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RESEARCH

Youth Poll 2021

Office of the Advocate for Children and
Young People (ACYP)

April 2021

REPORT PREPARED FOR



Office of the
Advocate for Children
and Young People

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Una O'Neill | Director

Justin Young | Business Support Officer

REPORT PREPARED BY

Keith McGowan | Director

Kate Toner | Senior Research Executive

DISCLAIMER

In preparing this report we have presented and interpreted information that we believe to be relevant for completing the agreed task in a professional manner.

Where we have made assumptions as a part of interpreting the data in this report, we have sought to make those assumptions clear. Similarly, we have sought to make clear where we are expressing our professional opinion rather than reporting findings. Please ensure that you take these assumptions into account when using this report as the basis for any decision-making.

This project was conducted in accordance with AS: ISO20252:2012 guidelines, to which Newgate Research is accredited.

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OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY



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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In the lead up to Youth Week, the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYPP) commissioned a study with Newgate Research to provide insight into a range of issues and key areas of interest that affect children and young people in NSW. Specific areas of interest included:

- ◆ Information sources used, communications needs, and preferred communication channels;
- ◆ Career outlook and interest in pursuing career paths and study options;
- ◆ Awareness of the current age of criminal responsibility;
- ◆ Awareness of mental health services;
- ◆ Online privacy behaviours, and;
- ◆ Experiences with learning about sexual consent in school.



METHODOLOGY AND FIELDWORK

A 15-minute, self-complete online survey with 972 young people in NSW aged 12-24 years

The fieldwork period ran from 25th March – 10th April 2021.

Participants aged 14-17 years were sourced via dedicated youth panel, Student Edge. Young people aged 18-24 years were sourced via professional panel provider, Dynata. Dynata also fielded the study with those aged 12-13 years, after first obtaining consent from their parents.

All participants who completed the survey received an incentive payment commensurate with the source panel's usual protocols.

Other methodological notes:

- ◆ Survey questions and sample sizes are shown at the bottom of each page.
- ◆ Results may not always total 100% due to rounding or multiple-response questions.
- ◆ To ensure data reliability, results are typically only shown when the sample size is at least n=30.



SAMPLE

Quota targets were set to provide a good mix of participants across demographic subgroups.

Cell weighting was applied to the sample to match population benchmarks (ABS Census) for age, gender and location

The table below shows (unweighted) sample sizes by subgroup and the associated margin of error (at a 95% confidence interval).

	n=	Margin of error %
Total	972	3.1
Males	439	4.7
Females	533	4.2
Age 12-17	446	4.6
Age 18-24	526	4.3
Metro	750	3.6
Regional	222	6.6

SEXUAL CONSENT EDUCATION



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SEXUAL CONSENT EDUCATION: SUMMARY



Most young people aged 16-24 years reported having learnt at least a little about sexual consent while at high school.

However only around half of them thought that the information they had received was sufficient.

Females aged 18-24 years were least likely to feel they had received sufficient information.

Young people feel that information about sexual consent should be taught as early as possible in high school.

Year 7 is considered the most appropriate time to start teaching sexual consent and most feel it should begin by Year 10 at the latest.

Almost a quarter of young females feel this information should actually be taught in primary school.

It appears that this issue is being given increased focus— current high school students were more likely to have received education on sexual consent than those who have left high school.

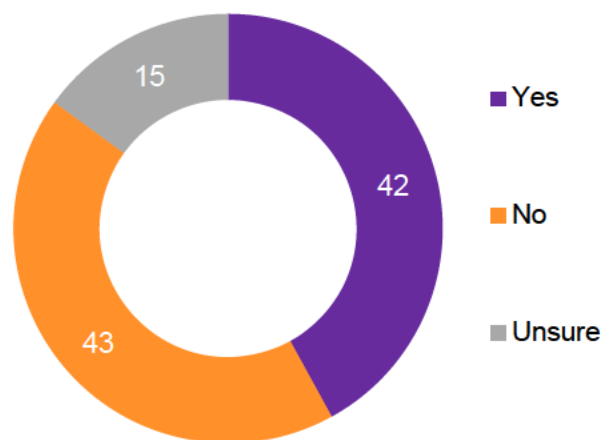
LEARNING ABOUT SEXUAL CONSENT IN SCHOOL

Most young people learnt at least a little about sexual consent in high school however there were mixed views about how sufficient the information received was. Females, especially those aged 18-24 years, and young people with a disability were most likely to feel that their education on sexual consent was inadequate.

Prevalence of learning about sexual consent in high school (%)



Was the information provided at school sufficient? (% - those who learnt at least a little)



Those more likely to think information received in high school about sexual consent was **not sufficient**



Females, aged 18 to 24 years (54%)



Those with a **disability** (52%)

Those more likely to think information received in high school about sexual consent **was sufficient**



Males (51%)

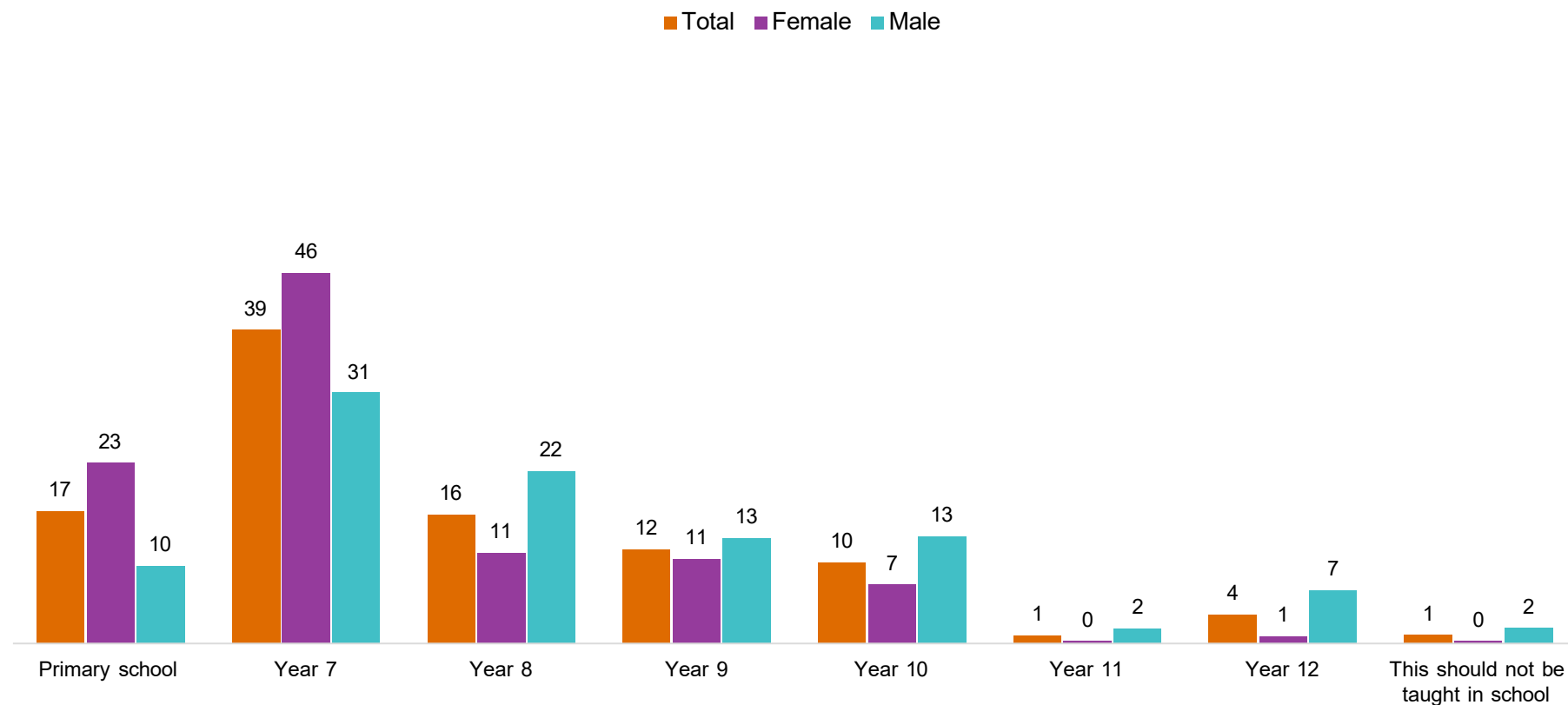


Currently attend a **government high school** (56%)

THE BEST AGE TO START TEACHING SEXUAL CONSENT

Over half of participants felt that consent should be taught in Year 7 or earlier, with females significantly more likely to feel this way (69%) than males (41%).

School year to begin teaching sexual consent (%)



APPENDIX



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SAMPLE PROFILE *UNWEIGHTED*

Gender	%	n
Male	45	439
Female	55	533
A gender not listed here	0	0

Age

12 – 13 years	18	179
14 – 15 years	9	85
16 – 17 years	19	182
18 – 20 years	19	183
21 – 24 years	35	343

Location

Metro	77	750
Regional	23	222

Employment status

Not working	65	632
Working	35	340

School currently attended

Government school	28	270
Independent school (i.e. private school)	7	66
Catholic school	6	62
Don't know	1	6

Highest level of education	%	n
Postgraduate degree	3	33
Graduate diploma / certificate	5	47
Bachelor degree	16	158
Advanced diploma / diploma	4	36
Technical certificate	5	49
High school	51	494
Primary school	15	141
Other	1	14

CALD status	%	n
English only	80	777
LOTE	20	195

Indigenous status	%	n
Aboriginal	5	49
Torres Strait Islander	1	11
Neither	90	874
Prefer not to say	4	42

Sydney

+61 2 9232 9550

Level 18, 167 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Canberra

+61 2 6206 6900

7 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Melbourne

+61 3 9611 1800

Level 10, 120 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Brisbane

+61 7 3009 9000

Level 13, 1 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Adelaide

+61 401126749

Level 16, 70 Franklin St,
Adelaide, SA 5000

Perth

+61 406244356

Level 28, 108 St Georges
Terrace, Perth WA 6000



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