

Regional YACWA



Great Southern Young Changemaker Report

2023

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 Great Southern 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?

Fifty-nine young people who live across the Great Southern completed the Young Changemaker Survey.

The responses came from young people living across the region, including Albany, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kojonup, Kukerin, Mount Barker, Nyabing, Ongerup, Redmond, Tambellup and Torbay.



Demographics

Demographics of the young people who completed this survey:

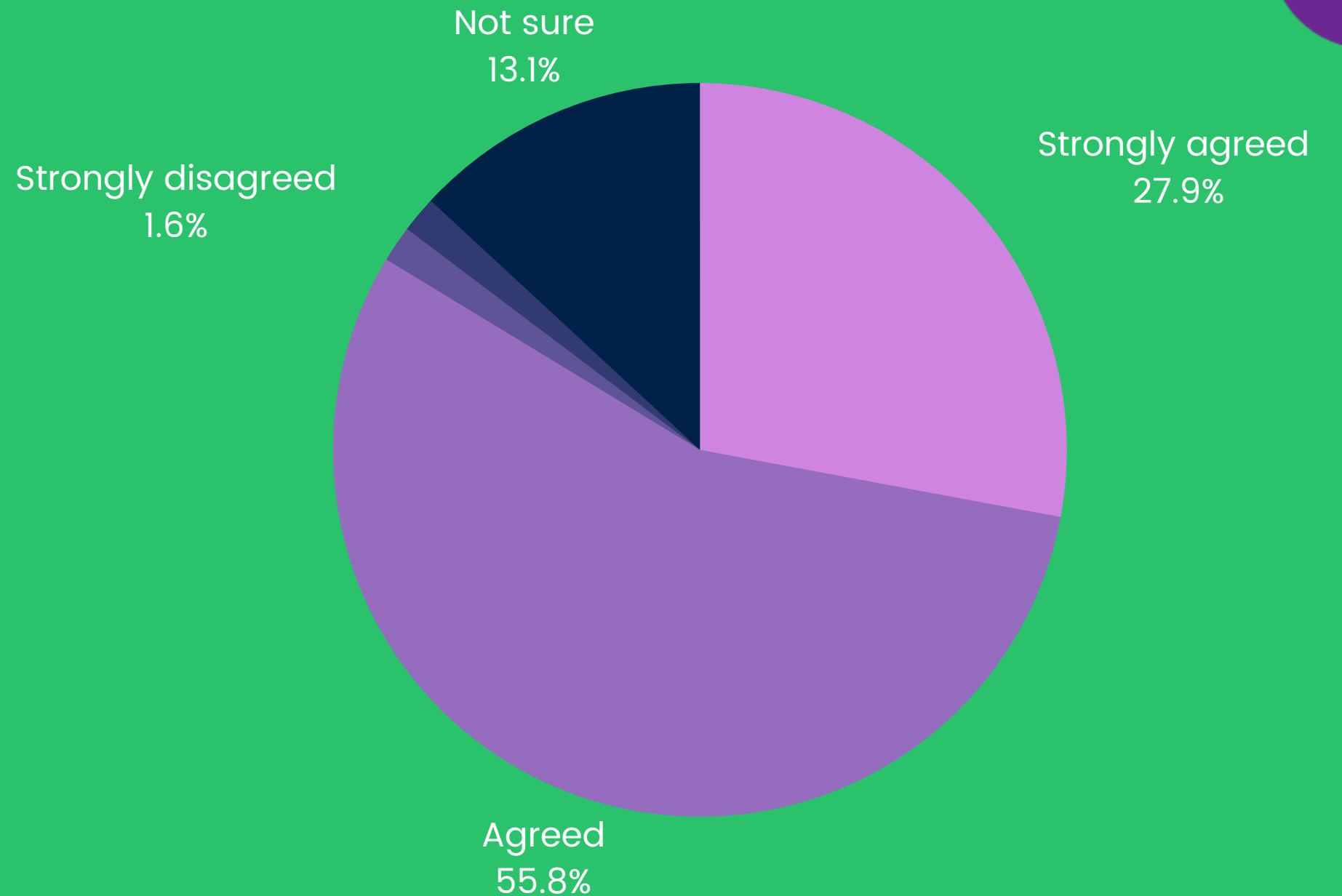
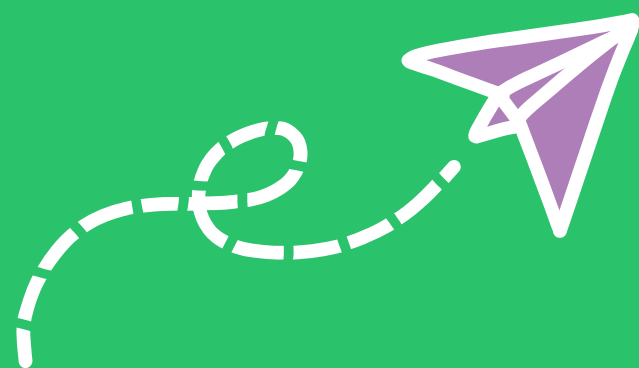
- 27% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 20% identified living with a mental health difficulty
- 17% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual+ (LGBTQA+)
- 15% identified as neurodivergence (i.e. Autism or ADHD)
- 10% of participants identified as from cultural and/or linguistic backgrounds
- 10% identified as someone who is living with alcohol or other drug use (i.e. personal/someone you know)
- 10% identified as someone who is a young carer (i.e. helping to look after a parent, grandparent, sibling)
- 6% identified as living with a disability and/or chronic illness.



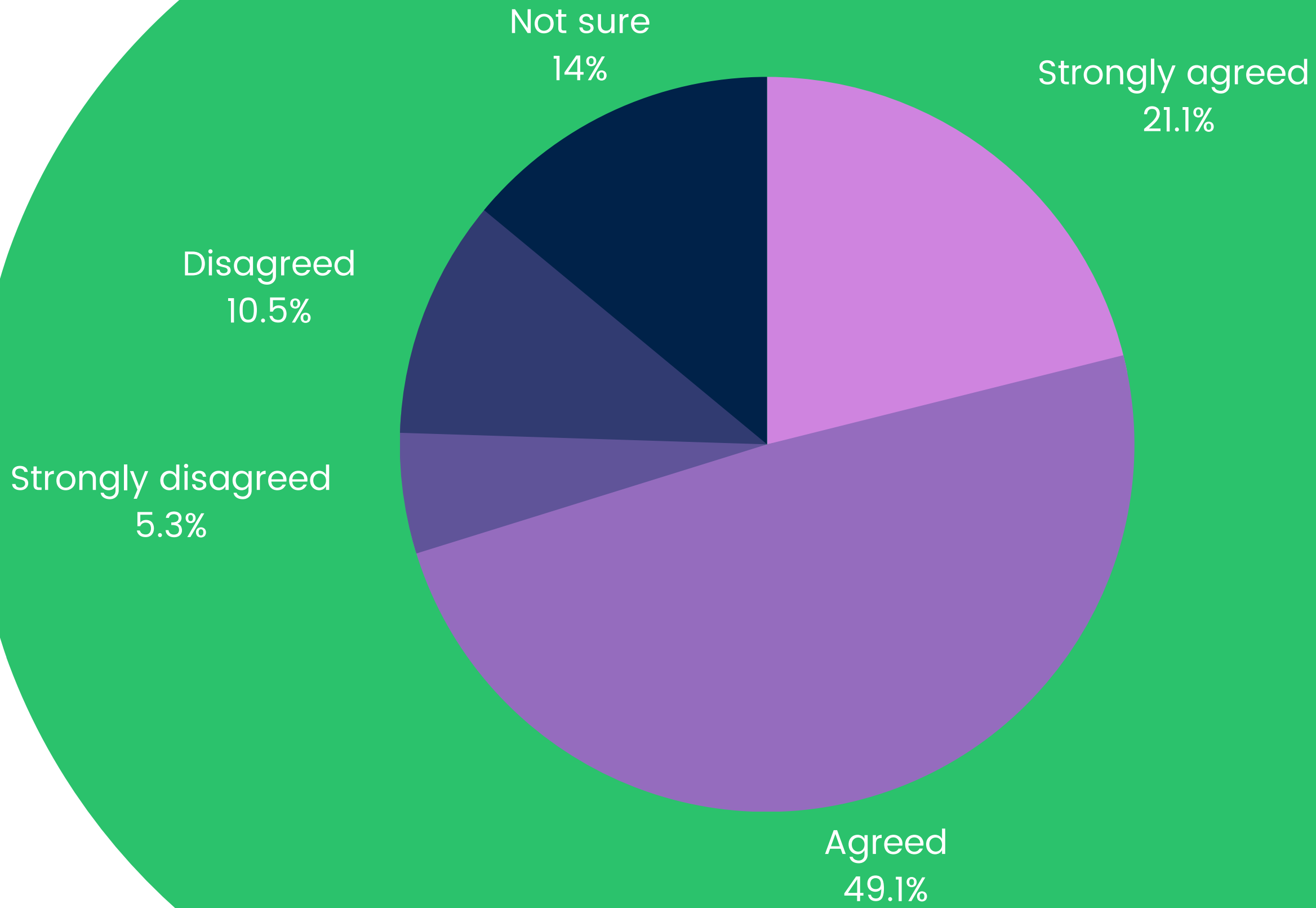
What did we learn?

Young people were asked about their interest in creating change and were able to select from the following responses: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Not sure.

Here's what young people across the Great Southern have shared with us!



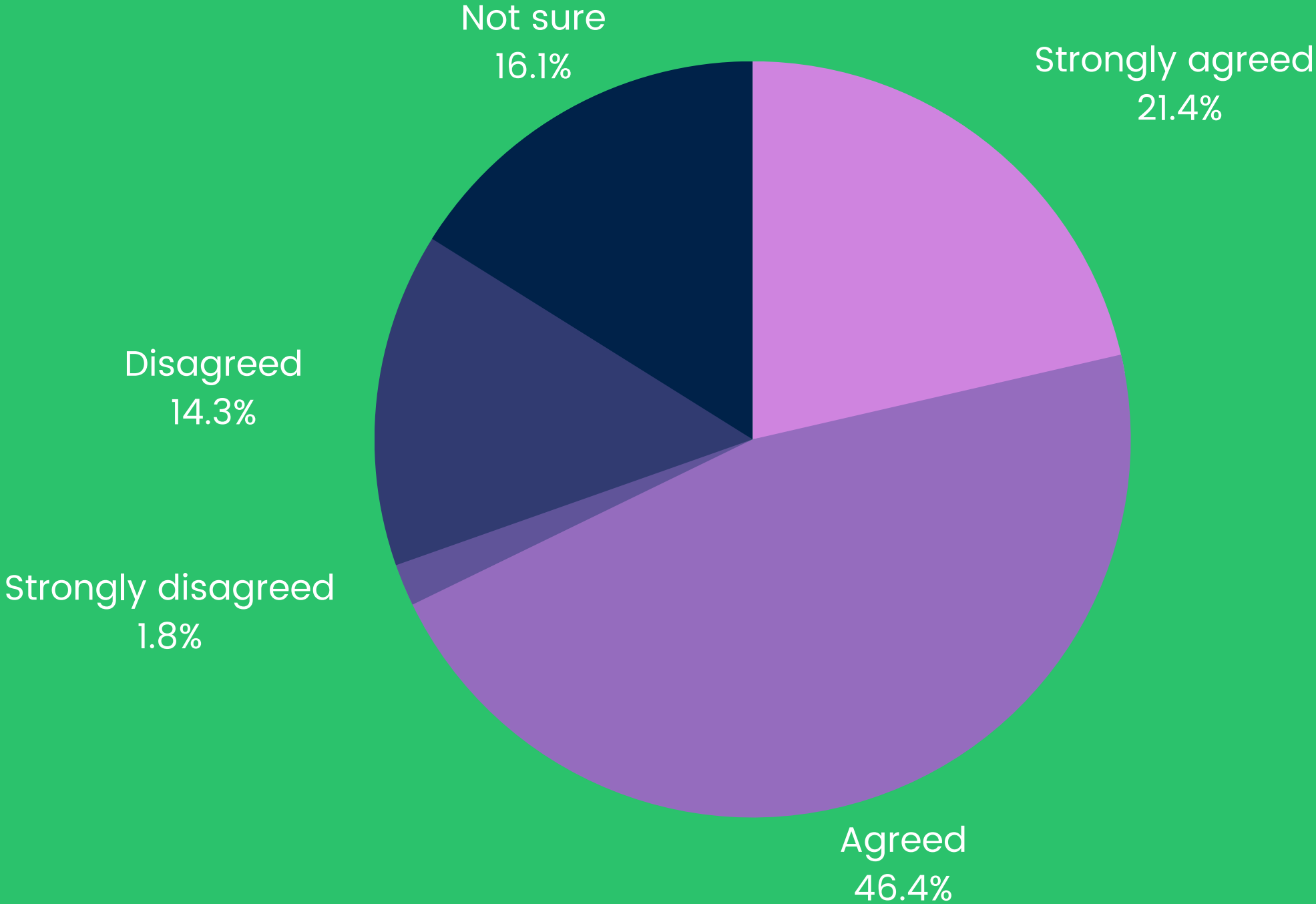
Young people believe they know what problems young people are facing and would like to be a part of creating positive changes...



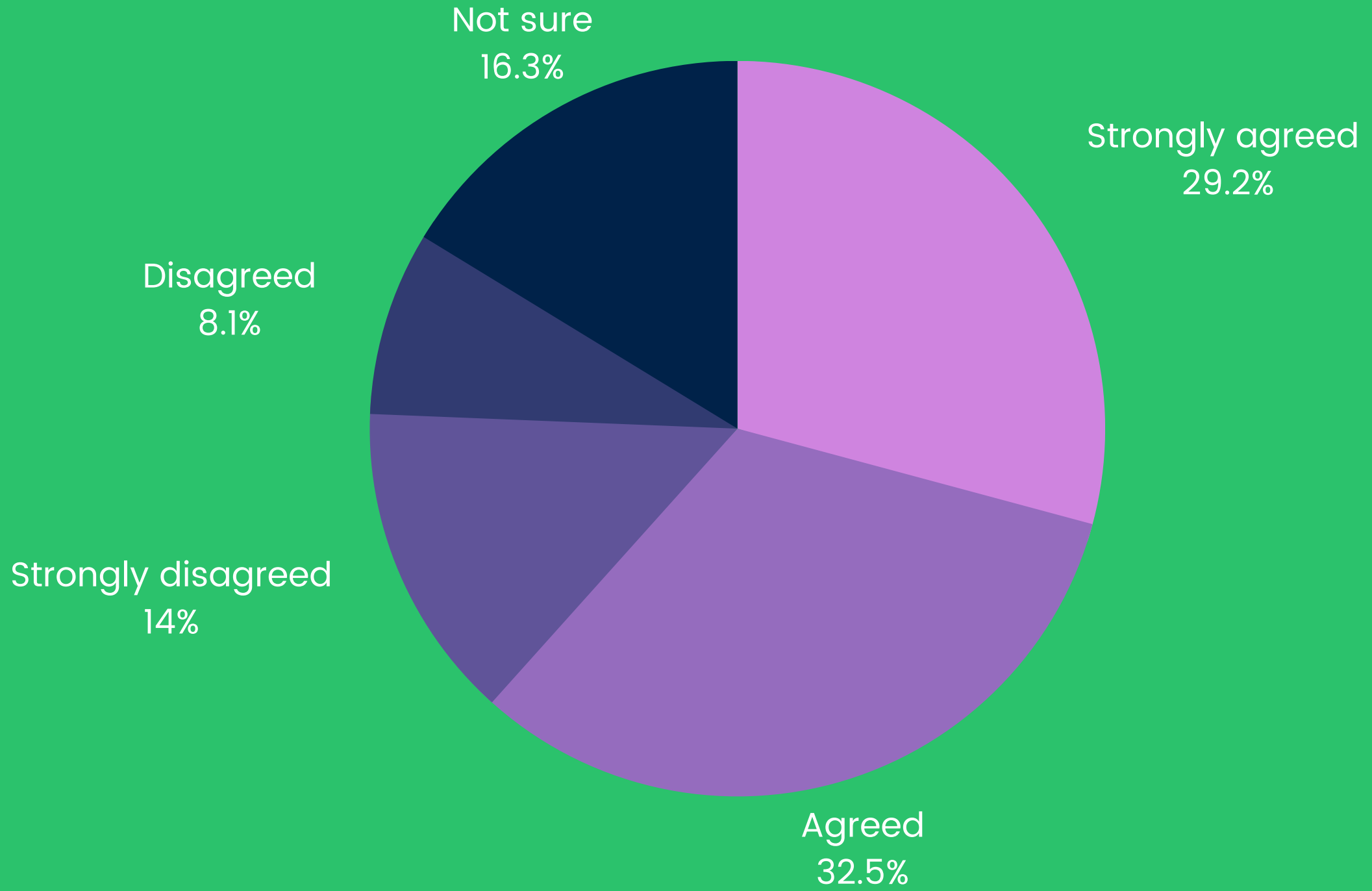
Young people believe they can make a difference within their community...



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

32.8% 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 included:

- 40.6% did not think people would listen to them
- 44% said they did not know how to do this
- 37.2% said they don't have time
- 28.8% felt they didn't have enough support.

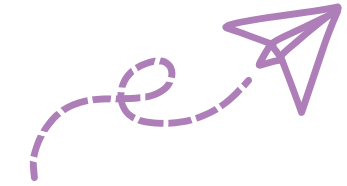
*Answers to this question were not compulsory, so percentages may not add up per total participant.



Topics of interest to Create Change & Advocate

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

- Mental Health support and services (i.e. depression, suicide prevention, reconnecting and supporting young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, bullying, importance of having access to support networks)
- Equality (i.e. gender, sexuality, racism, homophobia)
- Rights for LGBTQA+ and people with disabilities
- Accessing services
- Pathways for employment (e.g. becoming a coach, therapist)
- Greater access to recreation and sporting activities (i.e. more sporting opportunities, fun activities, cricket, funding for gymnastics, all year soccer, more options for events, sports ground for regional/remote towns, pool, skate park)
- Having a safe place for young people, something like a youth centre or PCYC
- LGBTQA+ social issues and safety within the community
- Support for young people who are experiencing family challenges (i.e. parents getting divorced, domestic violence, child abuse)
- Combatting teen homelessness
- General increase in youth voices
- Engagement with Council & Shire events
- Creating and embracing social innovation and change (i.e. cultural, organisational)
- Youth in care
- Climate change and justice
- Access to funding to create change
- Seeking information about charitable causes in the community
- Non-profit philanthropy
- Social media



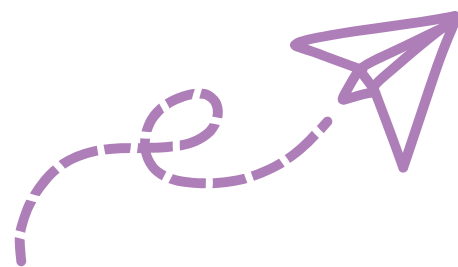
Changemaking Skills Young People Want

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

- How to run events for young people 49.1%
- How to start a business, not-for-profit or charity 42.3%
- How to get funding and support to create change (equal third) 38.9%
- How to be a great public speaker (equal third) 38.9%
- How to manage a team and be a leader (equal third) 38.9%
- How to engage with government and decision-makers 35.5%
- How to start a digital or social media campaign 33.8%
- How decisions and policies get made and how you can be a part of this 28.8%
- How to run a successful changemaking campaign 22%.



*Respondee's got to choose numerous responses to this question, so percentages may not add up per total participant.



How Young People Want to be Supported

When asked about innovative opportunities and ways to support young changemakers to create change:



We heard:

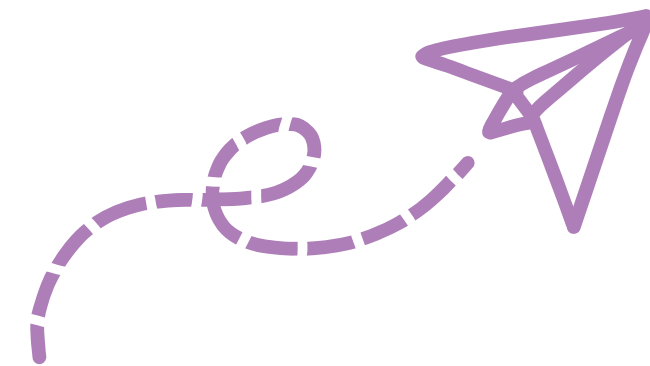
- 49.1% of participants selected a series of short workshops over a few weeks
- 32% said an inspirational talk by an amazing changemaker
- 30.5% chose the opportunity to meet with other like-minded people
- 30.5 % said an overnight camp with other young people (mix of workshops/activities)
- 28.8% identified mentoring opportunities (i.e. connect with mentors who can provide help/support).

*Respondees got to choose numerous responses to this question, so percentages may not add up per total participant.

Young people also shared their preference with delivery format...



- 47.4% said in-person and online (option to do either)
- 20.3% said in-person
- 11.8% said online (watch/participate live)
- 11.8% said online (watch a recording/at my own speed).

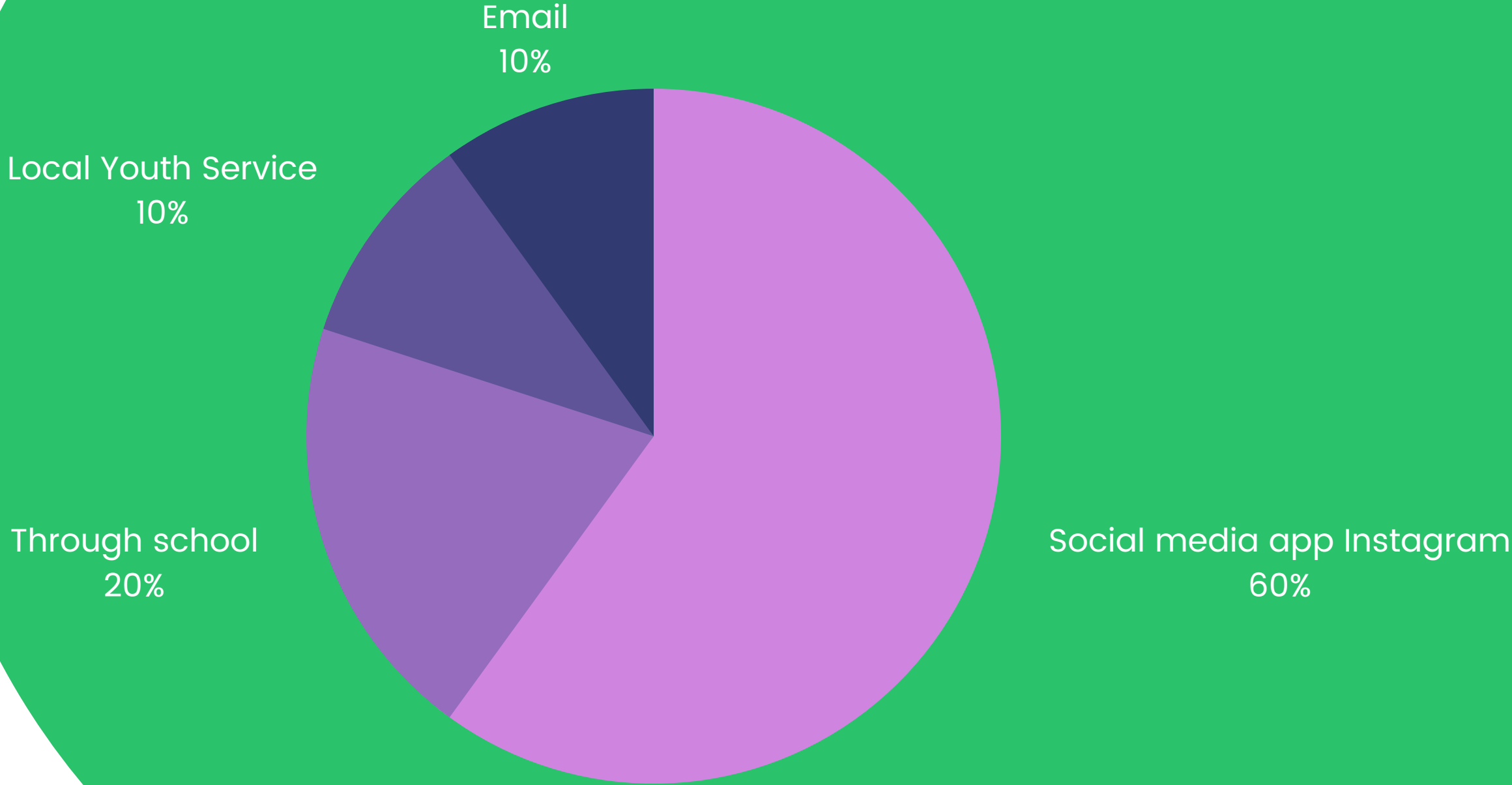


We asked when the best time for young people would be to engage in activities:

- 49.1% said weekends
- 33.8% said on a weekday, in the late afternoon
- 25.4% said during school holidays
- 23.7% said during school term.

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

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





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. It will also be shared among survey participants and via YACWA social media platforms.

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 Great Southern. This workshop 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

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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 helped to promote and share the survey with the young people across the Great Southern region.

Participants were invited to go into a draw to win two \$50 SportsPower vouchers as a thank you for their engagement and contribution. Congratulations to those lucky winners in the Great Southern.

This report was written and prepared by Kim Schroeder – Regional Project Officer Great Southern for the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

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