



Multicultural Youth
Australia

Multicultural Youth Australia Census 2017

Multicultural Youth Australia Census is the first nation-wide study of Australia's multicultural youth. It provides a comprehensive account of how young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are faring in different spheres of life.

The Census is a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and eight community organisations and government agencies including the Centre for Multicultural Youth.

1920 young people aged 15-25 from refugee and migrant backgrounds took part in the Census which was conducted in September-October 2017.

The participants were from 91 different countries. More than three-quarters (77%) were born overseas, 18% were Australian born with at least one parent born overseas and 5% were Australian born with both parents born in Australia.

77% BORN OVERSEAS



18% AUSTRALIAN BORN
WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT
BORN OVERSEAS

5% AUSTRALIAN BORN
WITH BOTH PARENTS BORN
IN AUSTRALIA

The participants were young:

63% were aged 15-19

37% were aged 20-25

Almost two-thirds (64%) were **women**, and one-third (34%) were **men**

1% of the sample identified as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**

Despite almost half of refugee and migrant youth having experienced some form of discrimination or unfair treatment in the past twelve months the majority feel strongly that they belong in Australia.

Refugee and migrant youth have a strong sense of belonging: more than **three quarters (80%)** said they either 'strongly agree' or 'agree' with the statement 'I feel like I belong in Australia.'



Refugee and migrant youth have a strong sense of their own cultural identity but also have an interest in other cultures: 84% of the participants sought out different cultural experiences, and 82% said it was important to maintain their cultural heritage. Almost three-quarters (73%) felt they belonged to more than one culture.

The top two values and goals for multicultural youth were 'having a job they were passionate about' (61%), and 'being active in working for a better society' (45%).

Refugee and migrant youth identified 'discrimination' as one of the most important issues facing Australia. When asked about 'issues of personal concern' they mentioned school or study problems (20%) and discrimination (18%) as the top two most important issues.



Almost **two-thirds (66%)** of those who had experienced discrimination indicated that this was because of their **race**, while **one-quarter (25%)** was discriminated against because of **religion**.



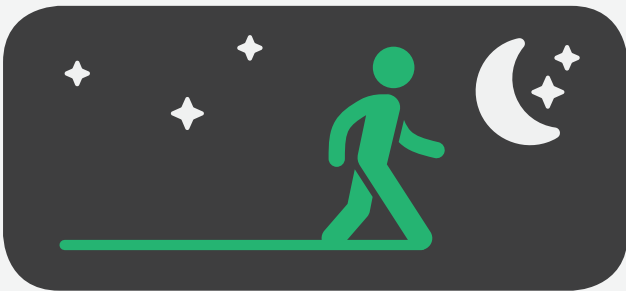
Almost **half (49%)** of refugee and migrant young people **had experienced some form of discrimination** or unfair treatment in the 12 months prior to the Census.



Almost **two-thirds (64%)** had **witnessed someone else being unfairly treated or discriminated against** in the 12 months prior to the Census.



Most of those who had witnessed discrimination said it was on the basis of **race** (72%), **religion** (46%), **sexuality** (43%) and **gender** (42%).



Over one-third (38%) felt either **'unsafe'** or **'very unsafe'** when walking alone at night.



Young women are **almost 4 times** more likely to feel unsafe than young men.



Almost **half were 'unemployed' or 'underemployed'**.

Racial discrimination was the most commonly cited reason why it was difficult to find work.



Despite discrimination and other barriers, multicultural young people are very optimistic.

Almost **9 in 10** expressed confidence in their ability to achieve their goals, be it at work or study:

86% said they feel **'positive'** or **'very positive'** about reaching their future goals.