



**AGENDA FOR ACTION**  
**What young  
Australians  
want from the  
2016 Election**

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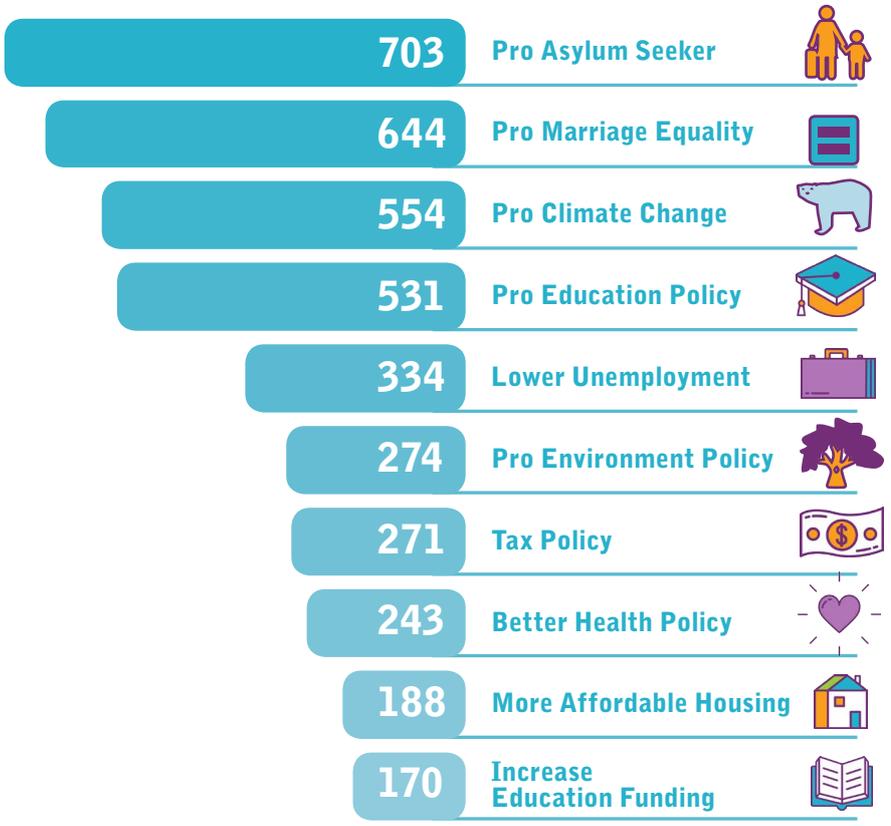
# Executive Summary

# 3369

YOUNG PEOPLE RESPONDED



## TOP TEN SELF-REPORTED ISSUES WERE:



## EDUCATION

was ranked as 'extremely important' by the most young people



followed by **HEALTH**



## ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE



## VOTING INTENTION

10% DON'T CARE



37% UNDECIDED



20% DON'T KNOW WHO THEY WILL VOTE FOR



33% KNOW WHO THEY WILL VOTE FOR



The majority of respondents were not formally aligned with **ANY** political party.

Young people do not vote as a block and there are differences by **gender**, **age**, **political preference**, **state**, **metropolitan** versus **non-metropolitan**, **marginal** or **non-marginal electorates** and demographic characteristics such as **Indigenous heritage**, **student status** or **employment status**.

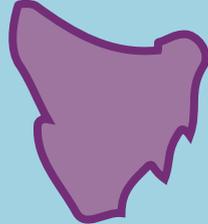


**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people** identified Indigenous issues as the major focus for them.



**TAX POLICY** was the number one issue for the **EMPLOYED** full-time respondents.

**TASMANIA** was the only state or territory to have **CLIMATE CHANGE** as the top issue.



**PRO EDUCATION POLICY REFORM** was the most important issue for apprentices and trainees and ESL respondents.



**MARRIAGE EQUALITY** was the **TOP ISSUE** in 50% of the states.

**PRO ASYLUM SEEKER POLICY** was the primary issue for **41.7%** of the demographic groups including migrant/refugee, university students, employed part-time/casual, disability and other.



# Introduction

## Youth Action and Australian Research for Children and Youth (ARACY) canvassed the issues important to young people (aged 12-25) for the 2016 Federal Election.

There are 4.3 million young people aged 12-25 in Australia yet young people are often not included in the decisions that impact their lives, are sidelined in important national discussions or considered a niche area. This report therefore intends to enhance the platform available to young people, and to provide concrete data to decision-makers to highlight trends and opinions of a wide range of young people in the lead up to the 2016 election.

Almost 3400 young people across Australia completed the survey. It explored the voting intentions of young people, their views on which issues require attention, as well as how important they saw the largest Federal policy areas. It is clear from responses that young people have an opinion on a wide range of issues, and are articulate about both what concerns them and what commitments they would seek from candidates.

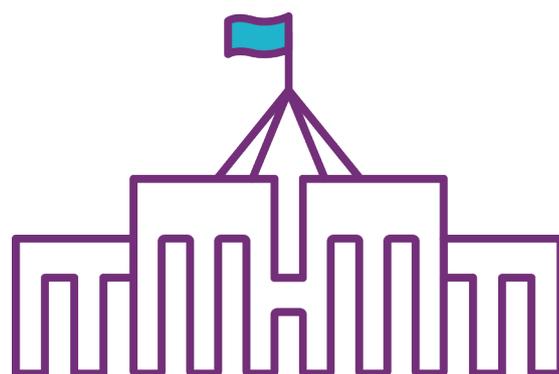
The responses demonstrate the importance young people place on issues such as achieving marriage equality, addressing climate change and improving policy regarding asylum seekers – the top three self-reported issues. Despite a strong focus on social justice, tax policy and economic participation also feature strongly.

Young people from many political persuasions responded to the survey, but the majority (57%) reported no alignment to a party or candidate, responding 'no' or 'I'm not sure yet' when asked who they would vote for.

The survey shows that young people do not vote as a block and there are differences by gender, age, political preference, state, metropolitan versus non-metropolitan, marginal or non-marginal electorates and demographic characteristics such as Indigenous status, student status or employment status.

This analysis crosses national, and state levels. Young people's views are highlighted through a brief synopsis of the qualitative responses on which issues are important, why they are important and how the issues can be improved.

There is no doubt that young people are an essential part of community, and key to the prosperity of Australia. Elections are an important time for would-be decision-makers to connect with the community and achieve a mandate for their term in government. Young people should be represented and included in decisions that impact their lives. This report recommends that candidates carefully consider and respond to the issues that are front of mind for young people in the upcoming election.



# Methodology

An online survey was the primary mode of data collection, supported by peer-to-peer paper-based surveys. The survey was open from 4 April 2016 until 2 May 2016.

The online survey was distributed via an electronic link to a number of stakeholders across Australia, including directly to young people, to youth-led organisations, and through the networks of youth organisations, service providers, peak bodies, Federal Members of Parliament, Federal Senators, sporting organisations and media outlets.

This was supported by a social media strategy directly targeting both young people and services that work with young people.

Young people were also recruited and trained to survey their peers using paper-based surveys that replicated the online survey.

Participants gave informed implied consent by 'opting-in' to the survey and confirmed their participation was voluntary, confidential and non-identifiable.

The questionnaire was designed by Youth Action staff members, and piloted with young people prior to launch. The survey questions were intended to unpack what issues are important to young people in the context of the upcoming Federal election. When asking which issues were important, participants were first invited to provide open-ended responses to avoid bias presented by pre-determining issues. Survey respondents were then given a list of themes to rank in order of importance, in order to cover a range of federally relevant policy areas. Themes were selected based on a review of previous pre- and post-election surveys that canvassed election issues.

Prizes were offered to encourage participation, with prizes suggested by young people including headphones and a number of cash gift vouchers. An online random number generator was used to select recipients.

# National Overview

## SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 3496 people responded to the survey. Of these, 3369 were aged between 12 and 25 and so met the eligibility requirements for the survey.

### AGE AND GENDER

While there was little difference in response rates by age group, there was a much higher response from young women (60.3%), than young males (35.6%), with a further 4% indicating another gender identity or preferring not to say.

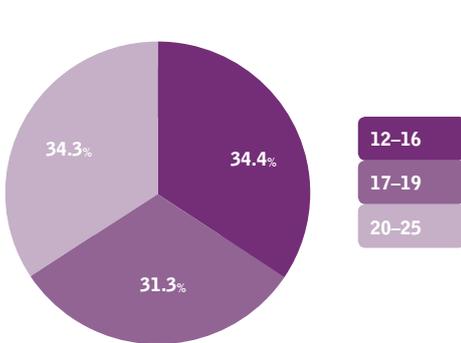
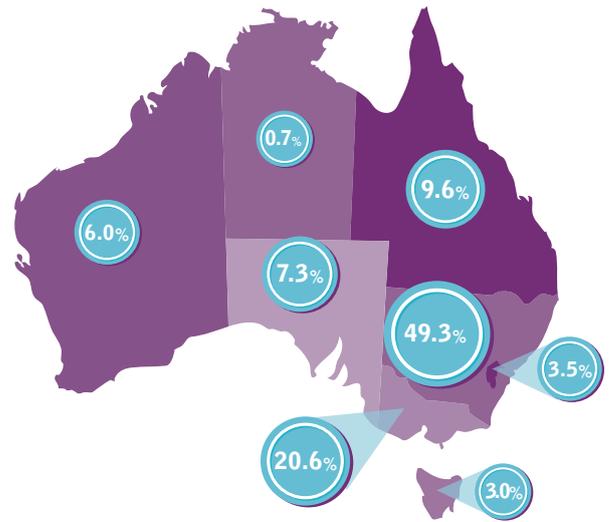


Figure 1.1 Percentage of respondents by age

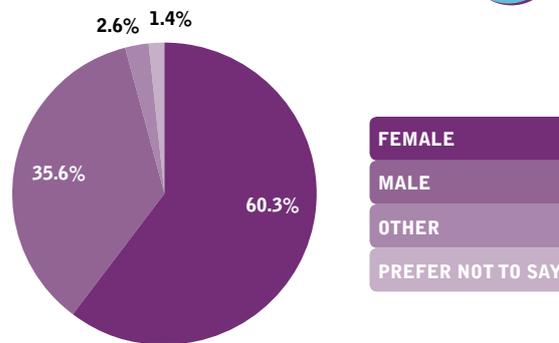


Figure 1.2: Percentage of respondents by gender identity

### LOCATION

Young people from every state and territory in Australia responded to the survey. With regard to electorate and regional distribution, 44% of respondents were from marginal electorates, and 29.6% were from non-metropolitan<sup>1</sup> areas.

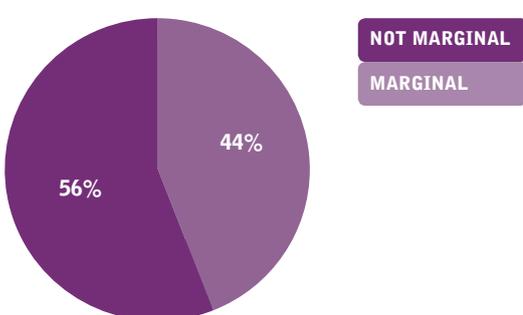


Figure 1.3: Respondents by marginal seat

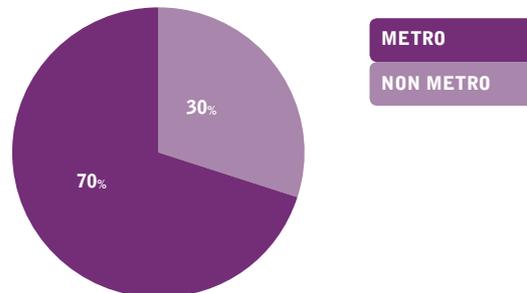


Figure 1.4: Respondents metropolitan status

1. Marginal electorates were defined using 2016 data, and as any electorate where 6% is the margin between a winning candidate and the next candidate. As defined by the Australian Electoral Commission: <http://www.aec.gov.au/faqs/Elections.htm>

Metropolitan and non-metropolitan were defined using an Australian Electoral Commission breakdown of postcodes.

## BACKGROUND AND IDENTITY

The survey asked respondents to select from a range of characteristics to describe themselves. Response rates are shown below. The total number of responses (N=6779) is higher than the total number of respondents (N=3366) because respondents could choose more than one option.

| Characteristics<br>(could select more than 1) | TOTALS | % of<br>Respondents |
|---|--------|---------------------|
| Aboriginal                                    | 107    | 3.2%                |
| Torres Strait Islander                        | 21     | 0.6%                |
| Migrant/Refugee                               | 61     | 1.8%                |
| ESL speaker                                   | 542    | 16.1%               |
| High School Student                           | 1,782  | 52.9%               |
| University Student                            | 969    | 28.8%               |
| TAFE Student                                  | 181    | 5.4%                |
| Apprentice/Trainee                            | 69     | 2.0%                |
| Employed Part-Time/Casual                     | 1,314  | 39%                 |
| Unemployed                                    | 816    | 24.2%               |
| Employed Full-Time                            | 349    | 10.4%               |
| Disability                                    | 182    | 5.4%                |
| Other   | 386    | 11.5%               |

**Table 1.1: Respondents by demographic characteristic**

# Voting intention

All respondents, regardless of whether they were of voting age or not, were prompted to answer the question 'In the 2016 Federal Election, do you know who you would vote for?' In total, only 10% indicated that they weren't interested in voting. This intention decreased with age, with 16% of those aged 12-16, 10% of those aged 17-19 and 4% of 20-25 year olds not interested.

A majority of respondents (57%) had not decided who they would vote for, responding 'No' or 'I haven't decided yet'.

Aproximately a third (33%) of young people nominated 'Yes' when asked voting intention for the 2016 election. Of these, preferences ranged across political parties, including the Greens (38%), the Australian Labor Party (34%), the Liberal Party (19%), and a number of minor parties (3%).

Interestingly, a number of young people (2.6%) responded by indicating individual candidates rather than their party. For example, a number nominated 'Turnbull' or 'Shorten' rather the Liberal or Labor parties. A further number indicated individuals who were not necessarily a Federal candidate, but a state or local member. Individuals were matched back to a party for the purpose of analysis.

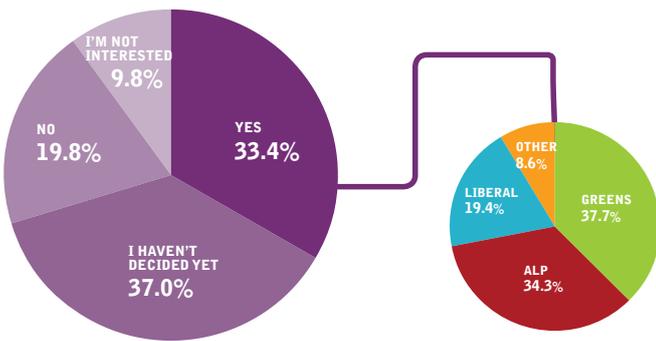


Figure 2.1: Response when asked 'In the 2016 Federal Election, do you know who you would vote for?'

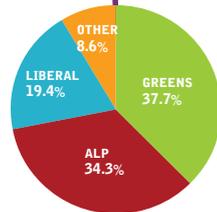


Figure 2.2: Respondents by voting intention

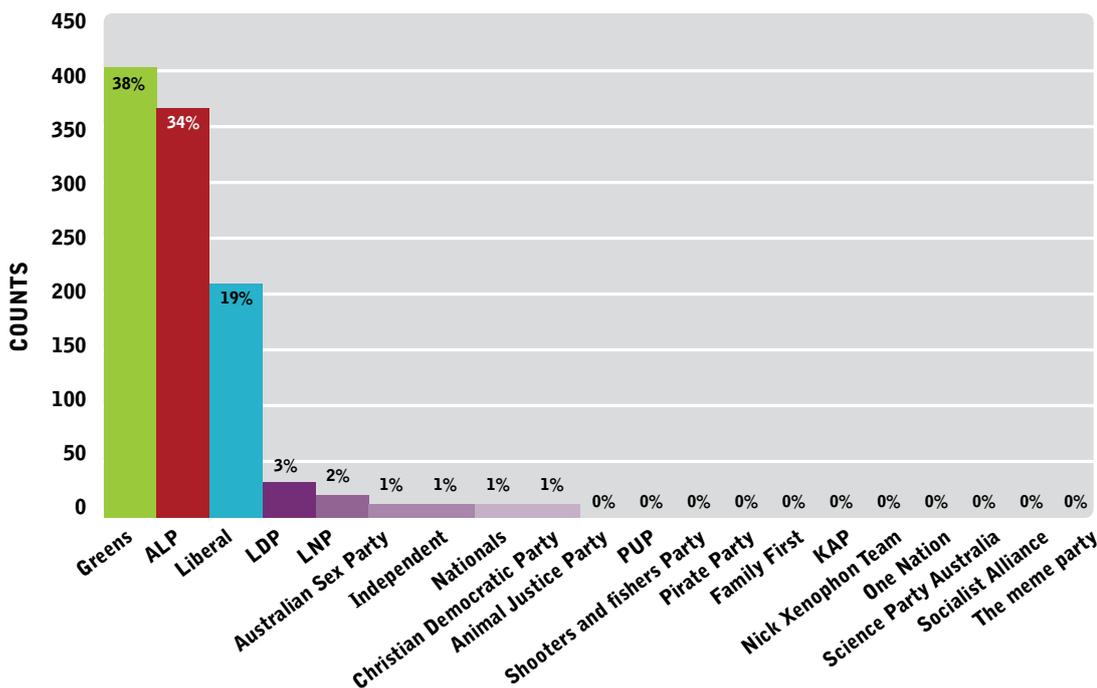


Figure 2.3: Respondents voting preference by political party

# What Young People Care About

## SELF REPORTED

Young people were asked to nominate three issues that they wanted addressed in the election – an open ended question to avoid bias, which allowed young people to be unconstrained by pre-determined responses. Overall there were 360 unique response categories identified.

They were most interested in seeing issues related to asylum seekers (21%), marriage equality (19%) and climate change (16%) addressed.

Young people's top twenty election issues are shown below.<sup>2</sup>

| TOP 20 ISSUES |  |     |
|---------------|--|-----|
| 1             | Pro Asylum Seeker  | 703 |
| 2             | Pro Marriage Equality  | 644 |
| 3             | Pro Climate Change   | 554 |
| 4             | Pro Education Policy   | 531 |
| 5             | Lower Unemployment   | 334 |
| 6             | Pro Environment Policy   | 274 |
| 7             | Tax Policy   | 271 |
| 8             | Better Health Policy   | 243 |
| 9             | More Affordable Housing  | 188 |
| 10            | Increase Education Funding   | 170 |
| 11            | More Attention on Mental Health  | 162 |
| 12            | More Higher Education Funding  | 147 |
| 13            | Pro Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer and Asexual (LGBTIQA) issues | 120 |
| 14            | Reduce Homelessness  | 119 |
| 15            | Pro Indigenous Issues  | 119 |
| 16            | Pro Equality   | 115 |
| 17            | Economic Policy  | 112 |
| 18            | Better NBN/Internet  | 106 |
| 19            | Increase Gender Equality   | 101 |
| 20            | Reduce Domestic violence   | 101 |

**Table 3.1: The top 20 issues respondents want addressed in the election**

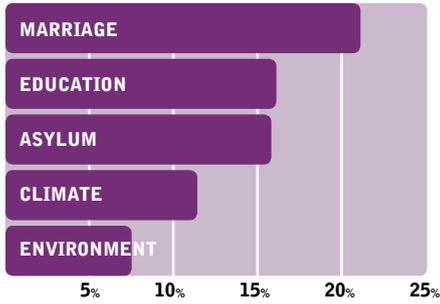
The survey results also demonstrate that young people do not vote as a block and there are differences by gender, age, political preference, state, metropolitan versus non-metropolitan, marginal or non-marginal electorates and demographic characteristics such as Indigenous status, student status or employment status.

2. Negative views were separated out as separate categories for all issues except tax and economic policy. These are not represented in the table, as they did not have enough responses to make it to the 'Top 20'.

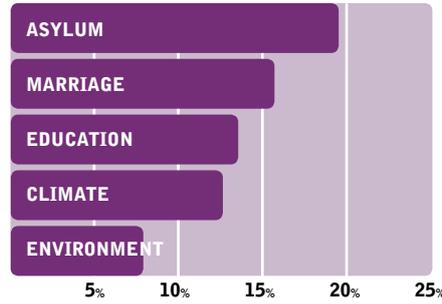
# AGE

## TOP 5 ISSUES BY AGE

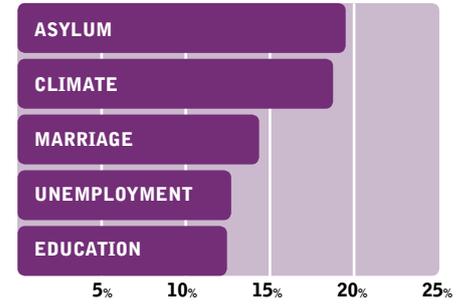
### 12 TO 16



### 17 TO 19



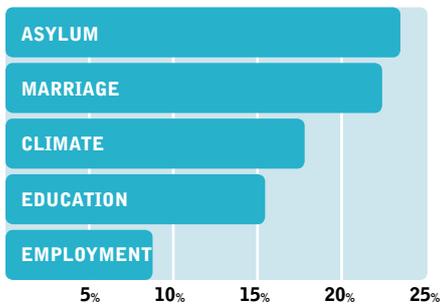
### 20 TO 25



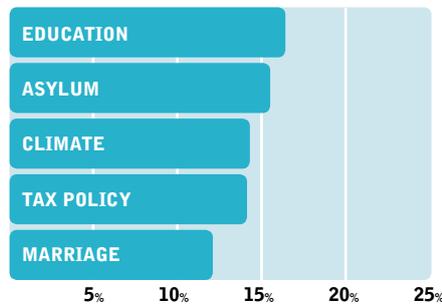
# GENDER

## TOP 5 ISSUES BY GENDER

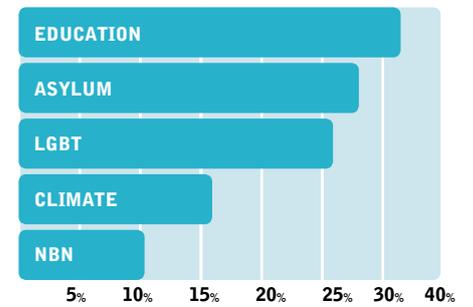
### FEMALE



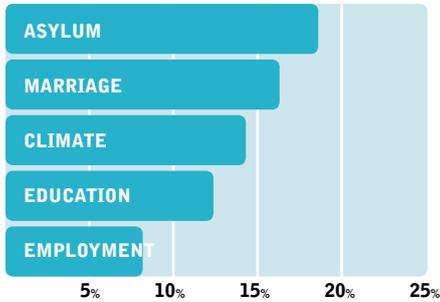
### MALE



### OTHER



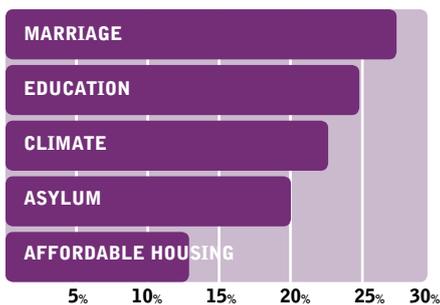
### PREFER NOT TO SAY



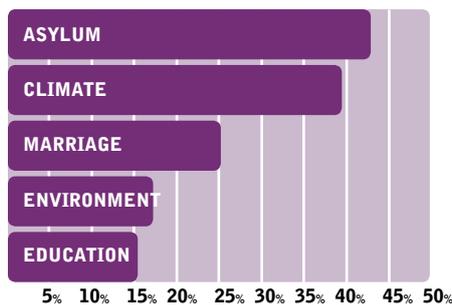
# POLITICAL PERSUASION

## TOP 5 ISSUES BY POLITICAL PARTY

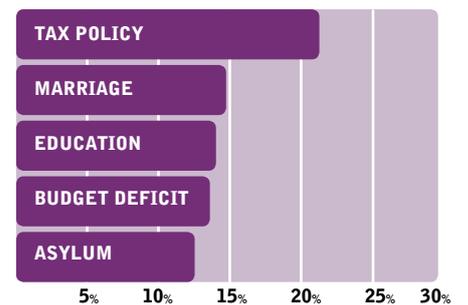
### ALP



### GREENS



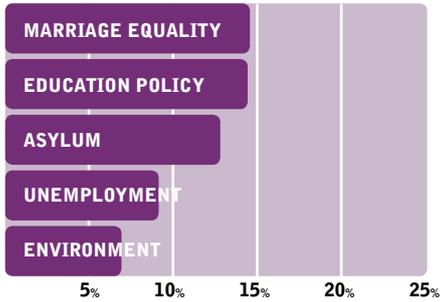
### LIBERAL



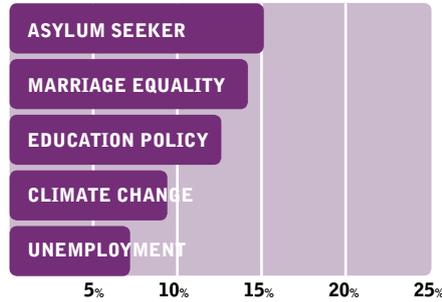
# VOTING INTENTION

## TOP 5 ISSUES BY VOTING DECISION

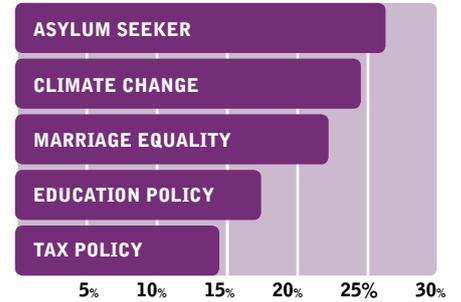
### 'NOT INTERESTED'



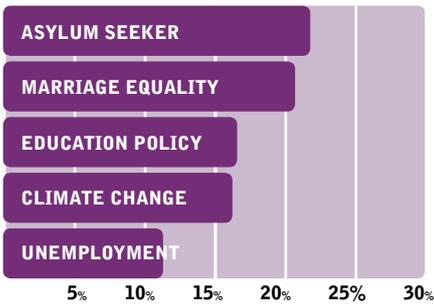
### 'NO'



### 'YES'



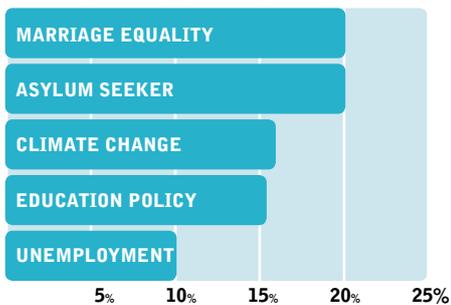
### 'HAVEN'T DECIDED YET'



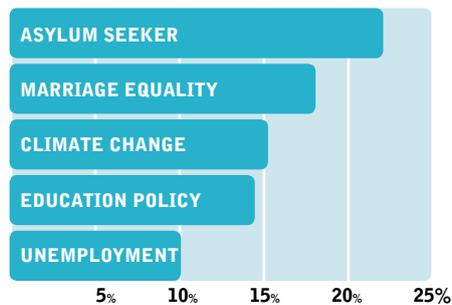
# MARGINAL ELECTORATE

## TOP 5 ISSUES BY MARGINAL SEAT

### YES

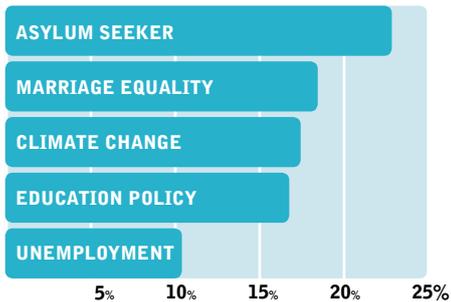


### NO

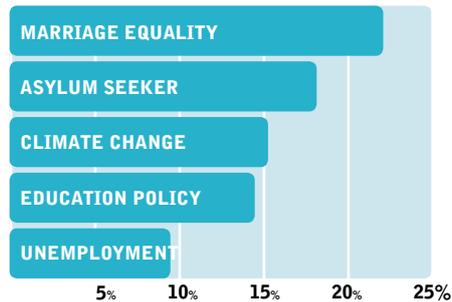


# LOCATION

### METRO



### NON METRO



Pro asylum seeker policy was the primary issue for 41.7% of the demographic groups – migrant/refugee, university students, employed part-time/casual, disability and other. Between one quarter and one third of these groups were concerned about how asylum seekers were treated. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people identified Indigenous issues as their major concern. It is interesting to note that in the qualitative responses, it would appear that many more young people mentioned Indigenous issues than refugee issues under the theme of social justice. No other demographic group selected Indigenous issues in their top 5, when self-reporting. Pro education policy was the most important issue for apprentices and trainees, and for English as Second Language (ESL) respondents but not for high school, university or TAFE students. Tax policy was the number one issue for the employed full-time respondents. No other demographic group selected tax policy in their top 5.

The top 5 issues by demographic characteristic are in table 3.2.

| CHARACTERISTIC                        | ISSUE      |                  |                   |              |               |                |                    |               |            |                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
|                                       | Indigenous | Education Policy | Marriage Equality | Unemployment | Asylum Seeker | Climate Change | Environment Policy | Health Policy | Tax Policy | Affordable Housing |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>         | <b>3</b>          | 4            | 5             |                |                    |               |            |                    |
| Migrant/Refugee                       |            | <b>3</b>         | <b>2</b>          | 5            | <b>1</b>      | 4              |                    |               |            |                    |
| ESL speaker                           |            | <b>1</b>         | <b>3</b>          | 5            | <b>2</b>      | 4              |                    |               |            |                    |
| High School Student                   |            | <b>3</b>         | <b>1</b>          |              | <b>2</b>      | 4              | 5                  |               |            |                    |
| University Student                    |            | 4                | <b>3</b>          | 5            | <b>1</b>      | <b>2</b>       |                    |               |            |                    |
| TAFE Student                          |            | <b>2</b>         | <b>1</b>          | <b>3</b>     | 4             | 5              |                    |               |            |                    |
| Apprentice/ Trainee                   |            | <b>1</b>         | <b>2</b>          | <b>3</b>     | <b>3</b>      |                |                    | 5             |            |                    |
| Employed Part Time/Casual             |            | 4                | <b>2</b>          | 5            | <b>1</b>      | <b>3</b>       |                    |               |            |                    |
| Unemployed                            |            | 4                | <b>1</b>          | 5            | <b>2</b>      | <b>3</b>       |                    |               |            |                    |
| Employed Full Time                    |            |                  | 4                 |              | <b>2</b>      | <b>3</b>       |                    |               | <b>1</b>   | 5                  |
| Disability                            |            | 5                | <b>2</b>          | 4            | <b>1</b>      | <b>3</b>       |                    |               |            |                    |
| Other                                 |            | <b>3</b>         | <b>2</b>          | 5            | <b>1</b>      | 4              |                    |               |            |                    |

Table 3.2: Top 5 issues by demographics

Pro asylum seeker policy was the top issue in only three states and territories. One third of ACT respondents said treatment of asylum seekers was the top issue as opposed to only one fifth of NSW and VIC respondents. Marriage equality was the top issue in 50% of the states and territories for between one fifth and one quarter of respondents. Tasmania was the only state or territory to have climate change as the top issue.

The top 10 issues by state are in table 3.3.

|                                 | NSW      | VIC      | QLD      | SA       | WA       | TAS      | ACT      | NT       |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Asylum Seeker</b>            | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Education Policy</b>         | <b>2</b> | 4        | 4        | 5        | 4        | 4        | 5        | 6        |
| <b>Marriage Equality</b>        | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Climate Change</b>           | 4        | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | 8        |
| <b>Unemployment</b>             | 5        | 5        | 5        | 4        | 5        | 8        |          | 4        |
| <b>Health Policy</b>            | 6        | 10       | 8        | 8        |          | 7        | 9        |          |
| <b>Environment Policy</b>       | 7        | 7        | 6        | 6        |          | 6        | 4        | 3        |
| <b>Tax Policy</b>               | 8        | 6        | 7        | 7        | 8        | 9        | 7        |          |
| <b>Affordable Housing</b>       | 9        |          |          |          | 7        |          | 6        | 9        |
| <b>Education Funding</b>        | 10       |          |          |          |          | 10       |          | 10       |
| <b>Mental Health</b>            |          | 8        |          |          | 6        |          |          | 7        |
| <b>Higher Education Funding</b> |          | 9        | 10       |          |          |          | 8        |          |
| <b>Budget Deficit</b>           |          |          | 9        |          |          |          |          |          |
| <b>LGBTIQA</b>                  |          |          |          | 9        | 9        | 5        |          |          |
| <b>Gender Equality</b>          |          |          |          | 10       |          |          |          |          |
| <b>Indigenous Issues</b>        |          |          |          |          | 10       |          |          | 5        |
| <b>Domestic Violence</b>        |          |          |          |          |          |          | 10       |          |

Table 3.3: Top ten issues by state

“As a young person, I understand that the changing climate and global warming will directly affect my future. Also, as a Tasmanian I believe that our natural beauty is our biggest attribute and needs to be preserved.”

# What Young People Care About

## FEDERAL POLICY AREAS RANKED

Respondents were asked to rank a number of federally relevant policy areas. The listed order of themes were randomised to minimise bias. They then had the option to comment on why they ranked issues highly, and suggest ideas for positive change in those policy areas.

Education was ranked as 'extremely important' by the most young people (62%), followed by health (53%), environment (51%) and social justice (51%).

These results closely aligned with the issues young people self-nominated. If the categories of education 'policy' and education 'funding' were combined (20.8%), education would move to the second most important issue and almost on par with 'pro asylum seeker' policy (20.9%).

Health is the anomaly, which was 2nd in the ranking exercise, but 8th when young people nominated the agenda. Even including 'mental health' in the tally only shifted 'health' to 5th position.

The ranking exercise also highlighted that young people are engaged on most topics, with very few respondents listing any issues as 'not at all important'.

|                           | No Opinion | Not at all Important | A little bit important | Very important | Extremely Important |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Education</b>          | 1.6%       | 1.3%                 | 5.4%                   | 29.8%          | 61.7%               |
| <b>Health</b>             | 1.9%       | 1.7%                 | 7.3%                   | 36.4%          | 52.7%               |
| <b>Environment</b>        | 1.9%       | 2.9%                 | 13.2%                  | 30.6%          | 51.4%               |
| <b>Social Justice</b>     | 2.7%       | 4.2%                 | 10.4%                  | 31.6%          | 51.0%               |
| <b>Employment</b>         | 2.0%       | 1.2%                 | 11.9%                  | 41.8%          | 43.0%               |
| <b>Crime and safety</b>   | 1.6%       | 2.4%                 | 18.3%                  | 38.4%          | 39.2%               |
| <b>Australian Economy</b> | 4.5%       | 2.2%                 | 19.0%                  | 40.5%          | 33.8%               |
| <b>Immigration</b>        | 4.1%       | 4.7%                 | 20.8%                  | 36.7%          | 33.7%               |
| <b>Home &amp; Living</b>  | 2.6%       | 3.3%                 | 22.8%                  | 40.6%          | 30.8%               |
| <b>Foreign Affairs</b>    | 4.7%       | 4.7%                 | 28.1%                  | 38.1%          | 24.4%               |

Table 4.1: Percentage of respondents by issue by importance

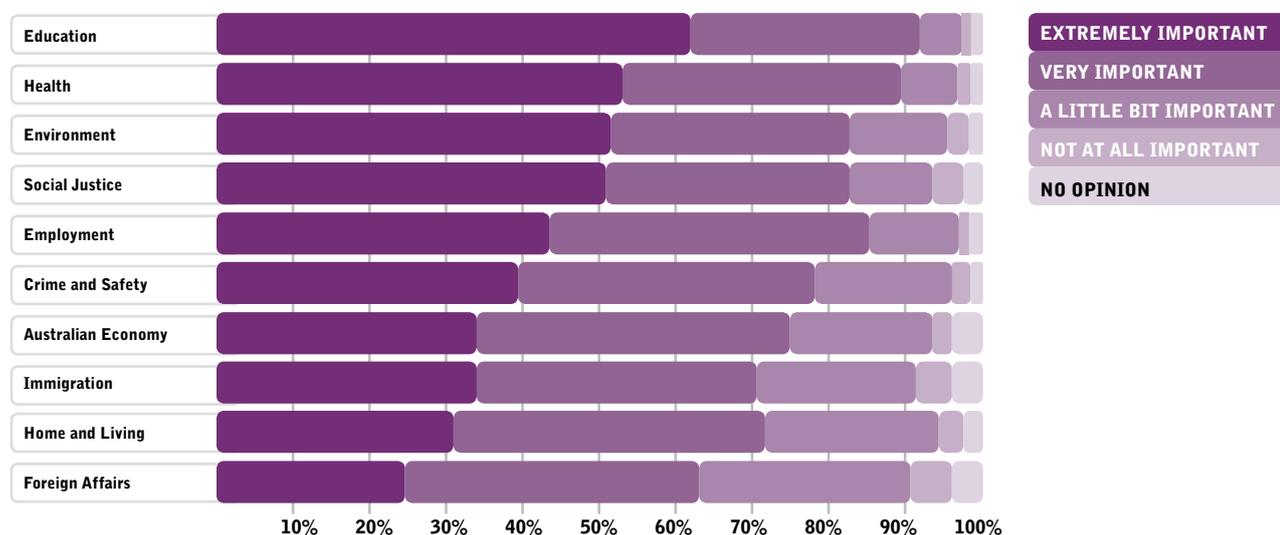


Figure 4.2: Percentage of respondents' opinion by issue

# Why is it important and what does change look like?

'Put youth at the forefront of social justice, leverage their groundwork, entrepreneurship and passion to lead the new social justice movement. Youth are passionate about social justice, we are steering the future of Australia and if the government fails to include us in the decision making and listen to what we are passionate about, they will be the ones who are left behind.'

## EDUCATION

Education was ranked by the most young people (61.7%) as extremely important. When asked why education was an extremely important issue, young people highlighted it as the basis for social mobility, a good life, access to jobs and as important to the success of the community and also Australia. It was highly regarded in relation to the prosperity of Australia, understood as necessary, a basic right, as fundamental to Australia's future. Many respondents were current students and spoke of direct experience of, for example, any changes to funding.

- 'I believe that the high-quality education for all Australians is the key to solving many other issues because when you empower people to reach their full potential, they are far more likely to function as productive members of society. I know where I live, there is also a large inequality in the standard of education...'

linked with funding. Equity, across all levels of education, was frequently raised. Topics discussed included rural and remote learning options, resources available to schools, teacher quality, and a lot of concern about the costs, such as fee deregulation for university, equity between private and public systems, current levels of funding and link these issues to consequences of social mobility:

- 'Lower education standards will hurt this nation, the rich should not be the only ones to improve their standard.'
- 'Easier access. Everything is in the city these days which can be costly and time consuming to attend. We need more local universities and TAFE's. Though VET fee help is there, at the end of the day you are still paying that \$10,000-\$80,000 on a course...'

Teaching models, methods and curriculum content featured strongly. Young people wanted to be included in decisions about content, to see content relevance improve, to link content to jobs of the future, and for teaching methods to be more engaging.

- 'Improving the curriculum to catch it up to current times and teach the technology becoming ever present in today's society and the skills needed in the technology industry.'

## HEALTH

Health was ranked as 'extremely important' by 52.7% of young respondents. Mental health, obesity, dental care, body image, costs and access were the primary issues young people associated with health. Again, young people spoke from both a personal perspective, but also about the importance of health and a functioning health system to Australia. As with education, health was regarded as essential and a basic right.

Issues of access were associated with a mixture of costs, service availability in rural Australia, and waiting times for services were mentioned. Many were concerned about cuts to funding, the cost of treatment and dental care, while others spoke about issues with privatising healthcare and the associated extra costs to see a doctor. A number of young people were also aware of the increasing ageing population and their need for support, while others wanted an expansion in medical research:

- 'I've lost 6 friends to suicide and experienced mental health issues myself. It is something that needs increased funding.'
- 'With an aging population, there needs to be greater efficiency and strength in our health system to be able to maintain the same or increased services across the population into the future.'

- 'We cannot afford to privatise Medicare in the way the government is proposing. It will mean less visits to the doctor for struggling and unhealthy families!'
- 'My mum is chronically ill but the government doesn't seem to recognise her illness or struggle. Chronic illnesses need more research and support.'

Some young people perceived inequity in Australia's health system, particularly related to ability to pay.

Suggestions were put forward regarding bulk billing, such as extending eligibility criteria to young people as a group, or for those earning under \$55,000 per year. Others suggested funding better health services and access through tax reform – a 15% flat tax after the tax free threshold. Many young people spoke about making healthy food the cheapest option, and taxing unhealthy food – with clear labelling. Others still suggested more consumer consultation.

- 'Lower the price of healthy food, and raise the price of unhealthy food. Hold country-wide events to encourage a healthier lifestyle. More sporting and exercise events.'
- 'Commit to fully funding the NDIS, fund prevention and health promotion (better financial investment), don't ask for co-payments/make cuts to Medicare that make it likely services will need to be paid for out of pocket.'

## ENVIRONMENT

Environment was the third most 'extremely important' issue, identified by 51.4%. Young people linked environment to their future, their wellbeing, and their ability to thrive. Young people were critical of the damaging change occurring currently, and the impact on their future. Climate change, the Great Barrier Reef, global warming, sustainable energy, pollution and air quality, fauna and flora, land degradation, food security, and justice were common themes.

Young people expressed a desire for urgent change and action – that the current attitudes, initiatives and policies weren't enough. Responsibility of government and politicians was often cited as well as a sense that the 'adults' don't get it.

- 'This will affect everybody in the present and the future. Land degradation, climate change, the Great Barrier Reef destruction are issues that need to be dealt with before they get any worse.'
- 'I would like global warming to be advertised more on TV and for adults to be educated about it. I feel like many adults doubt the impacts of global warming on the environment, like my Dad. I want people to be more aware.'
- 'I will inherit this earth, my children after me, their children and it continues. I don't want my kids to inherit a wasteland or have to ask what stars, rhinos and forests look like because some power hungry politicians couldn't get their priorities straight. They need to stop playing the game. For most of us it's not a game, it's a very scary possibility.'

When talking about what change looked like, a variety of measures were raised including reviving the carbon tax, clean energy, investment in renewable energy, emission trading schemes, ending mining of coal and coal seam gas, restricting mining, public education, a ban on fuel operated cars, transitions to electric cars, tax on households with more than 1 car, and increasing research and science. Young people also understood solutions as a part of Australia's economic future – tourism, science and industry jobs.

- 'Human impact on the environment is insane. In Australia we have the best resources to test sustainable living and yet we don't. We could be trail blazers and it would also create more jobs and stimulate heaps of areas in the economy.'

“ This will affect everybody in the present and the future. Land degradation, climate change, the Great Barrier Reef destruction are issues that need to be dealt with before they get any worse.”

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice was the fourth most 'extremely important' issue to young respondents at 51%, closely following and almost on par with the environment (51.4%). The most prominent theme was equality, and perceived inequality, mostly in terms of outcomes but also in terms of opportunity and wealth. Many young people spoke of personal experiences, while many others noted their strong belief that all people are equal and need to be treated as such.

LGBTIQA rights and marriage equality were overwhelmingly the focus of responses, closely followed by justice and rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Frequently mentioned issues also included refugees, racism, poverty, domestic violence, foreign aid, homelessness, disability, and employment.

- 'I'm gay and trans, and I very rarely feel safe and would hope that one day I will.'

Inequality was deemed unacceptable in a wealthy country like Australia for some young people, while others felt the Australian motto of 'a fair go' was diminished.

- 'This is a critically important issue in modern Australia. We are economically more unfair than we have ever been and it is harder to make a start in life than it has ever been (try getting a job without experience). We need to figure out how to tax fairly, we need to give everyone the same opportunities...'

Under the social justice theme change looks like implementing marriage equality without delay, improving the availability of support services, and education – from inclusive education regarding LGBTIQA, to Indigenous rights and history – closing detention centres and processing asylum seeker claims, support for charities

and services, legislation on equal pay, as well as representation of diversity in decisions, in government and in media.

- **'Marriage equality is just the beginning.'**
- 'Address inequity from a policy level. Support low income earners and do not give tax exemptions for multibillion dollar corporations. Get rid of offshore detention centres, they violate human rights and are extremely expensive for our economy and also encourage tension between races within our country.'
- 'Indigenous people must be engaged in policy making processes, not simply 'consulted', and their empowerment may begin with a treaty that provides genuine legal rights to Aboriginal people.'
- 'Complete equality. Hear the voices of the minority groups of our society and let them decide what they need. Stop speaking on their behalf.'

## EMPLOYMENT

Employment was ranked as the fifth most 'extremely important' theme to young people (43%). While employment is generally a personal issue, many spoke of their concerns about being able to find work or gain experience, with others commenting on their difficulty in securing work. A lack of jobs, particularly for young people, was mentioned frequently.

- 'I've experienced difficulty finding a job, so have people I know, and there is very little help offered to those financially struggling. It's too easy to fall through the cracks.'
- 'Youth unemployment is a serious problem. I am over 21, and have disabilities that keep me from driving, amongst other challenges. Despite multiple qualifications, I find myself completely unemployable in an increasingly services/retail

driven environment, and I am far from alone here, and rural youth especially grow up at a disadvantage.'

Links between employment and the economic state of Australia were also clearly identified.

- 'Stagnant wage growth in Australia for a long time, coupled with rising costs of living especially house prices. Need to find stable employment to survive in this future economy.'

Young people spoke about employment not only as a way to advance their personal wealth or to pay the essentials but in terms of their ability to contribute and participate in Australia's community and economy.

- 'All Australians deserve to have a proper career that fulfills not only their financial needs but also need to feel they are a valued member of society.'

Some young people mentioned security, while others spoke about income levels and linked it to costs of living.

Respondents spoke of supporting opportunities for young people to access jobs through creating more jobs, linking businesses with young people to bridge the experience gap, addressing automation through job creation in industries of the future, increasing the number of apprenticeships and encouraging young people to undertake them, more short courses to bridge skills gap, incentivising employers to take on young people, improvements to job providers, and fostering business.

- 'The government needs to invest in creating more jobs to combat the rising unemployment rate. Develop free courses in which people can learn and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in gaining employment in the advancing fields of science and technology.'

## CRIME AND SAFETY

When discussing the crime and safety theme, young people had very diverse perspectives. It ranked 6th with 39.2% nominating it as 'extremely important'. The most common response was a variation of 'I want to be safe'. Mental health, bullying, violence including violence against women, sexual violence and domestic violence, sentencing, law, rehabilitation, and police were frequent themes.

- 'Better support for those released from jail; provide better support for 'at risk groups' who are likely to offend.'

Young people also had divergent views regarding law and justice. Some requested more police, an increase in surveillance and CCTV, or that a harsher approach to crime was needed. Others requested greater oversight, better training for police to work with young people, and a greater focus on prevention and rehabilitation activities. There were responses suggesting police should do a better job overall, and crime on public transport was also a specific concern.

Better approaches to mental health, as well as job and education opportunities, was also linked by respondents as an approach to decrease crime.

There were mentions of drugs, particularity in relation to decriminalisation, harm minimisation and accessible rehabilitation.

- 'Decriminalisation and harm minimisation of drugs to turn the war against drugs into a health issue.'

## AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Of the respondents, 33.8% nominated the Australian Economy as 'extremely important'. Despite being the 7th most 'extremely important' issues, young people spoke about the economy as the foundation of Australia in terms of its future, the provision of essential services, as well as its impact on jobs, personal income and the housing market. A number of young people expressed concerned about the future of the economy.

- 'The country relies on a strong economy. The health of the economy should come before any other issues as everyone in the country relies on it and it effects all other issues.'
- 'A sense of belonging, getting a job, contributing to your own success and the success of a nation.'

Many young people spoke of the budget and the need to 'fix it' – with terms such as surplus, debt, balancing the budget and responsible spending frequently mentioned. Many tax adjustments were suggested; some young people called for tax cuts or a flat tax base. Others were conscious of generational debt inheritance.

- 'I think that Australia needs to ensure that the government has very good economic theory and justification behind their budget. In order to ensure a surplus and not a deficit. The government needs to be good with their money and can only spend if it is affordable.'

Another reoccurring theme focussed on the tax avoidance of corporations and big business, and closing the loopholes.

- 'Tax cuts to the lowest tax brackets would allow for those on low incomes to spend more money on goods and services which would boost growth. The closing of all current tax loopholes so that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of tax.'

A diverse economy and employment opportunities were linked to new industry and infrastructure. Technology and the NBN were also raised. Another thread of responses acknowledged the importance of trade – importing goods, for example, or building a greater reliance on Australia's own resources.

## IMMIGRATION

Immigration was rated as 'extremely important' by 33.7% of young respondents. The most prominent theme regarded policies and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, and empathy. This was tempered by a small element of disquiet, with some young people concerned about illegal migration and the impact of migration on Australian culture and jobs.

- 'Australia leads the world in cruelty against asylum seekers, it is not acceptable and we have to demand humane alternatives to detention.'

Respondents overwhelmingly supported increased refugee intake, closure of detention centres, better and quicker systems for processing refugee claims, with the associated support to settle well in Australia. Some young people were concerned and wanted security, checks and processes to mitigate perceived risk.

- 'Stop spending millions of dollars on relocating refugees to developing countries (e.g. Cambodia)... Start seeing immigration as a human problem, not an economic or security problem.'
- 'We need to maintain Australia's security while receiving humanitarian immigrants.'

## HOME AND LIVING

The theme 'home and living' was nominated as extremely important by 30.8% of respondents. Young people highlighted concerns such as a lack of affordable housing, homelessness, social security payment levels, cost of living, internet, and relationships – with parents, with partners and stress on those relationships. Young people associated housing with feeling safe and protected.

While some people were concerned about their inability to move out of home to rent, others were concerned about not being able to own a home in their lifetime. Still more spoke about personal experiences of homelessness and their inability to access affordable housing. Young people perceived this to be of particular concern for their generation.

- 'I am 21 and have no choice but to live off rental and study allowances. With disabilities, I would not have been able to understand/access these without help. It is also impossible for me to rent or buy alone despite savings for a deposit without a full-time job. Accommodation is moving further out of my generation's reach.'

Debt was a reoccurring concern, as was the cost of living. Some young people linked housing with safety and others spoke about stress on relationships and family. Many young people mentioned Newstart Allowance and/or welfare payments as insufficient to meet the cost of living.

- 'Adjust welfare payments to account for the 20 odd years of no inflation. Also make sure these payments are at the poverty line or higher and abolish the healthy welfare card (it's not so healthy).'

Young people wanted change across the whole spectrum of housing: changes to negative gearing, reintroducing first home buyer schemes, a focus on foreign ownership, increasing housing density, and increasing housing supply. Better access to affordable rental properties and stronger rights for renters, including regulations to make sure housing was liveable, was identified as important by participants. Some suggested using empty rooms and houses to increase housing supply, or of improving access to affordable housing by investing in transport infrastructure. Young people also spoke of improved access to refuges and support services.

- 'Increase the supply of affordable housing, greater security for tenants, reform tax breaks which contribute to inequality (e.g. negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount), increase welfare payments at the very least to an amount which brings people above the poverty line.'

Young people spoke of their inability to pay their way, and sought an increase in welfare payments, rental assistance and minimum wages in line with the costs of living.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign affairs was the lowest priority for young people, with 24.4% nominating it as 'extremely important'. Good international relationships and improving relationships were prominent themes, linked to ideas of being a 'good' global citizen – improving aid, mediating unrest, and improving refugee solutions. On the other hand, some respondents sought a decreased involvement in world affairs and disputes.

- 'Good international relations and global networks is essential for Australia. Such as helping with aid, trade, politics, etc.'

Technology and interconnectedness was a theme, as was trade and the security and national interests of Australia at home and abroad.

An increase in foreign aid featured as a prominent improvement, as did increasing the intake of refugees. Young people spoke of improving relations with a broad range of countries, including countries in Asia and Europe.

- 'Be compassionate. Donate an adequate amount to foreign aid. Most of the public believe 12% to be fair.'
- 'More communication and negotiation with Asia, especially China and Japan. Distance self from American policy to avoid involvement in future conflict in Middle East unless it is in Australia's interest. Cooperate with NZ, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to enhance our region.'
- 'Regional and international coordination for a refugee settlement scheme and environmental protection plan.'

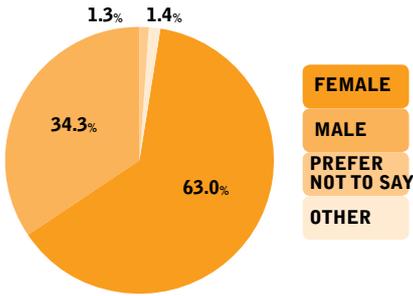
“Regional and international coordination for a refugee settlement scheme and environmental protection plan.”

# NSW Snapshot

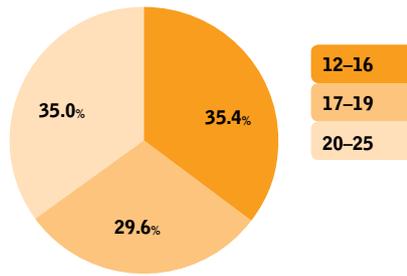
**NSW HAD A TOTAL OF 1660 RESPONDENTS OR 49.3% OF THE TOTAL RESPONSES.**

The gender percentage is in the following chart. Gender profiles in NSW are consistent with AUS more broadly.

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. There is little difference between NSW and AUS on age profiles.

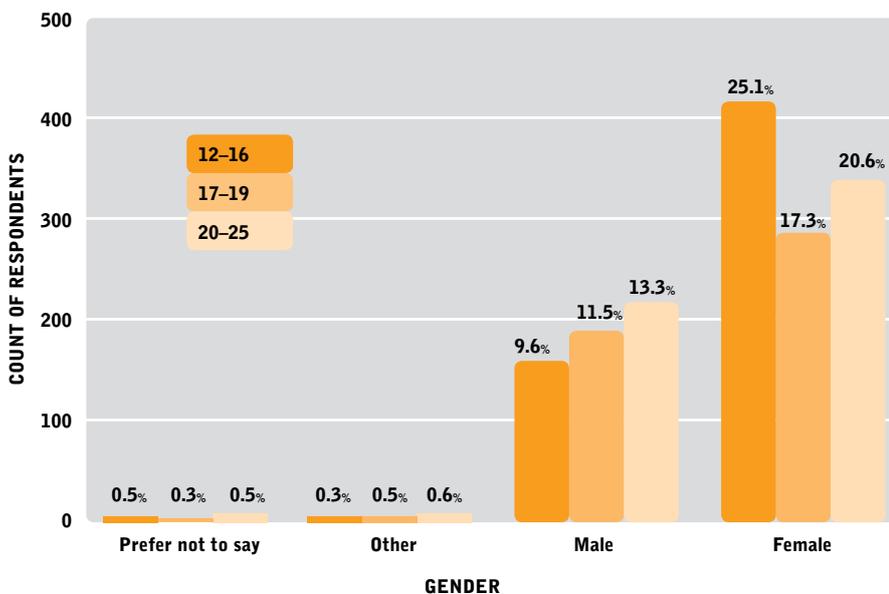


**Figure 5.1: Respondent percentages by gender**



**Figure 5.2 Respondent percentages by age**

The male proportion of respondents increases with age. Female respondents are almost double male respondents with most female respondents aged 12-16.



**Figure 5.3: NSW respondents' percentage by gender and age**

NSW respondents were predominantly high school students. NSW has a higher proportion of ESL speakers (22.5%) compared to Australia overall (16.1%). As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

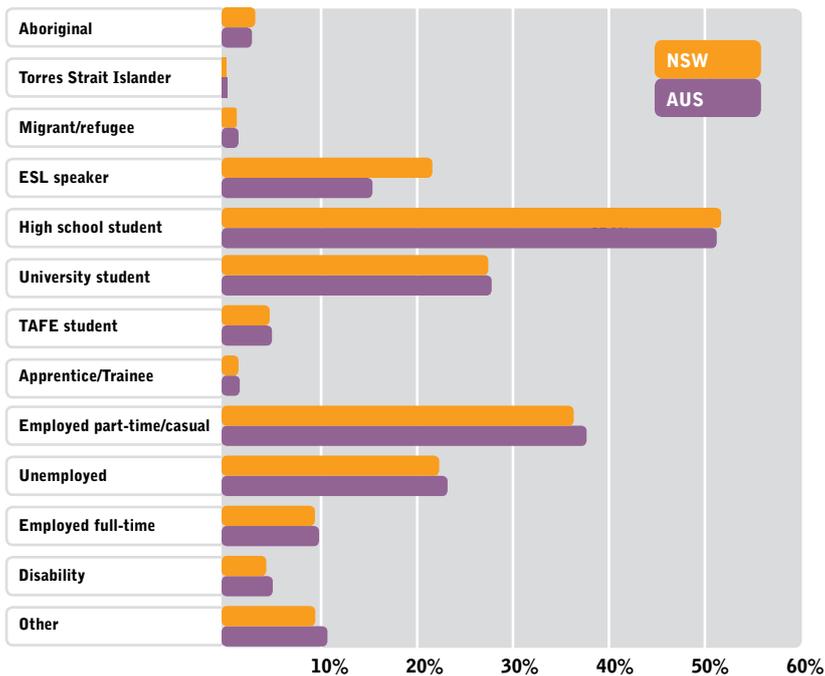


Figure 5.4: NSW and AUS respondents demographic profile

There were more respondents in non-marginal electorates (53.9%) than in marginal electorates (46.1%).

There were three times more respondents from metro than non-metro areas.

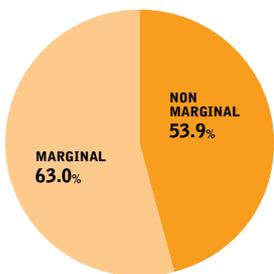


Figure 5.5: Respondents by electorate status

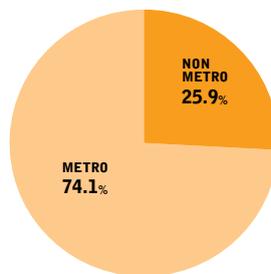


Figure 5.6: NSW respondents by location

Almost one third of NSW respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. Over half of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and just under 10% were not interested in voting at all.

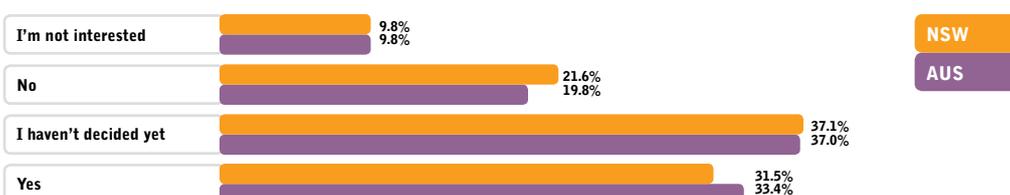


Figure 5.7: NSW and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Four out of five of decided voters were evenly split between the ALP and Greens with only one in five preferring the Liberals.

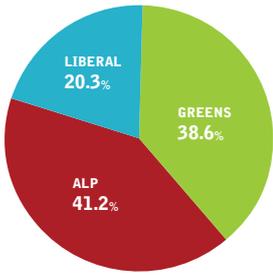


Figure 5.8: NSW respondents voting intention by party preference

There was little overall difference in respondents' intended voting decisions between marginal and non-marginal seats. There was a difference in voting preference for the respondents who have decided to vote. The ALP is preferred more in marginal seats (44.6% vs 38.7%) and Liberals are preferred more in non-marginal seats (24.0% vs 15.0%). There is a small preference for the Greens in marginal seats (40.4% vs 37.3%).

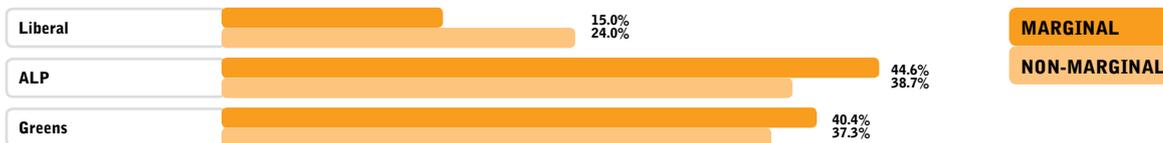


Figure 5.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status

There was no difference between the percentage of metro and non-metro respondents who had made a decision on who to vote for. A slightly higher percentage of metro respondents (10.1%) than non-metro respondents (8.9%) were not interested in voting.

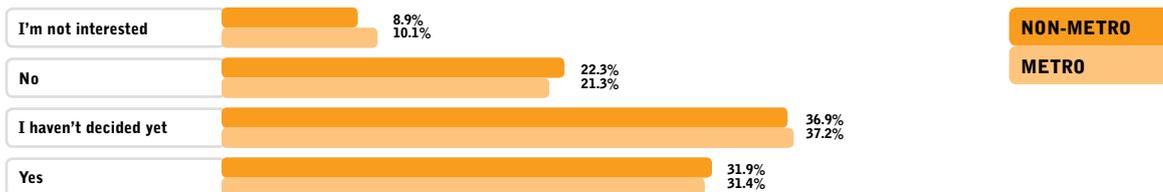


Figure 5.10: NSW non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

More NSW non-metro respondents (21.7%) than NSW metro respondents (15.8%) have decided to vote Liberal. More NSW metro respondents (47.4%) than NSW non-metro respondents (39.1%) are going to vote ALP.

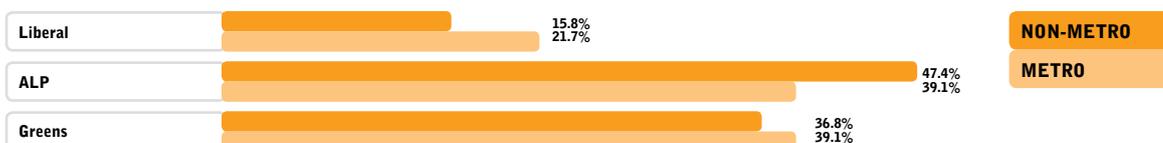


Figure 5.11: Respondent party preference by location

Based on self-reporting, the top ten election issues for NSW respondents were asylum seekers, education policy, marriage equality, climate change, unemployment, health policy, environment policy, tax policy, affordable housing and education funding. If funding and policy are considered together then education is the most important issue. Education policy is ranked higher in NSW (2nd at 19.0%) than Australia (4th at 15.4%) overall.

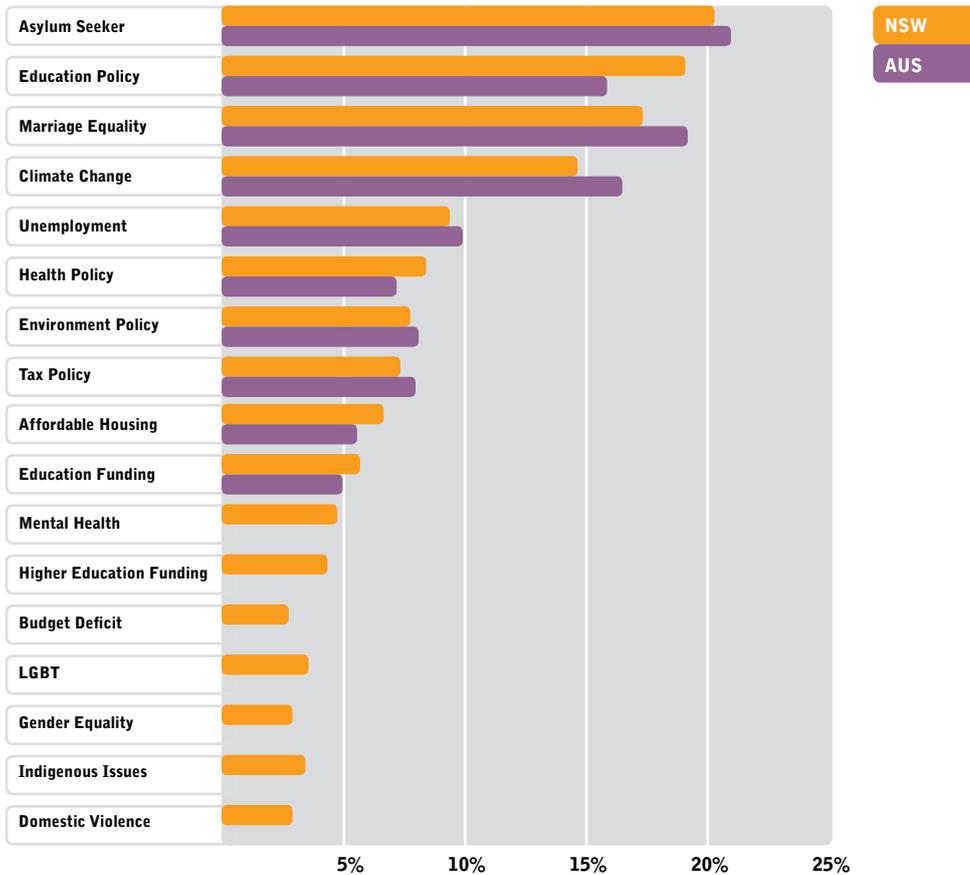


Figure 5.12: NSW vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More NSW respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance. NSW respondents were very similar to Australian respondents overall.

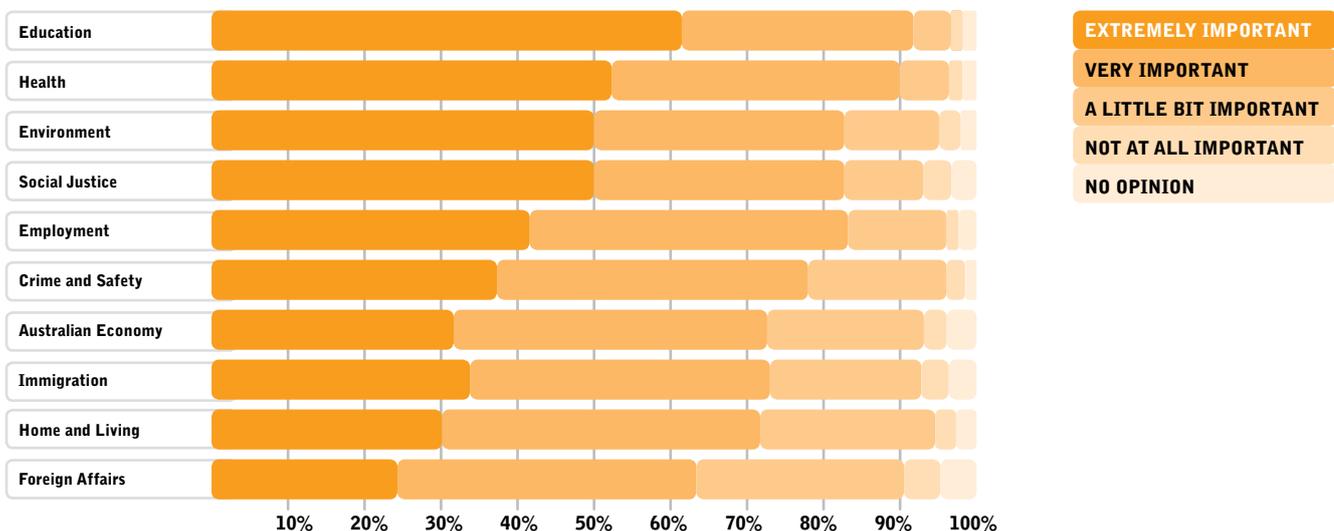
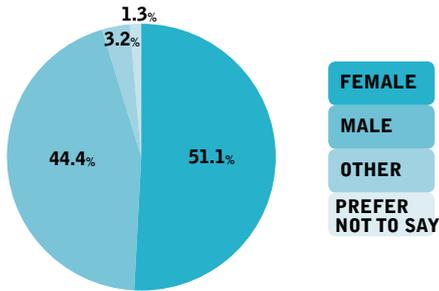


Figure 5.13: NSW issues by importance

# VIC Snapshot

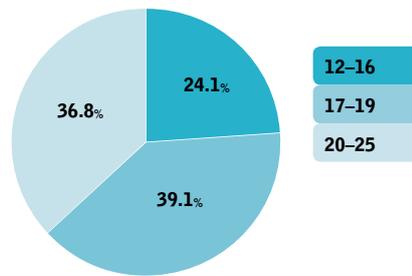
**VIC HAD A TOTAL OF 693 RESPONDENTS OR 20.6% OF THE TOTAL.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph.



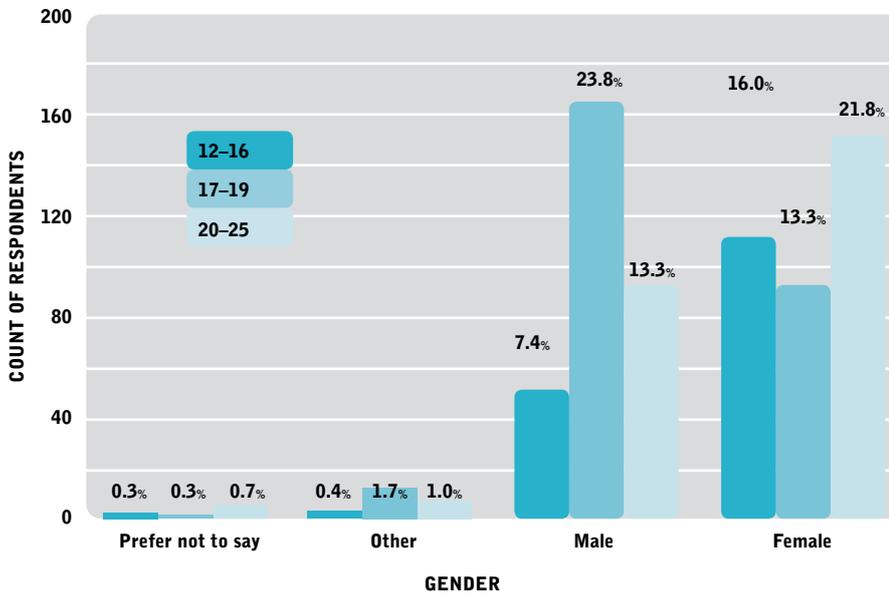
**Figure 6.1: Respondent percentages by gender**

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph.



**Figure 6.2: Respondent percentages by age**

The male percentage increases with age. Female respondents are almost double male respondents with most female respondents aged 12-16.



**Figure 6.3: VIC respondents' percentage by gender and age**

VIC respondents are predominantly high school or university students, employed either part-time or casual, or they are unemployed. Only 10% are employed full-time. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

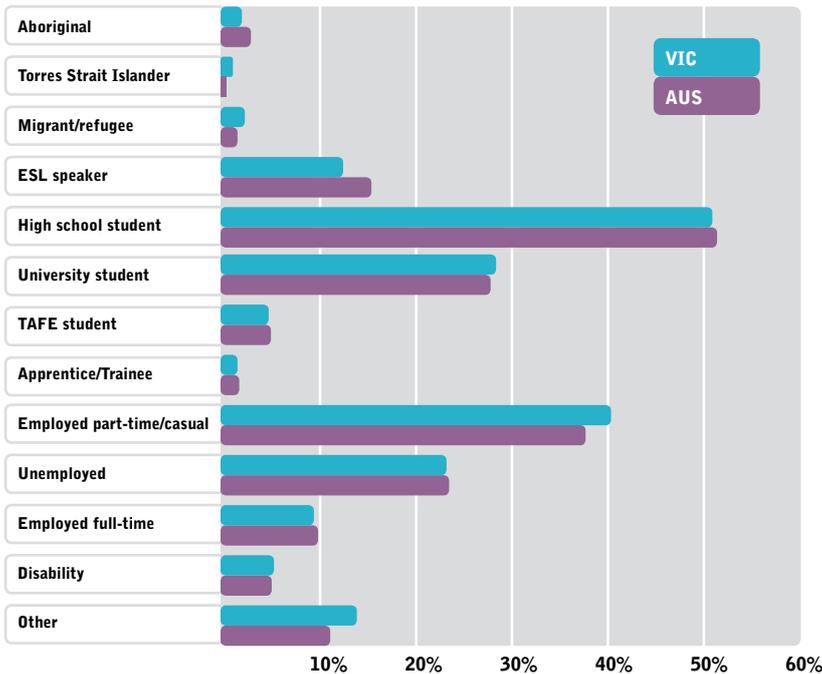


Figure 6.4: VIC and AUS respondents demographic profile

There were more respondents in non-marginal electorates (54.4%) than in marginal electorates (45.6%).

There were three times more respondents from metro than non-metro areas.

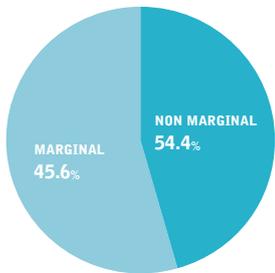


Figure 6.5: Respondents by electorate status

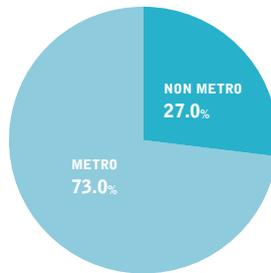


Figure 6.6: VIC respondents by location

One third of VIC respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. Over half of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and just over 11% were not interested in voting at all.

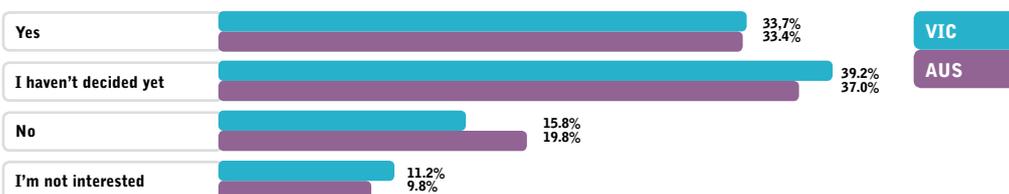


Figure 6.7: VIC and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 44.5% will vote for the Greens, 29.5% will vote for the ALP and 26.0% will vote for Liberal.

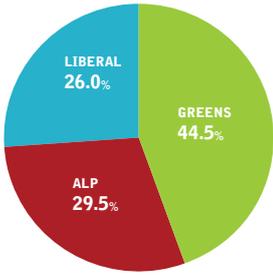


Figure 6.8: VIC respondents voting intention by party preference

The intended voting decision between marginal and non-marginal seats showed that there is higher voting disinterest in marginal seats (14.1%) compared to non-marginal seats (8.8%). There is no difference in party preference between marginal and non-marginal seats in the percentage of respondents voting Green (43.7% vs 45.1%), for the ALP (31.0% vs 28.3%) or Liberal (25.3% vs 26.5%).

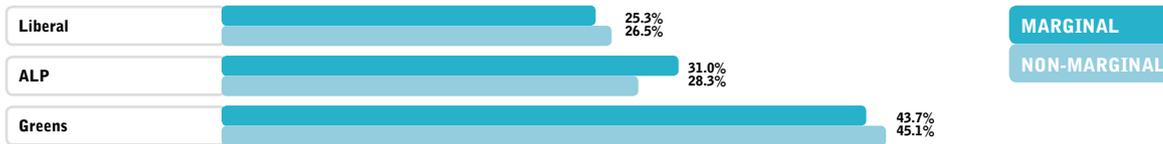


Figure 6.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status

There was a slight difference between the percentage of metro and non-metro respondents who had made a decision on who to vote for. A higher percentage of metro respondents (40.6%) than non-metro respondents (35.5%) had not yet decided who to vote for.

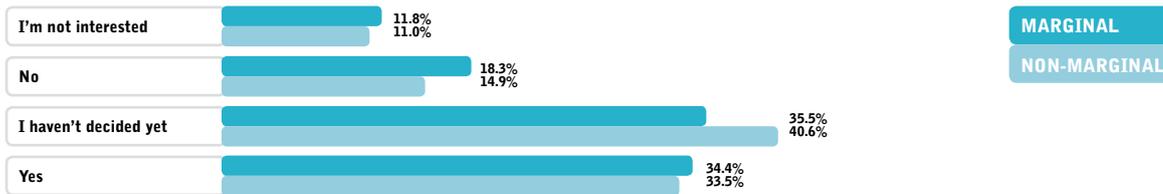


Figure 6.10: VIC non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

There is very little difference in party preference by respondent location, with the Greens being the preferred party for both metro and non-metro respondents.

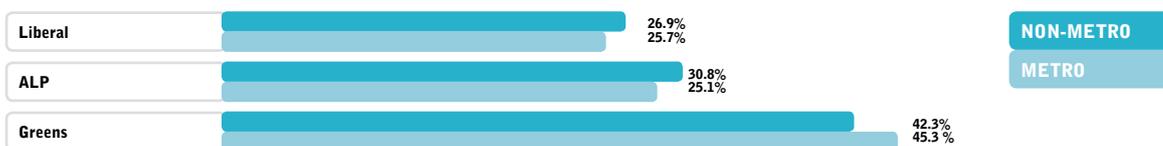


Figure 6.11: Respondent party preference by location

Based on the self-report responses, the top ten election issues for VIC respondents were asylum seekers, marriage equality, climate change, education policy, unemployment, tax policy, environment policy, mental health, higher education funding and health policy. If higher education funding and education policy are considered together then education is the second most important issue. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure.

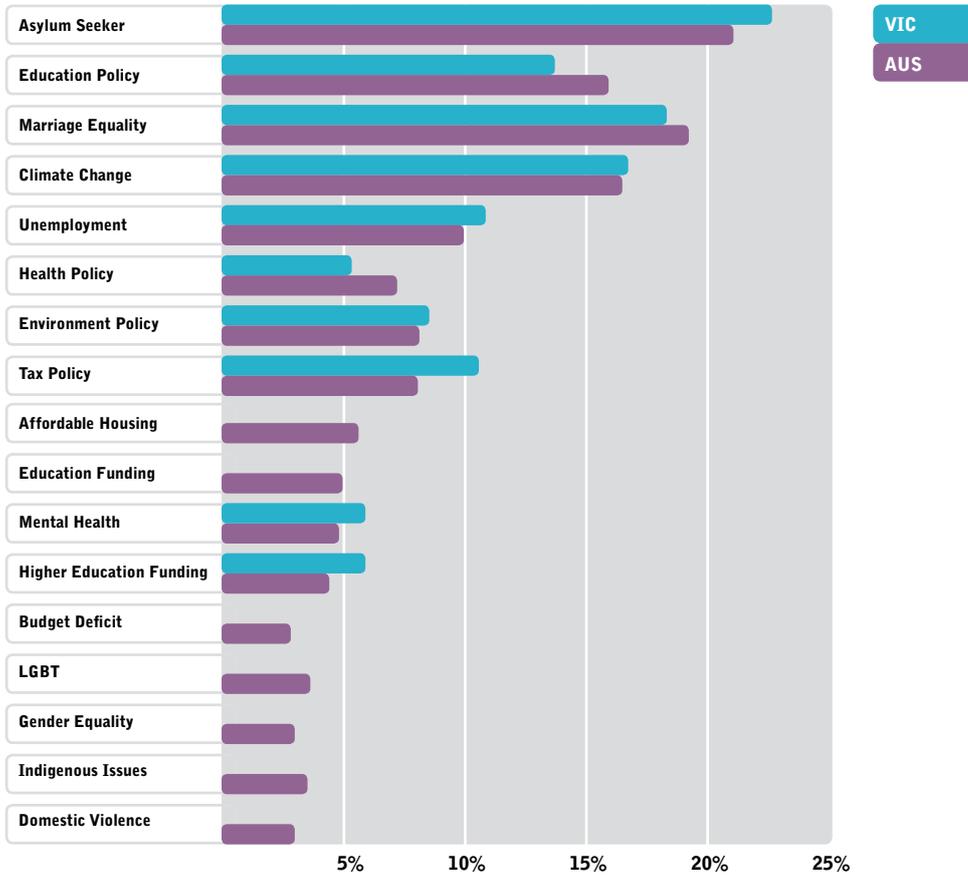


Figure 6.12: VIC Respondents' top ten issues

More VIC respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

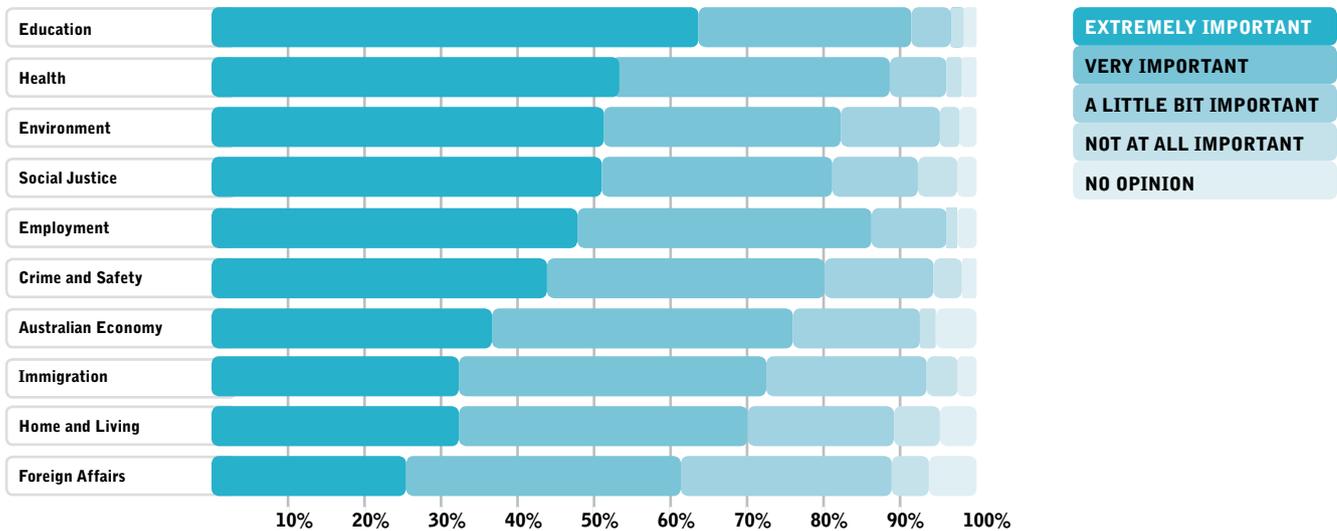


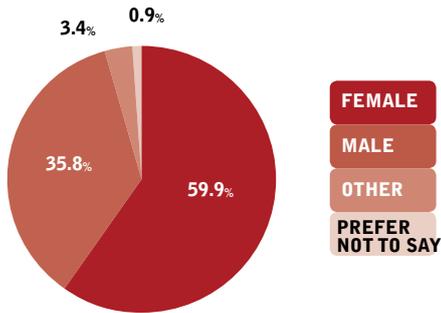
Figure 6.13: VIC issues by importance

# QLD Snapshot

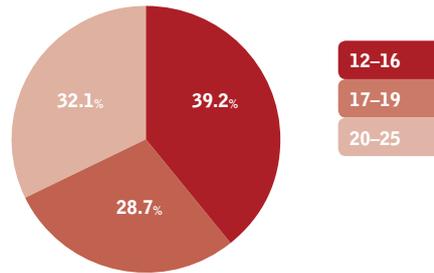
**QLD HAD A TOTAL OF 324 RESPONDENTS OR 9.6% OF THE TOTAL RESPONSES.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph.

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph.

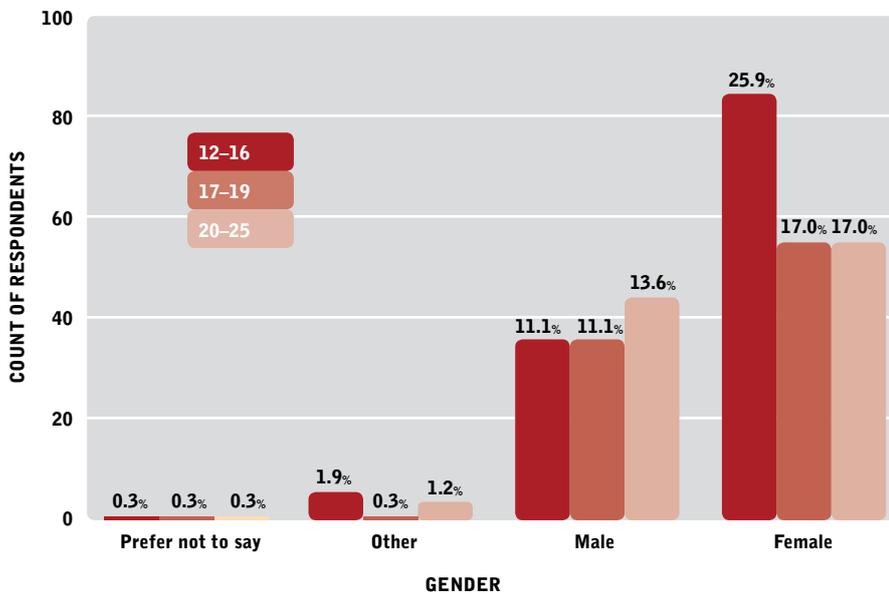


**Figure 7.1: Respondent percentages by gender**



**Figure 7.2: Respondent percentages by age**

The proportion of male respondents increases with age. There were 1.5 times more female respondents, with over one quarter of female respondents aged 12-16.



**Figure 7.3: QLD respondents' percentage by gender and age**

QLD respondents are predominantly high school or university students, employed either part-time or casual, or they are unemployed. Only 9.9% are employed full-time. The unemployed proportion is higher than the national average for the respondents. QLD also has a lower percentage of ESL participants than the national average. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

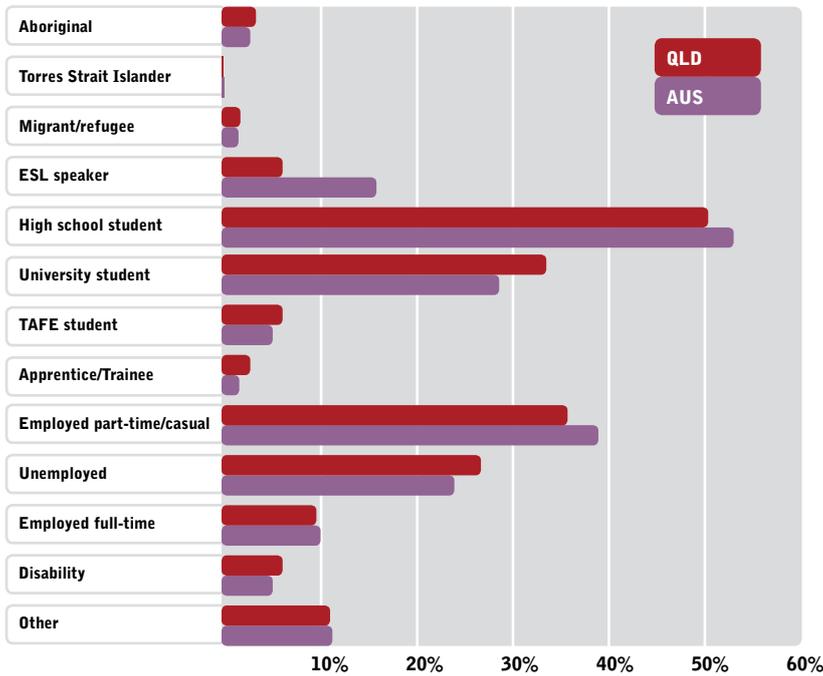


Figure 7.4: QLD and AUS respondents demographic profile

There were almost equal percentages of respondents in non-marginal electorates (49.7%) and in marginal electorates (50.3%).

There were more non-metro respondents (54.6%) than metro respondents (45.4%).

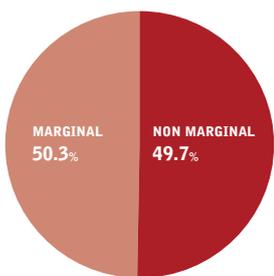


Figure 7.5: Respondents by electorate status

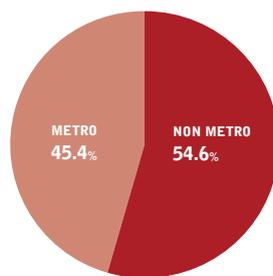


Figure 7.6: QLD respondents by location

Forty percent of QLD respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election, which is higher than the national average. Half of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and 10% were not interested in voting at all.

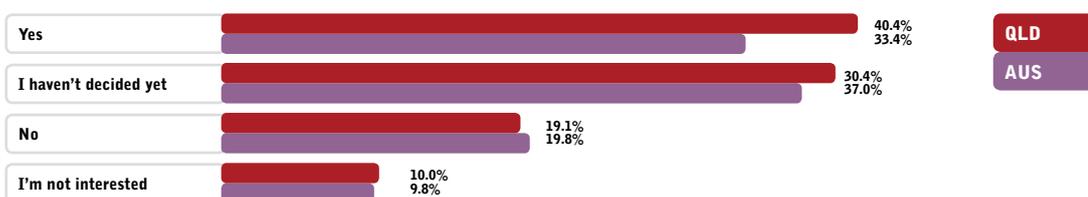


Figure 7.7: QLD and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 36.5% will vote for the Greens, 44.8% will vote for the ALP and 18.8% will vote for Liberal.

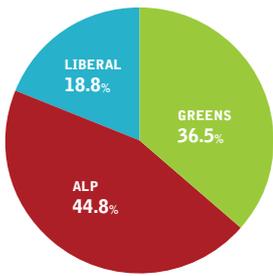


Figure 7.8: QLD respondents voting intention by party preference

The intended voting decision between marginal and non-marginal seats showed that more respondents in marginal seats (46.6%) have decided who they will vote for than in non-marginal seats (34.0%). More respondents in non-marginal seats (34.6%) have not decided who will represent them than in marginal seats (26.4%). There is no difference in party preference between marginal and non-marginal seats in the percentage of respondents voting Green (36.2% vs 36.8%), for the ALP (44.8% vs 44.7%) or Liberal (19.0% vs 18.4%).



Figure 7.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status

There was a large difference between the percentage of metro (48.6%) and non-metro (33.5%) respondents who had made a decision on who to vote for. More non-metro respondents (24.9%) than metro (12.3%) respondents did not know who to vote for.

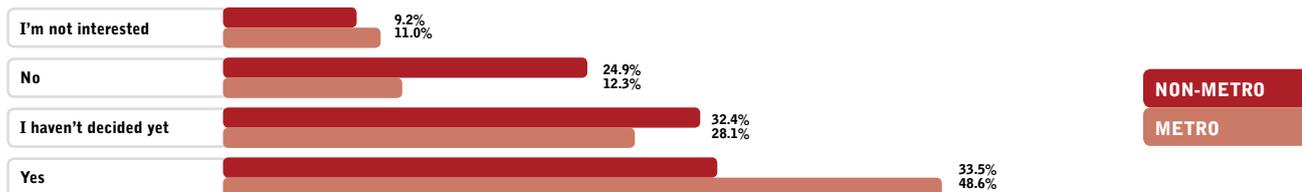


Figure 7.10: QLD non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

More QLD non-metro respondents (22.0%) than metro respondents (16.4%) had decided to vote Liberal. More metro respondents (40.0%) than non-metro respondents (31.7%) intended to vote ALP.

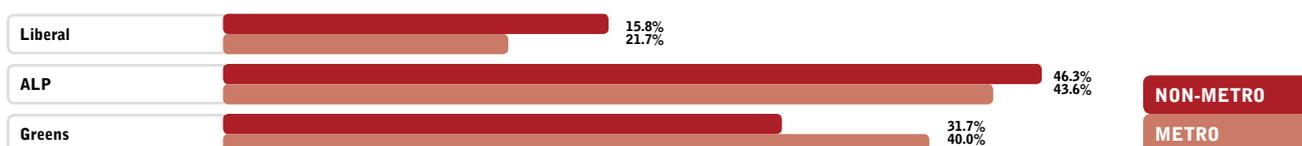


Figure 7.11: Respondent party preference by location

Based on the self-report responses, the top ten election issues for QLD respondents were marriage equality, climate change, asylum seeker, education policy, unemployment, environment policy, tax policy, health policy, budget deficit and higher education funding. If higher education funding and education policy are considered together then education is the fourth most important issue. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure

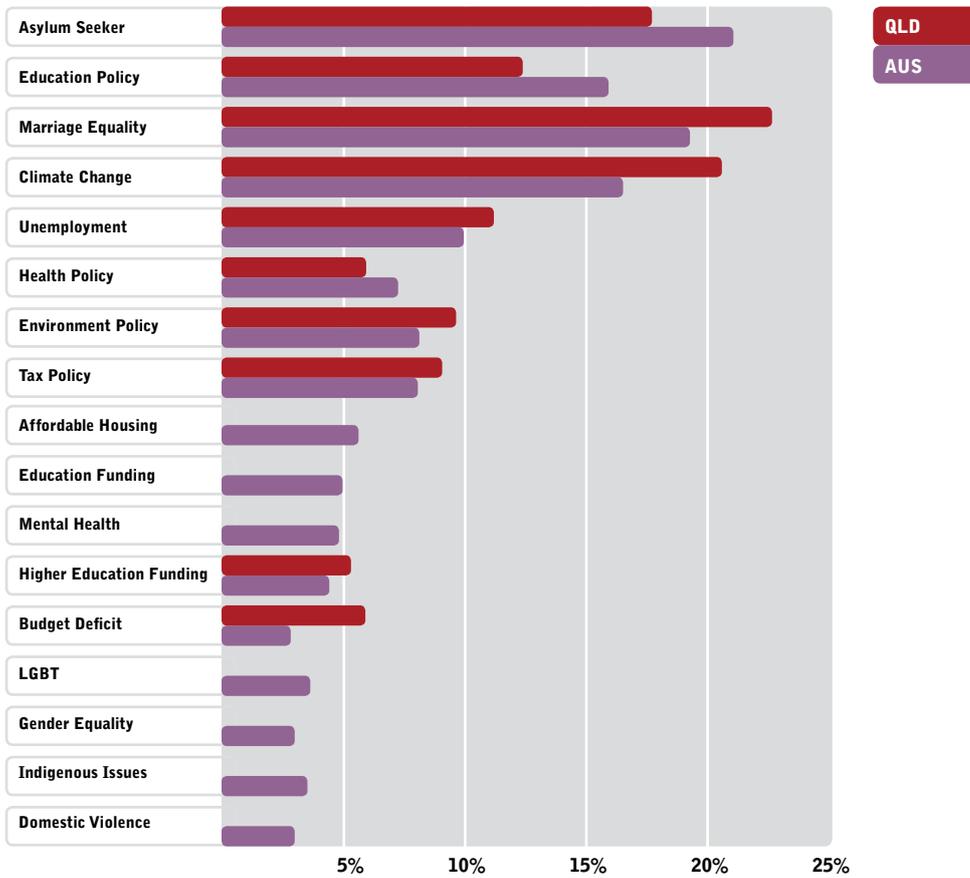


Figure 7.12: QLD vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More QLD respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

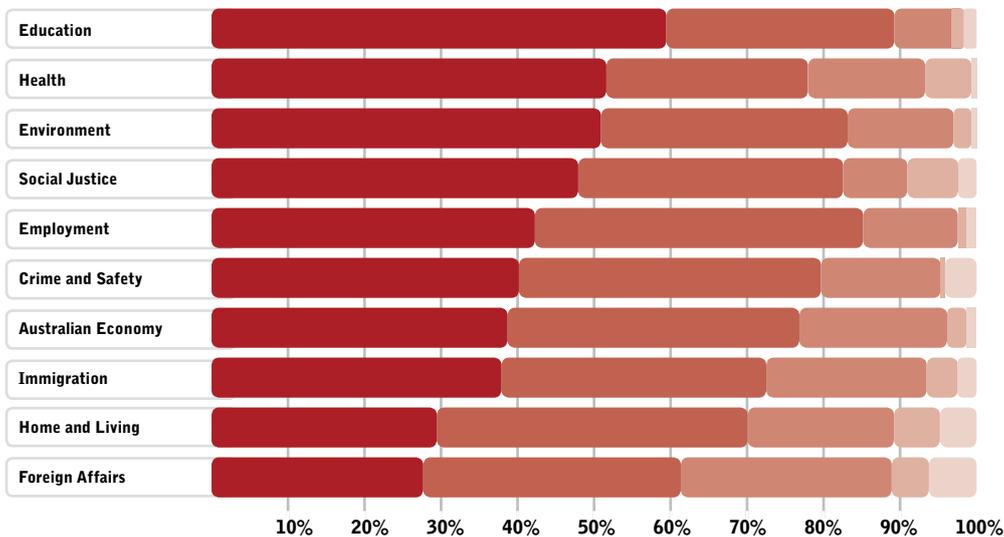


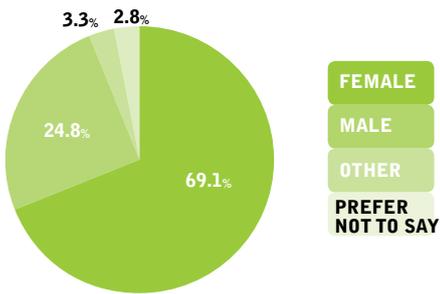
Figure 7.13: QLD issues by importance

# SA Snapshot

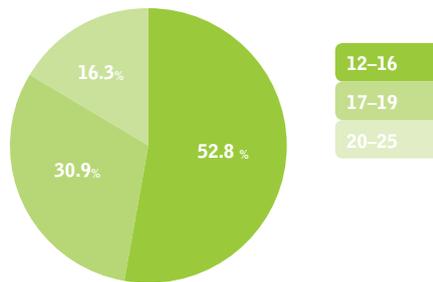
**SA HAD A TOTAL OF 246 RESPONDENTS OR 7.3% OF THE TOTAL.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph. There is little difference between SA and AUS on gender profiles.

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. There is a large difference between SA and AUS on respondent age profiles with SA much younger.

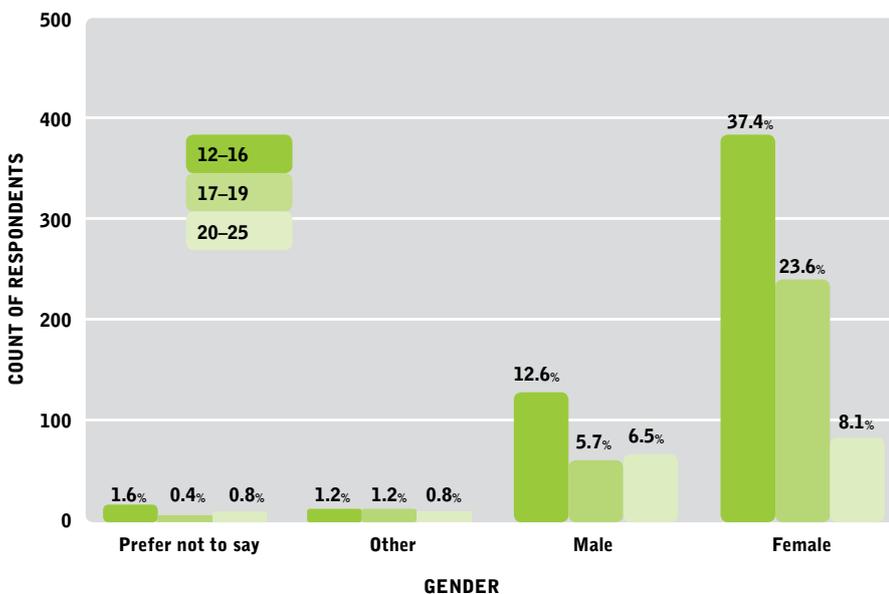


**Figure 8.1: Respondent percentages by gender**



**Figure 8.2: Respondent percentages by age**

The female proportion of participation decreased with age. There were 2.8 times more female respondents than male, with over one third of female respondents aged 12-16.



**Figure 8.3: SA respondents' percentage by gender and age**

SA respondents are predominantly high school students (73%), employed either part-time, casual, or were unemployed. Only 4.1% were employed full-time. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

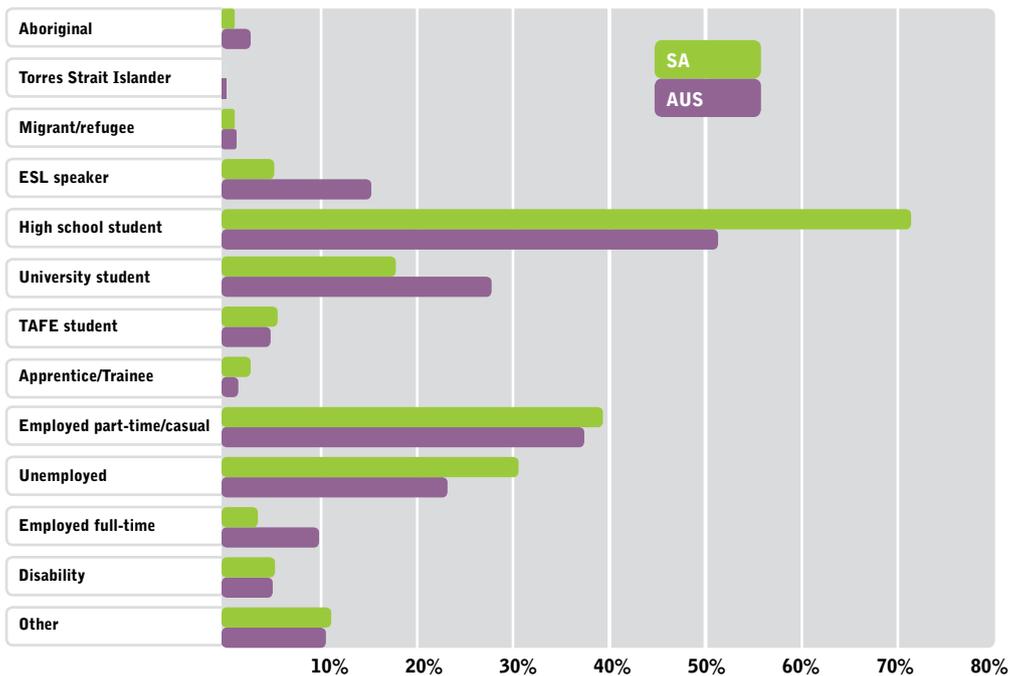


Figure 8.4: SA and AUS respondents demographic profile

Two thirds of SA respondents were in non-marginal electorates (65.4%) than in marginal electorates (34.6%).

There were more respondents from metro than non-metro areas.

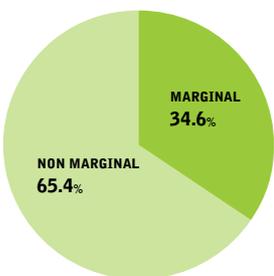


Figure 8.5: Respondents by electorate status

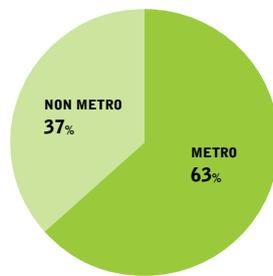


Figure 8.6: SA respondents by location

Thirty percent of SA respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. Just under 3 in 5 of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and just over 10% were not interested in voting at all.

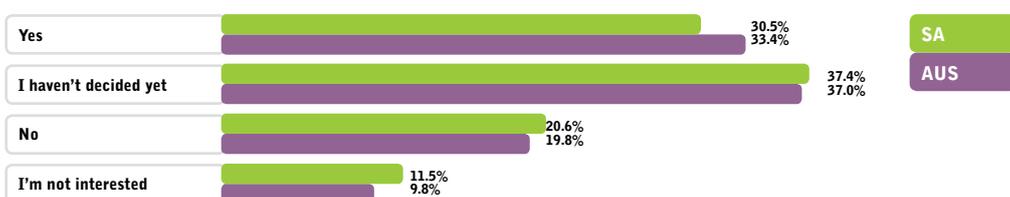


Figure 8.7: SA and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 43.3% will vote for the Greens, 34.3% will vote for the ALP and 22.4% will vote for Liberal

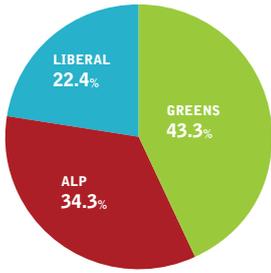


Figure 8.8: SA respondents voting intention by party preference

The intended voting decision between marginal and non-marginal seats showed that slightly more respondents in marginal seats (31.8%) have decided who they will vote for than in non-marginal seats (29.7%). More respondents in non-marginal seats (39.9%) have not decided who will represent them than in marginal seats (32.9%). There is a large difference in party preference between marginal and non-marginal seats in the percentage of respondents voting Green (37.5% vs 46.5%), for the ALP (50.0% vs 25.6%) or Liberal (12.5% vs 27.9%).

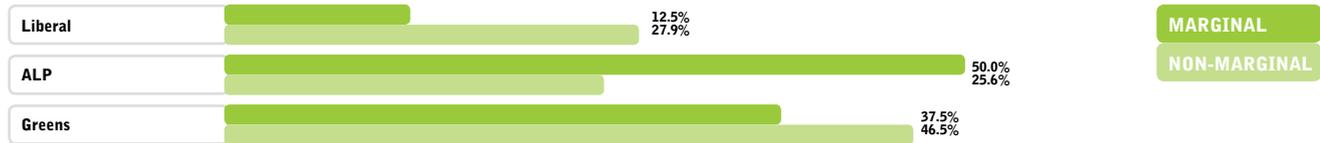


Figure 8.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status

There was a large difference between the percentage of metro (35.1%) and non-metro respondents (22.5%) who had made a decision on who to vote for. The response was twice as high for non-metro respondents (31.5%) than for metro respondents (14.3%).

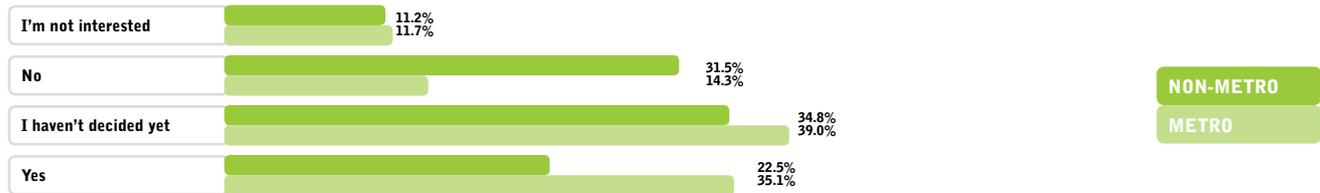


Figure 8.10: SA non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

More SA non-metro respondents (41.2%) than SA metro respondents (16.0%) have decided to vote Liberal. More SA metro respondents (50.0%) than SA non-metro respondents (23.5%) are going to vote Green.



Figure 8.11: Respondent party preference by location

Based on the self-report response, the top ten election issues for SA respondents were marriage equality, asylum seeker, climate change, unemployment, education policy, environment policy, tax policy, health policy, LGBTIQA and gender equality. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure. Education policy and asylum seekers are lower than the national response rate.

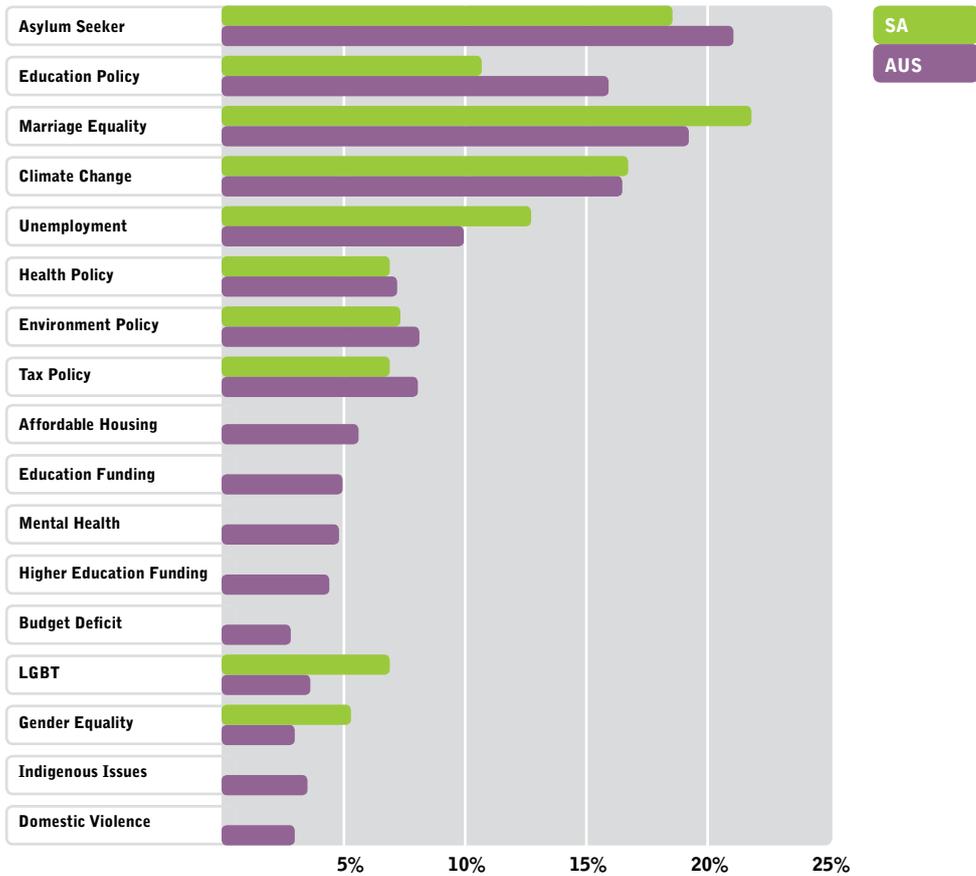


Figure 8.12: SA vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More SA respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

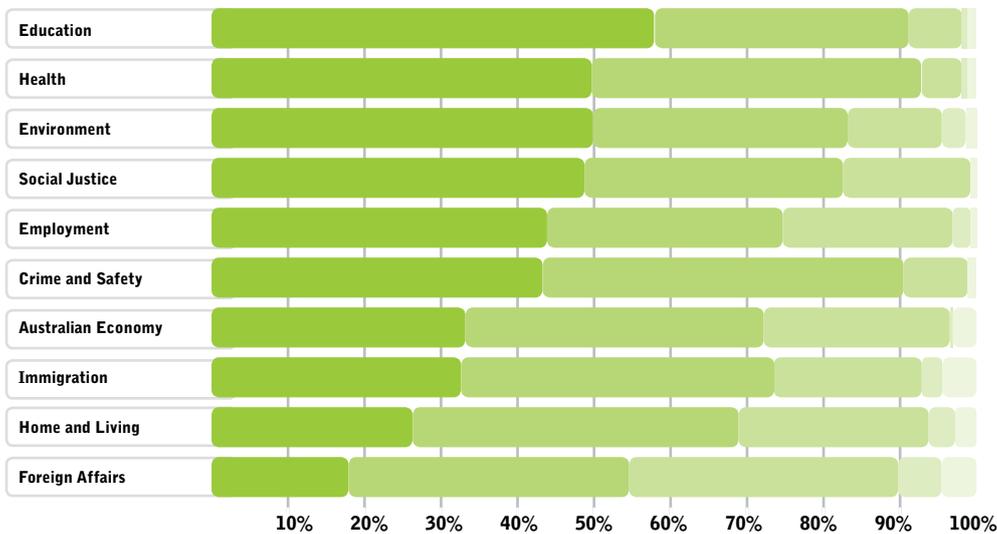


Figure 8.13: SA issues by importance

# WA Snapshot

**WA HAD A TOTAL OF 201 RESPONDENTS OR 6.0% OF THE TOTAL.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph. There is little difference between WA and AUS on gender profiles

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. There is little difference between WA and AUS on age profiles.

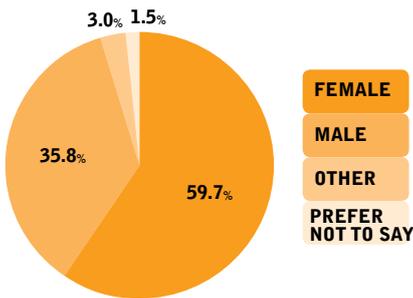


Figure 9.1: Respondent percentages by gender

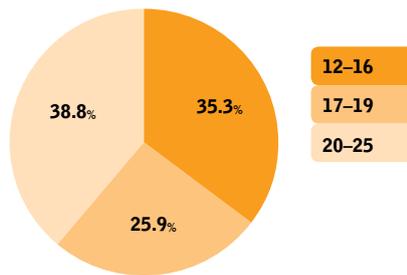


Figure 9.2: Respondent percentages by age

There were 1.7 times more female respondents than male. Almost 2 in 5 respondents are aged 20-25.

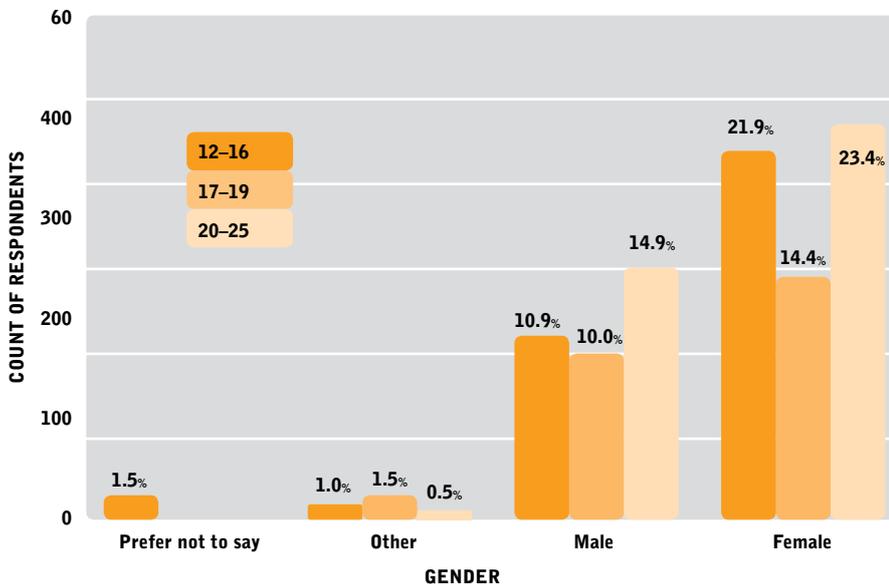


Figure 9.3: WA respondents' percentage by gender and age

WA respondents are predominantly employed either part-time or casual, were high school or university students, or were unemployed. Almost 16% are employed full-time. WA has less high school and ESL respondents than the national figures. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

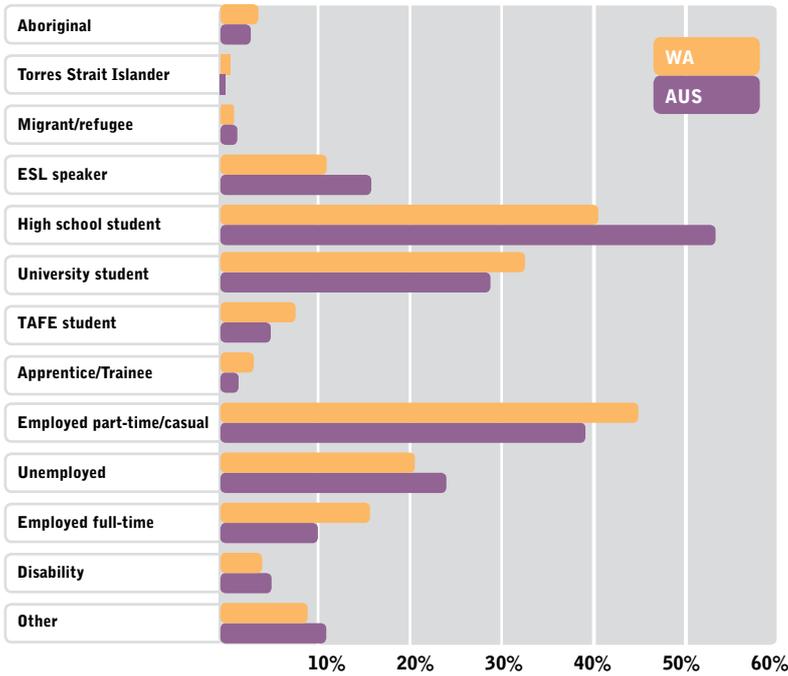


Figure 9.4: WA and AUS respondents demographic profile

There were almost twice as many respondents in non-marginal electorates (65.4%) than in marginal electorates (34.6%).

There were more respondents from metro (63%) than non-metro areas (37%).

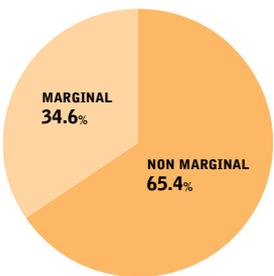


Figure 9.5: Respondents by electorate status

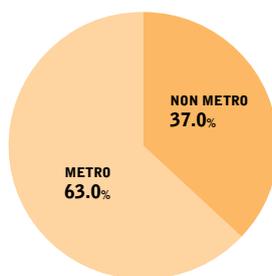


Figure 9.6: WA respondents by location

Thirty-six percent of WA respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. Just under 3 in 5 of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and just under 5% were not interested in voting at all, which is almost half the national rate.

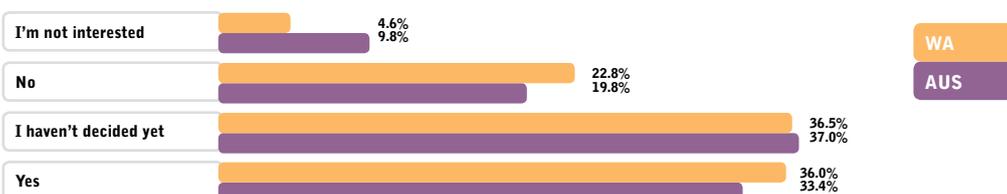
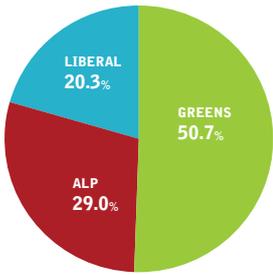


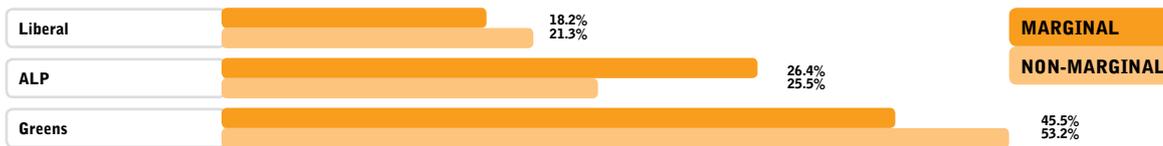
Figure 9.7: WA and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 50.7% will vote for the Greens, 29.0% will vote for the ALP and 20.3% will vote for Liberal.



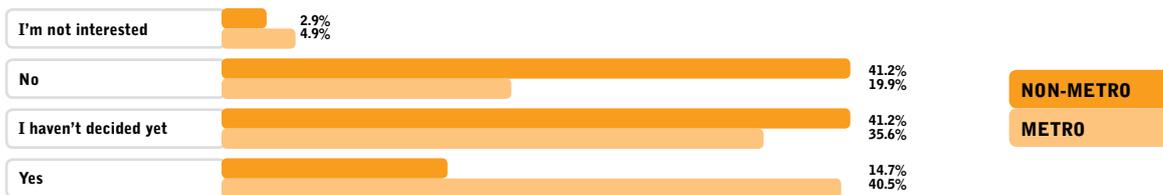
**Figure 9.8: WA respondents voting intention by party preference**

The intended voting decision between marginal and non-marginal seats showed that slightly more respondents in marginal seats (37.9%) have decided who they will vote for than in non-marginal seats (35.3%). More respondents in non-marginal seats (25.2%) do not know who they will vote for in marginal seats (17.2%). There is a difference in party preference between marginal and non-marginal seats in the percentage of respondents voting Green (45.5% vs 53.2%), for the ALP (36.4% vs 25.5%) or Liberal (18.2% vs 21.3%).



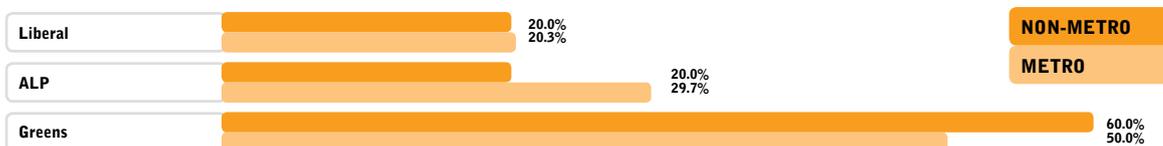
**Figure 9.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status**

There was a large difference between the percentage of metro and non-metro respondents who had made a decision on who to vote for. A higher percentage of metro respondents (4.9%) than non-metro respondents (2.9%) were not interested in voting



**Figure 9.10: WA non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for**

More WA non-metro respondents (60.0%) than WA metro respondents (50.0%) have decided to vote Green. More WA metro respondents (29.7%) than WA non-metro respondents (20.0%) are going to vote ALP



**Figure 9.11: Respondent party preference by location**

Based on the self-report response, the top ten election issues for WA respondents were marriage equality, asylum seeker, climate change, education policy, unemployment, mental health, affordable housing, tax policy, LGBTIQA, and Indigenous issues. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure. Marriage equality, affordable housing, mental health, LGBTIQA and Indigenous issues are all rated higher than the national rate.

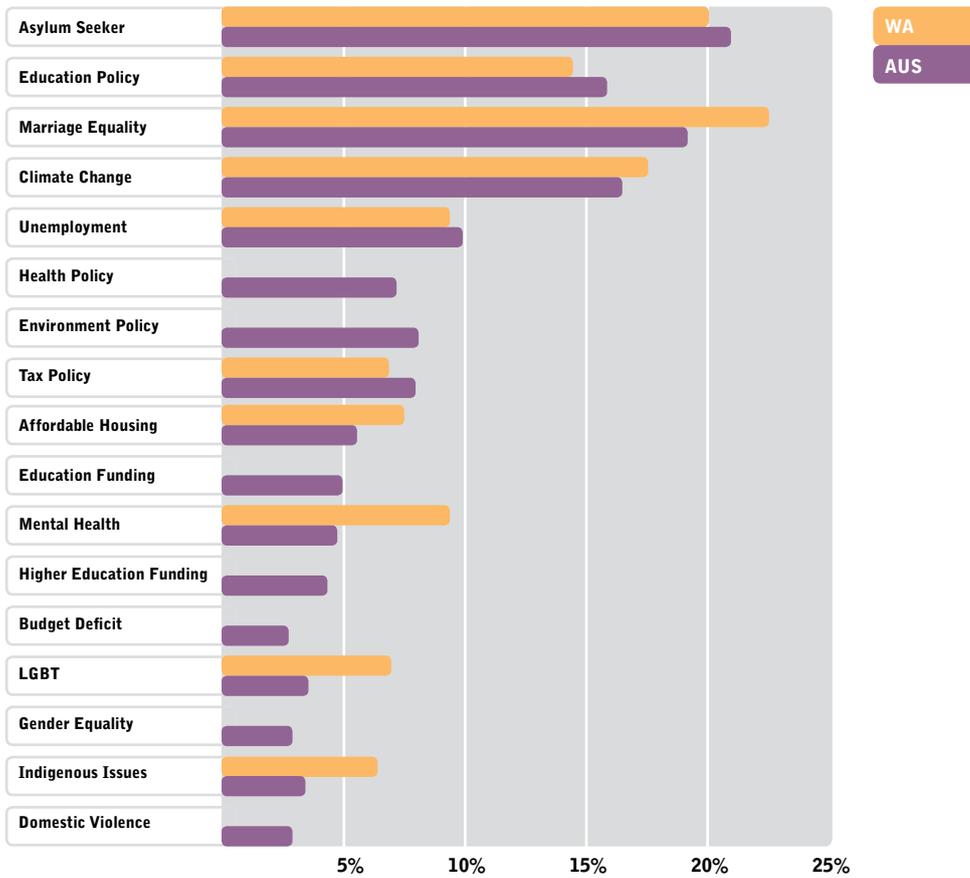


Figure 9.12: WA vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More WA respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

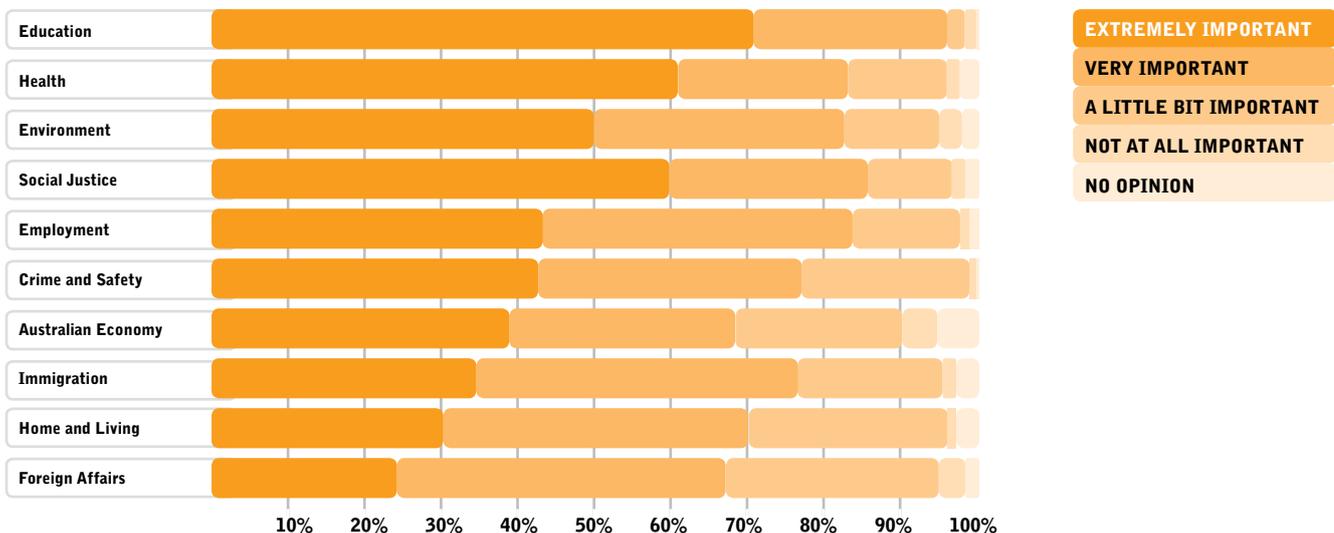


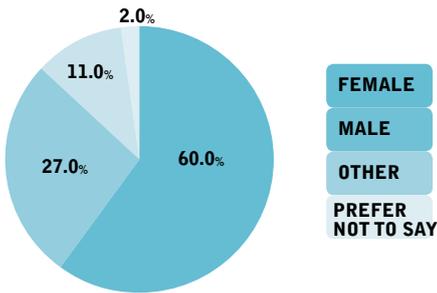
Figure 9.13: WA issues by importance

# TAS Snapshot

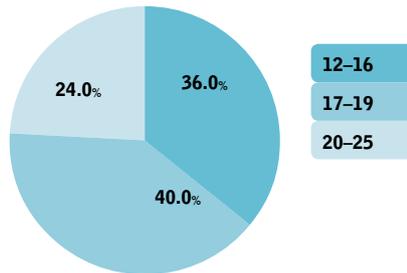
**TAS HAD A TOTAL OF 100 RESPONDENTS OR 3.0% OF THE TOTAL RESPONSES.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph. There is a difference between TAS and AUS on 'other' gender profiles where TAS has a higher response (11.0%) than AUS (2.6%).

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. There is little difference between NSW and AUS on age profiles.

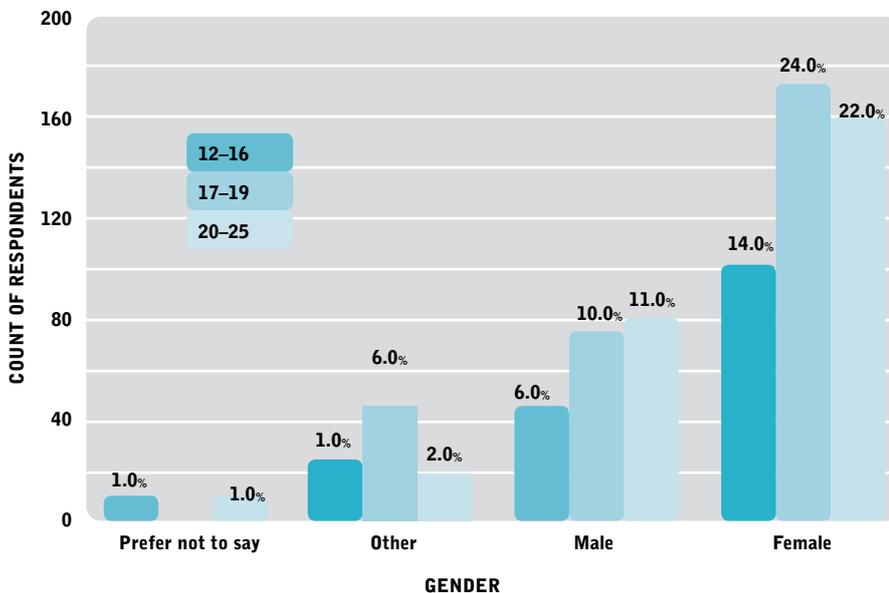


**Figure 10.1: Respondent percentages by gender**



**Figure 10.2: Respondent percentages by age**

There were twice as many female respondents as males. Male responses increased with age. One in four females are aged 17-19.



**Figure 10.3: TAS respondents' percentage by gender and age**

TAS respondents were predominantly high school students or employed part-time or casual, or were unemployed. Only 7% are employed full time. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

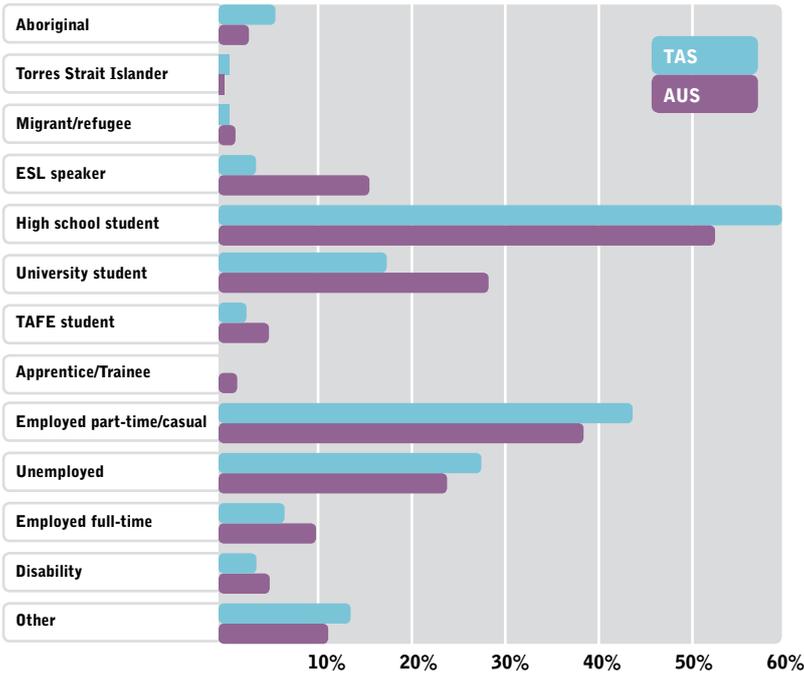


Figure 10.4: TAS and AUS respondents demographic profile

There were three times more respondents in non-marginal electorates (76.0%) than in marginal electorates (24.0%).

There were twice as many respondents from non-metro than metro areas.

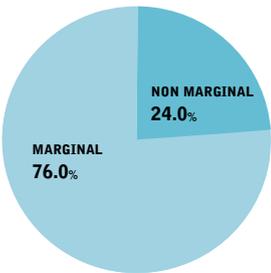


Figure 10.5: Respondents by electorate status

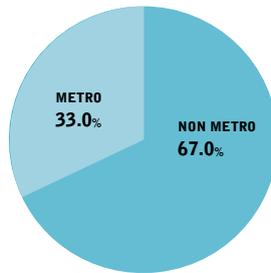


Figure 10.6: TAS respondents by location

Thirty-six percent of TAS respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. 55% of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and just over 8% were not interested in voting at all.

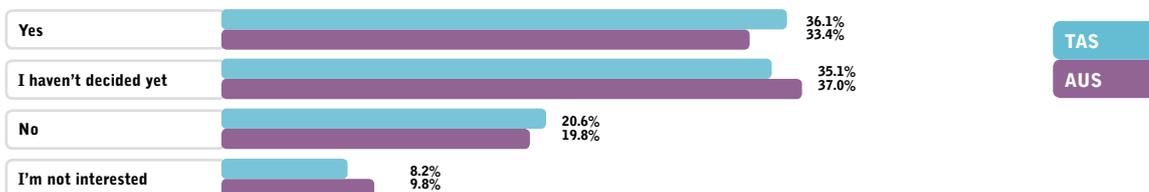
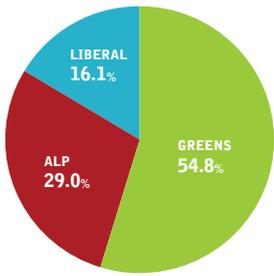


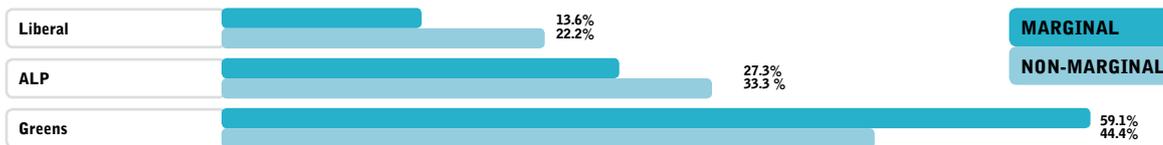
Figure 10.7: TAS and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 54.8% will vote for the Greens, 29.0% will vote for the ALP and 16.1% will vote for Liberal.



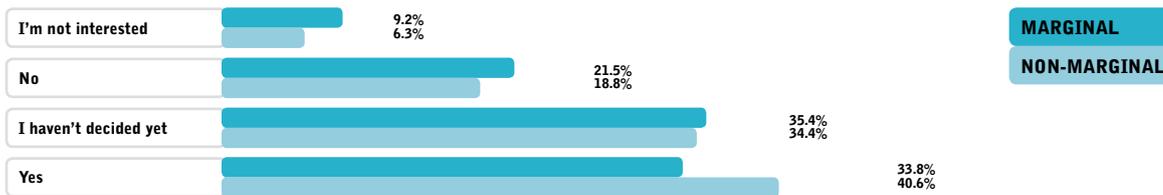
**Figure 10.8: NSW respondents voting intention by party preference**

The intended voting decision between marginal and non-marginal seats showed that less respondents in marginal seats (34.2%) have decided who they will vote for than in non-marginal seats (41.7%). More respondents in marginal seats (37.0%) have not decided who will represent them than in non-marginal seats (29.2%). More respondents in marginal seats (9.6%) are not interested in voting than in non-marginal seats (4.2%). There is a large difference in party preference between marginal and non-marginal seats in the percentage of respondents voting Green (59.1% vs 44.4%), for the ALP (27.3% vs 33.3%) or Liberal (13.6% vs 22.2%).



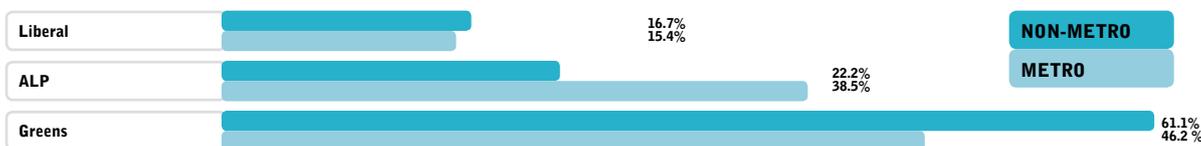
**Figure 10.9: Respondent party preference by electorate status**

There was a difference between the percentage of metro and non-metro respondents who had made a decision on who to vote for. A slightly higher percentage of non-metro respondents (9.6%) than metro respondents (6.3%) were not interested in voting.



**Figure 10.10: TAS non-metro and metro respondent percentage by decided who to vote for**

More TAS non-metro respondents (61.1%) than metro respondents (46.2%) have decided to vote Green. More TAS metro respondents (38.5%) than TAS non-metro respondents (22.2%) are going to vote ALP.



**Figure 10.11: Respondent party preference by location**

Based on the self-report responses, the top ten election issues for TAS respondents were climate change, asylum seekers, marriage equality, education policy, LGBTIQ, environment policy, health policy, unemployment, tax policy, and education funding. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure. TAS is higher than the national rate for asylum seeker, marriage equality, climate change, environment policy, and LGBTIQ issues.

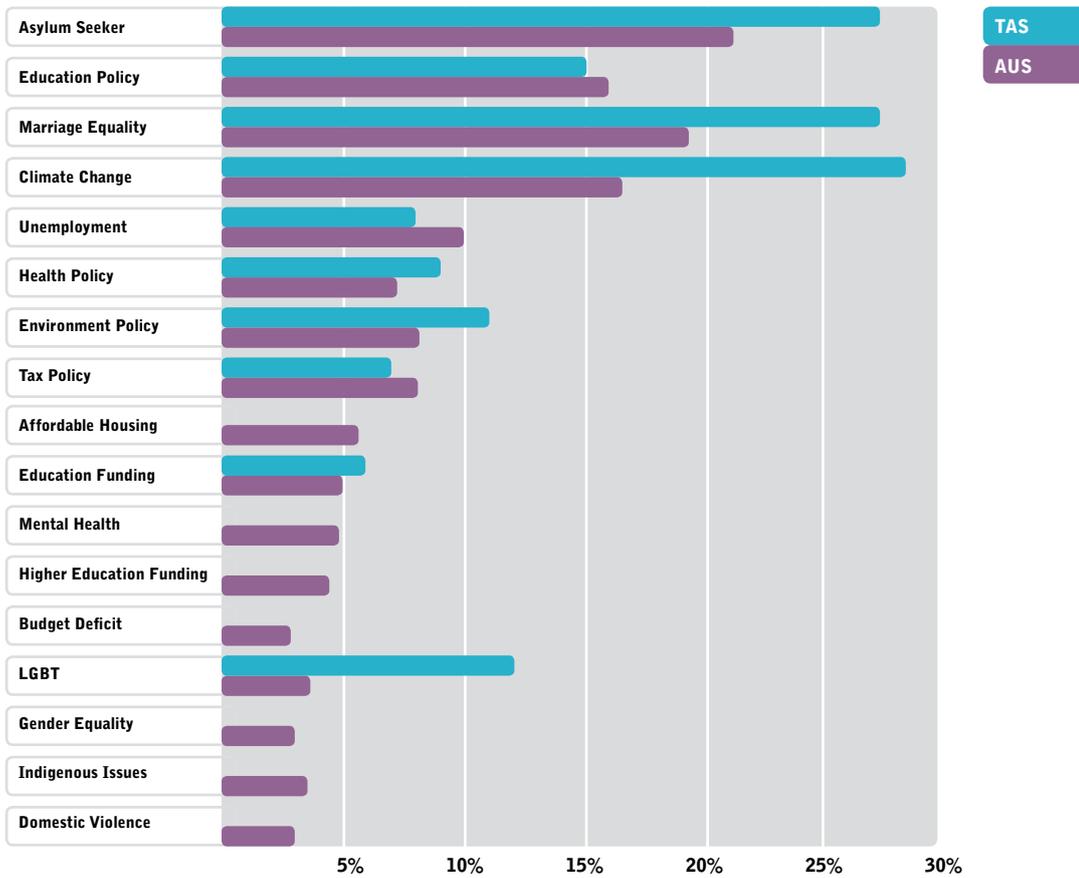


Figure 10.12: TAS vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More TAS respondents rated environment as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

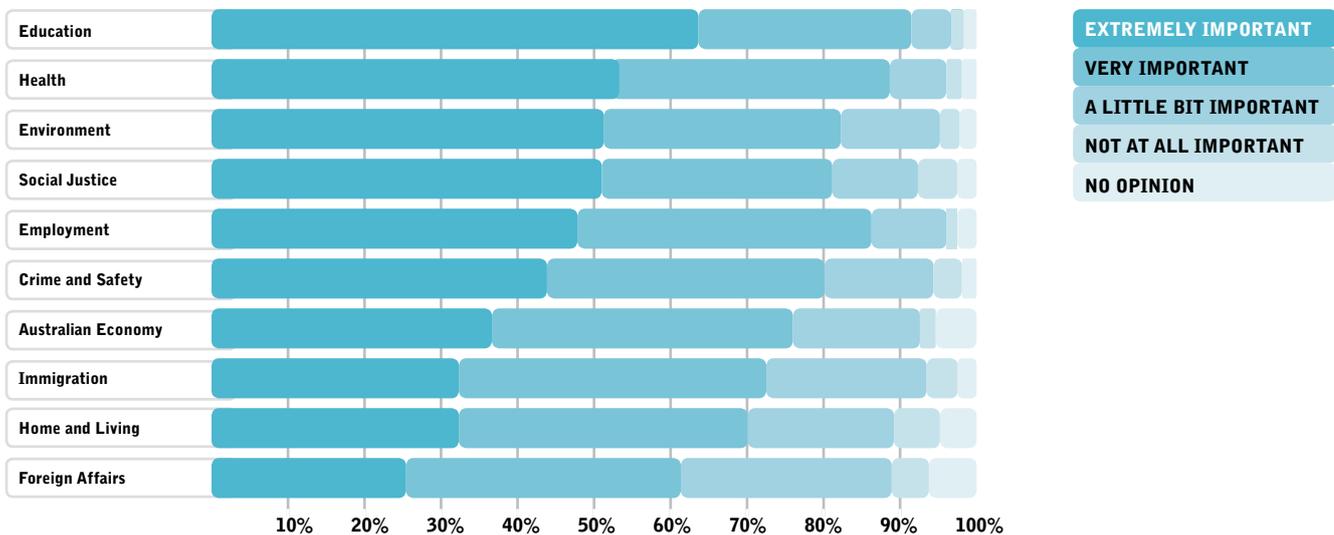


Figure 10.13: TAS issues by importance

# ACT Snapshot

**ACT HAD A TOTAL OF 117 RESPONDENTS OR 3.5% OF THE TOTAL RESPONSES.**

The gender percentage is in the following graph. There is little difference between ACT and AUS on gender profiles

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. The ACT respondents tend to be older than AUS respondents more broadly.

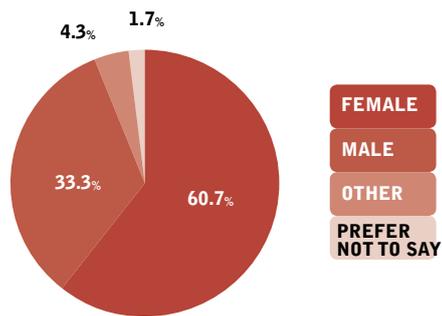


Figure 11.1: Respondent percentages by gender



Figure 11.2: Respondent percentages by age

There were twice as many female respondents as males. One in 3 females were aged 12-16.

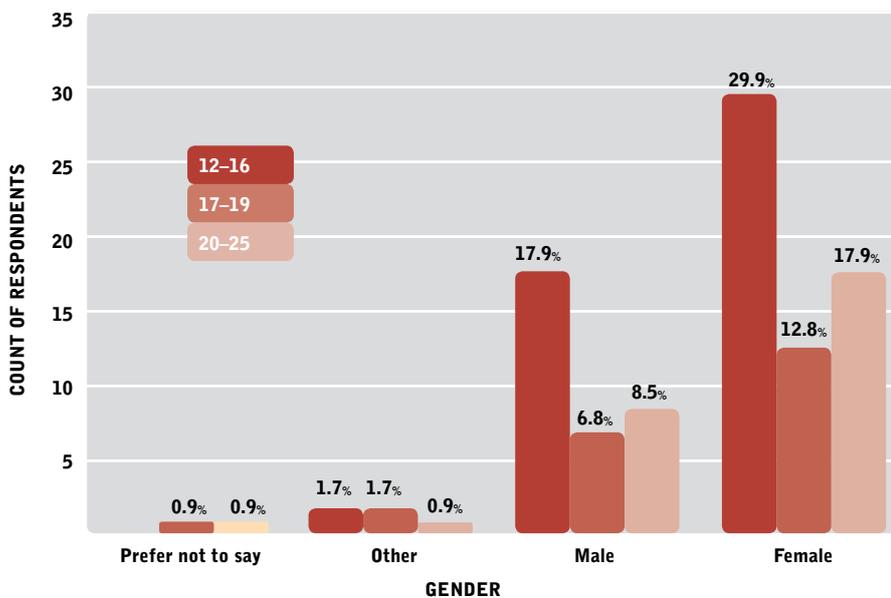


Figure 11.3: ACT respondents' percentage by gender and age

ACT respondents were predominantly university or high school students, or were employed part-time or as casuals. Almost one quarter are employed full-time. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

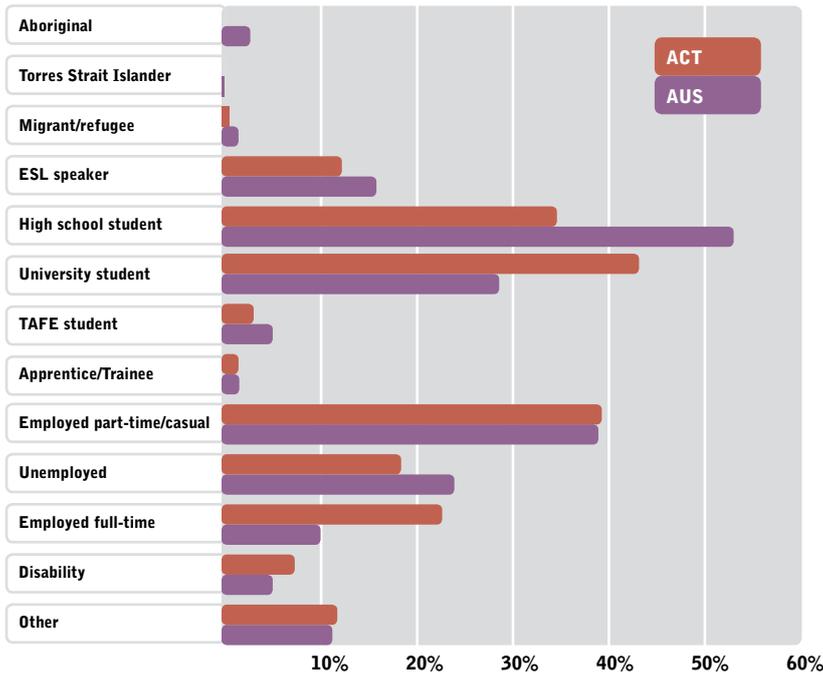


Figure 11.4: ACT and AUS respondents demographic profile

Forty percent of ACT respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. 53% of the respondents were yet to decide who they want to represent them and 7% were not interested in voting at all.

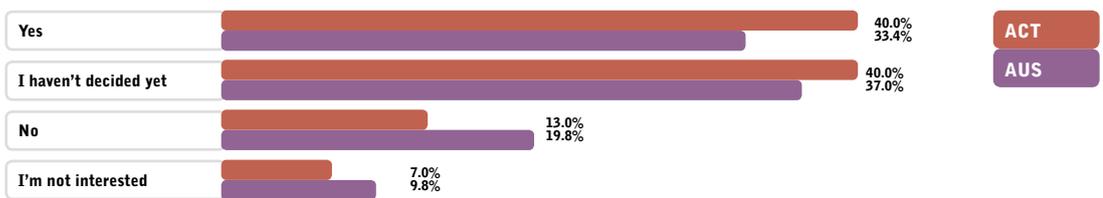


Figure 11.5: ACT and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 42.9% will vote for the Greens, 35.7% will vote for the ALP and 21.4% will vote for Liberal.

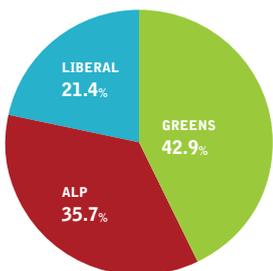


Figure 11.6: ACT respondents voting intention by party preference

Based on the self-report responses the top ten election issues for ACT respondents were asylum seekers, climate change, marriage equality, environment policy, education policy, affordable housing, tax policy, education funding, health policy and domestic violence. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure.

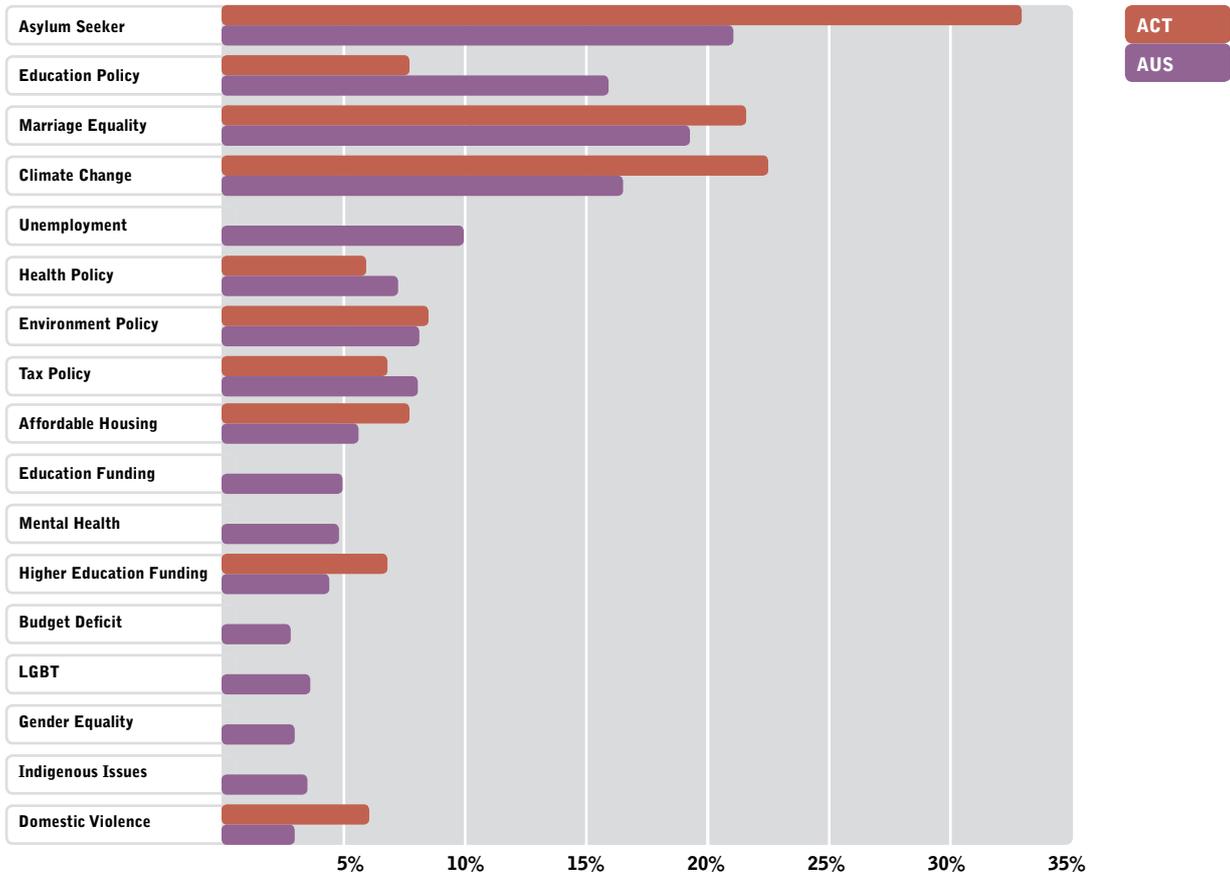


Figure 11.7: ACT vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More ACT respondents rated education as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

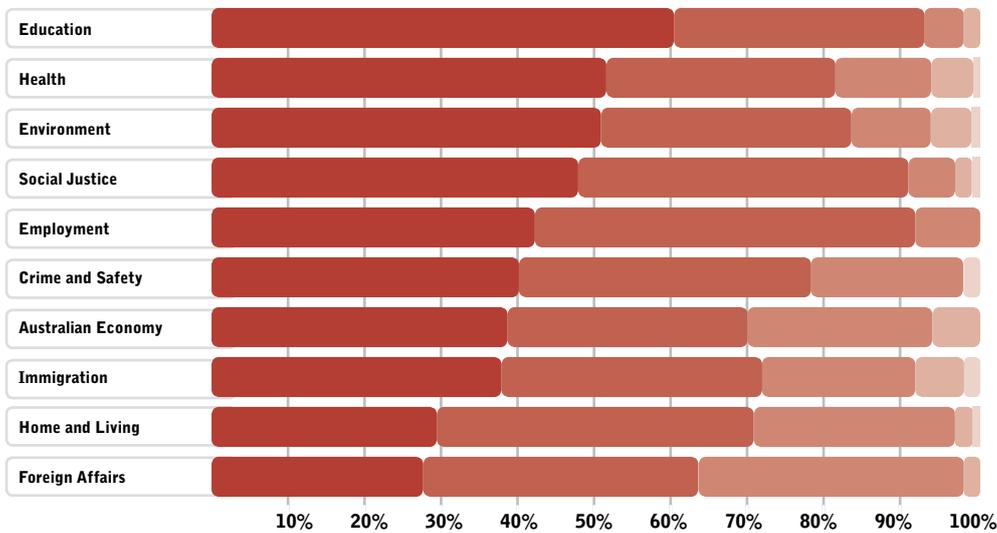


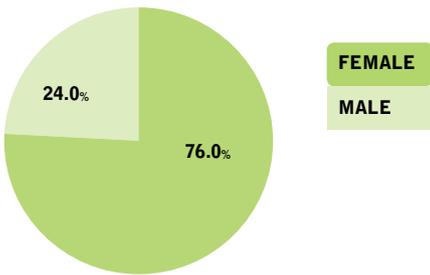
Figure 11.8: ACT issues by importance

# NT Snapshot

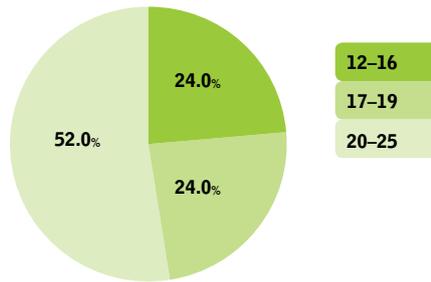
**NT HAD A TOTAL OF 25 RESPONDENTS OR 0.7% OF THE TOTAL RESPONSES.**

The gender percentage is in the following chart. The numbers are too small to identify a difference between NT and AUS on gender profiles.

The age profile of respondents is in the following graph. The NT respondents tend to be older than AUS respondents.

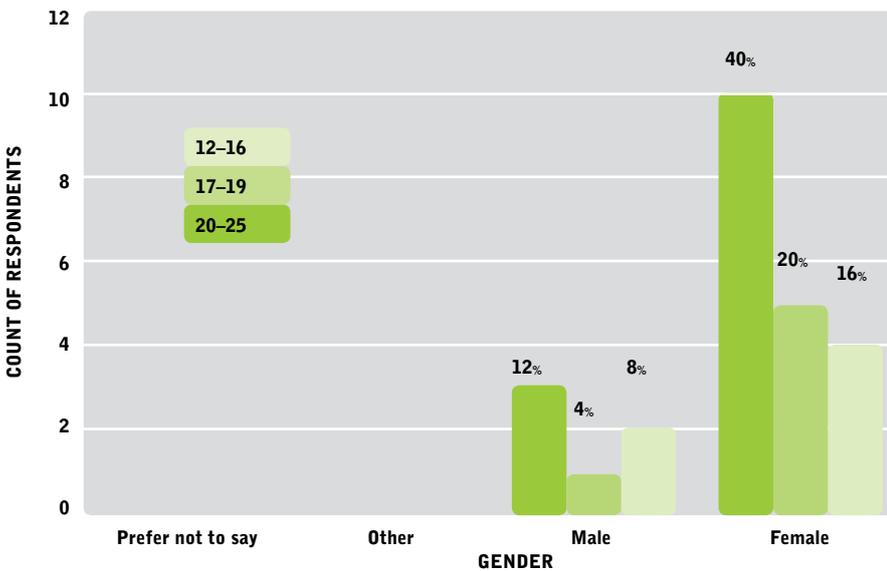


**Figure 12.1: Respondent percentages by gender**



**Figure 12.2: Respondent percentages by age**

There were three times more female respondents than male. Female responses decrease with age.



**Figure 12.3: NT respondents' percentage by gender and age**

NT respondents are predominantly high school students, unemployed or employed full-time. As respondents could select more than one demographic characteristic the total adds up to more than 100%.

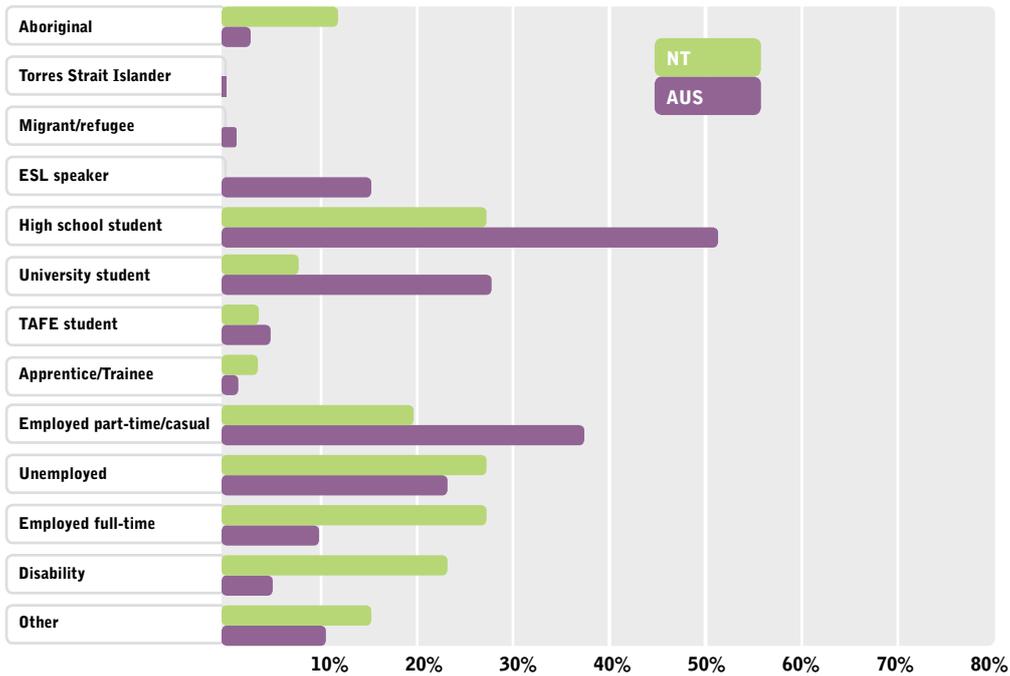


Figure 12.4: NT and AUS respondents demographic profile

Twenty-eight percent of NT respondents had decided who they will vote for in the 2016 election. 60% of the respondents are yet to decide who they want to represent them and 12% are not interested in voting at all.

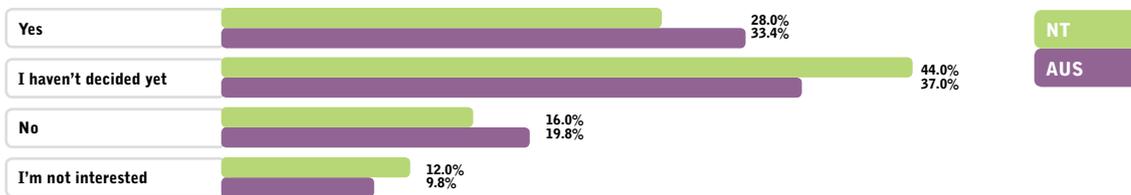


Figure 12.5: NT and AUS respondent percentage by decided who to vote for

Of decided voters, 14.3% will vote for the Greens, 85.7% will vote for the ALP and 0% will vote for Liberal.

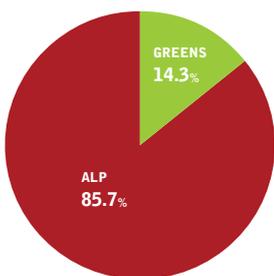


Figure 12.6: NT respondents voting intention by party preference

Based on the self-report responses, the top ten election issues for NT respondents were marriage equality, asylum seekers, environment policy, unemployment, Indigenous issues, education policy, mental health, climate change, and education funding. A graph of the response percentages for each issue is in the following figure.

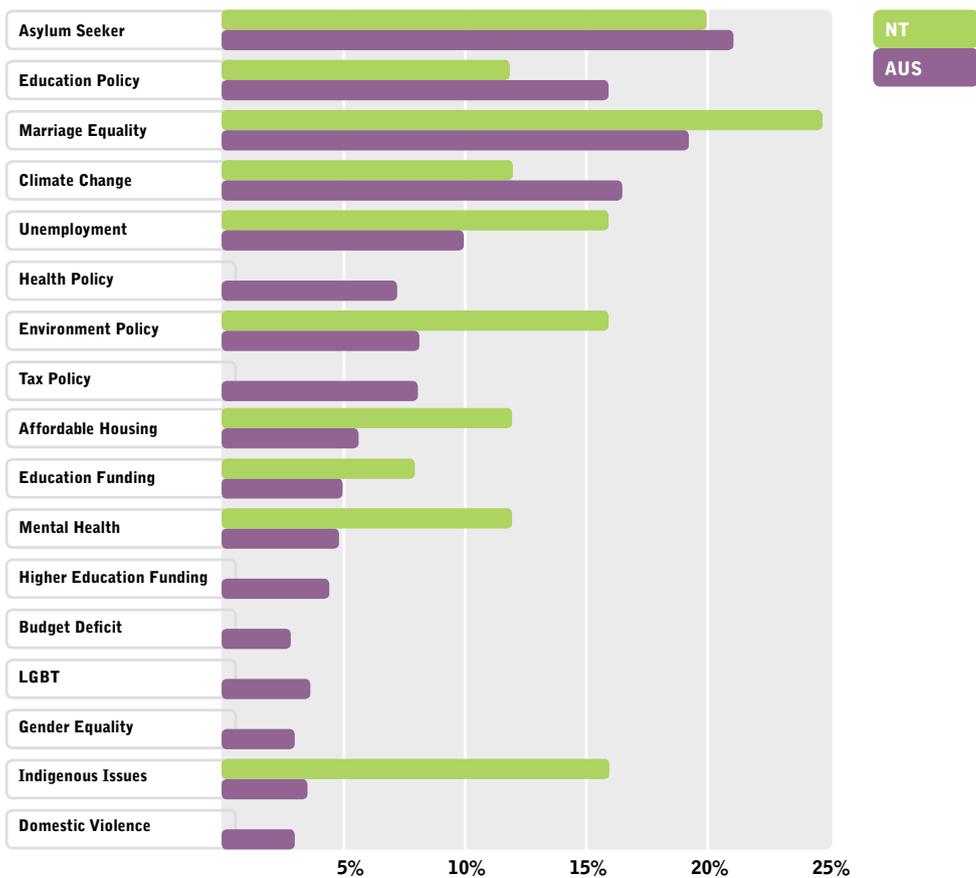


Figure 12.7: NT vs AUS Respondents' top ten issues

More NT respondents rated health as extremely important than any issue they were asked to rate for importance. The following figure shows how each of the given issues were rated for importance.

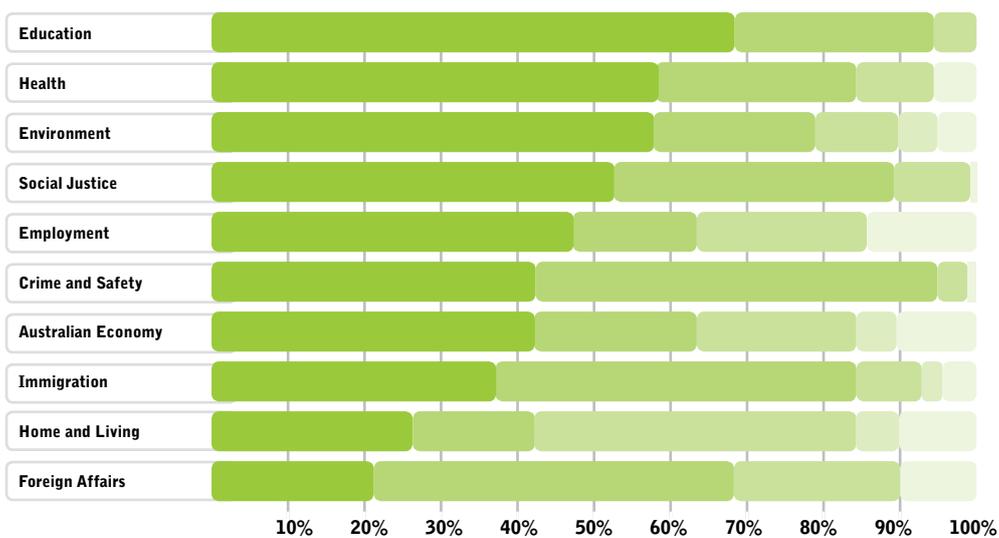


Figure 12.8: NT issues by importance

# Acknowledgements

Youth Action and ARACY would like to thank the countless organisations and individuals who helped to both distribute the national survey and supported young people to complete it.

These include:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat NSW     | Gloucester Youth Service  | International Relations, Griffith University               |
| AIIESEC   | Headspace   | Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care |
| Albany Youth Advisory Council   | Huon Valley Council Youth Services                                  | Settlement Services International                          |
| Amnesty International Australia                                       | Illawarra Multicultural Youth Development Project                   | South Australian Council of Social Service                 |
| Anglicare Australia   | Life Without Barriers   | St Vincent de Paul Society                                 |
| Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI NSW) | Manning Youth Action Team   | Tasmania University Union                                  |
| Auslan for Young People in Melbourne                                  | Mission Australia   | Tasmanian Council of Social Service                        |
| Australian Council of Social Service                                  | Multicultural Communities of Illawarra                              | The Centre for Volunteering NSW                            |
| Australian Youth Affairs Coalition                                    | Multicultural NSW   | The Smith Family   |
| Australian Youth Climate Coalition                                    | Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia                      | The Street University, Liverpool                           |
| Butterfly Foundation  | Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW                             | Victorian Council of Social Service                        |
| Centre for Australian Progress  | Museum of Contemporary Art  | We Are Union   |
| Centre for Multicultural Youth  | New South Wales Council of Social Service                           | Western Australian Council of Social Service               |
| Chatswood Youth Centre  | Newcastle Youth Council   | Western Sydney Community Forum                             |
| Children and Young People with Disability Australia                   | Ted Noffs Foundation  | White Ribbon Australia                                     |
| Duke of Ed WA   | Northcott   | YMCA Australia   |
| Football United   | Oaktree   | Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre                 |
| Foundation for Young Australians                                      | Outburst! Western Sydney Youth Action Group                         | Young Women's Christian Association                        |
| Girl Guides   | Oxfam Australia   | Youth Affairs Council of South Australia                   |
| Glebe Youth Service Inc.  | Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association Australia                 | Youth Affairs Council of Victoria                          |
|   | R4Respect   | Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia                 |
|   | ReachOut  | Youth Affairs Network Queensland                           |
|   | Red Cross Australia   | Youth Coalition ACT  |
|   | Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse | Youth Network of Tasmania                                  |
|   | Save the Children Australia   | YVOTE  |
|   | SBS NITV  |  |
|   | School of Government and  |  |



## ABOUT YOUTH ACTION

[youthaction.org.au](http://youthaction.org.au)

Youth Action is the peak organisation representing 1.25 million young people in NSW and youth services that support them. Our work helps build the capacity of young people, youth workers and youth services, and we advocate for positive change on issues affecting these groups.

It is the role of Youth Action to:

1. Respond to social and political agendas relating to young people and the youth service sector.
2. Provide proactive leadership and advocacy to shape the agenda on issues affecting young people and youth services.
3. Collaborate on issues that affect young people and youth workers.
4. Promote a positive profile in the media and the community of young people and youth services.
5. Build capacity for young people to speak out and take action on issues that affect them.
6. Enhance the capacity of the youth services sector to provide high quality services.
7. Ensure Youth Action's organisational development, efficiency, effectiveness and good governance.

## ABOUT ARACY

[aracy.org.au](http://aracy.org.au)

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) works to improve child and youth wellbeing in Australia, through collaborations with policy makers, practitioners and researchers from various disciplines.

We turn the evidence on 'what works' for child and youth wellbeing into practical, preventative action to benefit all young Australians.

The organisation was established in 2001 in response to increasingly worrying trends in the wellbeing of Australia's young people. Fourteen years on, ARACY remains committed to the founding ideas that the complex issues affecting young Australians can't be solved by one organisation or sector working in isolation, and that evidence lies at the heart of long term, sustainable solutions.

As a result ARACY works with its members and partners, supported by funders and donors, through three guiding principles:

**Collaboration** – drive and support efforts between organisations and across sectors

**Evidence** – increase the development and use of evidence in policies and programs

**Prevention** – support efforts to prevent or reduce risk by intervening early.

