

## **New survey results from ReachOut: young people and politics**

- **The top three issues of national political interest for young people reported were employment, housing affordability and the cost of education.**
- **Over 50 per cent of young people had been politically active in the last 12 months.**
- **Over 33 per cent of young people unsatisfied or very unsatisfied about the state of politics in Australia.**

Just a few days out from the election, a new survey conducted by frontline youth service, ReachOut, found that the top three issues of national political interest to young people were employment (65.5 per cent), housing affordability (57.9 per cent) and the cost of education (55.5 per cent).

The survey also showed the over 50 per cent of young people had been politically active in the last 12 months. One third of young people surveyed had signed an online petition, 14.6 per cent had posted on social media about a political issue and 7.8 per cent had attended a protest.

The findings are based on a nationally representative survey of 1,000 Australian young people aged between 16 and 25, conducted early this month (May 2019).

ReachOut CEO Ashley de Silva said that ReachOut's research continues to find that 'the future' is an issue causing increasing worry for young people.

"Research we released last month showed that 45 per cent of young people were not confident or unsure of finding work in their chosen career after completing their studies. Now, we are anticipating this will be reflected in young people's votes with 65.5 per cent concerned about their employment options – with 44.8 per cent saying they were moderately or extremely concerned," Mr de Silva said.

"When it comes to immediate impacts on young people we know that stress about the future and finding a job is driving negative trends like increasing levels of exam stress. What's positive to see is that young people are engaging in politics and particularly in areas they are passionate about," he said.

Further, 33.1 per cent of young people surveyed were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied about the state of politics in Australia, with the majority of young people saying this was due to instability in political leadership, that political leaders appear insincere or dishonest and lack of accountability for politicians.

Young people experiencing stress about the future or 'for whatever life throws at you', can get great information and support at ReachOut.com, for those voting for the first time see our handy election guide [here](#).

**ENDS**

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### **About the research**

- Nationally representative survey of 1000 Australian young people aged between 16 and 25, conducted in between 2-10 May 2019.
- Top 5 national political issues (n=1000):
  - Employment options 65.5%
  - Housing affordability 57.9%
  - Cost of education 55.5%
  - Climate change 52.4%
  - Cost and availability of mental health services 35.4%
- 33.1% unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with the state of politics in Australia

- Actions in the last 12 months, one third of young people had signed an online petition, 14.6% had posted on social media about a political issue and 7.8% attended a protest.
- What do you find unsatisfying about politics in Australia: instability in political leadership (71%), leaders appear insincere or dishonest (68.5%); lack of accountability for politicians (66.7%).

### **About ReachOut**

[ReachOut](#) is Australia's leading online mental health organisation for young people and their parents. Our practical support, tools and tips help young people get through anything from everyday issues to tough times – and the information we offer parents makes it easier for them to help their teenagers, too.

We've been changing the way people access help since we launched the world's first online mental health service more than 20 years ago. Everything we create is based on the latest evidence and designed with experts, and young people or their parents. This is why our digital self-help tools are trusted, relevant and easy to use.

Available for free anytime and pretty much anywhere, ReachOut is accessed by 200,000 people in Australia every month. That's more than 2.4 million each year.

