



Young people relationships and participation

Extracted from Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011

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Social and community participation is an important aspect of life, promoting healthy social and mental wellbeing, and life satisfaction. The school and community environments can have a strong influence on young people's health, development and wellbeing.

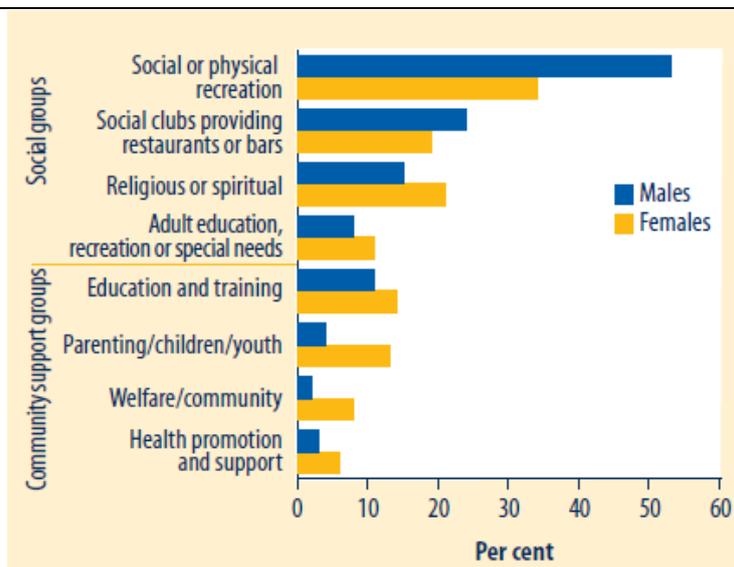
There is currently no comparable national data on community participation among Indigenous young people, although the ABS 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey found that most Indigenous young people aged 18–24 years (93%) had been involved in social, sporting or community activities in the previous 12 months.

Social relationships and networks (pages 87–89)

- Strong support networks result in positive health and education outcomes and better employment opportunities, and protects against the effects of socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Most young people aged 18–24 years (96%) were able to get support in a time of crisis from persons living outside the household. These rates were lower for those living in the most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (88%) and among Indigenous young people (90%).

Community and civic participation (pages 97–100)

- Around 19% of 17 year olds and 60% of 18–19 year olds were registered to vote in 2008, lower than any other age group.
- Overall, young people were less likely to be involved in unpaid voluntary work compared to other age groups. Those involved were more likely to volunteer at sport and physical recreation organisations (11%), followed by welfare and community organisations (6%).
- Alternatively, 1.3 million or two-thirds (67%) of young people reported participating in social groups, and nearly one-third (30%) reported participating in community support groups.



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2006 General Social Survey confidentialised unit record file.

Figure 21.1: Most common types of social or community support groups in which young people aged 18–24 years participated in, 2006-page 98