

Employment Summary

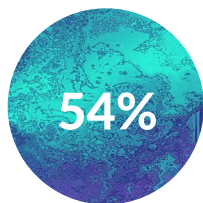


Young people's Experience of Employment

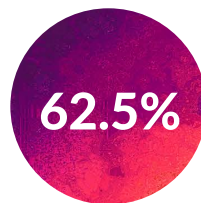
In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. The project gave young people (aged 15-24) with the opportunity to voice their experiences, views on how services need to be improved and provide opportunities for them to inform policy.



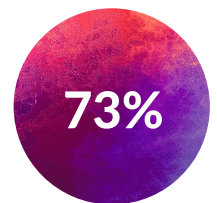
Young People participated in Your Voice



of participants said employment was an issue.



of 18-24 year old participants said employment was an issue.



of First Nations participants said employment was an issue.

What young people told us about Employment:

The issue around employment is that young people apply for jobs but are put off because they don't have experience in that field. How are young people meant to gain experience in the workplace if no one is giving them a chance?

Young people told us that their education is not giving them the skills or experience required to enter the workforce.

As someone who has applied for over 70 jobs and not received a single interview, despite a grade 12 education, the system is terrible.

I would love to see more companies willing to offer entry level roles with the intention of training people up instead of expecting them to know everything from the get-go. This would also allow opportunities for people who can't attend uni or tafe.

Employers are expecting so much of candidates which makes it really difficult to get an entry level job out of uni. I've seen advertised positions for entry level roles asking for 3+ years' experience where the job description is 3 separate roles in one.

I did a marketing postgraduate qualification, but I am still not eligible for a lot of advertised jobs because I don't also know graphic design along with marketing. That would be another qualification I'd have to obtain while trying to support myself financially.

Please give more educational opportunities to young people to increase employment opportunities and income in the future.

Nowhere wants to give you a job, no matter how hard I work for it. Even if you have qualifications.

There is no incentive for companies to hire someone who is fresh out of uni. From my experience, they want people who already know what they're doing so they don't have to spend time/money on training them - which leaves young people at a disadvantage. The government has brought in initiatives, such as Job Maker and Job Trainer, but it needs to be looked at on a wider scale and not just for trades.

Employment, especially for young adults or teens, needs to be better accessible and available. This comes down to university and levels of education beginning to not be as valuable to employers anymore. It seems that experience is more valuable and so people who spend years at university or further education may not be guaranteed a good paying job anymore. Is going to university worth it anymore?



READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT





yourtown

Your Voice

Young people told us that there is limited support and opportunities to find secure employment.

We are underemployed and unemployed. Our fiscal security is non-existent, and we are terrified for our futures. The gap between rich and poor countries continues to grow, and women still get paid less than men - less again if they are women of colour.

Even after 13 volunteer positions and 5 internships while I was studying my bachelor's degree, I never managed to get a job in my field. I then had to go on to postgrad study to eventually get a job.

I have thankfully finally found a job but for the 5 years I was looking, it was extremely stressful, demeaning, and dehumanising, and honestly, resulted in intense depression for myself. People don't realise how mentally painful it can be to be unemployed. I felt like I wasn't valued in society, and that I didn't deserve to be alive, or like I was a burden.

Young people from diverse groups told us they face extra barriers in accessing employment opportunities and being accepted in their workplaces.

I've accessed various disability employment services, and a mental health services. I feel a lot of them don't understand much and some really just don't care.

I have been in youth job seeker programs before, and while I was lucky and had a case manager who was focused on wellbeing as well as assisting me to get back in the workforce, he was unable to keep this focus with the pressure from higher ups to get kids into work with no regard for wellbeing.

I have found it difficult to find a job and along with my mental health, it's much more difficult for me to put myself out there.

I had an awful experience with a disability employment service who kept trying to push me into full-time work and calling me lazy when I said I couldn't. I dreaded going in and cried after (and even during) many of my meetings. They didn't tell me that I needed to update Centrelink once I'd got an autism diagnosis, and generally didn't seem to think it was relevant.

Too few jobs. Too many unemployed.



There were no services to help me at this time. I felt confused, stressed and alone.

Trying and failing multiple times to keep jobs was something that embarrassed me and something I beat myself up about so much. Trying to speak to professionals about this was difficult for them to understand as they were older than me and just reinforced my negative thoughts and feelings about my failures instead of giving advice or support.

The youth, we need help. Many of us feel like we have been thrown in the deep end, we finish school and boom you need to find a job, you need to have better support and more education about what we are signing up to help the youth, not put them in a program that basically makes them feel like they are back to school because they haven't been able to find a job. No one helps us, we are expected to do what we are doing and to report when we are done, and what we have done. I was pregnant and forced to look for work. No one wanted to hire a pregnant 21-year-old homeless woman. No one wanted to help a 21-year-old pregnant woman. No one has ever wanted to help me become a successful photographer. I am expected to study and/or work and look after a child, just to be able to afford to live.