Australia’s children

Australia’s young people

SOME FACTS...
Most Australian children and young people experience reasonable levels of health and wellbeing. However...
emotional and behavioural problems
(4 -12 year olds)
15% of boys
14% of girls
attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder
(4 - 12 year olds)
19% of boys
9% of girls
overweight or obese

18% of boys
22% of girls

(doubled in a decade)
In 2000-01 there were around 43,500 hospitalisations of young people with mental and behavioural disorders.
Of these, 6264 young people aged 12-24 were hospitalised for depression.
consume alcohol*  
(12-14 year olds)

26% of boys  
21% of girls

* in week prior to survey
drink at levels that risk harm in the short term

35% of 14-17 year olds
64% of 18-24 year olds
smoke tobacco*

6% of 12-year-olds
13% of 13-year-olds
22% of 14-year-olds

* in week prior to survey
take illicit drugs*
(12-15 year olds)

29% of boys
22% of girls

* in week prior to survey
infected with sexually transmitted diseases (young people)

- chlamydia: 11,859
- gonorrhoea: 2,213
- syphilis: 382
deaths by injury or poisoning (12-24 year olds)

80% are males
20% are females

30% of these deaths are suicides
children living in poor families

- more common behavioural disorders & psychiatric problems
- higher injury rates
- more frequent hospitalisation
- more frequent obesity
- worse dental health
Indigenous young people

A minimum of 20% of all Aboriginal children in the Top End of the Northern Territory are malnourished.
Indigenous young people
(12-24 year olds)
are 2.6 times more likely
(than non-Indigenous young people)
to suffer diseases of the ear ...
Indigenous young people
(12-24 year olds)

27 times more likely to die from assault by a sharp object ...
Indigenous young people
(12-24 year olds)

4 times more likely to die from intentional self harm.
optimism for the future?
“In the future our world will be better for most people.”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

10% of Year 5
29% of Year 10
“In the future we will look after the environment better.”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

- 10% of Year 5
- 27% of Year 10
“In the future there will be less conflict and war.”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

20% of Year 5
41% of Year 10
values?
“I would rather do my own work poorly than cheat and do well”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

26% of secondary students*

* not a national sample
“If I found a wallet with money but no identification, I would take it to the police”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

41% of secondary students*

* not a national sample
“I watch for opportunities to help other people”

Disagree or Strongly Disagree:

44% of secondary students*

* not a national sample
sources

Australia’s Children 2002*
Australia’s Young People 2003*
Schools and the Social Development of Young Australians 1998#

* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
# Australian Council for Educational Research
There are multiple aspects to young people’s wellbeing

- physical
- mental
- emotional
- social
- spiritual
these aspects of wellbeing work together as part of a balanced whole
a well-rounded, healthy individual will be making progress on all these fronts
research

- clarifying levels of wellbeing
- investigating conditions influencing wellbeing
- exploring ways of increasing levels of wellbeing
enjoy the conference!