Australia snapshot 2022

yourtown



In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy.

Young people across Australia indicated that the top 5 areas they would like to see the Australian Government make better decisions are:



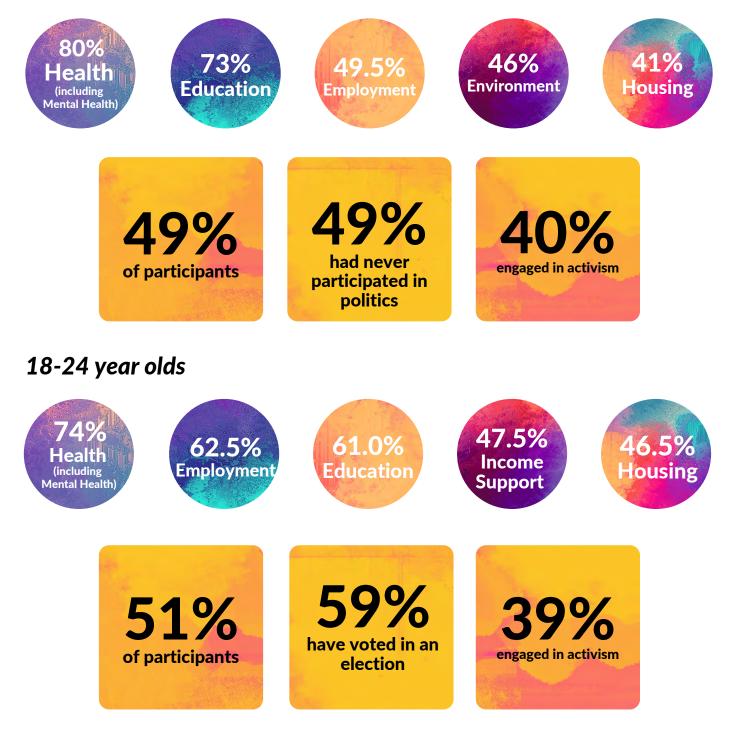


C kidshelpine yourtown





15-17 year olds



Australian Capital Territory snapshot 2022

yourtown



In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 65 of the young people involved said that they lived in the Australian Capital Territory.

Young people in the Australian Capital Territory told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:



Young people from the Australian Capital Territory said:

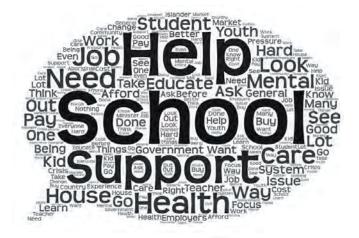
Youth support needs to improve. I don't mean community programs to help boost morale. On a fundamental level, the systems in place must change so we can move forward in a positive light. In my experience and the experiences of those close to me school and 'mental health support' have caused unforgivable damage to spirit and confidence. We cannot continue to raise children in a way that creates emotionally debilitated adults. Modern problems require confident, innovative individuals and the focus needs to be put on fostering that.

I feel like there isn't a very diverse range of options for people relating to mental health. Therapy is expensive and while school made me extremely depressed and anxious, there wasn't really any other option and all kids had to do the same thing, the same way. Everyone is different and there needs to be more accessible mental health services.

Please do more about stopping climate change.

I felt as though you had to be part of a certain demographic to receive help from a homelessness service.

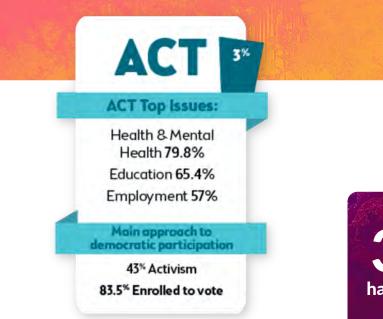
Lots of young people struggle with education because schools can't cater for what they need to help them learn. We need to learn how to save money once we get jobs and about the housing system in school before we get into the whole world. That the services used to help young people are underfunded, directed by people who are dispassionate about young people in the community, hard to access, and severely under-informed of the conditions that young people are dealing with. These are largely misled and ignorant (not trauma informed, not culturally appropriate and respectful, not targeted to this generation, and not solution focused).





READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT

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Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from the Australian Capital Territory said:

You want to have help to change? Give us a chance, listen to the youth experiencing those issues and actually assist them with this by hearing them and putting their thoughts into action!

I would love to share my out of home care experiences with the child minister and help the government find new ways to support young people who are struggling.

I would tell them that there are few with so much and many with nothing at all, a lot of these people are kids. If we tax the rich more, we can put that money towards supporting kids finish school and overall help the economy by having less people unable to be employed. **35%** had voted in an election

43% engaged in activism

26% had never participated in politics

46% were not confident at all that their participation in government made a difference

35% were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference

19%

were very confident that their participation in government made a difference

New South Wales snapshot 2022

yourtown



Housing

In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 552 of the young people involved said that they lived in New South Wales.

Young people in New South Wales told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:



Young people from New South Wales said:

People talk about a youth mental health crisis, and while access to therapy is essential, but it is not enough; we need reforms surrounding education, employment, and the environment in order to have hope that we will ever be able to grow up safely into a safe world.

Mental health needs to get more attention and be more welcoming and supportive to all people. Mental health services need to be more accessible to everyone.

I would also for a change in school systems and the way it is run. Though the government spent a lot of money building new schools and new buildings, they have not focused well enough on the other aspects of teaching and learning especially at public schools.

They should be giving more help to young people who can't work or don't have the mental health to work.

The amount of young people who are homeless is quite high and there needs to be a better way to access affordable or free housing for them.

There needs to be more environmental action. Living in a world that is being killed is terrifying and knowing that the people making the decisions won't be affected by them long term means that they are unlikely to prioritise the things that need prioritising. Housing is also a pressing issue in rural areas. Most rural areas have a low socioeconomic status meaning more people rent homes rather than purchasing and owning their own home. However, finding rental homes is limited in rural areas. My hometown, which has a population of approximately 2,500 people, currently has 5 homes available to rent. Leaving many without a place to stay often forcing them into buying houses when they financially are not able to.







Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from New South Wales said:

They need to listen to young people - we are informed, empowered, and want change now...we have ideas and just want to feel heard.

You want to have help to change? Give us a chance, listen to the youth experiencing those issues, and actually assist them with this by hearing them and putting their thoughts into action.

Listen to young people, we care and want to be involved in our future.

30% had voted in an election

39% engaged in activism

40% had never participated in politics

> were not confident at all that their participation in government made a difference

45% were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference

17% were very confident that their participation in government made a difference

Northern Territory snapshot 2022



In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with yourtown's Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 16 of the young people involved said that they lived in the Northern Territory.

Young people in the Northern Territory told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:





Young people from the Northern Territory said:

Honestly, my mental health is probably the worst it's been due to the constant stresses of assignments. Unfortunately, because of assignments, I don't have the time to seek for help.

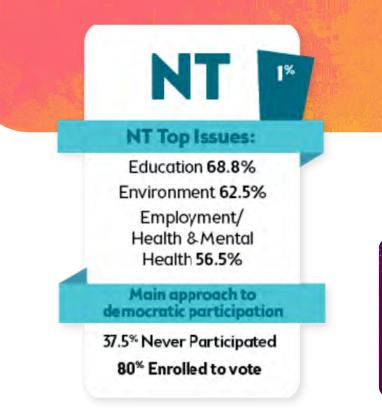
I do not know where to go or who to seek help from.

The hope is to strengthen adolescent health issues, provide financial support, improve educational standards, and increase employment opportunities.

Greater use of preventative medicine will increase quality of life and likely reduce cost. Generally caring for the population more will return the greatest costs, far above that of anything else.

Mental health services have massive wait lists. Over 1 month. Not eligible until crisis point. Earlier, easier access would help. Session times too far apart fortnight between, sometimes more.





Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and • decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from the Northern Territory said:

That young people out there are suffering. Especially with the issue of finance, a lot of people have great ideas of income generating but can't because they never get the chance to, and they resort to unhealthy and illegal activities. And the future keeps getting darker and less clear so focusing on young people empowerment should be the best act they can do.

To get better help for people who need it.

31%

had voted in an

election

had never participated

> were not confident at all that their participation in vernment made a difference

31%

engaged in activism







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Queensland snapshot 2022

In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 220 of the young people involved said that they lived in Queensland.

Young people in Queensland told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:



Young people from Queensland said:

That there needs to be more funding for mental health support services, such as Kids Helpline, so they can hire more people, to help those who need it. And to keep waiting times down.

Please make mental health a priority for young Australians.

The education system needs more programs like this one where our voice is heard. Our voice does not reach people like you, and this needs to change. We also need programs in place to help us as a generation, to build everyday knowledge. Our generation is growing up with divorced parents, identity crises and economic issues. So, the education system needs to adapt to these times.

The education system isn't making youth feel prepared for the future, and isn't accommodating for diverse mental health needs. A lack of equity in funding is unfairly giving resources to private schools at the expense of state schools.

All the time I had spent at employment agencies had absolutely zero outcomes.

Our environment is something I would also talk about. Basically, we shouldn't have to protest and fight against you (federal parliament and/or members) for our voices to be heard about protecting our environment and saving our planet. The environment is a serious concern and a focus on sustainable energy production can create many jobs to improve the economy for a lot longer than coal ever would. If the government focused on sustainable practices, the economy would also become sustainably improved and the effects would last longer.

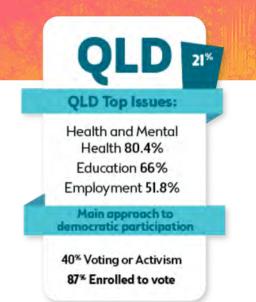
Housing needs to be more accessible and provided in areas that have adequate public transport. Putting public housing on the outskirts of cities prevents people from accessing inner city jobs.





READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT

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Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from Queensland said:

Young people are very passionate about helping others and the environment. I believe there are a lot of smart and sophisticated young people in Australia whose voices would contribute a great deal to the community.

We have ideas. There are things we want to put in place we just need someone to listen to us.

The youth of today are treated like children and expected to act like adults. We have to put education above everything else, and our thoughts and opinions aren't respected because we're seen as children. We have to deal with figuring out who we are, what we want to do with our lives, our mental health, becoming an adult, achieving the best grades, pleasing our parents, and we can't handle all of it at the best of times. We struggle with the life that is thrust upon us, and when we try to speak up, we receive a pat on the head and are told that we shouldn't complain. We receive a band aid fix, and the issues we repeated again and again through each generation. Instead of considering what you can do to make our lives easier, think about why they're so difficult in the first place.

40% had voted in an election

> engaged in activism

31% had never participated in politics

> ere not confident at all that their participation in overnment made a difference

were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference



were very confident that their participation in government made a difference



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South Australia snapshot 2022

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In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 179 of the young people involved said that they lived in South Australia.

Young people in South Australia told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:



Young people from South Australia said:

The mental health system needs some major improvement so many young people struggle with mental health. It can be extremely hard for young people to ask for help specifically if they do not have supportive families that is why I think it is also really important to have more accessibility to confidential mental health services (where possible).

That there needs to be more support for people with mental health disorders.

Education can feel like it loses all the fun. Lots of students love to learn through fun experiences instead of sitting with a textbook. Learning through experts and having more selfdirected learning is what we need.

It is hoped that more attention and care will be given to young people and more educational opportunities will be provided to improve employment opportunities.

People are hurting, and people will continue to hurt unless change is employed. What are we doing to prevent the progression of climate change? When we currently need to prioritise the earth over our nation's economy, what are we doing? Step up the game or get disqualified.

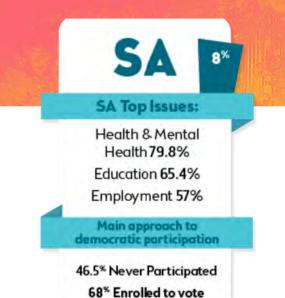
Services with homelessness takes ages I was living on the street for 6 months before I was able to be put into housing. Which meant I'd miss school, I struggled to feed myself etc. They really need to get a more efficient way to combat this issue. The government needs stronger action against climate change, make goals that will be achieved and start promoting greener lifestyles to the public. The education system also needs to be reformed. There is no point continuing with the current industrialisation based system when you need people with adaptable skills.

Our planet matters.





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Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from South Australia said:

Please listen to us - youths of all demographics. We need support and help, and the mental health pandemic is catastrophic.

We are human too; us kids want to be listened to, just how adults are listened to.

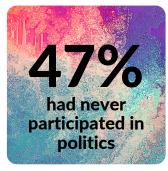
You need to speak to the young people more, we have ideas to help. Not everyone is the same but a lot of us do agree on the same help and ideas to improve the way you look after the youth of Australia.

Invest more time and money into issues which directly affect the teenagers instead of assuming.

The world is changing around us, so our laws and regulations need to change to suit the new world.

Think carefully about the future, and how we can make it better.

24% had voted in an election





were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference 29% engaged in activism

27% were not confident at all that their participation in government made a

difference

18% were very confident that their participation in government made a difference

Tasmania snapshot 2022

yourtown



In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 87 of the young people involved said that they lived in Tasmania.

Young people in Tasmania indicated that the top 5 areas they would like to see the Australian Government make better decisions are:



Young people from Tasmania said:

We need more mental health services and better funded existing ones; existing services are not equipped to handle anything more than extremely mild cases meaning anyone more than slightly severe is left to get worse until they end up in hospital. Not to mention it is common knowledge that mental illness is a contributing factor to many other issues, such as drug use, crime, homelessness, unemployment. By providing better mental health services, you would not only be improving this area but many others.

That the education system needs to change, and it needs to change now. People aren't feeling safe in schools which should be a place that they can feel safe.

People who are at risk of unemployment need better support.

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. Along with this is needing extra support from either job agencies, accessing a service was alright a part from the transferring from one to the other, this was stressful on myself and mental health.

I suffered judgement and I was turned away. "You don't look homeless", "how can you be homeless?" People need to realise homelessness doesn't discriminate, homelessness doesn't have a look. We need to care more about the environment.

I would like to know that when the time comes for me to have children that they can grow up in a safe place and live to see their own grandchildren. With the way we approach the care of our environment I may not even get the chance to have children as we are rapidly killing our planet.

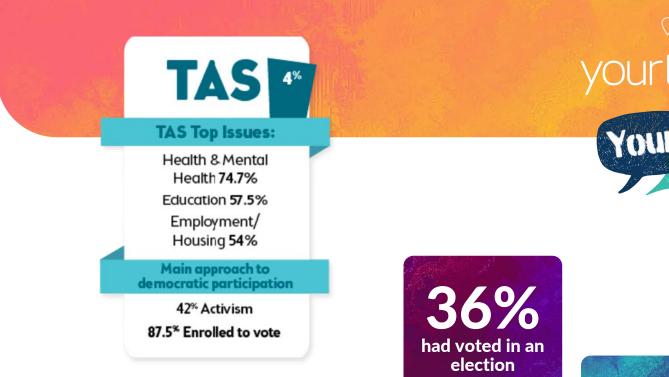
There are no houses for people who need them.

Young people need more support becoming independent.





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Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from Tasmania said:

I would ask them to listen. Really listen. Being a young person is so tough. We are faced with so many challenges. Most of us cannot meet our basic needs. We stress about accommodation, when our next meal will be, if we can afford healthcare, access the therapy so many of us require. The waiting lists are too long. We are tired of screaming for you to hear you. Please hear us.

That the inadequacy of support from governments for these areas are negatively impacting the health and wellbeing of many Australians. Causing increased concern that policies being made are made for the benefit of those least impacted by social and economic injustice.

I really wish I got to talk to a member and that they would actually act on these and many more issues.

Youth is the new driving force of social development.

21% had never participated in politics

17% were not confident at all that their participation in government made a difference

engaged in

activism

58% were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference

25% were very confident that their participation in government made a difference

Victoria snapshot 2022

yourtown



In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 582 of the young people involved said that they lived in Victoria.

Young people in Victoria told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:



62% Education

58% Employment



39% Housing

Young people from Victoria said:

We feel unheard and undervalued.

We need a better mental health system.

Think about what it must be like to walk in another's shoes. Have a little more empathy to those who are doing absolutely everything in their power to help themselves in regard to mental health and disability.

However, I think something that would greatly improve situations with LGBTQIA+ youth is providing some sort of proper education to kids in high school, or even late primary school. Kids need to be aware that LGBTQIA+ youth exist, and are all around us, and to be aware of prejudices they may have faced because of that. I think creating a more accepting and well-educated environment would drastically increase wellbeing for LGBTQIA+ youth, as well as providing a safe-space past the once a fortnight meetups that headspace may provide.

It was so hard to get help when I was on my way to becoming homeless and it wasn't until my kids I were on the street that we got help.

Most young people are working in precarious casual contract situations and more needs to be done to protect them and give them more rights. Casual workers should be at least have access to sick leave. There is no denying that climate change exists and is a huge issue the youth of today are going to directly face in the future. Taking action now is essential in ensuring we will be around in the future. While coal may create jobs, studies have shown that green energy will create just as many while also saving our future. It's a no brainer to me.

There needs to be more action focused on mental health support specifically for young people.





READ THE FULL YOUR VOICE REPORT

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Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from Victoria said:

We are the future leaders, and we are not going to keep supporting people who are only concerned with their own success. We value equity, equity and compassion for all Australians.

You need to actually listen to the youth and find out and represent what they want instead of just assuming what that is based on your own agenda. Kids can have very different views from their parents, so asking the youth directly is the only way you'll actually be able to learn what we actually want.

Young people tend not to be heard, or believed. I went through certain experiences and lots of the support that is supposed to be offered for young people just isn't there. There was to some extent, but only once adults start believing what minors say.

Listen to the people from those communities and with applicable lived experience first, rather than worrying about those who might push back. Listen to young people, we are here, we are willing to put in the work, we are calling out to be heard. Take the time to listen. You don't know all the answers, nobody does, but people have different sets of knowledge that we can all learn from if we listen and educate ourselves.

Young people need to have a voice. Not make decisions as we are young but an influence to those who are entrusted to represent us in areas of Australia that affect us. **30%** had voted in an election

> 37% engaged in activism

29% had never participated in politics

> were not confident at all that their participation in government made a difference

50% were a little confident that their participation in government made a difference



were very confident that their participation in government made a difference





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Western Australia snapshot 2022

71%

Education

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lousing

In 2021 over 3,500 young people from around Australia engaged with **yourtown's** Your Voice Project. This project gave young people a chance to voice their experiences in relation to services across a range of areas, to express their views on how services need to be improved and to help influence government policy. 181 of the young people involved said that they lived in Western Australia.

Young people in Western Australia told us that the top 5 areas in which they would like to see the Australian Government change their policy direction in was:

Employment



Young people from Western Australia said:

Funding for mental health services is severely deprived. Teens and children are being placed at risk due to this.

To please put more support in mental health facilities to make people feel safer and to do more to protect the environment.

That the school system is terrible at helping and managing things like bullying and mental health. There is no anonymity or confidentiality.

I would like to tell them that for young people, it's not about getting handouts. We are struggling in a world that has been systematically against us. Not having access to income and subsequently - services are affecting our livelihood. From education to employment, it is ensuring we don't have the ability to overcome hurdles and better our lives. We want to be able to finish university/tertiary education or work, but we need to be healthy first. I feel so so stuck.

If you don't look like you're at risk, you're not taken seriously. Just because I'm not what you might expect to see in a person who's at risk of homelessness, doesn't mean I'm not at risk. I shouldn't have to be an addict, a threat to others etc., to be given priority. We are living on a planet that is dying and the people who have the ability to make the change refuse to. What motivation do we have to try and better ourselves when we can see the world falling apart in front of us?

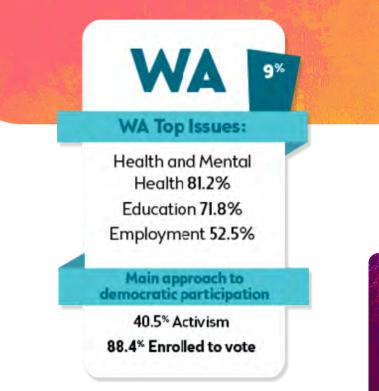
46%

Environment

Without any kind of environmental protections in place, do you really expect there to be things youth can look forward to? Every year it's more fires or drought.







Through Your Voice many young people told us:

- They are aware of what is happening around them
- They want to be involved in the political and decision-making process
- They are concerned about whether decision makers are considering their needs and hearing their voices.

Young people from Western Australia said:

I would tell them that I believe people's wellbeing should always come before the economy and making money.

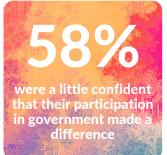
I would tell them to actually put in the effort and listen to what young people today have to say about the current issues today, rather than thinking that they know what is right for us.

I would say that these issues are still there, despite the changes they have tried to implement. These issues will always be there, and there are millions of people suffering because the government doesn't directly tackle them. The government implements strategies to keep the nation running smoothly, but fails to crack down on major issues.

Invest the money into support for young people and you would make it back tenfold.

38% had voted in an election

31% had never participated in politics



40% engaged in activism

LO/O were not confident at all that their participation in government made a difference

26% were very confident that their participation in government made a difference

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