Q

Impacts of COVID-19 on CaLD young people in W.A.



MYAN WA & YACWA

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of Western Australia (MYAN WA) is a youth-led advocacy organisation that works to increase positive outcomes for culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) young people including refugees and migrants.

The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak non-government youth organisation in Western Australia. We operate primarily as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in a rapidly changing society.





Surveys

The aim of the surveys was to gain an insight into the impact that COVID – 19 has had on CaLD young people in Western Australia.

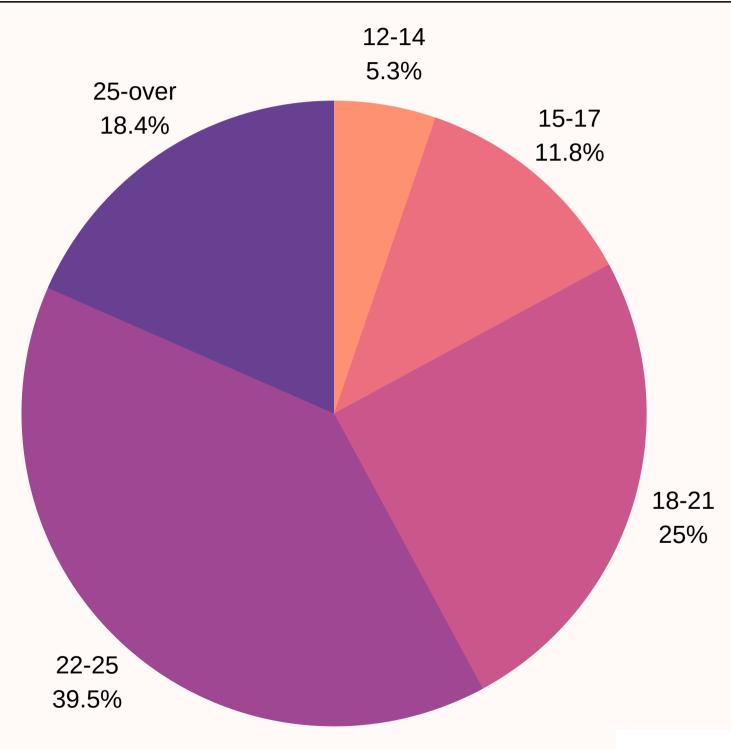
Young people who responded to the surveys were:

- Aged 10-25 years old
- From a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) background
- From refugee and migrant background
- An international student





Demographics Age of respondents





Languages Spoken

Amharic

Bangla

Hazaragi

Somali

Amharic

Tigrinya

Bengali

Hindi

Spanish

Arabic

Burmese

Malay

Swahili

Auslan

Dari

Pazande

Tagalog

Filipino

Persian

Tamil

German

Punjabi

Ukrainian

Gujurati

Shona

Vietnamese





Financial Impacts of COVID-19

28 %

Unable to buy
essential supplies
(e.g. groceries,
special dietary
products, hygiene
products)





Unable to buy essential medications (e.g. prescription medications)

14 %



Racism & Discrimination

29%

Respondents have experienced an increase in racism and discrimination during this time.



Racism & Discrimination Experiences

"Public verbal harassment and generally hostile behaviour when out in suburban public spaces."





"People saying around that Asian people shouldn't be here in Australia and should go back to their country. Asian people are downgraded and portrayed as people who do not know anything"

"I have been attacked on social media. I'm staying away from social media as I can't stand the comments anymore. So much hatred and racism everywhere."



Employment

36 %

Unable to work in existing employment





Experienced a loss of income (e.g. through loss of employment, reduction in working hours)

36 %



Mental Health

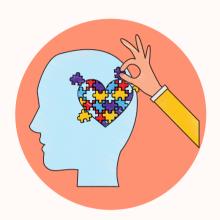
33%

Respondents had a decline in mental health and wellbeing.





How can current health services (mental and physical) be culturally sensitive and adaptive to the difficulties created by COVID-19?



Discuss intergenerational trauma in mental health services.



Mental health services should focus on ongoing systemic and institutionalised racism CaLD people face.



Services not assuming all stereotypes of CaLD young people.



Need to be accessible outside of the house (some can't talk openly at home).



Use inclusive language, targeting key issues related to young people of CaLD backgrounds.



Service providers need to be more accessible and affordable.



International Students' Experiences

"was kicked out of Headspace because my OSHC doesn't include mental health support."

"I am stuck overseas as I was home to see my family over summer. I didn't make it back before the travel ban. I am on a student visa and if I have to defer my studies for another semester, I may have my visa cancelled. all my personal belongings are in a storage unit and I cant get to it, and don't know if I ever will be able to (if I lose my visa)."



"Uncertainty, general feeling of worthlessness"





44%

Respondents reported not receiving enough educational support.



Education experiences



"Dropped out as it was too hard to manage studying online and managing life/job and adapting"



"My placement has to stop, and nothing has been changed, I have to repeat the subject"





"In year 12 and although nobody knows what to do and so that can't be changed – online help hasn't been as good and with a mental and physical disability, it is extremely difficult to cope."

"Studying year 12 ATAR at home is extremely difficult. The website where my work is located is extremely slow and my wifi is also slow. Many of my teachers have tried to be accommodating but others continue to expect assignments completed and handed with no help given."

