

LIFE AT 24 THEN+NOW

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) is a study that follows young Australians over 10 years, from their mid-teens to mid-twenties, as they move from school to further study, work and into adulthood.

Life at 24: Then & Now provides a snapshot of Australians' study and work situation at age 24, along with social indicators like access to social support and volunteering activities. We compare the latest results from the group that commenced the study in 2009 (Y09) who were 24-years-old in 2018 with the 1998 cohort (Y98) who were 24-years-old in 2008.

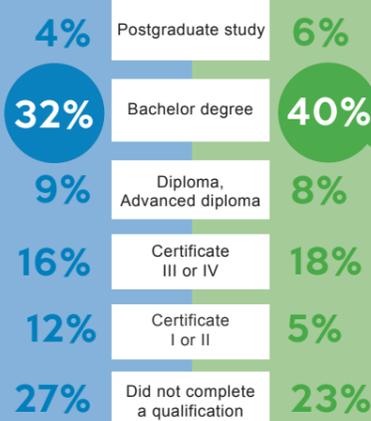
Data shared by two cohorts of LSAY participants gives insights into how the lives of young Australians have changed over the past decade.



AGE 24 IN 2008

AGE 24 IN 2018

HIGHEST QUALIFICATION COMPLETED



Today's young people are becoming more qualified with higher proportions obtaining a bachelor degree or postgraduate qualification than ever before. This trend has accelerated with the introduction of the demand-driven higher education system which led to an increase in higher education enrolments between 2010 and 2017.¹

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT STATUS



UNEMPLOYED OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE (NILF)



Over the last decade, the proportion of young people in full-time work has decreased, with higher rates of 24-year-olds working part-time. An increasing number of young people are also more likely to have more than one job when compared with 10 years ago, working in multiple jobs to reach full-time working hours.²

UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND UNDERUTILISATION

UNDEREMPLOYED



UNDERUTILISED



Rates of underemployment are increasing, with more working young people looking for additional work or to work additional hours. Not enough work experience, lack of job opportunities and not enough of the right kind of education or training are the main barriers to securing work identified by 24-year olds.

Note: 'Employment status' excludes those who are working, but their working time is unknown.

CAREER JOBS

IS THE JOB YOU HAVE NOW THE TYPE OF JOB YOU WOULD LIKE AS A CAREER?

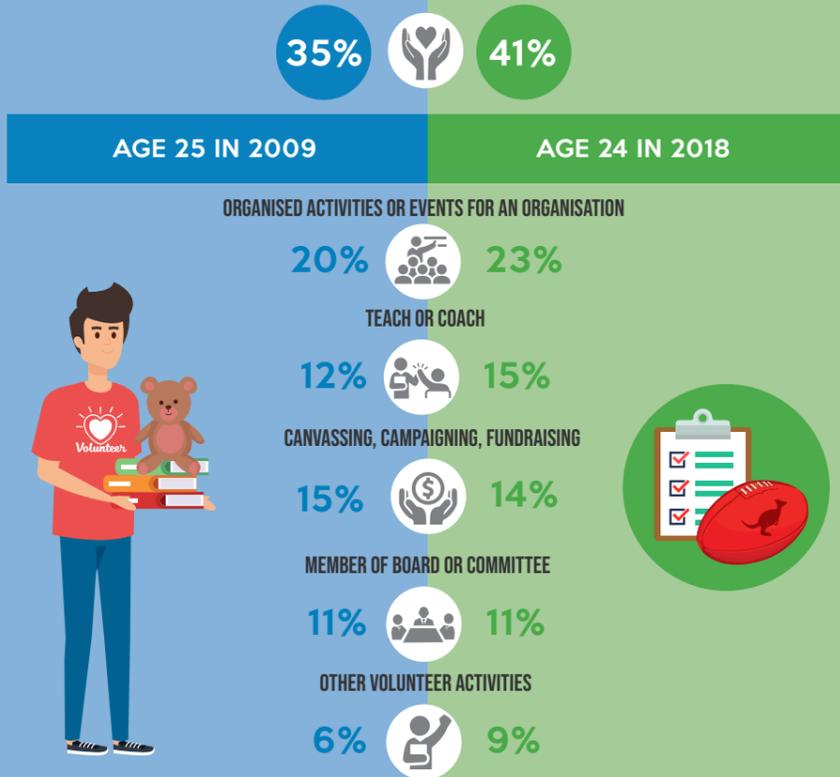


Fewer young people are working in their career job at age 24 when compared to 24-year-olds ten years earlier, with significantly higher rates uncertain whether the job they have is the one they would like as a career. This is likely to reflect the increased time spent in education³ as it takes young people longer to complete their studies and transition into a "career job".

The figures might also be explained by the changing world of work, where a job for life is no longer the norm. Individuals will most likely change jobs, even careers, several times over their lifetime,⁴ with one study estimating today's young Australians will make 17 changes in employers across 5 different careers.⁵ In addition, as a result of globalisation and rapid advances in technology, the nature of work is changing, making it less clear to young people what their future career might look like.⁶

Note: All figures are statistically significantly different with the exception of the category 'No'.

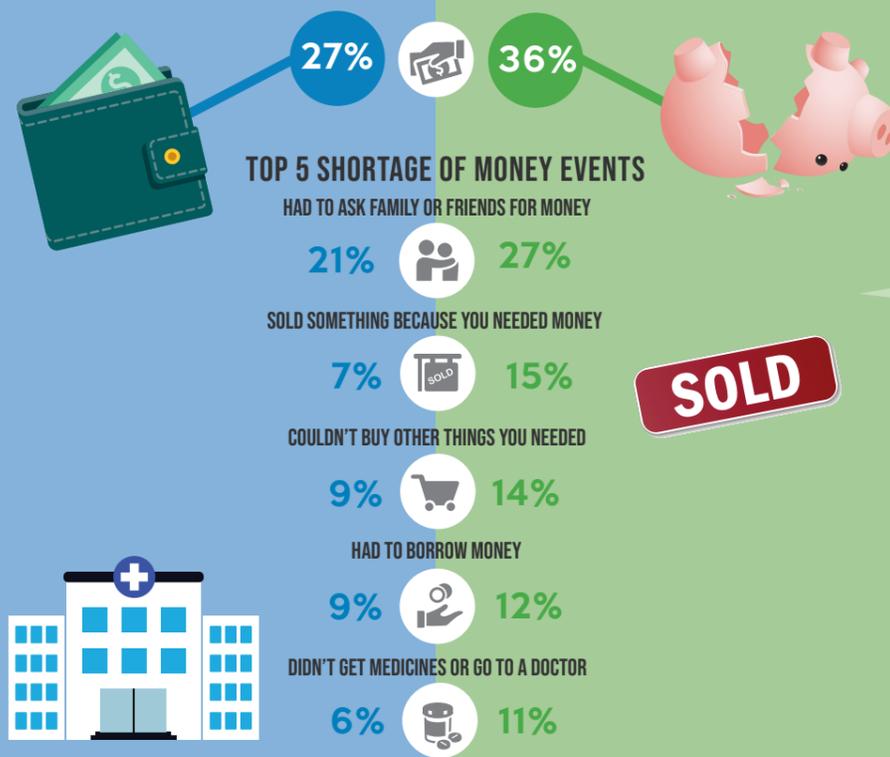
VOLUNTEERING



Rates of volunteering are on the rise as more than 41% of 24-year-olds took part in volunteering activities in 2018 compared with just 35% of 25-year-olds in 2009. About 44% of those doing some sort of volunteering found that their volunteer activities gave them job-related skills and 27% thought their volunteer activities helped get them a job.

Notes:
 1 Questions on volunteering were not asked of the Y98 cohort in 2008 (age 24). For this reason, data for the Y98 cohort in 2009 (age 25) are shown.
 2 All differences across years are statistically significant with the exception of 'Canvassing, campaigning, fundraising' and 'Member of board or committee'.

SHORTAGE OF MONEY



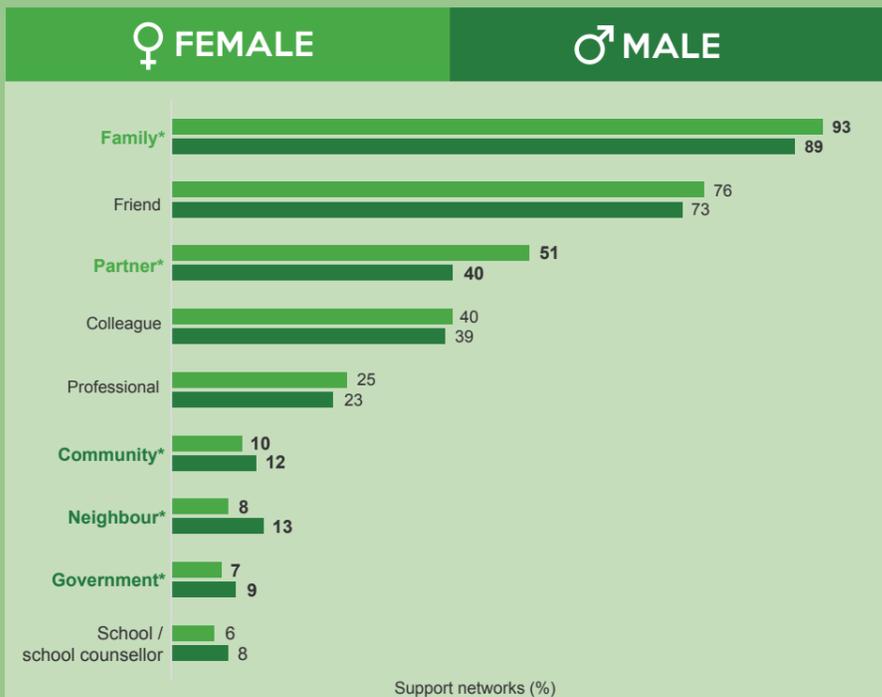
The proportion of 24-year-olds unable to meet their basic needs due to a shortage of money has increased significantly over the past 10 years. The growth in part-time work and educational participation are likely to be increasing financial pressures for young people. It's concerning to see more than one in ten 24-year-olds weren't able to get the medical treatment they require, almost doubling when compared to 24-year-olds 10 years earlier. The significant rise in the proportion of 24-year-olds selling goods for money may be because of the expansion of low-cost online platforms for selling possessions, increasing the attractiveness of this option as a response to a shortage of money.⁷

SOCIAL SUPPORT



94% OF 24-YEAR-OLDS COULD ASK SOMEONE FOR SUPPORT IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Most young Australians have the support they need in a time of crisis. Family, friends and partners are the most common support networks for 24-year-olds. Females are also more likely than males to seek support from their partners, while males are more likely to seek support from their neighbours than females.

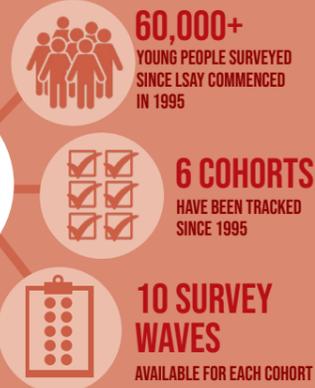


Note: An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant difference when comparing males with females. Dark green labels indicate a statistically significant higher estimate for males when compared with females. Light green labels indicate a statistically significant higher estimate for females when compared with males.

PAVING FUTURE PATHWAYS

The data shared by LSAY participants provides a wealth of information about how young Australians' study, work, life and attitudes have changed as a result of a rapidly-evolving world. The data are freely available to researchers and policymakers.

Visit www.lsay.edu.au to explore the results of past and present LSAY surveys and see how the lives of Australian youth continue to change over time.



Notes:

- a. Survey responses are weighted to population benchmarks to account for the survey being undertaken as a sample rather than the entire target population.
- b. All differences across years are statistically significant unless otherwise indicated.

HIGHEST QUALIFICATION COMPLETED

- c. Postgraduate study includes graduate diplomas, graduate certificates and postgraduate degrees (PhD/Masters).

EMPLOYMENT

- d. Underemployment: includes those who are employed and prefer more hours or are looking for additional jobs as a proportion of all those who are employed.
- e. Underutilisation: includes those who are unemployed and are underemployed as a proportion of those in the labour force.
- f. It is not possible to precisely replicate the ABS definition of underemployment and underutilisation using the LSAY data. To compare the Y98 and Y09 cohorts at age 24, the definition of underemployment and underutilisation is restricted to workers who would like to work more hours, regardless of availability.

VOLUNTEERING

- g. Respondents may participate in more than one type of volunteer activity.
- h. 'Volunteering' includes respondents who responded 'Yes' to any of the volunteering activities listed as well as: public issues; voluntary health care or support; and distribute food or goods.

SHORTAGE OF MONEY

- i. Includes respondents who responded 'Yes' to any of the shortage of money events listed as well as those who: went without meals and couldn't buy text books or other study materials. For those that are no longer living with their parents, it also includes those who: couldn't pay electricity gas or telephone bills on time; couldn't pay the mortgage/rent on time; and/or couldn't afford to heat their home.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

- j. Respondents may have more than one type of support.

References:

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3. Dhillon, Z and Cassidy, N 2018, *Labour market outcomes for younger people*, Reserve Bank of Australia Bulletin, pp.1–20, viewed 30 Jul 2019, <http://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2018/jun/pdf/labour-market-outcomes-for-younger-people.pdf>.
4. Polvere, R-A and Lim, P 2015, *Career development supporting young Australians: a literature review*, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fitzroy, viewed 30 Jul 2019, http://library.bsl.org.au/jspui/bitstream/1/6033/1/PolvereLim_Career_development_supporting_young_people_lit_review_2015.pdf.
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6. Foundation for Young Australians 2015, *The new work order: ensuring young Australians have skills and experience for the jobs of the future, not the past*, FYA new work order report series, Foundation for Young Australians, Melbourne, viewed 30 Jul 2019, <http://www.fya.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/The-New-Work-Order-FINAL-low-res-2.pdf>.
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Sources:

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—2011, Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, 1998 cohort (version 3.1).

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