

Regional YACWA



Midwest Young Changemaker Report

About YACWA



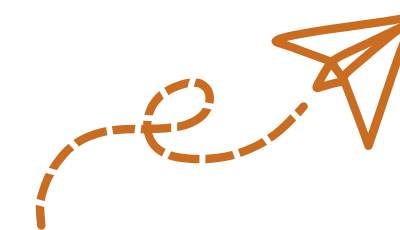
The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA) is the peak non-government youth organisation in Western Australia. We operate primarily as a human rights organisation that seeks to address the exclusion of young people in a rapidly changing society. Our continued vision for Western Australia is one that celebrates and engages young people in all aspects of the community. Our role is to strengthen the trust, cooperation, collaboration; professionalism and voice of the non-government youth service sector to better serve the young people of Western Australia.

The Regional YACWA team recently conducted a Young Changemaker survey in the Midwest region, to better understand how YACWA might support young people in regional WA to be Changemakers in their community. This support sits with one of the key focus areas, which YACWA strives to work towards – ensuring young people have a voice and opportunity to create change in their community and to also support young people to advocate and influence decisions and policies that affect them.

For this survey, we defined a Changemaker as someone who has a desire to make a change. Changemakers are people who advocate for things that are important to them and want to make positive change and who may have set their mind on tackling a problem in their local community. The survey was promoted through social media platforms, schools, engagement with youth networks, sector service providers and regional organisations supporting young people.



Who participated in the survey?



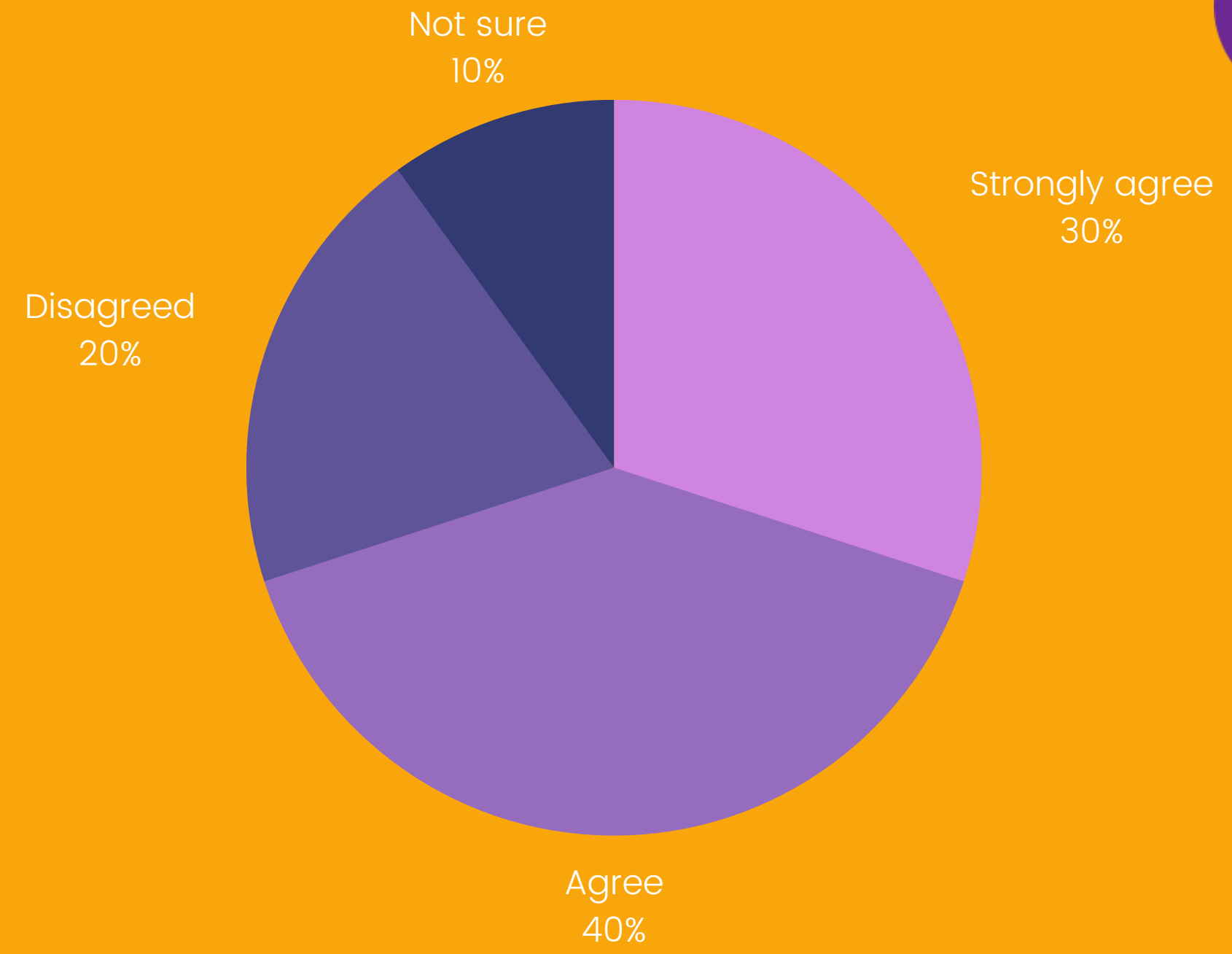
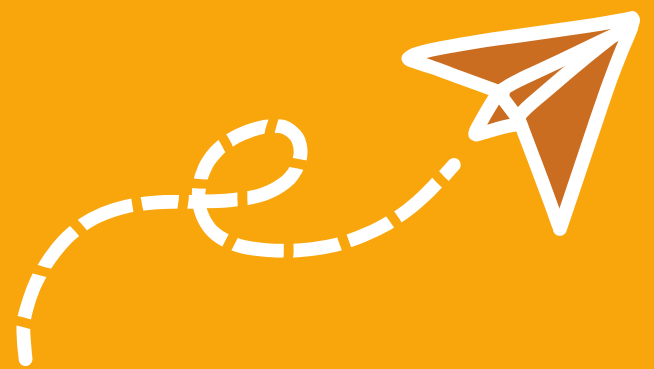
The survey was open for all ages 12–25, throughout the Midwest region and was promoted to over 200 community and youth sector professionals to distribute.

The young people who completed this survey, were aged between 13–23, with 30% of participants identifying as from cultural and/or linguistic backgrounds, 30% identified as neurodivergent, 10% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 10% identified as living with a disability (not all participants shared their identity). All but one participant was from the City of Greater Geraldton community.

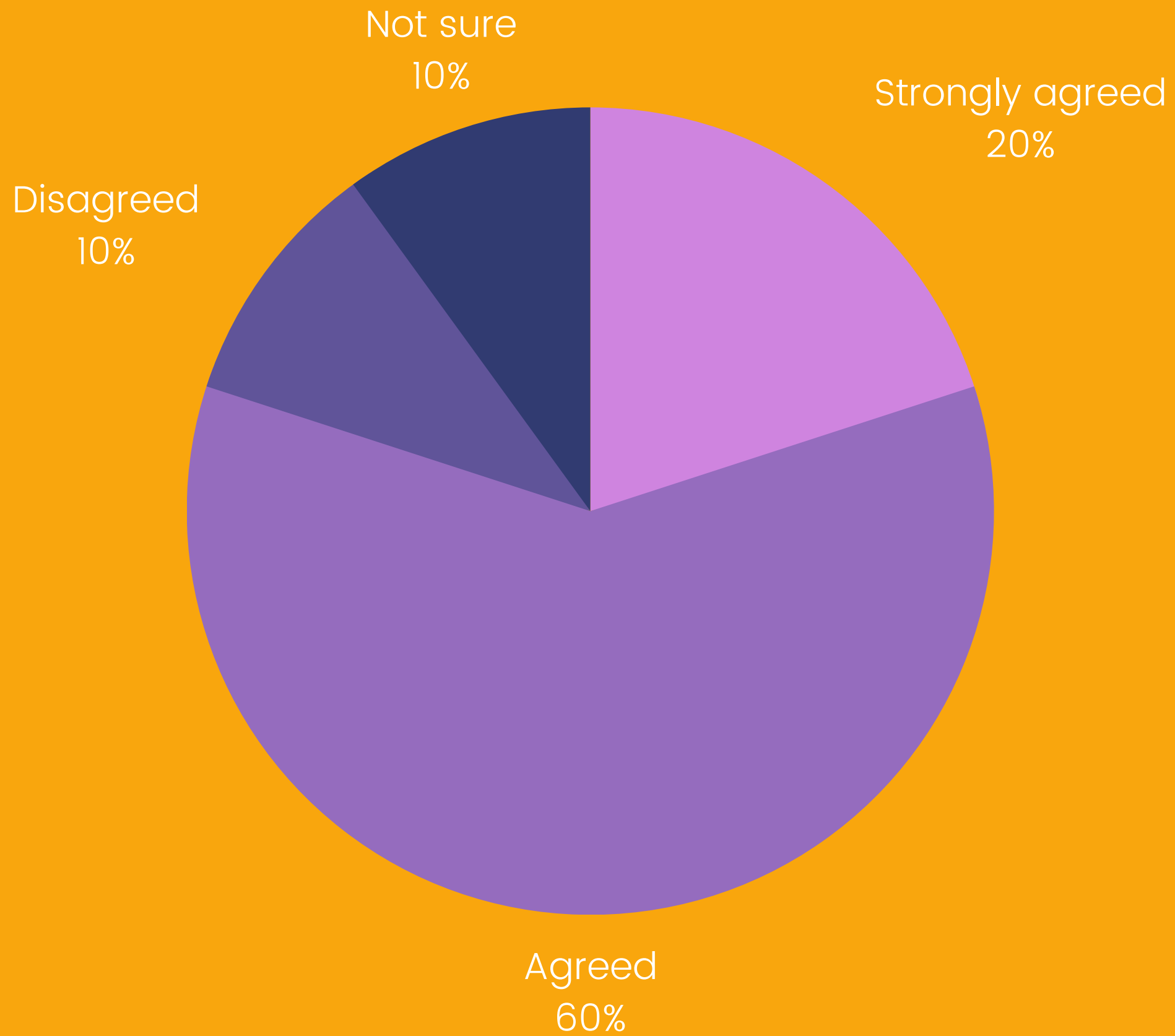


What did we learn?

Young people were asked about their interest in creating change and asked to select from the following questions. Scoring each response with Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Not sure



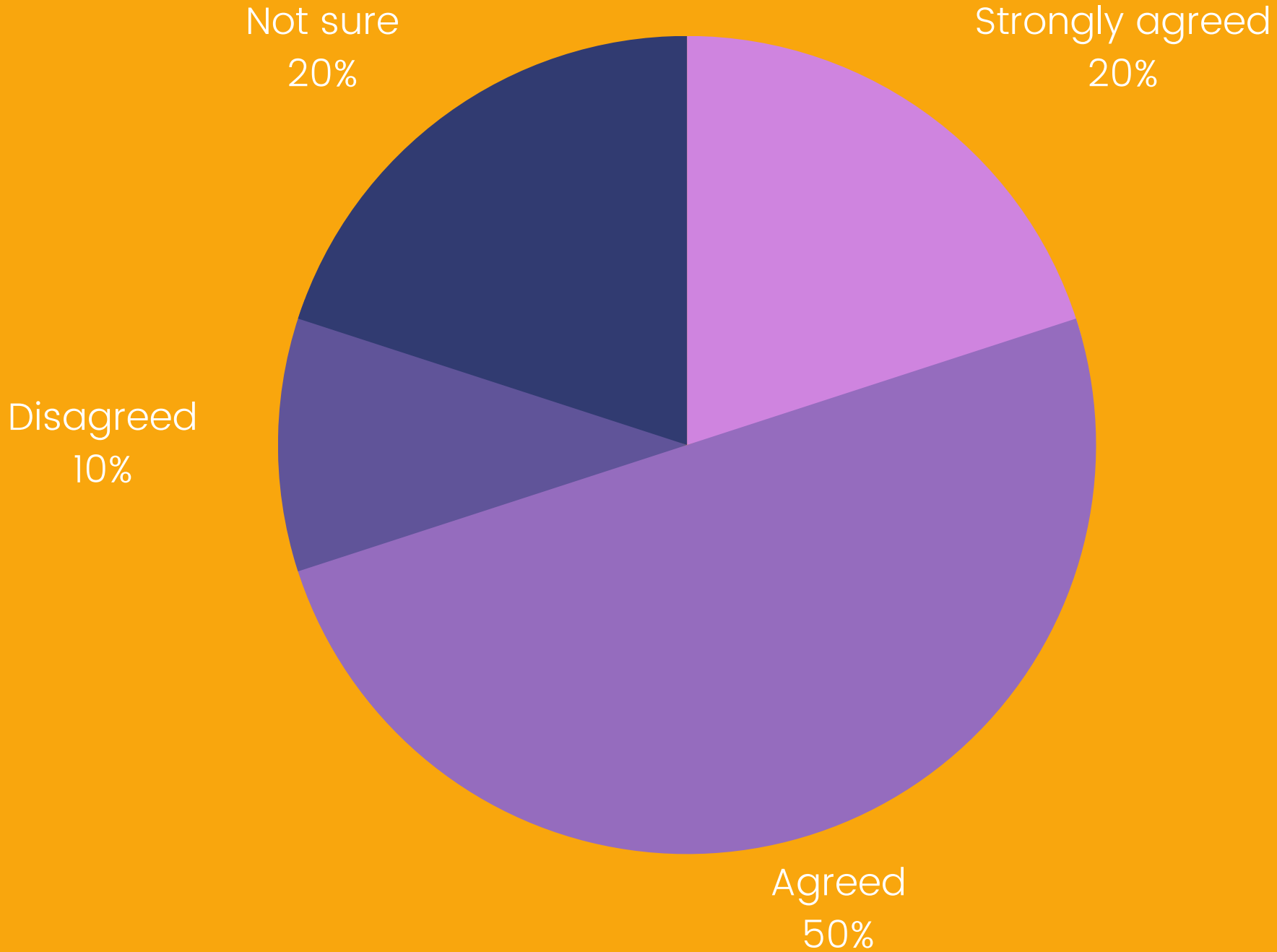
Young people believe they know what problems young people are facing and would like to be a part of creating positive changes...



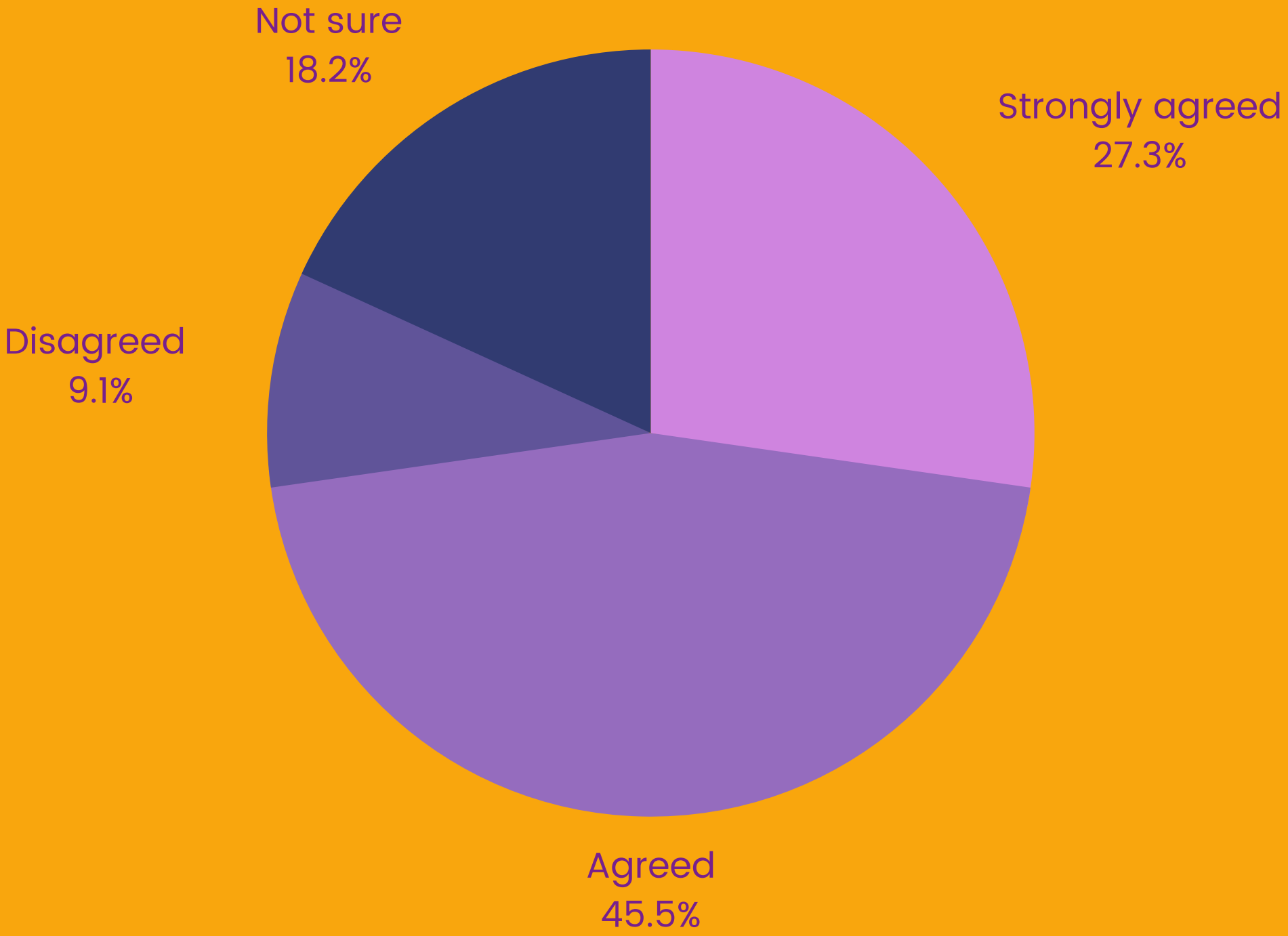
Young people believe they can make a difference within their community...



Young people already know how to be part of a group and how to create change...



Young people said they would involve themselves more in creating change but just need some help to do this...

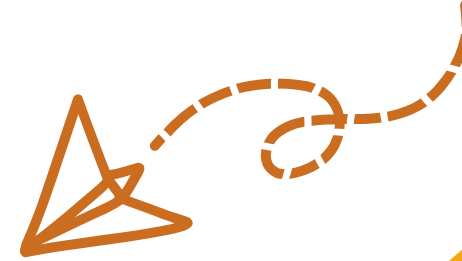


Opportunity to contribute...

60% of total participants felt they already had been provided an opportunity to contribute to change in their community, but when asked what were the main things that stopped them from being a changemaker and advocating currently. (*Answers were not compulsory, so percentages may not add up to total participant):

- 40% did not think people would listen to them
- 30% said they did not know how to do this
- 10% Felt they didn't have enough support

*Answers to this question were not compulsory, so percentages may not add up to per total participant.



Topics of interest to Create Change & Advocate

Survey participants were then asked what topics they were most interested in creating change and advocating for, and their responses were:

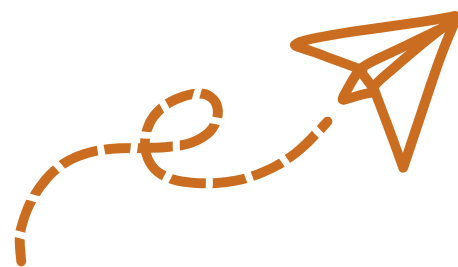
- Mental Young people with disabilities
- Kids that don't know what to do with their life
- Fishing and jetties
- More recreational facilities such as bike jumps
- Empowering future change makers like me and others
- Facilitate a link between young people and volunteering associations (this will aid in the youth being more involved in the community - this provides a sense of belonging in the community)
- Advocating is a tough and challenging thing to do and therefore we need training on how to do it and through what platforms
- A sense of purpose that we can create a change in the community on youth issues
- Community consultations (speak to the youth about what issues might interest them). This way we can create working groups to tackle different issues in the community.
- Youth community participation (volunteering, politics, advocacy)
- Youth awareness/ educational workshops (sexual health, alcohol/ drug use, healthy relationships, mental health)
- Upskilling workshops (Resume/ CV writing, mock job interview, first aid training, mental health first aid training)
- Creating a generation of future change makers (A way to teach the youth how to become the next generation of change makers, for example if a group of youth have an idea on how to tackle homelessness in Geraldton, then maybe we can have a workshop about how to create a community action group). By doing this we are contributing to the current issue and the work we do will last for years.
- A nice marine friendly sanctuary across the entire Geraldton foreshore, where people can go diving to see marine life. If this happens, it could boost tourism, which is good for our cafés and small businesses
- Local music/event industry
- Homelessness
- Mental health support availability
- Suicide awareness
- Environment/low carbon footprint
- Tourism
- Training
- More job opportunities for those aged under 15
- Recycling
- Environment
- Multiculturalism
- Equal rights



Changemaking Skills Young People Want

When asked what changemaking skills they would be most interested in learning about, most young people chose the following in order of most selected to least selected (Participants were able to select multiple answers):

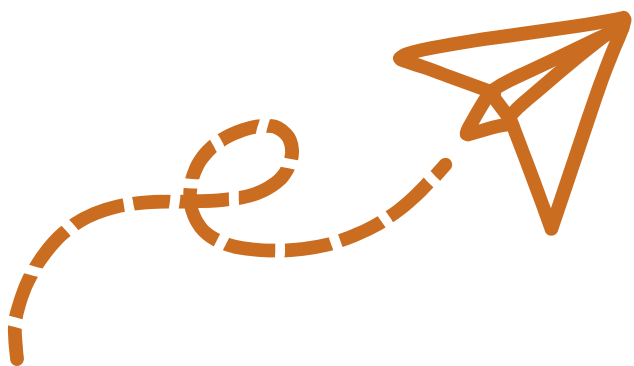
- How to start a business, not-for-profit or charity 70%
- How to run a successful changemaking campaign (equal second) 40%
- How to manage a team and be a leader (equal second) 40%
- How to be a great public speaker (equal second) 40%
- How to run events for young people (equal third) 30%
- How to start a digital or social media campaign (equal third) 30%
- How to engage with government and decision-makers (equal third) 30%
- How to get funding and support to create change 20%
- How decisions and policies get made and how you can be a part of this 10%



Young people also shared their preference with delivery format and best time...



- When asked what format and time would be appropriate for YACWA to deliver a workshop on becoming a changemaker, the majority of participants selected in person (face to face), during school holidays or over weekends through an all-day, one-off workshop.



How Young People want to be Supported

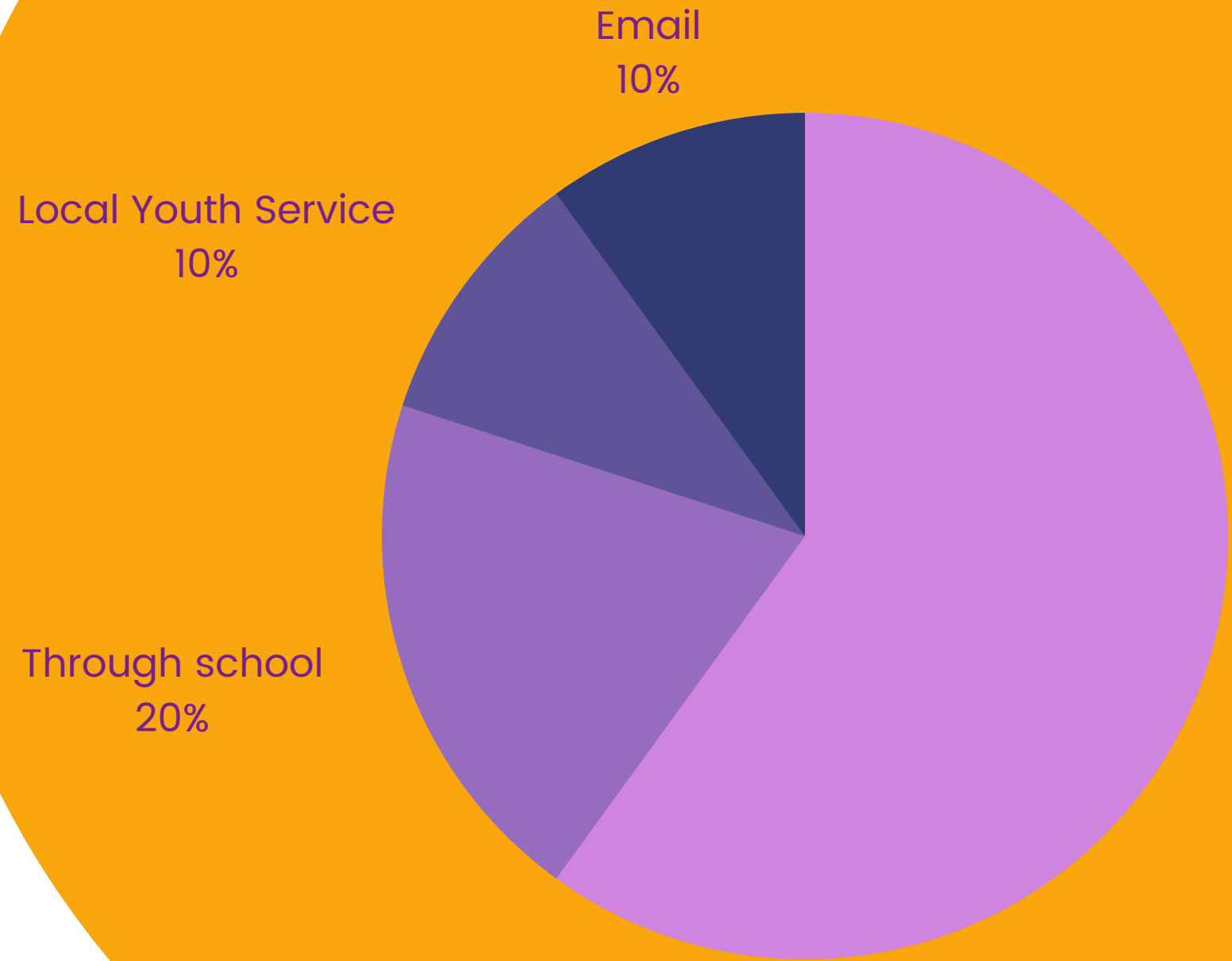
Young people were also asked if YACWA could develop some new innovative ways to support young people to create change, what would they be most interested in?



- 50% selected an overnight camp (with other young people), doing a mixture of workshops and other activities
- 30% selected an opportunity to meet with other like-minded young people interested in the same topics as me
- 30% preferred an all-day, one-off workshop face to face
- 20% preferred an all-day, one-off workshop online
- 20% a series of short workshops over a few week
- 10% said providing mentoring opportunity (connect young people with mentors who can provide help/support)
- 10% selected an inspirational talk by amazing changemakers

*Participants were able to select multiple answers.

When asked what form of communication was best to learn more changemaking opportunities



Social media app Instagram
60%





Where to now?

The information summarised within this document will be used in our reporting and future funding applications, as well as for youth service providers and decision makers to better support their organisations programs and planning.

This report has also guided YACWA in the creation of a regional specific workshop, specifically designed to meet the needs to support young people to become future changemakers in the Midwest. The workshop for the Midwest young people will be held in the first half of 2023, hosted by Regional YACWA and facilitated by peer educators from the YACWA's Youth Consultancy team.

Thank You



The Youth Affairs Council of WA and our Regional team would like to thank all participants who contributed to the outcomes within this report. We would also like to thank the services who provided this information to the young people of their organisation.

Participants were invited to go into a draw to win two \$50 SportsPower vouchers as a thank you for their contribution. Congratulations to those lucky winners of the Midwest region.

This report was written and prepared by Mel Myers – YACWA's Midwest Regional Project Officer.

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