

# YOUNG WORKERS SURVEY

## DATA APPENDIX

### YOUNG WORKERS RESEARCH PROJECT

Media reports show endemic patterns of young worker exploitation in Australia, with entire towns of young people, such as Wollongong, reporting pay rates as low as \$10 and \$15 per hour.<sup>1</sup>

Anecdotal evidence from the young people who contact the Young Workers Centre through our legal and education programs suggests a similar story here in Victoria.

Despite these reports, existing data collected by government and social services focuses strongly on youth unemployment and the transition into work. Data is not currently collected on the quality of work for young people and employers' compliance with current workplace laws.

The Young Workers Research Project documents real life at work for young Victorians during those formative years of their working lives. We collect data through

- Surveys: statewide, workplace and issue specific
- Case study interviews
- Young Workers Centre Legal service evaluation
- School and TAFE education program evaluation

### 2016 YOUNG WORKERS SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2016 Young Workers survey was an open access internet based survey conducted over five weeks between 20 July and 23 August 2016. The survey was open to Victorians aged 15-30 who currently or have previously worked in paid or unpaid work. The survey collected data on safety, pay and conditions at work in current or most recent jobs, as well as working lives so far.

The survey was promoted online through social networks and 'offline' through grassroots survey blitzes of universities and shopping centres whereby workers were invited to complete the survey themselves using tablets. The survey collected 1,028 responses, making it the largest survey of its kind of young Victorian workers to date.

We congratulate all those supporters, organisations and high schools who promoted the survey. Most of all we congratulate young worker community volunteers for taking part in survey blitzes and the young workers who shared their stories with us by participating in the survey.

### THE SURVEY IN NUMBERS

#### Structure and Questions

The survey included 41 questions:

- 13 demographic
- 15 relating to current main job (or most recent job if not working)
- 13 relating to working life so far

#### Sample Size and Survey Error

This results of this survey are accurate at the 95% confidence level +/- 3.1%.

The Young Workers survey collected 1028 responses. 999 fell within the desired age (15 to 30 years old inclusive) & state (Victoria).

<sup>1</sup> Patty, A. (2016, December 10). The Great Student Swindle, *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Retrieved from <http://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2016/great-student-swindle/>.

The population size of young workers in Victoria for survey purposes is 691,457. This number is calculated from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and includes:

- employed persons
- aged 15-30
- in Victoria.

## **Weighting**

Responses to the survey overrepresented women and people living in the Greater Melbourne area. Post-stratification survey weights were applied to responses to increase the representativeness of the survey. That is, to make the survey population better reflect Victoria's actual young worker population.

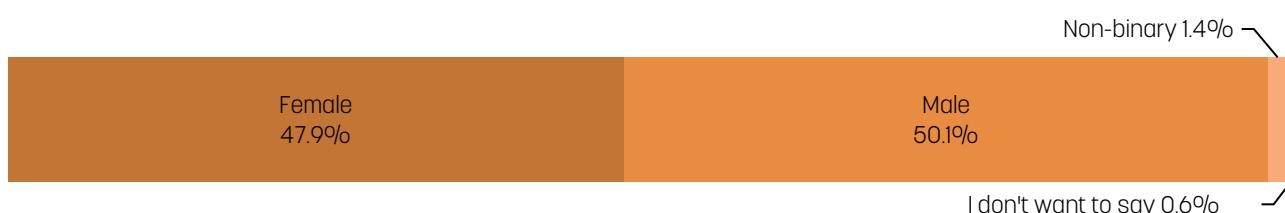
Weights were applied based on demographic strata

- Gender<sup>2</sup>
- Location (Greater Melbourne-Rest of Victoria)<sup>3</sup>

## **2016 YOUNG WORKERS SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographic breakdown of the survey post-weighting is illustrated below.

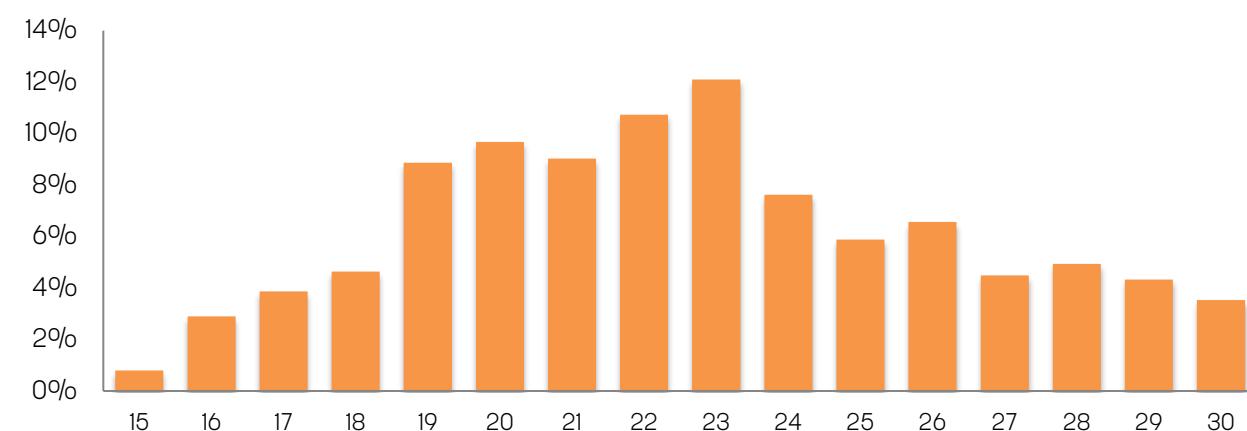
### **Gender**



### **Location**



### **Age<sup>4</sup>**



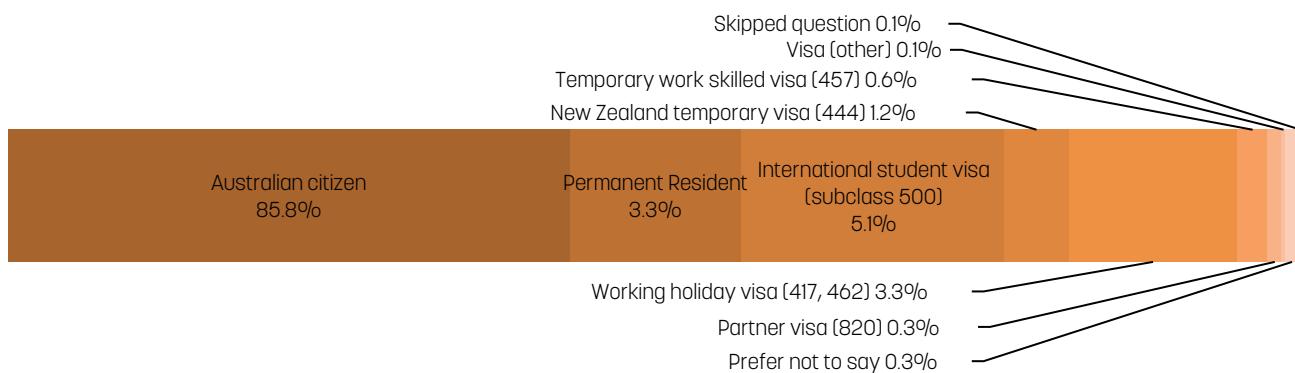
<sup>2</sup> The 2% of people who identified as non-binary gender or did not want to disclose their gender were weighted as 1 as data on non-binary gender identifying people was not available in Census data.

<sup>3</sup> The survey collected home postcode. Location was determined as Greater Melbourne or Rest of Victoria based on the ABS 2011 Post Code to 2011 GCCSA coding index.

<sup>4</sup> Young Workers Centre programs and services are available to people aged up to 30 to reflect

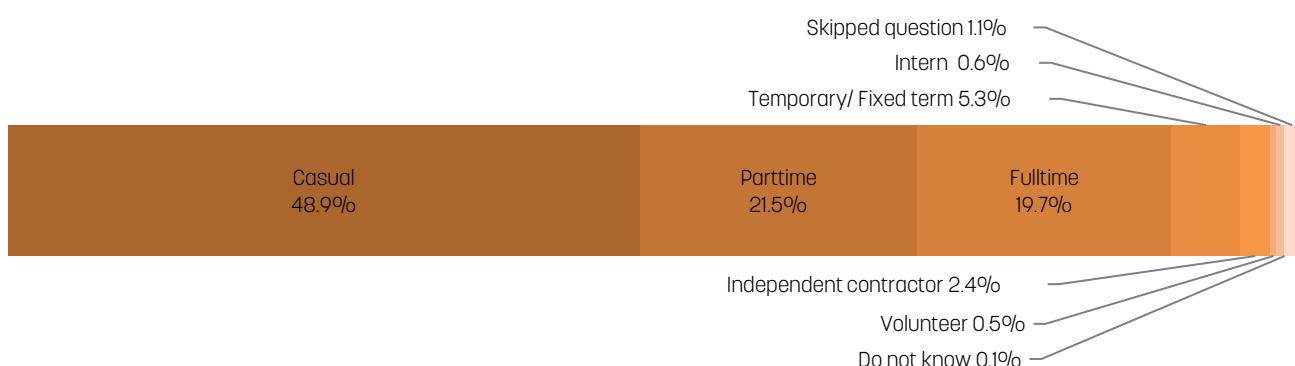
- the extended period of transition from study to work that young people now experience
- the reality that young people in the early years of their careers are vulnerable to exploitation due to increasingly insecure work and casualisation.

## Citizenship Status



## Employment Classification

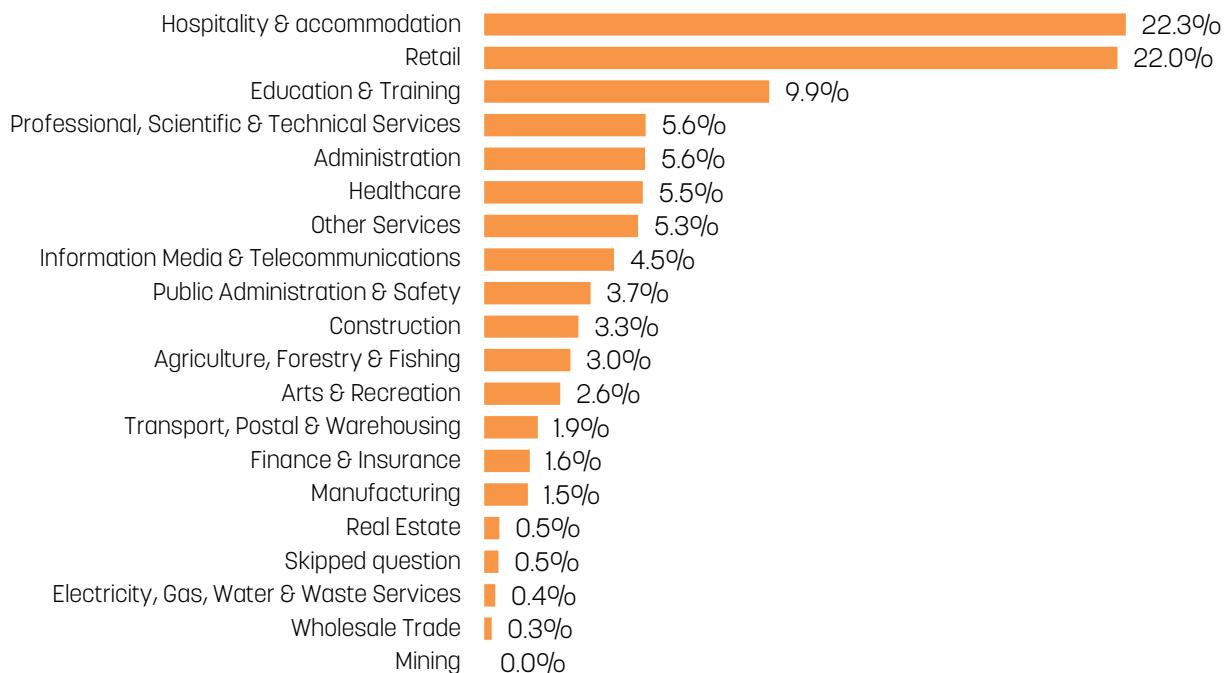
Employment classification of current main job (or most recent job if not currently working)



## Industry

People were asked their industry of work in their main current job (or most recent if not working). Industry classification options were based on the ABS ANZIC 2006 classifications, with minor adjustments made for brevity and to reflect language used by young workers.

ABS INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION (ANZIC)	SURVEY INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION
Accommodation and Food Services	Hospitality & accommodation
Retail Trade	Retail
Education and Training	Education & Training
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
Administrative and Support Services	Administration
Health Care and Social Assistance	Healthcare
Other Services	Other Services
Information Media and Telecommunications	Information Media & Telecommunications
Public Administration and Safety	Public Administration & Safety
Construction	Construction
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
Arts and Recreation Services	Arts & Recreation
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Transport, Postal & Warehousing
Financial and Insurance Services	Finance & Insurance
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Real Estate
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services
Wholesale Trade	Wholesale Trade
Mining	Mining



## ADDRESSING SURVEY BIAS

We asked people about their familiarity with the Young Workers Centre and their union membership status to gauge the survey reach outside of the Young Workers Centre network and gauge levels of bias that might be expected from active Young Workers Centre community members. Only 1 in 4 surveyed had heard of the Young Workers Centre prior to this survey. Union membership rates were higher than membership rates among young people but similar to the overall Australian working population trade union membership rates.

### Familiarity with the Young Workers Centre

Question: Had you heard of the Young Workers Centre before this survey?



### Union Membership

