–24 year-olds, those with post-school qualifications had the highest proportion in employment, while the lowest proportion was recorded for those who did not complete high school.

5.8 20–24 YEAR-OLDS, Educational attainment, labour force status—1996

Labour force status	Post-school qualifications.....		Completed high school.....		Did not complete high school.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Employed full-time	388.6	68.4	237.9	45.8	151.2	49.4
Employed part-time	82.8	14.6	123.1	23.7	38.6	12.6
Unemployed	39.8	7.0	46.8	9.0	51.4	16.8
Not in the labour force	57.0	10.0	111.3	21.4	64.8	21.2
Total persons	568.2	100.0	519.1	100.0	306.1	100.0

Source: *Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1996* (Cat. no. 6227.0).

Educational attainment *continued*

Part-time employment was highest among those 20–24 year-olds who had completed the highest level of schooling, but not yet obtained post-school qualifications. This was most likely in association with attendance at tertiary institutions. Unemployment levels were high among those who had not completed high school.

Occupation

Young people's occupations vary with their age. Many 15–19 year-olds have limited work experience, or are combining study with part-time work. In 1997, 38% of those who were employed were working as Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, and 20% as Labourers and Related Workers.

With 20–24 year-olds, many young people have gained qualifications and work experience, and are moving into full-time employment, and their occupations reflect this. In 1997, the largest proportion (22%) were employed as Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers, with another 17% as Tradespersons and Related Workers. Higher proportions of 20–24 year-olds were employed as Professionals and Associate Professionals, compared with 15–19 year-olds.

5.9 EMPLOYED PERSONS, Occupation—August 1997

Occupation(a)	15–19 years	20–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%
Managers and Administrators	10.4	1.6	9.0
Professionals	1.3	11.7	19.8
Associate Professionals	3.0	7.6	11.7
Tradespersons and Related Workers	12.9	17.2	13.1
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	1.5	5.0	4.8
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	15.0	22.0	15.8
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	7.8	7.8	9.5
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	38.4	15.0	7.0
Labourers and Related Workers	19.6	12.0	9.4
All occupations	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000
All occupations	553.4	941.9	6 820.2

(a) Based on the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition.

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, August 1997* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Industry

Between 1986 and 1996, the industry distribution of employed young people changed, reflecting the increasing importance of part-time work in youth employment. Retail trade, which employed the highest proportion (24%) of working young people in 1986, was even more predominant in 1996, employing 31% of working youth.

Other industries with increased proportions of youth employment over the decade included Property and business services (from 6% to 8%), and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants (from 4% to 8%). The proportion of 15–24 year-olds employed in Manufacturing, 16% in 1986, had fallen to 12% by 1996.

5.10 EMPLOYED YOUTH, Industry of employment

	1986	1996
Industry	%	%
Retail trade	23.8	30.7
Manufacturing	15.8	11.6
Property and business services	5.6	8.4
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	4.4	7.8
Construction	6.4	5.8
Health and community services	6.9	5.6
Wholesale trade	5.3	5.0
Personal and other services	3.8	3.8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.1	3.6
Finance and insurance	7.3	3.4
Education	3.1	3.3
Cultural and recreational services	2.1	3.2
Transport and storage	3.9	2.8
Government administration and defence	3.5	2.3
Communication services	1.5	1.5
Mining	1.1	0.7
Electricity, gas and water supply	1.4	0.3
All employed youth	100.0	100.0

Source: Labour Force Survey (unpublished data).

Working conditions and arrangements

The working arrangements reported by young people were less flexible than those of older employees. In August 1993, more than 72% of employed young men and women had fixed hours, compared with only 64% of those aged 25 years and over.

Fewer 15–19 year-olds were entitled to a rostered day off, worked overtime on a regular basis, or worked shiftwork in the month prior to interview, than workers of other ages. For 15–19 year-olds, as with other age groups, men were more likely to have a rostered day off than women.

5.11 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS—August 1993

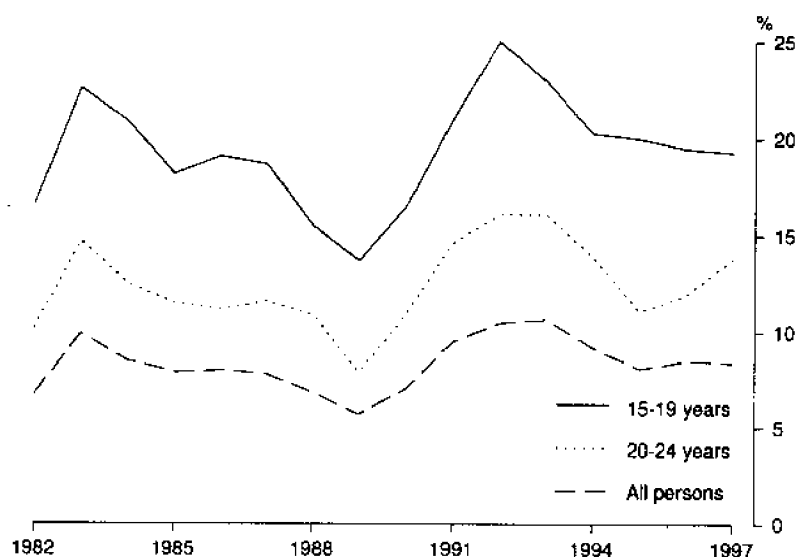
	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Start and finish times fixed	72.0	73.4	59.9	75.3	72.5	68.5
Entitled to a rostered day off	18.1	33.2	35.4	9.0	25.3	19.5
Overtime worked on a regular basis	16.7	30.8	41.9	10.9	22.0	25.8
Worked shiftwork in the last four weeks	11.0	15.2	14.8	13.3	14.1	12.7
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total employees	246.1	471.7	2 801.0	235.2	446.1	2 123.0

Source: *Working Arrangements, Australia, August 1993* (Cat. No. 6342.0).

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Over the last 15 years, the unemployment rate among young people has been higher than the total unemployment rate for all age groups. In August 1997, the youth unemployment rate was 16%, compared with 8% for all persons. Furthermore, unemployed young people accounted for 37% of all unemployed people.

5.12 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



Source: *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH *continued*

Any analysis of youth unemployment must take account of the significance of part-time work in the youth labour market associated with education participation.

In August 1997, there were 283,500 unemployed young people and 45% of them were 20–24 year-olds who were looking for full-time work. The unemployment rate for these young people was 16%. For those aged 15–19 years who were looking for full-time work, the rate was 27%. This rate is considerably higher than that for 20–24 year olds because fewer 15–19 year olds are in the full-time labour force.

An alternative measure of youth unemployment, which can assist in understanding the impact of unemployment on the youth population, is the full-time unemployment to population ratio. This measure expresses, for any particular group, those unemployed persons who are looking for full-time work as a proportion of the total population in the same group.

In August 1997, 6% of the 15–19 year-old population were unemployed and looking for full-time work, compared with 9% of all 20–24 year-olds, and 3% of the population aged 25 years and over.

5.13 UNEMPLOYMENT, Number and rate—August 1997

	15–19 years.....		20–24 years.....	
	'000	%	'000	%
Looking for full-time work	74.9	26.8	127.3	15.6
Looking for part-time work	57.8	14.2	23.5	8.5
Total unemployed	132.7	19.3	150.8	13.8

Source: Labour Force Survey (unpublished data).

Indigenous youth

Unemployment was very high among Indigenous youth. In 1994, the unemployment rates for males aged 15–19 years (48%) and 20–24 years (43%) were more than double the rates for all Australian youth in these age groups. Indigenous females experienced higher levels of unemployment than males, and their unemployment rates were also more than double those of the total population of young females (see table 5.18).

Duration of unemployment

The duration of unemployment for young people was generally less than for older people. In part this reflects their relatively recent entry to the labour force, especially for 15–19 year-olds, many of whom have recently left full-time or part-time education.

In August 1997, 21% of young unemployed people were classified as long-term unemployed, having been unemployed for more than a year. In comparison, more than one-third (37%) of those aged 25 years and over were long-term unemployed.

Among 15–19 year-olds, a higher proportion of females (16%) than males (13%) were long-term unemployed. However, for older youth, proportionally more males were long-term unemployed (28% compared with 23% of unemployed females). The latter was also the case for unemployed people aged 25 years and over.

5.14 DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT—August 1997

Duration of unemployment (weeks)	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15–19 years	20–24 years	25 years and over	15–19 years	20–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Under 4	20.1	13.0	11.3	24.1	22.5	16.2
4 and under 26	40.7	31.3	30.6	38.4	34.2	32.4
26 and under 52	26.0	7.0	18.6	21.5	20.7	18.6
52 and over	13.0	28.1	39.6	15.8	23.0	32.7
All unemployed persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All unemployed persons	70.7	89.4	287.7	61.9	61.4	193.5

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, August 1997* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Job search experience

Many unemployed young people experience several episodes of unemployment. In July 1996, 15% of 15–19 year-olds, and 18% of 20–24 year-olds who were unemployed reported that they had two or more periods of looking for work in the previous twelve months.

While age was not reported by unemployed young people as a major reason for not finding work, lack of work experience was. In 1996, 14% of 15–19 year-olds and 18% of 20–24 year-olds reported this as the main barrier to finding work.

Other main difficulties reported included the lack of job vacancies, and lack of skills and education.

5.15 UNEMPLOYED(a), Job search experience—July 1996

<i>Job search characteristics</i>	15-19 years	20-24 years
	%	%
Number of periods of looking for work(b)		
One	85.0	82.2
Two or more	15.0	17.8
Main difficulty in finding work		
Insufficient work experience	14.3	17.6
Lacked necessary skills, education	13.1	14.9
No vacancies at all	14.0	11.7
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.5	10.9
No vacancies in line of work	6.6	10.6
Too far to travel, transport problems	8.6	8.1
Considered too old or too young	6.9	5.5
Other difficulties	11.6	13.9
No difficulties reported	10.5	6.7
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000
Total unemployed	129.5	126.4

(a) Excludes persons who have been stood down.

(b) In the previous twelve months.

Source: *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1996*

(Cat. no. 6222.0).

ADDITIONAL TABLES

5.16 LABOUR FORCE STATUS—August 1997

	15-19 years	20-24 years	All youth	25 years and over
MALES				
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed				
Full-time	132.6	398.2	530.8	3 622.5
Part-time	146.1	96.1	242.2	333.7
Total employed	278.7	494.3	773.0	3 956.2
Unemployed, looking for				
Full-time work	44.4	80.3	124.7	273.7
Part-time work	26.4	9.1	35.5	13.9
Total unemployed	70.7	89.4	160.1	287.7
Not in the labour force	311.1	109.1	420.2	1 584.2
All males	660.5	692.8	1 353.3	5 828.1
	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate	20.2	15.3	17.2	6.8
Participation rate	52.9	84.3	68.9	72.8
FEMALES				
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed				
Full-time	72.3	289.4	361.7	1 663.3
Part-time	202.4	158.2	360.6	1 200.7
Total employed	274.7	447.6	722.3	2 864.0
Unemployed, looking for				
Full-time work	30.5	47.0	77.5	136.4
Part-time work	31.4	14.4	45.8	57.0
Total unemployed	61.9	61.4	123.3	193.5
Not in the labour force	291.7	166.8	458.5	3 049.8
All females	628.3	675.8	1 304.1	6 107.3
	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate	18.4	12.1	14.6	6.3
Participation rate	53.6	75.3	64.8	50.1

Source: Labour Force, Australia, August 1997 (Cat. no. 6203.0).

5.17 LABOUR FORCE RATES

Year	UNEMPLOYMENT RATES.....		PARTICIPATION RATES.....	
	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
	%	%	%	%
1982	15.6	10.2	59.3	79.6
1983	22.6	14.7	57.6	80.2
1984	20.9	12.5	57.3	80.6
1985	18.2	11.5	56.9	81.7
1986	19.1	11.2	57.6	81.9
1987	18.7	11.6	55.6	82.6
1988	15.5	10.9	56.2	83.0
1989	13.7	7.9	58.3	83.4
1990	16.5	10.9	57.4	83.8
1991	21.0	14.6	52.9	81.9
1992	25.0	16.1	54.1	81.6
1993	23.0	16.1	51.5	80.6
1994	20.3	13.9	53.8	81.3
1995	20.0	11.1	55.9	82.0
1996	19.5	11.9	57.1	82.3
1997	19.3	13.8	53.2	79.8

Source: *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

5.18 LABOUR FORCE STATUS—1994

	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-24 years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Indigenous youth						
Unemployment rate	48.0	42.7	44.7	52.7	50.0	51.2
Participation rate	51.7	87.2	69.1	42.9	54.9	49.0
All youth						
Unemployment rate	25.9	16.4	19.9	26.0	14.4	18.9
Participation rate	57.4	87.7	73.3	58.0	79.0	69.2
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
All Indigenous youth	15.5	14.9	30.4	15.1	15.4	30.5
All youth	655.3	723.4	1 378.7	624.1	709.7	1 333.9

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994: Detailed Findings* (Cat. no. 4190.0); *Labour Force, Australia, March 1994* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

CHAPTER 6

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.....

Young people have relatively low incomes, but are a diverse group in terms of their education and employment status, their financial independence, and living arrangements. Not all youth have income of their own. Many remain in full-time education and rely on income support from their families.

In recent years young people's incomes have declined relative to those of the total population, as increased participation in education has delayed their entry into the labour market.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Income is defined as regular and recurring cash receipts before deduction of tax or any other items. It includes cash receipts such as wages and salaries, government pensions, benefits and allowances. For those young people who receive financial support from their parents, this is included as income only where reported by youth living outside the family home. However, intra-household transfers where parents give financial support to youth living within the household are not included as income.

In 1995-96, one in five young people received no regular income and more than half (56%) of all 15-24 year-olds had a gross weekly income of less than \$200. Those with no income were most likely to be at the younger end of this age group. One-third (33%) of 15-19 year-olds received no income and a further 29% had a gross income of less than \$100 per week. Only one in ten teenagers received an income of more than \$300 per week.

6.1 INCOME—1995-96

	15-19 YEARS.....			20-24 YEARS.....			
Gross weekly income	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	All youth
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nil(a)	34.9	31.2	33.0	6.0	6.4	6.2	19.7
\$1-99	29.0	29.0	29.0	6.5	8.7	7.6	18.4
\$100-199	16.5	20.0	18.3	17.9	17.1	17.5	17.9
\$200-299	8.9	10.3	9.6	7.5	13.0	10.2	9.9
\$300-399	6.7	7.1	6.9	12.8	16.6	14.7	10.8
\$400-499	2.4	1.7	2.0	20.0	18.3	19.1	10.5
\$500 and over	1.5	0.8	1.1	29.4	19.9	24.7	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	823.6	596.7	1 220.3	700.4	678.6	1 378.9	2 599.2

(a) Includes nil or negative income from all sources.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing Costs (unpublished data).

INCOME DISTRIBUTION *continued*

Among 20–24 year-olds, a much smaller proportion (6%) had no income in 1995–96. A further 8% had an income of less than \$100 per week. However, more than half (58%) of older youth had an income above \$300 per week in 1995–96. A higher proportion of males than females were receiving more than \$300 per week (62% compared with 55%).

Indigenous youth

Low labour force participation and the high rate of unemployment among young Indigenous persons are factors that contributed to low income. In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, more than half (56%) of Indigenous 15–24 year-olds reported receiving an annual income of \$8,000 or less. Nearly three-quarters (72%) received \$12,000 or less per annum.

Correspondingly, few Indigenous young people (6%) received incomes of over \$25,000. In common with other Australian youth, many Indigenous 15–19 year-olds reported receiving low incomes. In 1994, 40% received less than \$3,000, with a further 35% receiving less than \$8,000. Among Indigenous 20–24 year-olds, 37% reported receiving less than \$8,000.

In 1994, slightly fewer young Indigenous females (54%) than males (59%) reported an annual income of \$8,000 or less. However, males were more likely to receive higher incomes, with 19% of males receiving more than \$16,000 compared with 13% of females.

6.2 INDIGENOUS YOUTH, Annual personal income—1994

Annual income	AGE GROUP...		15–24 YEARS.....		
	15–19	20–24			
	years	years	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%	%	%
\$0–\$3,000	40.4	9.5	24.3	25.8	25.0
\$3,001–\$8,000	35.2	27.4	34.7	27.9	31.3
\$8,001–\$12,000	11.9	19.2	13.0	18.0	15.5
\$12,001–\$16,000	5.8	15.7	7.6	13.8	10.7
\$16,001–\$25,000	4.3	16.2	11.2	9.2	10.2
Over \$25,000	*0.5	11.4	7.9	4.0	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	30.6	30.3	30.4	30.5	60.9

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Australia's Indigenous Youth (Cat. no. 4197.0).

Median gross weekly income for all youth

The amount of income received by young people varies considerably depending on their labour force status and whether or not they remain in education.

In 1995–96, 40% of 15–24 year-olds were studying full-time and received a median gross income of \$39 per week. The lowest median gross weekly income (\$10) was received by the 65% of 15–19 year-olds who were studying full-time. Most of these young people are dependent on their families for income support.

Those 15–24 year-olds, who were either not studying, or were studying part-time, had a much higher median gross weekly income of \$330. The amount of income received was considerably higher for 20–24 year-olds (\$396) than for 15–19 year-olds (\$192).

Among young people not studying full-time, labour force status is the major factor in the amount of income received, with older youth receiving higher incomes than their young counterparts. In 1995–96, the highest median gross weekly income (\$458) was received by 20–24 year-olds who were employed full-time, while those in this age group who were unemployed or not in the labour force received \$140 per week.

Among 15–19 year-olds who were not studying full-time, the lowest median weekly income of \$80 was received by those who were not employed, many of whom would have been in receipt of unemployment benefits. They may also have received financial support by way of cash and non-cash assistance from their families to supplement their income.

6.3 MEDIAN GROSS WEEKLY INCOME—1995–96

	15–19 YEARS		20–24 YEARS		ALL YOUTH....	
	Median gross weekly income		Median gross weekly income		Median gross weekly income	
	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Studying full-time(a)	65.3	10	14.3	134	40.0	39
Not studying full-time(b)	34.7	192	85.7	396	60.0	330
Employed full-time	17.5	279	56.5	458	36.9	423
Employed part-time	6.4	152	10.5	254	8.5	228
Unemployed/NILF	10.8	80	18.6	140	14.7	110
Total	100.0	61	100.0	350	100.0	166

(a) Studying full-time includes those still at school.

(b) Not studying full-time includes those not studying at all and those studying part-time.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing Costs (unpublished data).

Average weekly earnings of employed youth

In recent years real earnings for young people have declined. Between 1985 and 1995, the real average weekly earnings of 15–19 year-olds fell from \$252 to \$174 per week, and those of 20–24 year-olds from \$485 to \$423 per week.

This fall is partly explained by the shift from full-time to part-time work. However, among young people real average weekly earnings have also declined for both full-time and part-time workers. Between 1985 and 1995, the earnings of full-time employees declined from \$320 to \$300 per week for 15–19 year-olds and from \$511 to \$487 per week for 20–24 year-olds. Real earnings for 20–24 year-olds employed part-time declined from \$259 to \$203 per week.

Young people's earnings have also dropped relative to those of employees aged 25 years and over. Overall, between 1985 and 1995, the average weekly earnings of youth employed full-time relative to older full-time workers has decreased from 48% to 45% for 15–19 year-olds and from 77% to 72% for 20–24 year-olds.

6.4 AVERAGE WEEKLY REAL EARNINGS OF EMPLOYED YOUTH

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.....		PROPORTION OF ADULT EARNINGS(a).....	
	1985(b)	1995	1985(b)	1995
<i>Employment status</i>	\$	\$	%	%
.....				
15–19 YEARS				
Employed full-time	320	300	48.4	44.6
Employed part-time	97	95	33.3	34.4
Total 15–19 years	252	174	42.1	29.6
.....				
20–24 YEARS				
Employed full-time	511	487	77.3	72.5
Employed part-time	259	203	88.7	73.6
Total 20–24 years	485	423	81.0	71.9

(a) Adult earnings were the earnings of employees aged 25 years or over.

(b) 1985 earnings adjusted to 1995 dollars using the CPI weighted average over the eight capital cities.

Source: Labour Force Survey, (unpublished data).

SOURCES OF INCOME

The diversity among young people in terms of their dependency status and their employment/student status is reflected in the different sources of income received. Many young people, particularly those at the younger end of the age range, have no income of their own and are dependent on their families for financial support. Some receive income from paid employment while others rely on government cash benefits as their main source of income.

Of those still at school or studying full-time in 1995–96, one-third had no income and were most likely to be supported by their parents. One in five (22%) reported that Government cash benefits (including student allowances such as AUSTUDY) were their main source of income.

SOURCES OF INCOME *continued*

As young people mature, obtain qualifications and join the labour force, earnings from employment assume a greater proportion of their total income. In 1995–96, 68% of 15–24 year-olds who were not studying, reported wages and salaries as their main source of income. The majority (87%) of young people studying part-time also received most of their income from wages and salaries.

6.5 YOUTH, Main source of income—1995–96

Main source of income	Still at school or studying full-time	Studying part-time	Not currently studying	All youth
	%	%	%	%
Wages and salaries	33.1	87.3	68.5	55.9
Government benefits	21.5	9.1	21.1	20.3
Other sources	12.8	1.5	3.4	7.0
Nil(a)	32.6	2.0	6.9	16.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes nil or negative income from all sources.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing Costs (unpublished data).

Indigenous youth

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are less likely than other young Australians to receive their main income from paid employment. In 1994, 22% of 15–19 year-olds and 37% of 20–24 year-olds derived most of their income from paid employment, including payments from working in a Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) scheme.

Government cash benefits were the main source of income for high proportions of Indigenous youth (40% of 15–19 year-olds and 56% of 20–24 year-olds). Proportionally more females (56%) than males (40%) were reliant on government payments.

6.6 INDIGENOUS YOUTH, Main source of income—1994

Main source of income	AGE GROUP.....			15–24 YEARS.....		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 and over	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Wages and salaries						
CDEP(a)	8.9	10.9	7.8	14.2	5.6	9.9
Non-CDEP	12.8	25.7	26.6	22.4	16.0	19.2
Government benefits	40.4	56.4	58.2	40.5	56.2	48.4
No income	36.0	6.5	5.3	21.6	21.0	21.3
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Community Development Employment Project.

(b) Includes not stated.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Australia's Indigenous Youth (Cat. no. 4197.0).

YOUNG INCOME UNITS

As discussed previously, many young people receive income support from their families and are classified as dependents. Their personal income is not a good reflection of their economic well-being which will be influenced by their parents income.

An income unit is a person, or a group of related persons within a household, whose command over income is assumed to be shared. Income sharing is assumed to take place within couples, and between parents and dependent children. Non-dependent children are treated as separate income units. In 1995–96, there were 1.5 million income units headed by a young person, either as a single person, a sole parent or as a member of a couple.

6.7 YOUNG INCOME UNITS(a), Main source of income 1995-96

	Couple income units	One-parent income units	One-person income units	All income units
	%	%	%	%
Main source of income				
Wage or salary	80.8	*19.2	70.5	69.9
Government benefits	*13.1	80.8	18.1	19.4
Other	*6.1	—	5.2	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Median income per week	728	277	304	325
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	115.7	40.9	1 347.2	1 503.8

(a) Income units where the reference person is aged 15–24 years.

Source: *Income Distribution, Australia, 1995–96* (Cat. no. 6523.0).

One-person income units

When young people move out of full-time education or leave the parental home, they are considered to be financially independent of their parents and are classified as separate income units. In 1995–96, there were 1.3 million young one-person income units. Their median gross weekly income from all sources was \$304.

Income quintiles are formed by ranking a population of income units in ascending order according to the level of income of each unit, and forming five equal groups (see Glossary). In 1995–96, using rankings of all income units based on gross weekly income, 36% of young people in one-person income units were in the lowest income quintile.

One-person income units *continued*

When grouped according to disposable income (gross income after income tax and the Medicare levy), 38% of young people in one-person income units fell into the lowest income quintile, and a further 26% were in the next lowest income quintile.

When equivalence scales—the Henderson equivalence scale and the OECD equivalence scale—were applied to the 1995–96 income estimates, to adjust for the differences in the size and characteristics of income units, the proportions of 15–24 year-old one-person income units in the lowest income quintile fell. Applying the Henderson scale, 26% of young people were in the lowest quintile. Using the OECD scale, 30% were in the lowest income quintile.

6.8 YOUNG ONE-PERSON INCOME UNITS—1995–96

Type of income quintile group	INCOME QUINTILE(a).....					Total
	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Gross weekly income	35.8	24.7	29.8	8.6	*1.1	100.0
Disposable income	37.5	26.1	28.6	6.9	*0.9	100.0
Henderson equivalent income	26.5	12.3	19.1	27.3	14.7	100.0
OECD equivalent income	30.5	10.7	20.8	28.4	9.6	100.0

(a) Income quintile for all income units.

Source: *Income Distribution, Australia, 1995–96* (Cat. no. 6523.0).

Young couple and one-parent income units

Relatively few young people (about 10%) have formed families, either as a partner in a couple, or as a lone parent. However for those who have, access to paid employment is a significant factor in their economic well-being. In 1995–96 there were 115,700 couple income units and 40,900 one-parent income units headed by a 15–24 year-old.

More than half (59%) of young couple units contained two working partners and a further 28% had one partner working. This compared with the 33% of young one-parent income units who were employed, either full-time or part-time.

Consequently, couple units had much higher levels of income than one-parent units. In 1995–96, 73% of couple income units had a gross weekly income of more than \$500, compared with 7% of one-parent income units. More than half (59%) of one-parent income units had a gross weekly income of less than \$300.

6.9 YOUNG COUPLE AND ONE-PARENT INCOME UNITS—1995–96

	Couple income units	One-parent income units
	%	%
Gross weekly income		
Nil(a)	—	—
\$1–199	**3.0	*9.8
\$200–299	*5.0	48.9
\$300–399	*9.5	24.0
\$400–499	*9.5	10.8
\$500 and over	72.9	**6.6
Total	100.0	100.0
Proportion with earners		
Nil earners	*13.1	67.3
One earner	27.7	*32.7
Two earners	59.2	..
Total	100.0	100.0
Proportion with dependent children	39.2	100.0

(a) Includes income units with nil or negative income from all sources.

Source: *Income Distribution, Australia, 1995–96* (Cat. no. 6523.0).

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on commodities

In 1993–94, there were 422,500 households in Australia with a reference person aged under 25 years. These young households spent an average of \$565 per week on commodities and services, compared with \$675 per week among households where the reference person was aged 25–64 years and \$336 per week in those with a reference person aged 65 years and over.

There were also differences between young households and those with an older reference person, in their expenditure on particular commodities or services. Households with a young reference person spent an average of \$110 per week on current housing costs (including rent payments, the interest component of mortgage payments, rates, insurance and maintenance costs), representing 19% of total expenditure on commodities and services. Households with a reference person aged 25–64 years spent an average of \$95 per week on current housing costs (14% of total expenditure). Differences in expenditure patterns will be influenced not only by the life cycle stage of the households but also by the average number of household members. Young households contained an average of 2.1 persons compared with 2.9 persons for households where the reference person was aged 25–65 years and 1.6 persons for 65 years and over.

6.10 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE—1993–94

Commodity or service	AGE OF REFERENCE PERSON...		
	Under 25 years	25 and under 65 years	65 years and over
	\$	\$	\$
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	110.07	95.42	38.92
Fuel and power	12.32	18.21	12.74
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	89.25	123.17	71.64
Alcoholic beverages	23.10	18.94	9.99
Tobacco	11.15	10.25	4.49
Clothing and footwear	30.18	38.19	17.78
Household furnishings and equipment	35.21	44.58	21.83
Household services and operation	22.74	34.82	22.12
Medical care and health expenses	13.32	29.97	20.89
Transport	96.26	106.16	44.67
Recreation	73.83	89.29	43.13
Personal care	9.52	12.53	7.53
Miscellaneous commodities and services	38.32	53.48	20.09
Total commodity & service expenditure	565.28	675.01	335.81
 Average weekly household income	 628.70	 829.42	 348.68
	'000	'000	'000
Estimated number of households	422.5	4 909.1	1 285.3

Source: 1993–94 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics
(Cat. no. 6531.0).

Expenditure in low and high income households

The expenditure of households with a reference person aged 15–24 years varied considerably according to the level of household income. For example, in 1993–94, young households in the lowest income quintile group spent an average of \$319 per week, whereas those in the highest income quintile had average weekly household expenditure of \$785.

Expenditure patterns varied among the household income quintiles. In general those households in the lower income groups spent proportionally more of their total weekly household expenditure on basic commodities such as housing, fuel, power and food. In 1993–94, young households in the lowest income quintile spent an average of \$78 or 25% of their total expenditure on housing costs, compared with \$148 (19%) for young households in the highest income quintile.

In contrast, households in the lowest and second income quintiles spent proportionally less on clothing, transport and medical care and health expenses than did households in the higher income quintiles.

6.11 YOUNG HOUSEHOLDS, Expenditure by Income(a)—1993–94

GROSS INCOME QUINTILE.....

	Lowest	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Highest quintile	All house- holds
Commodity or service	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current housing costs	78.25	96.58	97.31	129.61	148.54	110.07
Fuel and power	10.17	12.27	12.07	13.58	13.51	12.32
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	54.68	73.61	84.70	112.62	120.46	89.25
Alcoholic beverages	11.03	13.88	24.19	31.28	34.96	23.10
Tobacco	10.62	12.65	8.02	12.12	12.42	11.15
Clothing and footwear	16.84	15.70	31.73	40.16	46.20	30.18
Household furnishings and equipment	12.93	30.74	34.69	55.89	41.79	35.21
Household services and operation	15.84	23.09	23.09	24.33	27.36	22.74
Medical care and health expenses	6.46	7.73	13.75	16.07	22.46	13.32
Transport	27.50	63.18	103.88	138.92	147.25	96.26
Recreation	47.68	44.10	72.55	101.19	103.17	73.83
Personal care	6.20	5.39	12.34	12.65	10.91	9.52
Miscellaneous commodities and services	20.48	19.45	28.51	66.87	56.14	38.32
Total	318.68	418.37	546.83	755.30	785.17	565.28

(a) The quintile groups in this table are 20% groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income.

Source: 1993–94 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics (Cat. no. 6531.0).

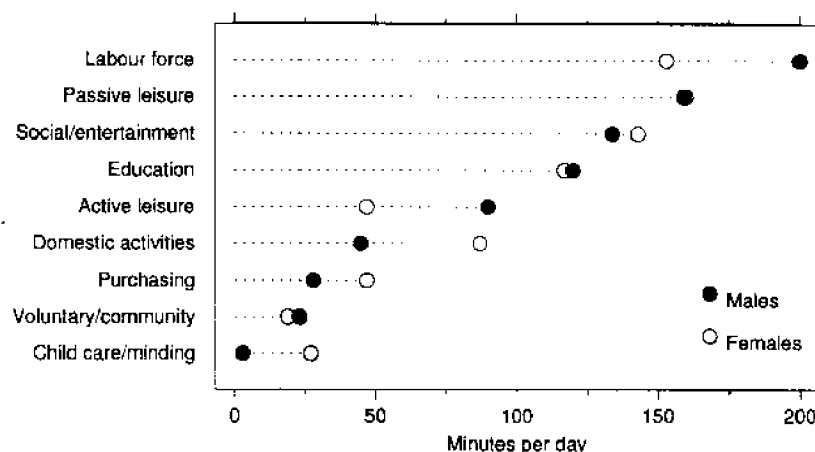
Participation in social, cultural and leisure activities is an important aspect of life for most people. Such activities provide social, physiological and psychological benefits that are generally regarded as significant to the well-being of people. This chapter considers some of the ways in which young people spend their free time in pursuing sporting, recreational and cultural activities. It also examines young people's concern for social and environmental issues, and their participation in community life through voluntary work and religious activities.

TIME USE

The amount of free time available to young people for social participation varies according to a number of factors, in particular the extent of their participation in education and in the labour force, as well as the amount of time spent on household activities.

15–24 year-olds allocate considerably more of their time to social life and entertainment than do older people. In the 1992 Time Use Survey, young males and females reported spending on average 2.3 hours per day on socialising and entertainment, compared with 1.5 hours per day for persons 25 years and over.

7.1 YOUTH, Average time spent on major activity groups—1992



Source: *How Australians Use Their Time* (Cat. no. 4153.0).

Young people also spent more of their time on active leisure (sport, games, hobbies and travel) than older people (see table 7.14), although young men accounted for most of this difference. They spent an average of 90 minutes per day on active leisure, compared with 47 minutes for young women.

In contrast, they spent less time on passive leisure activities such as reading, watching television, conversation or resting. In 1992, young males and females allocated similar amounts of time to passive leisure (159 and 160 minutes per day respectively), compared with 203 minutes and 193 minutes per day respectively by people aged 25 years and over.

Time use *continued*

Young people spent slightly less time on voluntary work and community activities than older people. In 1992, 15–24 year-old males spent an average of 23 minutes per day on these activities, compared with 26 minutes for males 25 years and over. Young females spent even less time on voluntary or community activities, allocating an average of 19 minutes per day, compared with 28 minutes per day for older females. On the other hand, young females had a higher volunteer rate (13%) than young males (9%) (see Table 7.9).

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

In general, participation in organised sport and physical activities is highest among young people and declines steadily with age according to data collected by the Population Survey Monitor. In 1995–96, more than half of all 15–19 year-olds were involved in organised sport and physical activities, with participation higher among males (61%) than females (50%). However, among 20–24 year-olds, the participation rate dropped to below half, with 46% of males and 37% of females involved. The significance of school sport is evident in the decline in participation between these age groups, which corresponds to the move from secondary to tertiary education, and the completion of studies.

7.2 PARTICIPANTS, Organised sport and physical activities—1995–96

Age group (years)	Males.....		Females.....	
	'000	Participation rate (%)	'000	Participation rate (%)
15–19	387.0	61.4	299.7	50.1
20–24	318.0	46.3	251.0	37.3
25–34	562.8	41.1	466.9	33.5
35–44	407.3	30.3	344.3	25.0
45–54	288.1	25.2	237.7	21.2
55–64	168.2	22.4	148.5	20.0
65 and over	182.7	20.7	161.8	15.3
Total	2 314.2	34.0	1 910.0	27.4

Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia, 1995–96* (Cat. no. 4177.0).

In 1995–96, the most popular organised physical activity was aerobics, both for young people and for those 25 years and over (see table 7.15). Other popular organised sports for 15–24 year-olds were netball, basketball and swimming, whereas for older people, golf, lawn bowls and tennis were most popular after aerobics.

Attendance at sporting events

As well as participating in sports and physical activities, many young people spend some of their leisure time attending sporting events. In 1995 young people's attendance at sporting events was much greater than that of older people.

More than half of both male and female 15–24 year-olds attended sporting events at least once in 1995 (63% and 55% respectively). Among people aged 25 years and over, the attendance rate was markedly lower, at 49% for males and 33% for females.

7.3 PERSONS WHO ATTENDED SPORTING EVENTS—1995(a)

Age group (years)	Males.....		Females.....	
	'000 Attendance	rate (%)	'000 Attendance	rate (%)
15-24	869.1	63.3	726.1	54.8
25 and over	2 695.6	48.6	1 947.0	33.4
Total	3 564.7	51.5	2 673.1	37.4

(a) At least once in the 12 months ended March 1995.

Source: *Sports Attendance, Australia, March 1995* (Cat. no. 4174.0).

Traditionally, Australian Rules football, rugby league and cricket have attracted large crowds and in 1995, these sports continued to attract the largest attendance of young people. Among older people, the highest attendance rates in 1995 were for Australian Rules football, horse racing and rugby league. Other sports well attended by young people included basketball and soccer, but these were less popular among older people (see table 7.16).

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In general, young people were more likely to participate in selected cultural activities than older people according to data from a March 1995 survey on attendance at selected cultural venues or activities over the previous 12 months.

7.4 ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES—1995(a)

Venue/activity	15-24 YEARS.....		25 YEARS AND OVER.....	
	Participation rate		Participation rate	
	'000	%	'000	%
Cinema	2 350.6	87.1	6 383.2	56.1
Library	1 219.2	45.2	4 183.9	36.8
Popular music	1 215.8	45.1	2 574.9	22.6
Botanic garden	1 123.1	41.6	4 287.4	37.7
Animal and marine parks	1 113.4	41.3	3 852.6	33.9
Museum	766.8	28.4	3 138.8	27.6
Other performing arts	669.0	24.8	1 965.3	17.3
Art gallery	628.1	23.3	2 506.0	22.0
Theatre	547.2	20.3	1 789.1	15.7
Opera or musical	531.2	19.7	2 190.9	19.3
Dance	310.3	11.5	1 097.2	9.6
Classical music	163.4	6.1	917.8	8.1

(a) In the 12 months ended March 1995.

Source: *Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues, Australia, March 1995* (Cat. no. 4114.0).

Cultural activities *continued*

The cinema was clearly the most favoured cultural venue for all people. However, the participation rate was highest among 15–24 year-olds, 87% of whom reported going to the cinema at least once during the year. Of older persons, 56% reported going to the cinema over the same time period.

The library and popular music venues were jointly the second most frequented venues among young people (45% for each). The library was also a popular venue among people aged 25 and over, attended by 37% of these people during the year.

Attending classical music concerts was the least favoured cultural activity for young people, with a participation rate of 6% in 1995. This was the only cultural activity for which older persons had a higher participation rate (8%).

Involvement in cultural activities

As well as attending cultural venues, some young people are actively involved in cultural pursuits, such as live music performances, writing or publishing, and organising festivals or fetes, whether or not for payment. In a March 1993 survey, 11% of young people reported participating in this way.

7.5 LEADING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES(a)—1993

Activity	15–24 YEARS.....			25 YEARS AND OVER....		
	no. of persons	Average time per activity	Participation rate	no. of persons	Average time per activity	Participation rate
	'000	hours(b)	%	'000	hours(b)	%
Music as a live performer	71.4	266	2.6	127.3	237	1.2
Performing arts as a performer	59.7	207	2.2	75.1	173	0.7
Visual arts activities	43.6	295	1.6	159.9	309	1.5
Fete/festival organising	42.4	59	1.6	399.4	46	3.7
Cultural activities teaching	39.6	168	1.5	201.1	273	1.9
Writing/publishing	30.3	323	1.1	243.0	343	2.2
Craft activities	28.6	360	1.0	189.0	401	1.7
Design	20.6	463	0.8	66.2	576	0.6
Libraries/archives	9.1	359	0.3	76.8	606	0.7

(a) Excludes cultural activities teaching by full-time secondary teachers.

(b) Hours of involvement for the 12 months ended March 1993.

Source: ABS, *Youth and the Arts, A report to the Cultural Ministers Council, 1996*, Cultural Industries Statistics Working Group.

In 1993 the most popular activities among young people were as a performer, either of live music before an audience, involving 71,400 15–24 year-olds, or in other performing arts, involving 59,700 young people. However, these activities on average took up less time than other cultural activities. For example, the average participation in music as a live performer was 266 hours during the year, compared with 463 hours for those involved in design activities.

People aged 25 years and over were most likely to be involved in organising fetes or festivals (3.7% of the age group). However, this activity took up the least amount of participants' time (an average annual commitment of 46 hours).

INDIGENOUS YOUTH AND CULTURE

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, there is a generally high level of participation in cultural activities. In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, a slightly smaller proportion of Indigenous youth (68%) than people aged 25 years and over (74%) reported attending cultural activities during the previous 12 months.

Festivals and carnivals attracted the largest proportion of Indigenous young people (47%), a slightly higher proportion than older people (41%). However, funerals and ceremonies attracted a smaller percentage of Indigenous youth than of their older counterparts.

7.6 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, Attendance at cultural activities—1994

Activity attended	15–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%
Funerals	47.5	59.7
Ceremonies	19.7	22.0
Festivals, carnivals	46.6	40.6
All who attended cultural activities	68.4	74.4

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Australia's Indigenous Youth, 1994 (Cat. no. 4197.0).

Recognition of homelands

Homelands are areas of land to which Indigenous people have ancestral and/or cultural links. In 1994 a high proportion of Indigenous youth (70%) stated that they recognised their homelands, even though more than half of them were not living there. This proportion was slightly lower than for older Indigenous persons, 79% of whom reported recognising their homelands.

Use of Indigenous languages

Another aspect of cultural life among Indigenous youth is their use of Indigenous languages. While most young Indigenous people (81%) reported in 1994 that English was their main language, 13% reported that an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language was their main language. A small proportion (2%) spoke mainly Aboriginal English (including Pidgin English, Broken English and Creole), while the remainder did not identify their main language.

In rural areas, the proportion of young Indigenous people whose main language was an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language increased to almost one-third (31%).

7.7 INDIGENOUS YOUTH, Main language spoken—1994

Language	PART OF STATE.....			
	Capital city	Other urban	Rural	Total
	%	%	%	%
English	94.4	87.0	62.0	81.3
Broken English, Aboriginal English, Pidgin English or Creole	**0.5	*1.8	4.9	2.4
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language	*2.2	7.3	31.0	13.2
All Indigenous youth(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000
All Indigenous youth(a)	17.1	26.1	19.3	62.5

(a) Includes not stated.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Australia's Indigenous Youth, 1994 (Cat. no. 4197.0).

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Voluntary work

Voluntary work makes an important contribution to national well-being. It meets a range of needs within the community, and adds to and reinforces social networks. Among the population in 1995, volunteer rates varied according to age and sex, possibly reflecting the varying demands of education, family and labour force commitments at various stages in the life cycle. In 1995, 9% of young men and 13% of young women were involved in voluntary work, compared with 18% of males and 23% of females aged 25 years and over.

7.8 VOLUNTEERS—1995(a)

Age group (years)	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	'000	rate	Million hours	'000	rate	Million hours
		%	worked		%	worked
15-24	127.8	9.4	16.3	171.1	13.0	18.6
25 and over	1 015.2	18.2	171.3	1 325.5	22.7	227.6
Total	1 142.9	18.7	187.6	1 496.6	21.3	246.3

(a) 12 months ended June 1995.

Source: Voluntary Work, Australia, June 1995 (Cat. no. 4441.0); Labour Force, Australia, June 1995 (Cat. no. 6203.0).

Voluntary work *continued*

Among 15–24 year-old males participating in voluntary work, the largest proportion were involved in the fields of sport, recreation and leisure (4% of all young males). Young females were most likely to be performing voluntary work in the welfare area (4% of all young females) and also in the sports, recreation and leisure fields (4%).

7.9 VOLUNTEER RATE, Field of voluntary work—1995

Field of voluntary work	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	15–24 years	All ages	15–24 years	All ages
	%	%	%	%
Sport/recreation/hobby	4.2	6.9	3.8	5.0
Welfare/community	1.8	4.5	3.9	6.8
Health	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.9
Emergency services	1.1	1.4	*0.3	0.5
Education/training/youth development	1.1	2.8	2.2	6.8
Religious	1.4	2.7	2.2	4.0
Total	9.4	16.7	13.0	21.3

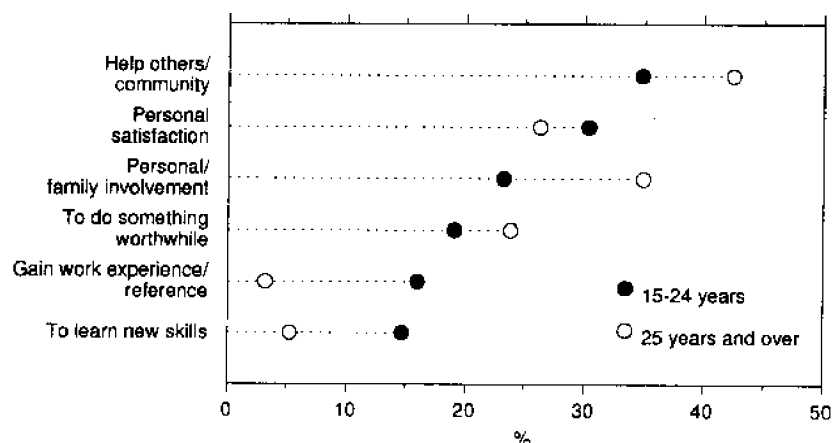
(a) As volunteers may work in more than one field, figures for individual categories will not add to totals.

Source: *Voluntary Work, Australia, June 1995* (Cat. no. 4441.0).

People may have a number of reasons for participating in voluntary work. For many, altruism is the strongest motive. Others view voluntary work as an opportunity to learn new skills or gain useful work experience. In 1995 the most commonly cited reason for becoming a volunteer was a desire to help others. This was true of both 15–24 year-olds (35%) and those 25 years and over (42%). Personal satisfaction was also a strong motivation for many young people (30%). For people aged 25 years and over, personal or family involvement was identified as the second most common motive (35%).

Many young people acknowledged they were involved in voluntary work in order to gain new skills (15%) or work experience (16%), considerations that were not particularly dominant among older volunteers (5% and 3% respectively).

7.10 REASONS FOR BECOMING A VOLUNTEER(a)—1995



(a) As volunteers may give more than one reason, figures for individual categories will not add to 100%.

Source: *Voluntary Work, Australia, June 1995* (Cat. no. 4441.0).

Voluntary work activities

The nature of voluntary activities varied and it was likely that several different activities were undertaken by each volunteer. Fundraising was the most often reported activity, with almost half of young male (43%) and young female (41%) volunteers involved (see table 7.17).

Some activities were more likely to be undertaken by young men than young women. For example, one-quarter of young male volunteers helped with repairs, maintenance and gardening, compared with 7% of young females. Other activities commonly reported by young men included: day-to-day organising, coordinating or supervising (27%); management or committee work (26%); or coaching, refereeing or judging (26%). In comparison, young women were most likely to be teaching or instructing people (28%) or to be preparing and serving food (26%).

CONCERN FOR SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The areas of social concern expressed by young people varied from those of the community as a whole, particularly those more relevant to young people's lives and aspirations.

In 1996, unemployment and crime were the areas of greatest concern for young people. Unemployment was the most significant social issue for one-quarter of 18–24 year-old males, followed by crime (21%). Young women aged 18–24 years were most concerned about crime (23%), with unemployment the most important issue for a further 19%.

While unemployment was clearly seen as very important among young people, it was not the area of greatest concern for all people. Crime was rated as most significant by 26% of all males, followed by health issues (19%); females were most concerned about health issues (26%) and crime (26%).

7.11 MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL ISSUES—April 1996

Issue	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	18–24 years	All ages	18–24 years	All ages
	%	%	%	%
Unemployment	24.9	16.0	19.3	12.1
Crime	20.8	25.9	23.4	26.0
Education	16.6	12.4	16.7	16.6
Environmental problems	12.7	9.7	12.8	8.1
Health	11.2	19.2	17.4	26.1
Interest rates	4.2	5.8	2.5	3.1
Immigration	4.0	2.9	2.6	2.0
Poverty	2.1	3.4	3.7	4.0
Defence	1.6	1.0	**0.8	0.3
Trade balance	1.6	2.0	**0.3	0.6
Other	**0.5	1.8	**0.7	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: *Environmental Issues: People's Views and Practices, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4602.0).

Environmental concerns

In 1996, environmental problems—while not the issue of greatest importance to most young people—were rated as of concern by a higher proportion of young people than of all people.

Three-quarters of 18–24 year-old females and 70% of 18–24 year-old males reported that they were concerned about environmental problems, compared with 69% of all females and 68% of all males. These concerns were reflected in the belief, held by 46% of males and 50% of females aged 18–24, that the quality of the environment had declined over the previous 10 years.

7.12 CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT—April 1996

	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	18–24 years	All ages	18–24 years	All ages
	%	%	%	%
.....				
CONCERN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS				
Yes	70.3	68.0	75.1	68.8
No	28.4	30.7	22.3	28.9
Don't know	1.3	1.3	2.7	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
.....				
QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE LAST 10 YEARS				
Declined	46.3	42.8	50.4	45.3
Improved	15.4	22.9	17.1	23.4
Stayed much the same	29.0	28.1	24.8	24.6
Don't know	9.3	6.3	7.7	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: *Environmental Issues, People's Views and Practices, Australia, 1996*
(Cat. no. 4602.0).

The environmental issue of greatest concern to 18–24 year-olds was air pollution (31%), closely followed by ocean pollution (29%) and destruction of trees and related concerns with the ecosystem and deforestation (29%). This ranking of environmental issues was similar to that for the population as a whole (see table 7.18).

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Religious activities include personal, family and congregational activities, as well as weddings and funerals. In the 1992 Time Use Survey, young people reported spending an average of 5 minutes per day on religious activities. This figure is low because of the large proportion of the population who did not participate in religious activities.

In 1992, an estimated 93,500 young people reported participating in religious activities, a participation rate of about 4% for both males and females. The participation rate increased with age—to 6% for males aged 65 years and over, and 11% for females in this age group.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES *continued*

Slightly more young males (47,500) than young females (46,000) participated in religious activities. For all other age groups, female participants considerably outnumbered male participants. Young men participating in religious activities spent more time (an average of 179 minutes per day) on these than did young women (109 minutes per day). This was also the case among the older age groups, although the average amount of time spent on religious activities tended to decline with age.

7.13 PARTICIPANTS IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES—1992

Age group (years)	MALES.....			FEMALES.....			PERSONS.....		
	Partici-	Partici-	Average	Partici-	Partici-	Average	Partici-	Partici-	Average
	pants	pation	time	pants	pation	time	pants	pation	time
	rate	rate	spent	rate	rate	spent	rate	rate	spent
	('000)	(%)	Minutes	('000)	(%)	Minutes	('000)	(%)	Minutes
			per day			per day			per day
15-24	47.5	3.5	179	46.0	3.5	109	93.5	3.5	144
25-44	106.0	4.0	125	121.5	4.5	106	227.5	4.2	115
45-64	79.2	4.6	107	144.1	8.6	82	223.3	6.6	91
65 and over	48.8	6.0	106	107.7	10.8	87	156.5	8.7	93
Total	281.4	4.3	128	419.4	6.3	93	700.8	5.3	106

Source: *How Australians Use Their Time* (Cat. no. 4153.0).

ADDITIONAL TABLES

7.14 AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON 10 ACTIVITY GROUPS—1992

Activity group	15-24 YEARS.....			25 YEARS AND OVER....		
	Males	Females	Ratio	Males	Females	Ratio
	Minutes per day	Minutes per day	Males to Females	Minutes per day	Minutes per day	Males to Females
Labour force	200	153	1.3	286	119	2.4
Domestic activities	45	87	0.5	115	211	0.5
Child care/minding	3	27	0.1	17	54	0.3
Purchasing goods and services	28	47	0.6	36	57	0.6
Sleeping, eating and personal care	637	640	1.0	615	624	1.0
Education	120	117	1.0	10	7	1.5
Voluntary work and community participation	23	19	1.2	26	28	0.9
Social life and entertainment	134	143	0.9	82	100	0.8
Active leisure	90	47	1.9	48	46	1.1
Passive leisure	159	160	1.0	203	193	1.1
Total minutes per day(a)	1 440	1 440	..	1 440	1 440	..

(a) Includes time not described.

Source: *How Australians Use Their Time* (Cat. no. 4153.0)

7.15 LEADING ORGANISED SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES—1995-96

15-24 YEARS.....		25 YEARS AND OVER.....	
Activity	'000	Activity	'000
Aerobics	190.9	Aerobics	469.0
Netball	153.2	Golf	410.8
Basketball	143.8	Lawn bowls	290.8
Swimming	129.0	Tennis	273.5
Cricket (outdoor)	98.0	Netball	175.4
Soccer (outdoor)	95.8	Swimming	152.4
Australian Rules football	92.6	Martial Arts	138.2
Tennis	88.5	Ten pin bowling	128.6
Martial arts	76.0	Touch football	110.6
Touch football	64.0	Cricket (outdoor)	98.4

Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, Australia, 1995-96* (Cat. no. 4177.0)

7.16 PERSONS ATTENDING SELECTED SPORTS—1995(a)

Sport(b)	15–24 years.....		25 years and over.....	
	'000	Attendance rate (%)	'000	Attendance rate (%)
Australian Rules football	474.5	17.6	1 399.7	12.3
Rugby league	451.0	16.7	1 011.1	8.9
Cricket	359.3	13.3	806.4	7.1
Horse racing	353.4	13.1	1 347.6	11.9
Basketball	281.8	10.4	409.9	3.6
Soccer	177.6	6.6	381.2	3.4
Motor sports	152.2	5.6	297.1	2.6
Harness racing	132.4	4.9	467.3	4.2
Tennis	122.2	4.5	309.4	2.8
Netball	115.5	4.3	182.6	1.6
Rugby union	102.7	3.8	255.6	2.2

(a) At least once in the 12 months ended March 1995.

(b) People may have attended more than one sporting event.

Source: Sports Attendance, Australia, March 1995 (Cat. no. 4174.0)

7.17 VOLUNTEERS, Activity by age and sex—1995

Activity(a)	MALES.....		FEMALES.....	
	15–24 years	25 years and over	15–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%
Fundraising	43.0	42.3	40.6	50.8
Day to day organising/coordinating/supervising	26.6	25.4	22.6	23.4
Coaching/refereeing/judging	26.3	19.9	20.7	9.8
Management/committee work	26.2	48.8	21.0	38.7
Repairs/maintenance/gardening	24.6	31.2	6.7	9.2
Teaching/instruction	24.4	22.8	27.5	29.5
Providing information	19.8	22.8	18.9	18.5
Preparing/serving food	17.0	15.2	25.9	41.4
Transporting people/goods	16.7	21.8	12.2	21.0
Administration/clerical work	16.1	23.6	17.3	23.6
Other	51.9	47.3	50.7	46.1
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total volunteers	127.8	1 015.2	171.1	1 325.5

(a) As a volunteer can participate in more than one activity, the figures for individual activities will not add to 100%.

Source: Voluntary Work, June 1995 (Cat. no. 4441.0)

7.18 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS—April 1996

	18–24 years	All ages
	%	%
Air pollution	31.3	30.9
Ocean pollution	29.1	23.8
Destruction of trees/ecosystems/deforestation	28.8	23.6
Freshwater pollution	23.9	23.7
Ozone layer	17.2	10.9
Garbage/rubbish disposal	14.3	14.0
Destruction of animals/wildlife/extinction of species	11.9	9.1
Other pollution	10.6	8.8
Nuclear testing/weapons	10.4	7.6
Greenhouse effect	10.0	6.3
Toxic/chemical waste	8.9	8.6
Uranium mining/use/radioactive materials	6.4	5.1
Conservation of resources	5.8	6.5
Soil erosion/salinity/land degradation	5.5	7.7
Urban development/overpopulation	4.9	5.9
Use of pesticides	2.9	4.2
Sand mining	1.3	1.3
Other	3.5	5.5
No concerns	27.3	31.6

Source: *Environmental Issues, People's Views and Practices, Australia, 1996*
(Cat. no. 4602.0)

CHAPTER 8

CRIME AND SAFETY.....

Young people are over-represented in their contact with the justice system. They are often associated with criminal activity, and are more frequently victims of crime than any other age group. While in some cases their prevalence among victims may be because of criminal activity, it may also reflect youth's higher exposure to risk situations.

Although nationally compatible statistics on criminal offenders by age are not currently available, this chapter brings together other data on young people's experience of crime and the justice system.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN PRISON

In June 1995 there were 5,024 prisoners in Australia under the age of 25 years, representing 29% of the total prison population. In comparison, 18–24 year-olds comprised 14% of the total Australian population aged 18 years and over.

The majority of young prisoners were male: for every young female prisoner, there were more than 25 young males in prison.

Older youth made up the majority of young people in prison. In June 1995 there were 4,031 prisoners aged 20–24 years, compared with 993 prisoners aged below 20 years.

8.1 PRISONERS—June 1995

	Males.....			Females.....		
	No.	%	Imprison- ment rate(a)	No.	%	Imprison- ment rate(a)
Under 18 years(b)	58	0.4	44.8	—	—	—
18–19 years	903	5.4	341.0	32	3.8	12.7
20–24 years	3 875	23.4	526.4	156	18.7	22.0
Total youth	4 836	29.1	427.8	188	22.5	17.4
25 years and over	11 757	70.9	209.3	647	77.5	11.1
All prisoners	16 593	100.0	245.9	835	100.0	12.0

(a) Imprisonment rates enable comparison of prisoner numbers across States and Territories. Prisoner rates are expressed per 100,000 adult population.

(b) The minimum age for imprisonment varies between jurisdictions from 17 to 18 years.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia*, 1995.

Over the ten years from 1985 to 1995, the proportion of prisoners who were less than 25 years of age has steadily declined. In 1985, 39% of prisoners were under 25 years, compared with 29% of prisoners in 1995.

The decline has been greater in some States and Territories than in others. Between 1985 and 1995, the proportion of youth prisoners in the Northern Territory declined from 52% to 28%, and in Victoria from 34% to 21%.

8.2 PRISONERS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, States and Territories

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.
Year	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1985	38.5	34.3	38.3	41.3	41.5	43.4	52.4	38.8
1986	33.9	32.2	36.8	37.1	40.1	45.8	50.4	36.5
1987	33.7	29.9	37.6	37.5	37.9	40.0	53.5	35.7
1988	33.2	29.4	35.9	38.6	39.4	41.5	43.6	34.8
1989	32.1	29.6	34.0	33.3	36.1	36.3	43.6	33.0
1990	31.5	29.3	36.4	33.7	37.6	32.0	40.9	33.2
1991	31.9	28.6	35.9	31.2	36.5	39.0	43.3	33.0
1992	30.1	27.4	37.4	34.2	36.1	36.9	39.6	32.2
1993	28.4	23.8	36.5	32.1	36.0	36.2	35.6	30.4
1994	27.2	21.5	37.3	31.9	35.2	34.5	33.2	29.6
1995	26.8	20.8	34.6	30.7	35.0	38.1	28.4	28.8

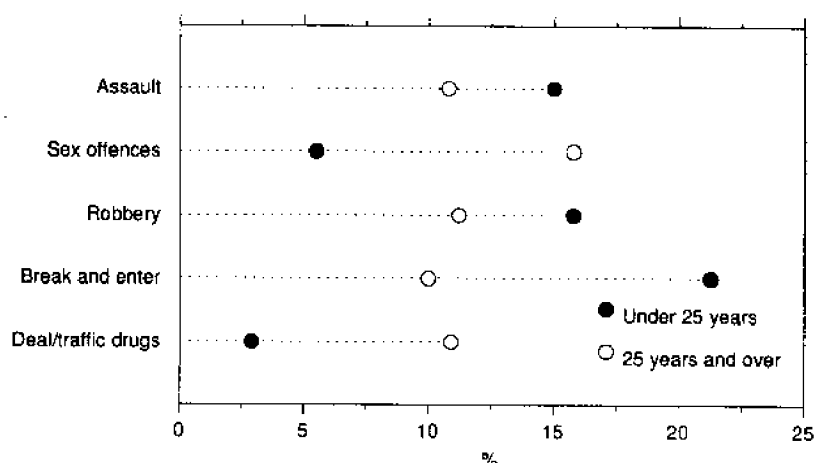
Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, *Australian Prisoners, 1985-1993*; Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 1995*.

Offences

Prisoners aged under 25 years had different offence profiles than older prisoners. The most common offence group among young prisoners was break and enter (21%). The next most common offence groups were robbery (16%) and assault (15%).

Among prisoners aged 25 years and over, 16% had been sentenced or charged with sex offences, and a further 11% with drug dealing/trafficking.

8.3 PRISONERS. Most serious offence—1995



Source: 1995 National Prison Census (unpublished data).

VICTIMS

Crimes recorded by police

Young people are victims of crime more frequently than any other age group. The most common crimes recorded by police are assaults. In 1996, there were 35,200 youth victims of assault, representing 31% of the total 113,500 victims. Assault victims represented 84% of all crime victims aged 20–24 years and 75% of 15–19 year-old victims.

Sexual assault accounted for the next highest proportion of victims of recorded crimes among young people, as it did in the total population. In 1996, 13% of 15–19 year-old and 7% of 20–24 year-old crime victims were sexual assault victims. The highest number of sexual assault victims were aged 0–14 years (5,900).

Armed and unarmed robbery were the next most common offences.

8.4 CRIME VICTIMS, Selected offences recorded by police—1996

Offence category	15–19 years.....		20–24 years.....		All persons.....	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Murder	22	0.1	34	0.2	311	0.2
Attempted murder	39	0.2	34	0.2	331	0.2
Manslaughter	1	0.0	2	0.0	37	0.0
Driving causing death	16	0.1	24	0.1	339	0.2
Assault	16 420	75.8	18 797	83.5	113 535	79.7
Sexual assault	2 859	13.2	1 615	7.2	14 394	10.1
Kidnapping/abduction	73	0.3	68	0.3	479	0.3
Armed robbery(a)	510	2.4	564	2.5	3 646	2.6
Unarmed robbery(a)	1 694	7.8	1 342	6.0	9 192	6.5
Blackmail/extortion(a)	26	0.1	20	0.1	214	0.2

(a) Victims refers to individual persons.

Source: *Recorded Crime, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4510.0).

Victimisation rates

In most of the selected personal crime offences recorded by police, the victimisation rates for 15–24 year-olds were higher than for the total population. For young people, victimisation rates for assault were more than double those for the total population. For sexual assault, unarmed and armed robbery, and kidnapping/abduction, victimisation rates for young people were up to three times higher than for all people.

Young males generally experienced higher victimisation rates than young females, apart from the categories of sexual assault and kidnapping/abduction. For these offences, victimisation rates for young women were between five and seven times greater than those for young men.

8.5 VICTIMS(a), Offence and victimisation rate—1996

Offence category	15-19 YEARS....		20-24 YEARS....		ALL PERSONS...	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000
Murder	2.1	1.3	3.7	1.2	2.3	1.1
Attempted murder	3.7	2.4	3.4	1.5	2.5	1.1
Manslaughter	0.2	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.1
Driving causing death	1.4	1.1	3.1	0.3	0.9	0.5
Assault	1 465	1 082	1 498	1 172	702	488
Sexual assault	61	392	30	203	30	125
Kidnapping/abduction	2.0	9.6	1.7	8.1	1.5	3.6
Armed robbery(a)	61	18	57	23	27	12
Unarmed robbery(a)	207	53	129	62	60	38
Blackmail/extortion(a)	3.5	0.5	1.4	1.5	1.7	0.1

(a) Victims refers to individual persons.

Source: *Recorded Crime, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4510.0).**Incidence of personal crime**

Not all crime comes to the attention of police. The 1993 Crime and Safety Survey provided information on both reported and unreported crimes. Data were collected on the personal crimes of robbery, assault and sexual assault.

As with reported crimes, young people had the highest personal crime victimisation rate of all age groups. The survey estimated that 8% of young people (207,700) had been victims of personal crime in the previous 12 months. The equivalent rate for persons aged 25 years and over was 3%. More young males (9%) than young females (6%) reported having been victims of personal crimes.

8.6 VICTIMS OF PERSONAL CRIME(a)—April 1993

Age (years)	Males.....		Females.....		Persons.....	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
15-24	123.9	9.3	83.8	6.5	207.7	7.9
25 and over	162.3	3.1	119.2	2.2	281.5	2.6

(a) In the previous 12 months.

Source: *Crime and Safety, Australia, April 1993*. (Cat. no. 4509.0).

SATISFACTION WITH POLICE SERVICES

Data collected in a 1996 Population Survey Monitor on community attitudes to police services showed young people's responses were less positive than those of older people. Although most 18–24 year-olds (63%) were satisfied in general with the services provided by the police, people aged 25 years and over expressed higher levels of satisfaction (71%). Fewer young men (57%) than young women (70%) reported that they were satisfied with the services provided by the police.

8.7 SATISFACTION WITH POLICE SERVICES—1996

	MALES.....		FEMALES.....		PERSONS.....	
Level of satisfaction	18–24 years	25 years and over	18–24 years	25 years and over	18–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	9.7	15.8	10.9	20.0	10.3	18.0
Satisfied	47.4	53.6	58.8	52.9	53.0	53.3
Neither	26.2	18.9	22.1	16.4	24.2	17.6
Dissatisfied	10.5	7.6	4.2	5.8	7.4	6.7
Very dissatisfied	4.7	2.4	1.0	1.5	2.9	1.9
Don't know	1.6	1.7	2.9	3.4	2.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	937.4	5 492.1	917.8	5 689.2	1 855.2	11 181.2

Source: Population Survey Monitor (unpublished data).

YOUNG WOMEN'S SAFETY

According to the 1996 Women's Safety Survey, which collected data on incidents involving the occurrence, attempt or threat of either physical or sexual assault, young women are more at risk of violence than older women. In 1996, 156,000 or 16% of women aged 18–24 years had experienced an incident of violence by a man in the previous 12 months, compared with 5% of women 25 years and over.

Many young women have experienced incidents of harassment. In 1996, nearly one-quarter of 18–24 year-old women (24%) reported that they had received an obscene telephone call in the previous 12 months, and 13% had experienced unwanted sexual touching. Among older women, 14% had received an obscene phone call and 4% had been subjected to unwanted sexual touching.

Younger women were also more likely than older women to feel unsafe in situations such as being at home alone in the evening or at night, using and waiting for public transport alone and after dark, and walking alone in their local area after dark. In 1996, 30% of 18–24 year-old women reported feeling unsafe at home alone in the evening or night, compared with 20% of women aged 25 years and over.

However, older women were less likely than young women to be in these situations. Higher proportions of older women did not use public transport, or walk in their local area, alone after dark, because they felt unsafe.

8.8 WOMEN'S SAFETY(a)—1996

Experience or situation	18-24 years	25 years and over
	%	%
Experienced harassment or violence by a man		
Violence(b)	16.5	4.6
Harassment		
Obscene phone call	24.2	13.6
Indecent exposure	3.8	1.2
Inappropriate comments about body/sex life	35.7	11.6
Unwanted sexual touching	13.4	3.6
Felt unsafe		
Using public transport alone after dark	14.8	10.3
Waiting for public transport alone after dark	22.0	6.1
Walking in local area alone after dark	22.2	9.6
At home alone in the evening or night	29.2	20.1

(a) In selected situations during the previous 12 months.

(b) Includes physical and sexual violence.

Source: *Women's Safety, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4128.0).

Actions taken in response to violence

Despite the greater likelihood of having experienced physical or sexual assault by a man, young women were less likely than older women to have reported the assault to police.

In 1996, 85% of 18–24 year-old women who had been physically assaulted and 89% of those who had been sexually assaulted in the previous 12 months did not report the assault to police. Among older women, 79% of those who had been physically assaulted and 78% of those who had been sexually assaulted had not made a report to police.

Young women who were physically assaulted were also less likely than older women to have made use of any of the available legal, financial or crisis support services. In 1996, 89% of young women who had been physically assaulted by a man within the previous 12 months did not use any of these services, compared with 84% of older women.

More than nine out of ten women (91%) of all age groups who had been sexually assaulted by a man in the previous 12 months did not make use of any service providers.

8.9 WOMEN ASSAULT VICTIMS(a), Action taken—1996

Action taken	18-24	25 years
	years	and over
	%	%
Physical assault		
Police not told	84.8	79.4
Services not used	89.0	83.5
Sexual assault		
Police not told	89.2	78.4
Services not used	91.5	91.2
	'000	'000
Total who experienced physical assault	113.2	180.3
Total who experienced sexual assault	33.9	64.5

(a) Women who experienced assault by a man in the previous 12 months.

Source: *Women's Safety, Australia, 1996* (Cat. no. 4128.0).**INDIGENOUS YOUTH****Imprisonment**

Indigenous people are exposed to the justice system in much higher proportions than the total Australian population. At 30 June 1995, there were 2,985 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners. They comprised 17% of the total prisoner population.

The 1,300 Indigenous youth who were in prisons made up 43% of all Indigenous prisoners. One-quarter (25%) of all prisoners aged under 25 years were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In comparison, Indigenous youth make up less than 3% of all Australian youth.

8.10 PRISONERS, Indigenous origin—1995

	Under 25 years...		25 years and over	
	no.	%	no.	%
Indigenous people	1 275	25.4	1 709	13.8
All prisoners	5 024	100.0	12 398	100.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Prisoners in Australia, 1995*.

Personal safety

In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 13% of Indigenous persons over the age of 13 years reported that they had been physically attacked or verbally threatened in the previous 12 months.

Those aged 20–24 years were slightly more likely to have been subjected to verbal threats or physical attack (15%) than either 15–19 year-olds (12%) or persons aged 25 years and over (13%).

The incidence of physical attacks was highest among 20–24 year-olds, with 6% reporting such an attack within the previous 12 months, compared with 4% of either 15–19 year-olds or older people.

8.11 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, Whether attacked or threatened(a)—1994

	15–19 years	20–24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%
Had been threatened or attacked			
Verbally threatened	4.5	4.0	5.4
Physically attacked	4.4	6.3	4.2
Verbally threatened and physically attacked	3.3	4.9	3.3
<i>Total</i>	12.2	15.1	12.8
Had not been threatened or attacked	87.8	84.9	87.2
All indigenous people	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000
All indigenous people	30.9	31.6	122.2

(a) In the twelve months to April 1994.

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings, 1994 (Cat. no. 4190.0).

Relations with police

In the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, young Indigenous people reported a less favourable opinion of police than did older members of the Indigenous population. Fewer Indigenous youth believed police dealt well with crime, violence or family violence.

Among Indigenous males, 22% of 15–19 year-olds and 20% of 20–24 year-olds reported that they had been hassled by police in the previous 12 months, compared with 11% of older males.

Indigenous women were less likely than males to report being hassled by police, although young women were more likely than older women to be hassled. In 1994, 8% of 15–19 year-olds and 6% of 20–24 year-olds had been hassled by police in the previous 12 months, compared with 4% of older Indigenous women.

In 1994, 6% of young Indigenous males reported that they had been assaulted by police, compared with 3% of those aged 25 years and over.

8.12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, Hassled(a) or assaulted by police(b)—1994

Whether hassled or assaulted by police	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over	15-19 years	20-24 years	25 years and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hassled	21.5	20.5	11.1	8.2	6.1	4.2
Assaulted	6.1	5.9	3.2	**1.3	**2.1	1.1

(a) Hassled includes being harassed, picked on, bullied, caused worry or embarrassment.

(b) In the previous 12 months.

Source: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings, 1994*
(Cat. no. 4190.0).

LIST OF REFERENCES

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 1997, *SAAP national data collection mid-year report July–December 1996 Australia*, AIHW Cat. No. HOU 1, AIHW, Canberra.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Community Affairs 1995, *A Report on Aspects of Youth Homelessness*, AGPS, Canberra.

Lamb, S. 1996, *Completing School in Australia: Trends in the 1990s*, Australian Council for Educational Research, Melbourne.

GLOSSARY.....

Alcohol consumption Derived from the average daily consumption of alcohol during the week prior to interview and grouped into health risk levels as defined by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) as follows:

.....

CONSUMPTION PER DAY.....

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
<i>Relative risk</i>	<i>mls</i>	<i>mls</i>
.....		
Low	Less than 50	Less than 25
Moderate	50-75	25-50
High	Greater than 75	Greater than 50
.....		

It should be noted that risk level as defined by the NH&MRC is based on regular consumption levels of alcohol, whereas indicators derived in the NHS do not take into account whether consumption was more, less, or the same as usual.

Apparent retention rate The percentage of full-time students of a given cohort who continue from the first year of secondary schooling to Year 12.

Body mass Based on height and weight as reported by the respondent. Persons were categorised into four groups according to their body mass, derived using the formula weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m^2). The groups used, as shown below, are consistent with recommendations of the NH&MRC.

.....

Body mass index

.....	
Underweight	Less than 20
Acceptable weight	20-25
Overweight	Greater than 25-30
Obese	Greater than 30
.....	

De facto couple The relationship where two people live together in a consensual union and are not registered as married to each other.

Dependants All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15-19 years attending school or aged 15-24 years attending a tertiary educational institution full-time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).

Dependent student In couple or one parent families, sons or daughters aged 15-19 years attending school or aged 15-24 years attending a tertiary educational institution full-time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).

Disposable income Gross income after income tax and the Medicare levy are deducted. Income tax is imputed based on each person's income and other characteristics as reported in the survey. This is sometimes referred to as net income.

Education participation rate	The age participation rate is the number of full-time students of a particular age and sex expressed as a proportion of the estimated resident population of the same age and sex. It indicates the proportion of the population who are still at school.
Educational attainment	The highest educational qualification attained by the respondent, with post-school qualifications according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ).
Employed	Persons aged 15 years and over who worked during the reference week for pay, profit, commission, payment in kind or without pay in a family business, or who had a job but were not at work.
Equivalence scale	A set of ratios which are applied to net income to adjust for differences in income unit composition and size. The resultant equivalent income can then be used to compare the relative situation of different types of units.
Equivalent income	Gross annual income from all regular sources adjusted on the basis of size, composition, and labour force status of the income unit.
Estimated resident population	The official ABS estimate of the Australian population based on where people usually live. Estimated Resident Population is based on results of the latest population census, updated for subsequent births, deaths and overseas and interstate migration.
Exercise level	The level of exercise undertaken for sport, recreation or fitness. It is based on the number of times exercise was undertaken in the two weeks prior to interview, the average length of each session and the intensity (i.e. vigorous, moderate or walking).
Full-time workers	Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Government benefits	Regular, recurring receipts from government to persons under social security and related government programmes. They include pensions and allowances received by aged persons, incapacitated and handicapped persons, unemployed and sick persons, families and children, veterans or their survivors and study allowances for students.
Gross income	Cash receipts, that are of a regular and recurring nature, before tax or other deductions. They include moneys received from wages or salary, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, and scholarships.
Higher education	Education which takes place in all institutions offering higher education courses. Higher education courses do not include TAFE courses which may be conducted in higher education institutions.
Household	A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons.

Income quintile	Income quintiles facilitate the study of income distribution by ranking income units in ascending order according to income and then dividing them into five equal groups. The lowest quintile is formed by the 20 per cent of the population with the lowest incomes while the highest quintile contains the 20 per cent of the population with the highest incomes.
Income unit	One person, or a group of related persons within a household, whose command over income is assumed to be shared. Income sharing is considered to take place between married (registered or de facto) couples, and between parents and dependent children.
Industry	Classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 (Cat. no. 1292.0).
Labour force	For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed.
Labour force participation rate	For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.
Long-term conditions	Medical conditions (illness, injury or disability) which have lasted at least six months, or which the respondent expects to last for six months or more including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long term conditions from which the respondent experienced infrequent or spasmodic attacks e.g. asthma; • long-term conditions which may be under control through use of medications or other treatment e.g. diabetes, epilepsy; • conditions which, although present, may not be generally considered illness because they are not necessarily debilitating e.g. reduced eyesight; and • long-term and permanent impairments or disabilities.
Non-dependent child	In couple or one-parent families, sons or daughters aged 15 years and over not attending school or tertiary institution full-time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).
Not in the labour force	Persons who, during the survey reference week, were neither employed nor looking for work. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily inactive, permanently unable to work, persons in institutions, trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and persons whose only activity during the reference week was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.
Occupation	Classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition, 1997 (Cat. no. 1220.0).
Part-time workers	Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey reference week.
Recent medical condition	Medical conditions (illness, injury or disability) experienced in the two weeks prior to interview. May include long-term conditions experienced in the period.

Section of State	Sections of State within each State and Territory comprise: Major urban—all urban centres with a population of 100,000 and over; Other urban—all urban centres with a population of 1,000 to 99,999; Locality—all population clusters of 200 to 999 people; Rural balance—the rural remainder of the State/Territory.
Self-assessed health status	A respondent's perception of their general health status
Smoking	<p>The regular smoking of tobacco, including manufactured (packet) cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars and pipes, but excluding chewing tobacco and smoking of non-tobacco products.</p> <p>Regular smoking was defined as one or more cigarettes(or pipes or cigars) per day on average as reported by the respondent.</p>
Sports participation	Those playing a sport or physically undertaking an activity which was organised by a club, association or school. Excludes people involved solely as a coach/teacher/instructor, a referee/umpire, an administrator/committee member or similar role.
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, but who had actively looked for work and were available to start work.
Unemployment rate	The unemployment rate for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.
Urban/rural	In compiling statistics on suicides, areas classified as urban were defined as urban centres with a population greater than 20,000 persons, based on data from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. The balance of Australia was defined as being rural.
Victimisation rate	An indicator of the risk of being a victim of a criminal offence, calculated as the number of offences per 100,000 persons.
Volunteer	A person who willingly gave unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group within the reference period of 12 months prior to the survey.

For more information . . .

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products available from all ABS Offices.

ABS Products and Services

Many standard products are available from ABS bookshops located in each State and Territory. In addition to these products, information tailored to the needs of clients can be obtained on a wide range of media by contacting your nearest ABS Office. The ABS also provides a Subscription Service for standard products and some tailored information services.

National *Dial-a-Statistic* Line

0055 86 400

Steadycom P/L: premium rate 25c/20 secs.

This number gives 24-hour access, 365 days a year, for a range of important economic statistics including the CPI.

Internet

<http://www.abs.gov.au>

A wide range of ABS information is available via the Internet, with basic statistics available for each State, Territory and Australia. We also have Key National Indicators, ABS product release details and other information of general interest.

Sales and Inquiries

client.services@abs.gov.au

National Mail Order Service
Subscription Service

(02) 6252 5249
1300 366 323

	Information Inquiries	Bookshop Sales
CANBERRA	(02) 6252 6627	(02) 6207 0326
SYDNEY	(02) 9268 4611	(02) 9268 4620
MELBOURNE	(03) 9615 7755	(03) 9615 7755
BRISBANE	(07) 3222 6351	(07) 3222 6350
PERTH	(08) 9360 5140	(08) 9360 5307
ADELAIDE	(08) 8237 7100	(08) 8237 7582
HOBART	(03) 6222 5800	(03) 6222 5800
DARWIN	(08) 8943 2111	(08) 8943 2111



Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616



2411100001978

ISBN 0 642 23272 5

Recommended retail price \$27.00
© Commonwealth of Australia 1997
Produced by the
Australian Bureau of Statistics