
The Work Ahead

A Summary on The Issues, The Voices and The Way Forward.



Preface

The purpose of this concise Pulse Report is to capture and summarise the issues that matter most to young people, based on the canvassing of youth opinion we have conducted over the past month.

This report marks the beginning of our research agenda. By listening to young people and understanding the issues they care about, we will identify the priorities that shape our work in the months ahead. These findings will inform our quarterly single-issue reports, as well as our broader biannual and annual reports examining multiple issues and developing policy recommendations.

Our ambition is not simply to identify what young people think, but to ensure those perspectives are heard where decisions are made. Through our research and engagement, we aim to work constructively with Parliament, to bring the priorities of young people into the policy process.

As our first official report, this Pulse Report is also an invitation. We welcome feedback, criticism and ideas from our most important stakeholders: young people themselves. Their voices should not simply inform our research; they should help shape it.

Democracy can heal when we begin to listen. Let's heal our democracy.

Yours sincerely from our Board Members and Co-Founders,

The CommonYouth Executive Team

PURPOSE

Over the month of August, the CommonYouth Institute of Australia has conducted in-person and digital canvassing of youth opinion. The purpose of this is to help set the agenda for the issues we will explore in the quarterly and biannual reports that will be completed by the end of 2026.

FINDINGS

Across our respondents, we found a diverse range of issues that concern young people most, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Employment and the current job market emerged as the joint-leading concern, with 20.00% of respondents identifying it as a priority. Immigration levels were also identified by 20.00% of respondents. This was followed by the cost of living for students (17.14%) and housing affordability (11.43%).

Other concerns included climate change (5.71%), mental health (4.29%), income tax (2.86%), and AI and the future of work (2.86%). A further 15.71% of responses fell into a range of miscellaneous issues, including social cohesion, government transparency, littering, and other concerns raised by individual respondents.

CONCLUSION

Moving forward with our methods of data collection, we will lean further into our most effective canvassing method with the most number of respondents: in-person questions asked directly to young people on university campuses. As branches begin to be established around Sydney at various universities, we are excited to begin hosting on-campus table discussions, electorate listening forums, among many other grassroots-level projects going into the future. In this way, the CommonYouth Institute will continue to expand the sample size of youth respondents month by month, in order to accurately present youth opinion and needs in our reports to the parliamentarians we will engage with.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this report was entirely based on grassroots engagement with young people. In August, we relied on a number of methods to gather responses from the youth:

- (1) google form surveys,
- (2) in-person questions to young people,
- (3) in-person interviews,
- (4) direct messages and comments from verified young people to our social media account.

To view items (2) and (3), visit our Instagram: [commonyouth.institute.aus](https://www.instagram.com/commonyouth.institute.aus)

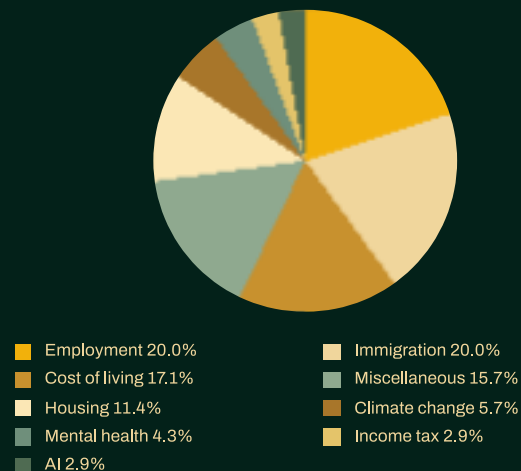


FIGURE 1 · YOUTH RESPONDENT ANSWERS