

# News and Australian Children: How Young People Access, Perceive and are Affected by the News

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**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
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Institute for Culture  
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**Crinkling** NEWS

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***Crinkling News*** is the only national newspaper for young Australians. Aimed at seven- to 14-year-olds, it tells all the news adults consume, but in a child-friendly way. It is a weekly, printed paper delivered to homes and schools across the country and around the world. Crinkling News is leading the push for the development of media literacy in Australia as one of the essential critical thinking tools for this generation and the ones to follow.

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## CREDITS

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# Why we undertook this research

The internet has changed the way young Australians participate in society. Digital platforms now rival traditional media, such as television, for young people's attention when it comes to accessing information and entertainment. Yet we have little understanding of the impact of these changes on young Australians' interactions with news media.

When we looked to assess Australian national studies that had already examined news media literacy in the digital age for children under 18 years, we found very little. In fact, no national survey has ever examined how young people consume, experience and verify news in Australia.

News is now produced and circulated more rapidly using an ever-growing number of social media platforms, while social media users now encounter news from a range of sources including while news events are still unfolding. The pace of news production and circulation makes verifying sources and content more complicated and this has led to a number of recent flashpoints for claims and counter-claims of fake news at critical moments during elections, natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

By highlighting how young Australians aged 8-16 years access, classify, experience, consume and critique news media in this report, we hope to open up a conversation about news media literacy in Australia. We want the survey findings to support evidence-based discussions – with governments, schools, parents, news producers, online platforms and most of all, with young people themselves – about what needs to be done to ensure young Australians are able to access news, use news and participate in news in ways that meaningfully support their participation in society.

# News & Australian Children

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS, PERCEIVE AND ARE AFFECTED BY THE NEWS

**44%** agree that following the news is **important** to them

## Young Australians value the news

say news makes them feel **smart** or **knowledgeable**

**69%**

When asked about news activities they did **'yesterday'**

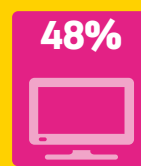


**80%** had consumed news from at least one source

**Top 3 preferred news sources**



FAMILY



TELEVISION



TEACHER/  
ADULT

Children: 8–12 years old

... and the source of that news was:

**42%** got news from their family



**39%** from television



**23%** from a teacher



**22%** from social media



**17%** from radio



**14%** from a website or mobile app



**22%** from friends



**7%** newspaper



TELEVISION



FAMILY



SOCIAL MEDIA

Teens: 13–16 years old

## Trust

Young Australians trust news from their family more than any other source



News organisations



Friends



Family

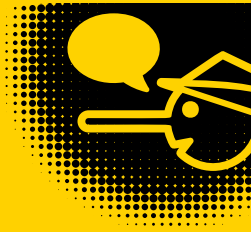


Teachers

a lot some

## Fake news

Most young people can't – or don't know if they can – identify fake news



43%

23%

don't know if they can tell a fake news story from a real one

30%

34%

disagree or strongly disagree with the statement 'I know how to tell fake news stories from real news stories'

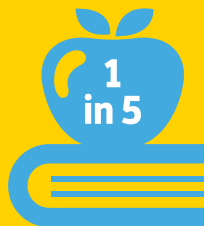
kids

teens



54% of young people **hardly ever or never check** whether news stories found on the internet are true

said they had received **lessons at school** in the past year to help them work out if news stories are true and can be trusted



## Online media

is a source of news, but not as much as we think



24%

42%

Teens access news on **social media**

9%

24%

Children access news on **social media**

17%

36%

Teens access news using **websites & apps**

8%

19%

Children access news using **websites & apps**

often

sometimes

## Distress

News can be distressing for young Australians who say it often or sometimes makes them feel:



71%

upset or sad

56%

angry

57%

afraid

## Bias & neglect

Young Australians believe news media organisations neglect them and are biased



63%

say news organisations have no idea what their lives are like

34%

say they don't think young people often appear on the news talking about the issues that affect them

38%

believe news does not treat people from different race and ethnic background equally

40%

believe news does not treat men and women equally

# Key findings

In September 2017 we surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,000 young Australians aged 8-16 years to understand their news engagement practices and experiences. The preliminary analysis provided in this report considers the overall results and compares this with results filtered specifically to account for gender and age. Below we refer to two age categories we have used for our analysis: children (aged 8-12) and teens (aged 13-16 years). Our key findings are as follows.

**1 Young Australians consume a lot of news regularly, from many different sources. News stories most often come from their families and that's how they like it.**

To provide a snapshot of news consumption, we asked young Australians where they got news stories from on the previous day. We found that 80% had consumed news from at least one source. Across this and all other questions we asked about their news consumption, family came first with 42% of young people reporting that they heard news stories from their family on the previous day. This was followed by television (39%), a school teacher (23%), friends (22%), social media networks (22%, 35% for teens and 10% for children), radio (17%), and a website or mobile app (14%). Less than 1 in 10 young Australians said they read news stories in a newspaper (7%).

We also asked young people to nominate their overall top three preferred news sources. The most preferred source for teens is television (46%), followed by family (42%) and social media (41%). For children it is family (50%), followed by television (48%) and teachers or other adults in their life (32%).

Young Australians consume the same news as their parent/s or guardians often (20%) or sometimes (53%).

**2 Young Australians value the news. Engaging with news stories makes them feel happy, motivated and knowledgeable. But most think news organisations don't understand young people's lives and don't cover the issues that matter to them.**

Providing a mixed picture, close to half (44%) of young Australians aged 8-16 years agree that getting news is important to them while more than one third (38%) say it is not.

However, 69% of young people said the news often or sometimes makes them feel 'happy or hopeful', 'smart or knowledgeable'. Almost half (48%) said it makes them feel motivated to act or respond to situations presented in the news.

At the same time, close to two thirds (63%) of young Australians believe that news media organisations have no idea what the lives young people their age are like. One in three believe young people do not often appear on the news talking about things which affect them (34%). Less than half (38%) think that the news covers issues that matter to them.

The news topics that matter most to young people are technology (52%), news about their local community events and issues (43%). This was followed by news about education and schools (39%), news about sport (36%) and news about health issues (36%). By far, 'news about politics



including what happens in parliament' mattered the least to young people (18%) when compared with the other eight topics we asked them about.

### **3 Trust in media organisations is low. Perceptions of bias are high.**

Just 23% of young people said they trust the news stories they get from news organisations 'a lot' compared with 58% who trust the news they get from their families 'a lot'.

Young people hold strong perceptions of bias when it comes to how the news treats people.

Just 38% of young Australians believe news treats people from different race and ethnic background equally fair. In addition, only 40% believe news treats men and women equally fair.

In both cases, teenage girls perceived more bias in news stories when compared with children or teenage boys.

### **4 Social media is popular for getting news. But young people are not confident about spotting fake news online.**

One third (33%) of children and two thirds (66%) of teens often or sometimes get news from social media sites. Facebook was the most preferred social network site to get news for teens (48%). Children preferred Youtube (48%).

Just one third of young people believe they know how to tell fake news from real news (34%) with children being much less confident about this than teens (27% compared with 43%).

However, more than half of young Australians don't critique the source of news they encounter online (32% pay very little attention and 14% pay no attention at all). Just under half say they often or sometimes try to work out if a news story they encounter online is true or not (46%).

### **5 News upsets and scares young Australians. While most can talk this through with their family and teachers, a significant number cannot.**

More than half of young Australians say that news makes them often or sometimes feel afraid (57%) or angry (56%), while 71% say it makes them feel sad or upset. In each case girls are more likely to have these emotional responses, when compared with boys.

While 81% of young people feel they can talk to their parents about news stories that upset or distress them, 10% feel they cannot do this and 9% are unsure. At school, when upset or distressed by news stories, 58% of young people feel they can talk with their teachers, while 25% feel they cannot and 17% are unsure.

**6 Young Australians receive infrequent lessons about how to critique news media. News made for young people may also provide important opportunities for developing news media literacy.**

Just one in five young people said they had received lessons at school in the past year to help them work out if news stories are true and can be trusted (20%). Given this low level of media literacy education at school, the consumption of news media made especially for young people may play an important role in developing news media literacy since this kind of media often integrate an educative process. We found that 28% of teens and 57% children regularly (once a month or more) use news media created especially for children. Behind the News (BtN) was the most frequently used of these (34% of children and 14% of teens) followed by the news on ABC Me (28% of children and by 10% of teens). The comments we received in our survey about why news is important to young people not only highlights the role and value of news, but also the need for news media to be created especially for them.

*"Mum doesn't let me watch the news as it gives me scary dreams. I would like to watch news for kids that doesn't scare me."* – GIRL, 8, QLD

*"Some news is hard to understand with words [I've] never heard of. Kids' news is easier to understand."* – BOY, 13, WA

*"Mainstream news does not deal or focus on issues that affect young people or [it's] portrayed in a way that is not easily understood or accessible to kids my age."* – BOY, 16, NSW

*"News helps me to understand the world and know [what's] going on and how it might affect me and my family and friends."* – GIRL, 10, TAS



ling  
March of the  
red cross  
less: say  
safe

# Findings in detail

## How important and relevant is news to young Australians?

A little less than half (44%) of young Australians aged 8-16 years agree or strongly agree that getting news is important to them (see Figure 1). Teens felt news was slightly more important to them (47%) when compared with children (41%). More than one third (38%) of young Australians believe news is not important to them.

The survey results also suggest that the content of news may reduce young people's perceptions of its relevance (Figure 2). Less than half of Australia's young people (38%) think news covers issues that matter to them. More teens (45%) felt news covered issues that matter to them when compared with children (31%).

Of some concern is that close to two thirds of young people (63%) believe that news media organisations have no idea what young people's lives are like (68% for teens and 59% for children, see Figure 3).

The qualitative responses about how young Australians feel about the news were also mixed. News consumption is not something all children care about. One 13-year old girl from NSW provided a sentiment that was echoed by many when she stated: "Let us be kids – we don't need to worry, that's what parent[s] are for." Many reported finding news "boring" and "not relevant" to them while for some their engagement was purely practical: "for school" or "for assignments".

However, many young people expressed that they do feel passionate about the role news plays in ensuring they "know what's happening in the world".

*"News media is definitely important for young people because some day they will be expected to do certain things that will shape how the world will progress. If they are not educated in current events then they will not be able to learn from mistakes or create efficient plans to solve global problems."* – GIRL, 14, NSW

*"Young people have the right to know what's going on in the world."* – GIRL, 10, VIC

*"In order to be responsible, people need to be informed."* – BOY, 16, ACT

*"Kids need to understand the world around us and not to just get scary news like murders and hurricanes [but] more news about jobs of the future and things that will be more helpful for our age group"* – BOY, 12 QLD

*"People (like myself) want to know what is happening in the local community ... The news can be fun to watch and we can learn from it."* – GIRL, 12, QLD

*"News is important for everyone because it happens all around us and we should know what is going on. The problem is that it is just too boring."* – BOY, 16, SA

*"It is important to me because life isn't all about boys and make-up. There is a world out there, a very dangerous one, and I want to know what is happening and what potentially could affect me."* – GIRL, 14, NSW

*"My parents are worried that there are things on news that may stress me. But I am curious to know."* – GIRL, 16, QLD

*"It helps me to understand the world and know what's going on and how it might affect me and my family and friends."* – GIRL, 10, TAS

Figure 1. "Getting news stories is important to me."

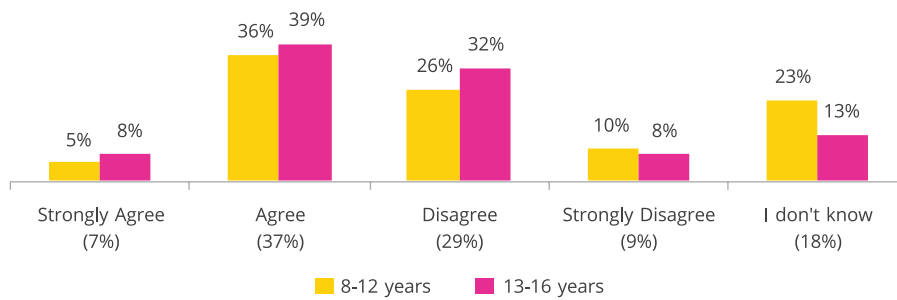


Figure 2. "The news covers issues that matter to me."

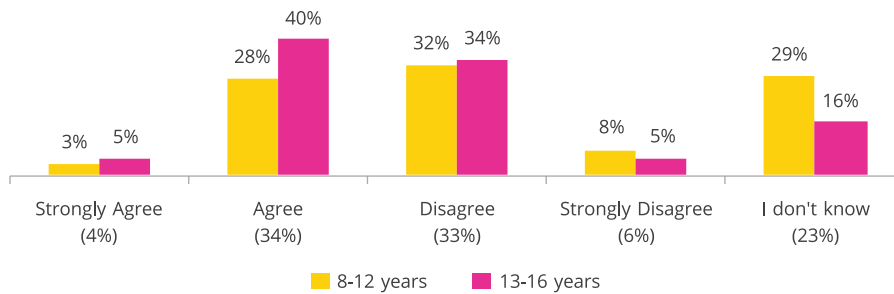
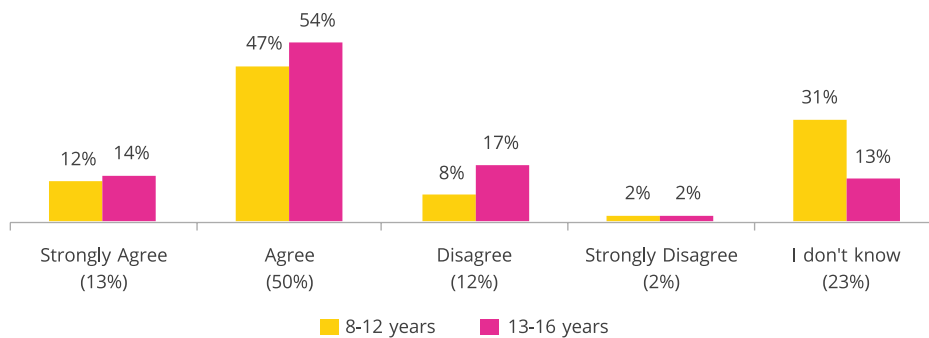


Figure 3. "Most news media have no idea what the lives of people my age are really like."



## Where young Australians source their news

### PREVIOUS DAY'S NEWS ACTIVITY

When asked about the previous day's activities (Figure 4), young Australians said they accessed news from a range of sources, including from family members (42%), television (39%), teachers at school (23%), friends (22%), social media (22%), and the radio (17%). Fewer young people accessed news the previous day from websites or mobile apps (14%), or from newspapers (7%). Almost one fifth (20%) did not access news from any of these sources on the previous day.

Teens were much more likely than children to access news on social media the previous day (35% compared to 10%) and websites or mobile apps (21% compared to 7%). Teens accessed more news the previous day than children: while one quarter (25%) of children had not accessed news from any source, the figure for teens was 14%.

### OVERALL PREFERRED NEWS SOURCES

When asked about their preferred news source (they could choose up to 3; see Figure 5), young Australians chose television first (47%), then family (46%), social media (26%), a teacher or other adult (26%), friends (22%), or websites (16%). The least favoured methods of accessing news were radio (10%), mobile phone apps (9%), and newspapers (5%).

Teens use digital technologies more often than children to access news, including social media (41% compared with 13%), websites (22% compared to 11%), and mobile phone apps (14% compared to 6%).

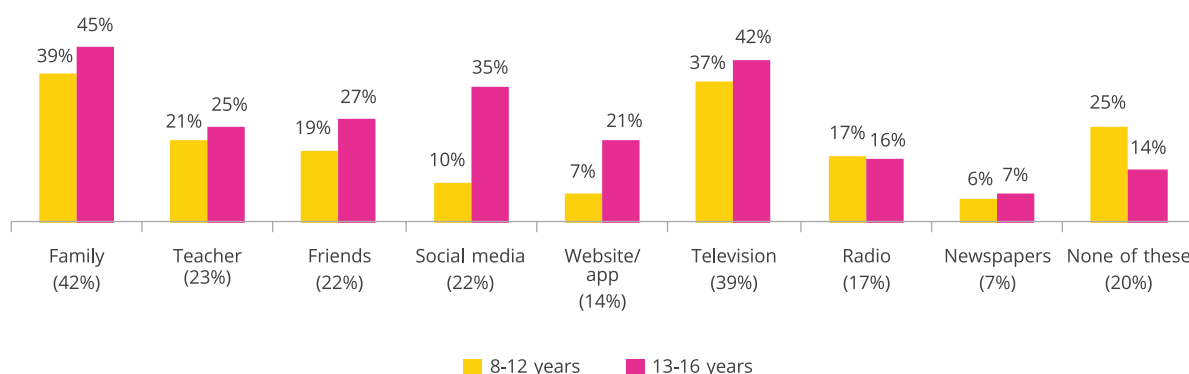
Children access news from people they know more often than teens, including family (50% compared to 42%) and other adults or teachers (32% compared to 18%).

### FREQUENCY OF NEWS ACCESS

Table 1 provides further detail about how often young people access various news sources.

Television is the most frequently used news medium, with 44% of young Australians sometimes, and 19% often accessing news this way. This is followed by social media, which they sometimes (32%) or often (16%) use and radio which they sometimes use (32%) or often use (10%). News is less frequently accessed on websites or mobile phone apps (27% sometimes, 12% often). Newspapers are accessed much less often, with 51% saying they never access newspapers and 29% hardly ever doing this.

Figure 4. "Yesterday I got news stories from ..."



**Table 1. Frequency of getting news from different sources.**

a. Overall

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Read newspapers in print	4%	16%	29%	51%
Listen to news stories on the radio	10%	32%	31%	27%
Watch news stories on television	19%	44%	26%	11%
Get news stories from a social media network	16%	32%	23%	29%
Get news stories from a website or mobile phone app	12%	27%	25%	36%
Hear about news stories from friends	17%	54%	20%	9%
Hear about news stories from family	32%	54%	10%	4%
Hear about news stories from teachers or other adults in your life	27%	57%	11%	5%

b. 8-12 years

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Read newspapers in print	4%	15%	27%	54%
Listen to news stories on the radio	10%	35%	27%	28%
Watch news stories on television	18%	43%	26%	13%
Get news stories from a social media network	9%	24%	23%	44%
Get news stories from a website or mobile phone app	8%	19%	24%	49%
Hear about news stories from friends	16%	50%	22%	12%
Hear about news stories from family	30%	53%	12%	5%
Hear about news stories from teachers or other adults in your life	27%	55%	12%	6%

c. 13-16 years

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Read newspapers in print	5%	17%	31%	47%
Listen to news stories on the radio	9%	29%	36%	26%
Watch news stories on television	20%	46%	25%	9%
Get news stories from a social media network	24%	42%	22%	12%
Get news stories from a website or mobile phone app	17%	36%	26%	21%
Hear about news stories from friends	19%	59%	18%	4%
Hear about news stories from family	36%	55%	7%	2%
Hear about news stories from teachers or other adults in your life	28%	59%	10%	3%

Young Australians indicate teachers and other adults are a regular source of news stories (57% sometimes, 27% often); as are their families (54% sometimes, 32% often); and friends (54% sometimes, 17% often).

The biggest contrast between teens and children is the frequency with which they access news stories via social media. A significant number of teens (42% sometimes and 24% often) access news on social media, whereas children use social media much less frequently (24% sometimes, 9% often). Likewise, teens use websites and mobile phone apps more often (36% sometimes, 17% often) in contrast to children (19% sometimes, 8% often).

### CONSUMING ADULT NEWS

A significant number of young Australians indicate they access the same news as their parents or guardians (Figure 6), with 53% saying they sometimes do this and 20% saying they often do. Interestingly, children access the same news as their parents and guardians almost as much as teens. For instance, 49% of children sometimes access the same news, compared to 56% of teens; and 22% of children often access the same news compared to 19% of teens. This indicates a significant number of young Australians consume news intended for an adult audience.

Not surprisingly, young Australians are most frequently with their parents or guardians when they access news (52% sometimes, 21% often, see Figure 7). They also access a significant amount of news with their teachers at school (50% sometimes, 8% often). However, 14% of young Australians say they never access news with their teachers at school (and for children, this figure rises to 16%). A significant number of young Australians access news stories by themselves (34% sometimes, 10% often); and with friends (34% sometimes, 7% often).

### WHERE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS ACCESS NEWS

Figure 8 summarises the frequency of young Australians accessing news in different places. The most popular place to access news stories is at home (49% sometimes, 42% often). However, they also regularly access news at school both in the classroom (54% sometimes, 14% often), and outside classrooms (38% sometimes, 8% often). Young Australians tend not to access news stories on public transport, with 58% saying they never do this, and a further 22% saying they hardly ever do this. School and public libraries are not usually places where young Australians access news, with 35% saying they never do this and 31% saying they hardly ever do this.

Figure 5. Preferred sources for getting news

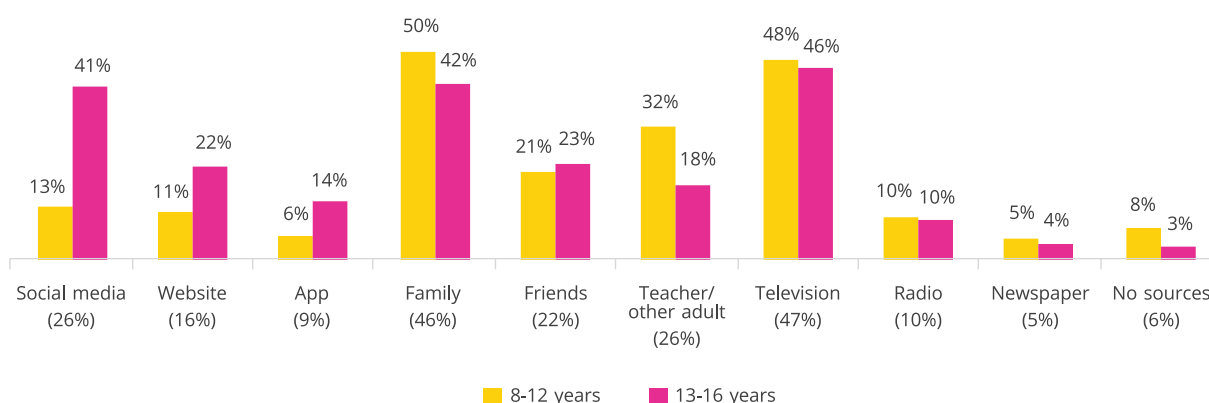




Figure 6. "How often do you consume the same news as your parent/s or guardian/s?"

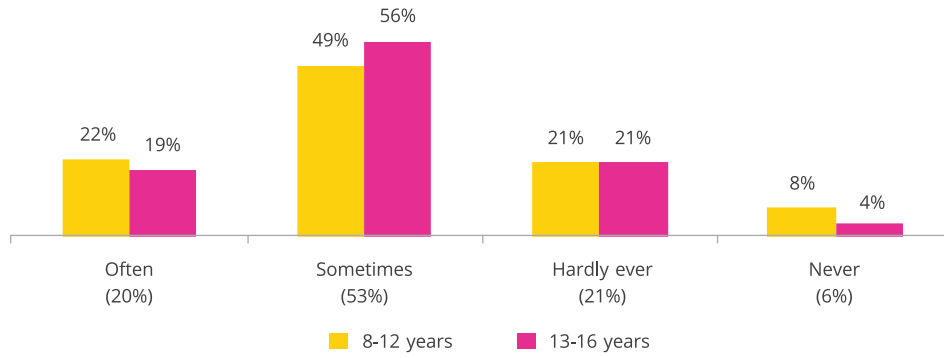


Figure 7. Young people access news stories while they are with...

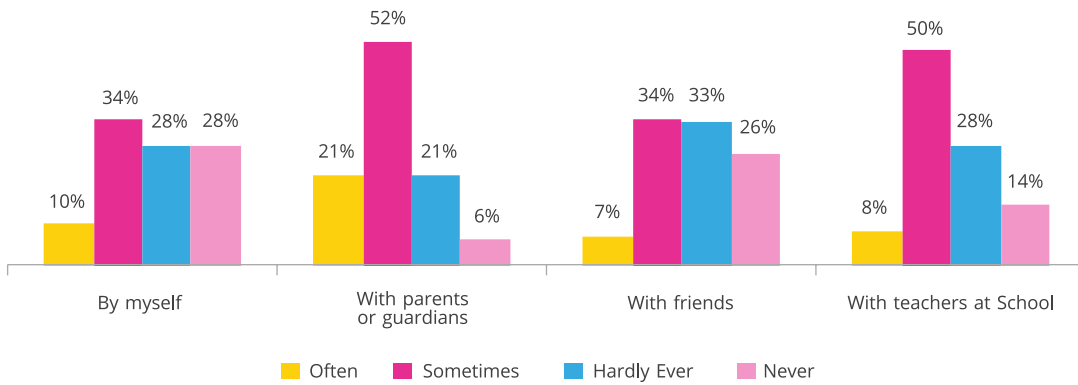
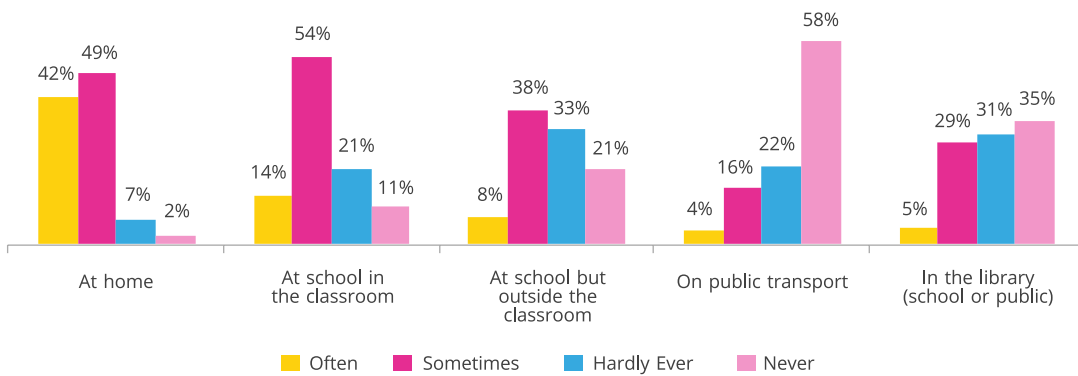


Figure 8. Where young people access news



## The use of social media to access news

When it comes to using social media to get news (Figure 9), the practices of children and teens are very different. Just under half (46%) of all children reported that they use social media to get news while around three quarters (75%) of all teens did so.

For teens, Facebook was by far the most popular social media site for getting news with over half (51%) using it for this purpose. This was followed by YouTube (30%), Instagram (22%), and Snapchat (15%). We found some significant gender differences in the results with boys using YouTube more for news when compared to girls (38% versus 21%). Teen girls use Snapchat far more for news when compared with boys (18% versus 4%).

For children, YouTube was by far the social media platform used most for news: 37% get news from this site. This was followed by Facebook (15%),

Instagram (10%) and Snapchat (6%). Again, girls were using Snapchat more than boys to get news (9% compared with 4%).

We also asked those participants who reported that they access news stories or headlines from at least one social network site, which site they most prefer to get news from (Figure 10). Facebook came out on top overall (34%) followed by YouTube (28%). Again preferences were very different for teens and children.

Teens girls and boys preferred Facebook most of all (48%) to access news. For boys the second choice was YouTube (18%) and for girls it was Instagram (14%).

Children (boys and girls) preferred YouTube (48%) followed by Facebook (17%) to access news.

Figure 9. The social networking sites young people use to get news

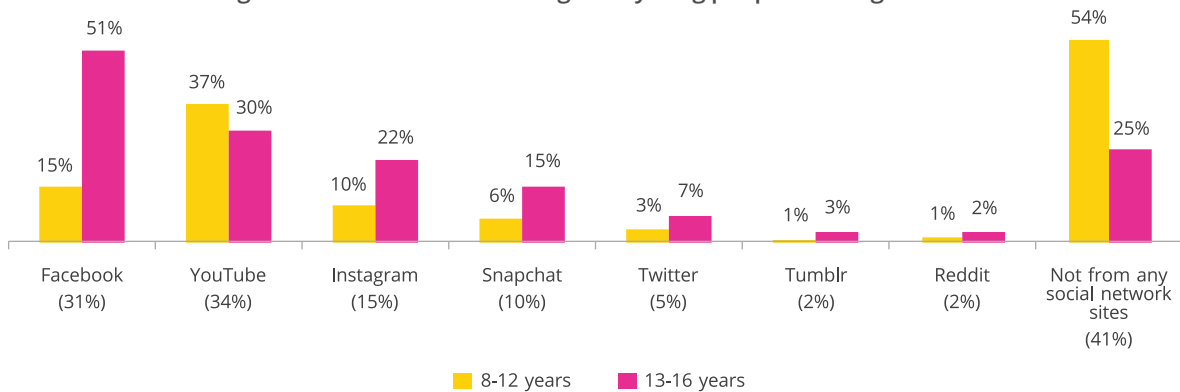
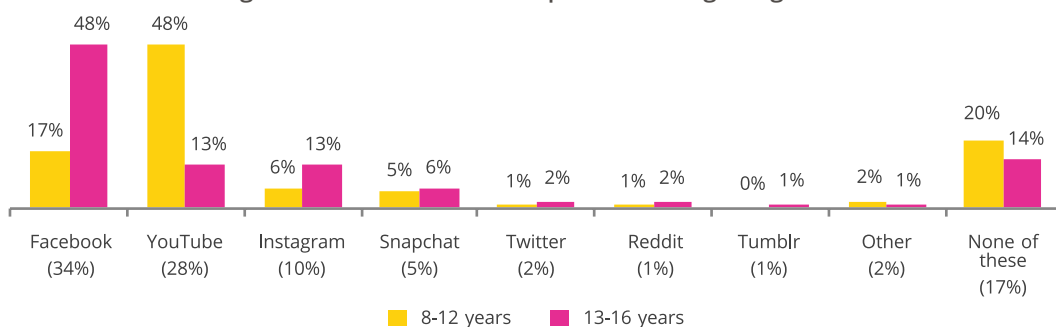


Figure 10. Social media sites preferred for getting news



## Young people's trust in the news

We asked young people how much they trust the news they get from four different sources: news organisations, friends, family and teachers (Table 2).

Of these four sources of news young people trust their families first, followed by teachers, news organisations and, finally, friends. Just 23% of young people said they trust the news stories they get from news organisations a lot, compared with 58% who trust the news they get from families. Children showed higher levels of trust toward both family and teachers.

Friends fare worst when it comes to trust with almost one third (32%) of young Australians not trusting news they get from them (not

too much and not at all). This was followed by news organisations with almost one quarter (23%) of young Australians not trusting news that comes from them much or at all. Teachers and family again fared best with only 11% not trusting the news they get from teachers and 7% not trusting the news they get from family.

Overall there were no major differences in terms of trust between age groups, although girls aged 8-12 were the most distrustful of the news provided by news organisations with just 19% trusting this source a lot, half trusting them sometimes (50%) and 26% showing low levels of trust (not too much or not all).

**Table 2. Level of trust of the news young Australian get from different sources**

a. Overall

	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	Prefer not to say
News organisations	23%	51%	17%	6%	3%
Friends	13%	53%	28%	4%	2%
Family	58%	33%	6%	1%	2%
Teachers	43%	44%	9%	2%	2%

b. 8-12 years

	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	Prefer not to say
News organisations	21%	47%	21%	7%	4%
Friends	13%	53%	27%	5%	3%
Family	62%	30%	5%	1%	2%
Teachers	49%	40%	7%	2%	2%

c. 13-16 years

	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	Prefer not to say
News organisations	24%	55%	13%	5%	2%
Friends	13%	54%	29%	3%	1%
Family	54%	36%	7%	1%	2%
Teachers	36%	48%	11%	3%	2%

## The ability to tell fake news from real news

The number of young Australians who say they can distinguish fake news stories from real ones (34% strongly agree or agree) is slightly higher than those who say they cannot (32%), as shown in Figure 11.

More Australian teens report being able to tell fake news from real news than children (43% compared to 27%). The percentage of children reporting “I don’t know” nearly doubles that of teens, indicating they either do not know the term ‘fake news’ or are unsure of their ability to identify it.

Overall, there were mixed responses about how often teens and pre-teens aim to verify the accuracy of news they encounter online (Figure 12). Only 10% said that they often try to work out whether a story presented on the internet is true. A significant number indicated they sometimes try to verify the truthfulness of news (36%); but more than half indicated they either hardly ever try (30%) or never try (24%).

There are clear age disparities when it comes to checking the veracity of news: 13% of teens often do so, but just 7% of children do. A much larger proportion of teens sometimes check accuracy (42%), while for children it was 32%. The teens figure for never checking was 15%, but it was much higher for children at 31%.

We also asked young Australians if, in the past six months, they had ever shared a news story with others that they later found out was wrong or untrue (Figure 13). Overall, a significant number (62%) said they had not, but a further 31% said they were unsure. There is little variation in this response across the age groups or between boys and girls.

Those who learnt they had shared fake news, generally said they found the experience upsetting:

*“I was at lunch with my family and told them the stuff I had found out. There was 14 of us there, and they all laughed at me and my grandpa said it was ludicrous and belittled me. I felt so small.” – GIRL, 11, VIC*

*“I was at school, I felt confused when I found out it was untrue.” – GIRL, 12, NSW*

*“[I shared] a story on terrorism at Adelaide airport and there had been a delay and delays all that day around the nation. But later the terror link proved to be false reporting ... We (family & friends) felt a bit let down by reporters when we found out the story was untrue!” – BOY, 14, ADELAIDE*

We also asked young Australians how much attention they pay to thinking about the origin of news stories, particularly those they access online (Figure 14). A significant number indicate they pay at least some attention (44%) or a lot of attention (10%) to the source of news stories. However, 32% say they pay very little attention and 14% say they pay no attention at all.

Figure 11. "I know how to tell fake news stories from real news stories."

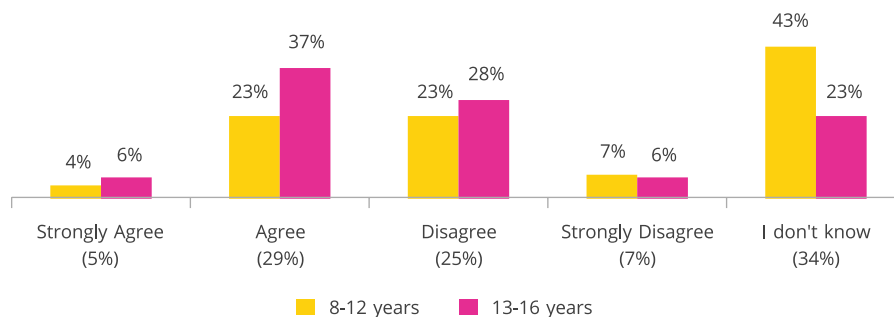


Figure 12. "How often do you try to work out if news stories you get on the internet are true?"

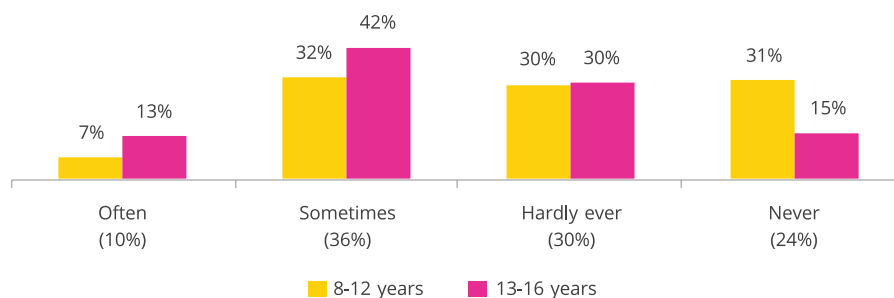


Figure 13. "In the past six months, have you shared a news story you later found was untrue?"

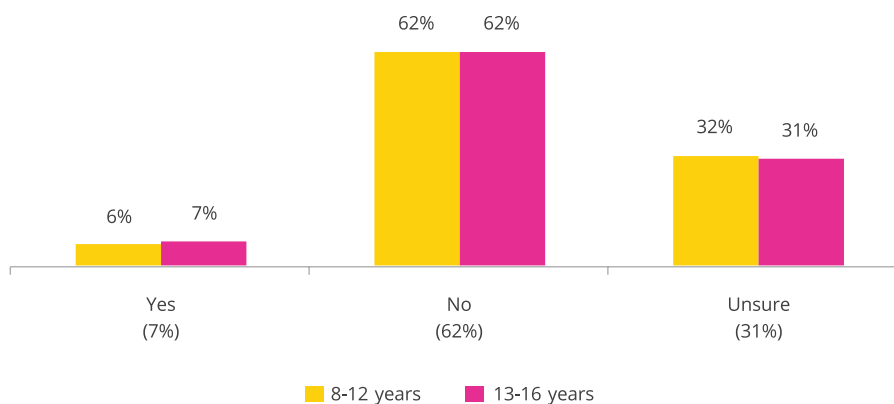
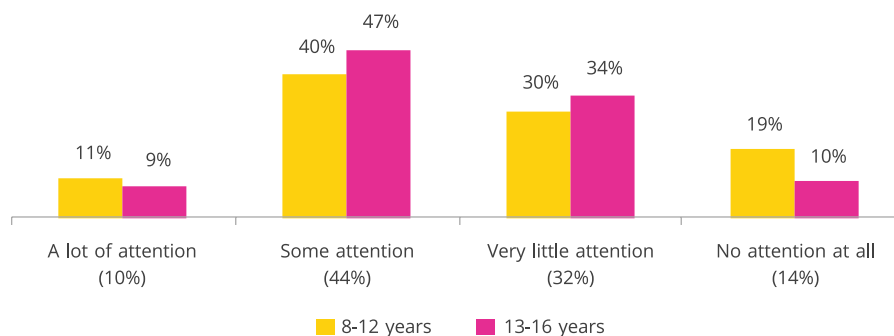


Figure 14. Attention paid to the source of news stories found online



## How news makes children feel

Young Australians have strong emotional responses to the news (Figure 15). Some 70% said news makes them sad or upset (8% often, 63% sometimes). More than half indicated that the news at least sometimes made them angry (6% often, 50% sometimes). Well over half also indicated the news at least sometimes makes them afraid (6% often, 51% sometimes).

Both children and teens also have strong positive emotions in response to news. Almost 70% said the news at least sometimes made them feel happy or hopeful (7% often, 62% sometimes). Almost half said they sometimes feel motivated to act or respond to the situation presented in the news (6% often, 42% sometimes). Furthermore, almost 70% indicated that the news sometimes made them feel smart or knowledgeable (10% often, 59% sometimes).

There were no significant age variations in the responses to this question, but there were differences between boys and girls, particularly in relation to 'negative' emotions (see Table 3). For

instance, while 69% of girls say they sometimes feel sad or upset in response to news stories, boys were 11% lower at 58%. Likewise, girls are more likely to be afraid in response to news (57% sometimes, 8% often) than boys (45% sometimes, 5% often). The news is also slightly more likely to make girls angry (50% sometimes, 9% often), compared to boys (49% sometimes, 5% often).

We asked young Australians if they believe they are able to talk about news stories that distress or upset them with their family or teachers (Figure 16 and Figure 17). Most agree they can talk to their parents about distressing news (56% agree, 25% strongly agree), but fewer say they can talk to their teachers (52% agree, 6% strongly agree). A quarter of young Australians say they cannot talk to their teachers about upsetting news stories (20% disagree, 5% strongly disagree), while 10% say they can't talk to their parents about upsetting news stories (7% disagree and 3% strongly disagree). There are no significant differences across age and gender in relation to this question.

Figure 15. How children feel when they consume news media

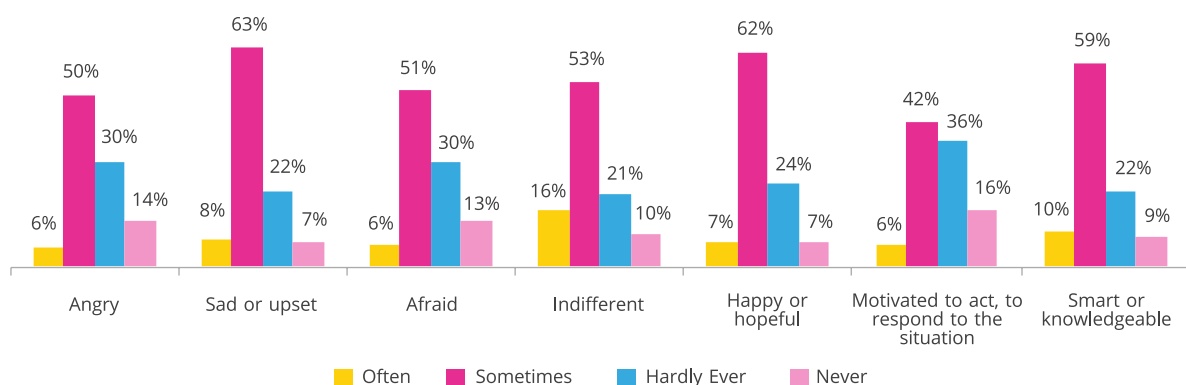


Figure 16. "I am able to talk about news stories that distress or upset me with my family."

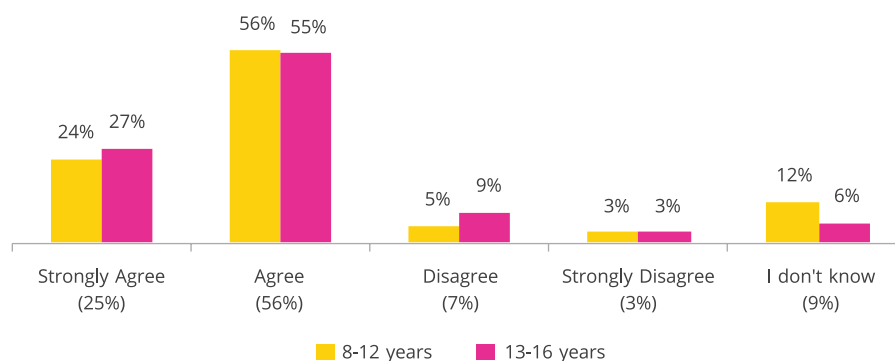


Figure 17. "I am able to talk about news stories that distress or upset me with my teachers."

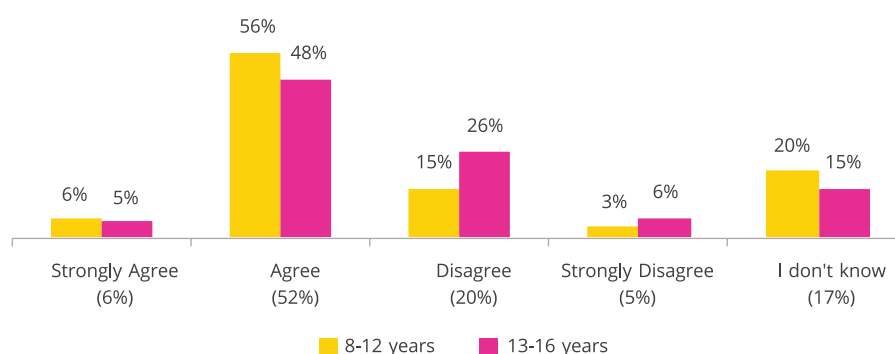


Table 3. How boys and girls feel when they consume news media

a. Boys

TABLE 3

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Angry	5%	49%	31%	15%
Sad or upset	7%	58%	27%	8%
Afraid	5%	45%	35%	15%
Indifferent	17%	52%	20%	11%
Happy or hopeful	7%	60%	26%	7%
Motivated to act, to respond to the situation	6%	39%	38%	17%
Smart or knowledgeable	12%	58%	22%	8%

a. Girls

	Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never
Angry	9%	50%	29%	12%
Sad or upset	9%	69%	16%	6%
Afraid	8%	57%	25%	10%
Indifferent	15%	55%	22%	8%
Happy or hopeful	7%	64%	22%	7%
Motivated to act, to respond to the situation	6%	45%	34%	15%
Smart or knowledgeable	10%	60%	21%	9%

## Perceptions of bias in the news

When it comes to perceptions of bias in terms of the treatment of people from different race and ethnic backgrounds (see Figure 18), slightly more young Australians believe people are treated “equally fair” by the news media (38%) rather than not (33%). A high number of young people (29%) say they ‘don’t know’ if this is the case (39% for pre-teens and 17% of teens) suggesting this may be something they have not thought about or feel they are able to critique. Close to an equal number of teen boys agree and disagree that people of different race and ethnic backgrounds are treated equally fair in the news (42% for each). Teen girls were most likely to perceive bias in news reporting with 35% agreeing people of different race and ethnic backgrounds are treated equally in the news and almost half (45%) believing this is not the case.

There were similar results when we asked about perceptions of gender bias in terms of the treatment of men and women on the news (Figure 19).

Overall 40% of young Australians believe men and women are treated equally fair in news media, while 27% think this is not the case and 33% stating they don’t know. Boys feel more strongly that women are treated fairly: almost half (46%) believe women are treated equally compared with 35% for girls. Teen girls were again most likely to perceive bias in news reporting with 41% stating men and women are not treated equally fair.

Overall the greatest perception of bias highlighted in the survey was in relation to the representation of young people. Figure 20 shows that more young Australians believe young people do often appear on the news talking about things which affect them (41%) compared with those who do not believe this (34%). More teens believe that young people appear on the news talking about things which affect them when compared with children (43% compared with 37% strongly agree or agree this is the case).

Figure 18. “News treats people of different race and ethnic backgrounds equally fair.”

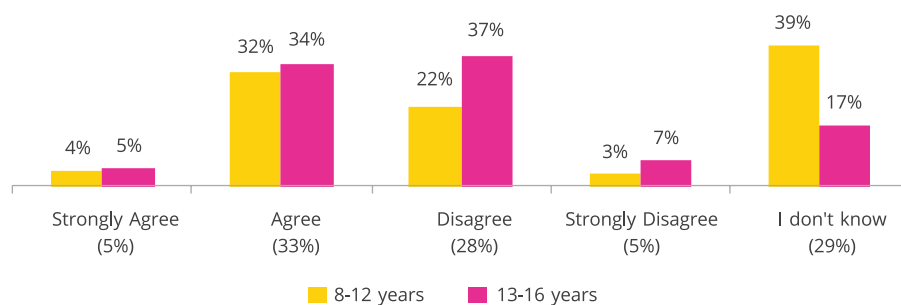




Figure 19. "News treats men and women equally."

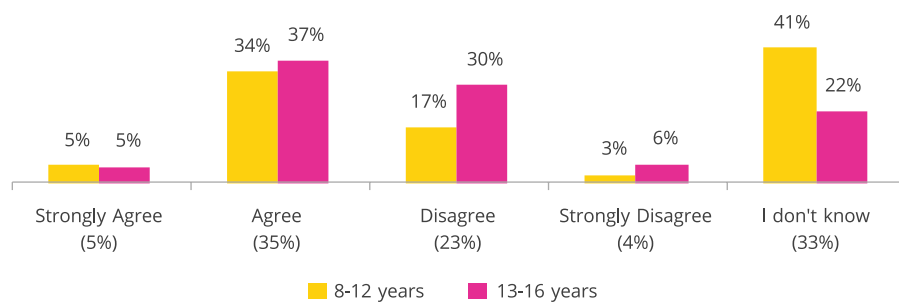
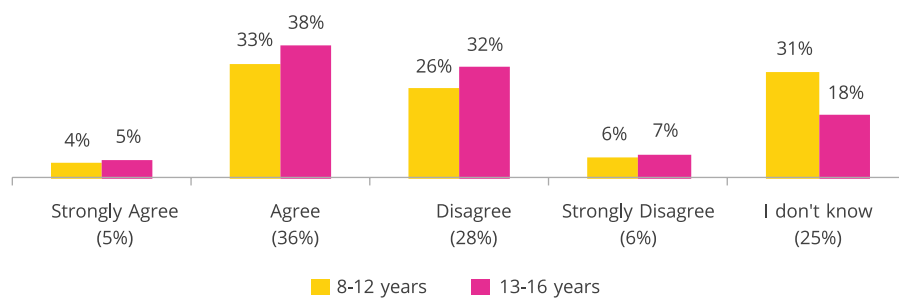


Figure 20. "Young people often appear on the news talking about things which affect them."



## News topics that matter to young people

The news topic rated most important by young Australians (ranked 4 or 5) is technology (52%). This was followed by events and issues in their local community (43%) and news about education and schools (39%). News about sport and news about health issues were also ranked well with 36% each. By far, 'news about politics including what happens in parliament' received the least number of important ratings (18%).

There were some differences between age group categories. Not surprisingly, teens value 'news about the economy and employment issues' more than children (24% compared with 18%). Children valued news about education and schools more (42% compared with 35%).

There were also differences between boys' and girls' rankings of the most important news topics. Girls rate news about celebrities and entertainment more important than boys (37% compared to 20%), whereas boys more highly value news about technology (60% compared to 44% for girls) and sports (44% compared to 27% for girls).

**Table 4. The news topics rated most important by young Australians**

a. Overall

	1 - Not at all important	2	3	4	5 - Very important
News about crime and violence	15%	19%	36%	20%	10%
News about health issues involving doctors and medicine	13%	20%	31%	24%	12%
News about the economy and employment issues	27%	25%	27%	15%	6%
News about education and schools	11%	16%	34%	24%	15%
News about events and issues in your local community	8%	15%	34%	29%	14%
News about celebrities and entertainment	22%	21%	29%	19%	9%
News about technology	6%	11%	31%	34%	18%
News about sport	21%	17%	26%	20%	16%
News about politics including what happens in Parliament	32%	26%	24%	12%	6%

**Table 4. News topics that young people rate as important (continued)**

b. 8-12 years

	1 - Not at all important	2	3	4	5 - Very important
News about crime and violence	21%	20%	31%	18%	10%
News about health issues involving doctors and medicine	16%	19%	29%	23%	13%
News about the economy and employment issues	34%	24%	24%	14%	4%
News about education and schools	12%	13%	33%	26%	16%
News about events and issues in your local community	9%	13%	32%	30%	16%
News about celebrities and entertainment	25%	21%	28%	17%	9%
News about technology	10%	11%	29%	32%	18%
News about sport	20%	15%	29%	20%	16%
News about politics including what happens in Parliament	36%	24%	22%	11%	7%

c. 13-16 years

	1 - Not at all important	2	3	4	5 - Very important
News about crime and violence	8%	17%	43%	21%	11%
News about health issues involving doctors and medicine	10%	21%	33%	25%	11%
News about the economy and employment issues	17%	27%	32%	15%	9%
News about education and schools	10%	20%	35%	22%	13%
News about events and issues in your local community	6%	17%	36%	29%	12%
News about celebrities and entertainment	19%	21%	30%	22%	8%
News about technology	3%	11%	33%	35%	18%
News about sport	23%	19%	23%	21%	14%
News about politics including what happens in Parliament	27%	29%	25%	13%	6%

## News literacy and young Australians

Young Australians have mixed opinions about whether or not they want to access to news that is made specifically for their age group (Figure 21). Overall, 45% agree young people should have their own news, while 40% say they do not know, which may indicate a lack of clarity about the question, or a lack of exposure to news oriented towards young people. Girls aged 8-12 indicate the strongest preference for having news made specifically for young people (with 53% agreeing); however, 39% of teens (aged 13-16) agree that they want news targeted at their age group.

Young Australians in favour of news made specifically for them provided a range of reasons:

*"...Too many kids don't know what is happening in the world and will need to if we want to make a difference to this world, and WE should be the ones to make a difference since [we] have a longer time left on earth compared to adults on earth, and if we had a news media made for us then we would be able to understand what is going on in earth in a way we understand."* – GIRL, 12, SA

*"Some news is hard to understand with words [I've] never heard if. Kids news is easier to understand."* – BOY, 13, WA

*"Adult news is scary."* – BOY, 14, NSW

*"Adults have a tendency to make young people feel inferior simple because of the le[n]gth of time they have lived. If [adults] were not so fully immersed in a platform of news media, I believe it would give young people an opportunity to express their opinions, ideas and beliefs in an environment where they will not feel embarrassed or stupid to do so."* – GIRL, 14, NSW

*"...mainstream news does not deal or focus on issues that [affect] young people or its portrayed in a way that is not easily understood or accessible to kids my age."* – BOY, 16, NSW

When asked if they use news media made for young people (Figure 22), a significant number of young Australians say they do not (56%). *Behind the News* (BtN), which has been broadcast for almost 48 years, is the most popular news source directed at young Australians, particularly children, with 34% of this age group saying they use it. ABC Me is used by 28% of children to access news. Teens, however, are less frequent users of BtN (14%) and ABC Me (10%). A very significant 72% of teens say they do not access new specifically made

Figure 21. "Do you think young people need news media that is made just for them?"

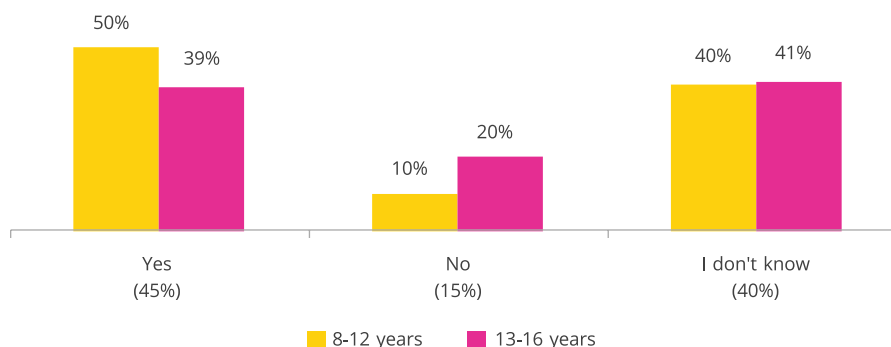


Figure 22. Consumption of news made for young people

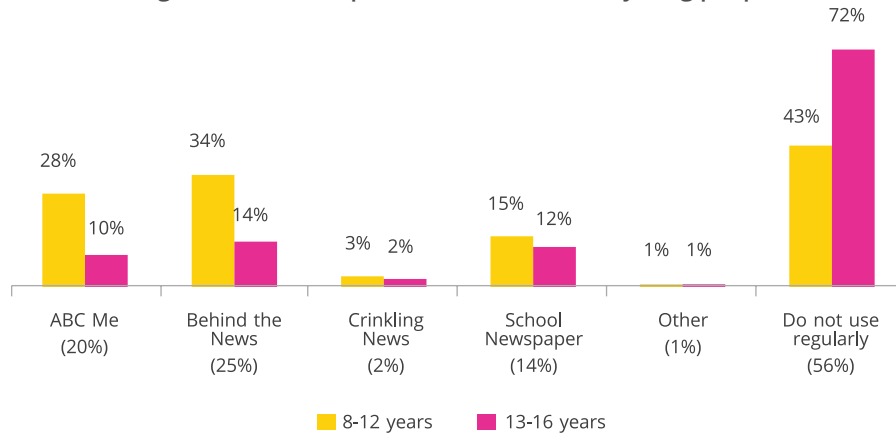
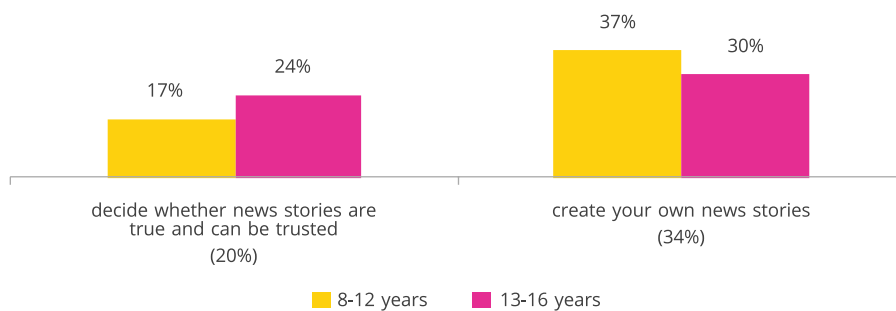


Figure 23. "Have you received any lessons at school to help you ...?"



for young people, perhaps indicating a lack of Australian news media directed at this age group.

*"I like BtN but we don't use it at school anymore. it was always interesting and had people you could relate to."* – GIRL, 13, NSW

*"I've watched ABC Me and Behind the News a few times. I think they are good as they use words that us kids can understand what's going on."* – GIRL, 13, QLD

*"I really enjoy watching [BtN] with my class at school and then coming home and talking to my parents about what I saw"* – BOY, 11, QLD

*"I love [BtN]. I always watch this show because I learn a lot of things."* – BOY, 9, VIC

*"Our school magazine is great, we all get a copy and I enjoy reading it. Sometimes, I get my own story in the school magazine."* – GIRL, 11, QLD

We explored young Australians' news literacy development at school, by asking about their critical engagement with news stories and their opportunities to create their own news stories (see Figure 23). When asked if they had lessons during the past year to help them decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted, just 20% said yes, while another 26% were unsure.

While 24 % of teens say they were exposed to critical thinking about the news during the past year, only 17% of children say they had this experience. A significant number of young Australians (34%) say they participated in lessons at school over the past year to help them create their own news stories. This includes 30% of teens and 37% of children.

# Conclusion

We conclude this report by putting forward some issues we have identified and potential responses to them. In our next steps we will discuss these issues with young Australians as a route toward making recommendations for change to parents/guardians, policy makers, politicians, teachers and news producers.

## ***Young Australians think news media organisations neglect them***

Journalists need to become more aware of their young audiences and make an effort to report on stories of interest to them. The Australian Press Council and the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance should regularly consult with young people about policies and advocacy about the representation of young people in the news. Young people should also become involved in news production so they are able to tell their own stories and see themselves better represented.

## ***Only one third of young Australians believe they can tell fake news from real news***

There is a need to more effectively educate young Australians about fake news. High quality and engaging educational materials for parents/guardians, teachers and young people should be produced.

## ***Young Australians have strong emotional responses to news stories***

Parents/guardians, teachers and other responsible adults should be mindful of the news stories children and young people have access to and should be available to discuss distressing content with them. Equally, adults should recognise that the news often makes young Australians feel motivated and knowledgeable and should find opportunities to discuss news events with young people.

## ***Teens are not well catered for by news producers***

Children are better served with the existence of the

Australian Broadcasting Corporations' (ABC) *Behind the News* and ABC Me and the independently-produced *Crinkling News* newspaper. Older teens and young adults can turn to ABC radio's youth-oriented Hack current affairs segment on Triple J. However, there are few options available for teens aged 13 to 16 to access age-appropriate news. While this group did not show a specific interest in news tailored for their age group, we suspect this is partly because they have little opportunity to access this kind of news. As the national broadcaster, the ABC should investigate how it might better serve younger teens.

## ***Young people do not trust news organisations and are not reading print newspapers***

There is an opportunity for well-produced print newspapers aimed at young people to become the basis of discussions about the news' role in society. Print newspapers used in school and at home, for instance, may open up discussions with teachers and parents about the history of news production and its role in the democratic process. Discussions about the implications of commercial news production and different styles of news may assist young Australians to make informed judgements about news quality.

## ***Young Australians need more frequent school opportunities to develop media literacy***

Media literacy learning opportunities should be more frequently available in schools to ensure young Australians are well prepared to engage with news media. Australia has an existing framework for media literacy education through the Australian curriculum, 'media arts'. This document provides the teachers with support to ask critical questions about news accuracy, believability, bias, misrepresentation and ethical practice, and well as opportunities for students to make their own news stories. To date, too few schools have implemented this curriculum.

# Methodology

## THE SURVEY PROCESS

Our online survey was conducted between September 19 to 29, 2017. We employed one of Australia's largest and most established online survey companies to survey 1,000 young people aged 8-16 years.

To ensure widespread representation we used representative interlocking age (8-12 and 13-16) and gender (boy and girl) categories. We also included representative interlocking state (NSW/ACT, VIC/TAS, QLD, SA/NT, WA) and region categories (metro, inner regional, outer regional/remote). Targets for each of these categories were set according to Australian Bureau of Statistics proportions.

The participants are broken down in Table 5 by a number of these categories (excluding regional categories).

Overall 2548 adults received an invitation for their children to participate in a survey. At this stage, to avoid participation bias, no information was provided about the survey's focus. These adults were initially asked their postcode and if they had any children aged 8-16 years. A total of 594 (23%) stated they did not have children in this age group and were screened out on this basis, while 14 (.5%) were screened out for providing an invalid postcode. In addition, 366 (18%) respondents were screened out because the quotas for gender, age or location were already met. If adults stated they did have a child or children aged 8-16 years they were asked if they would permit them to participate in the survey after reading an information sheet about the survey's focus. We also suggested that a parent or guardian be present to assist children aged 12 and under with any questions in the survey they do not understand. At this stage 191 (7.5%) adults declined to invite their child to participate or their child declined to participate. Finally, 36 (1%) respondents were screened out because of inconsistencies made between responses from parents and children regarding the child's age and/or gender while an additional 257 (11%) were screened out because they did not complete the survey.

## SURVEY DESIGN

Most of the questions in our survey were based on one designed and implemented in the United States by Common Sense Media. We adapted this survey with their permission. The Common Sense survey was in turn based partly on a survey designed and implemented by Pew Research Center for an adult population. After preliminary testing with young Australians, we adapted many of the questions for a local context. We also added additional questions to assess news media literacy training in schools and use of Australian made child-focused news media.

The survey was tested to take an average of 15 minutes to complete.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The online survey company we used is an established, Australian online data collection agency. Unlike many online survey companies, the company we selected use post, phone, print and online recruitment methods to build their online panel and this process is independently audited. This ensures significantly improved representation when compared other panels that rely on only online recruitment methods and avoids the bias that may result based on demographic media practice trends. All members of the the survey company team are based in Australia and all data is stored in Australia. The company is accredited with ISO 20252 and ISO 26362 Global Panel Standard.

Each initial respondent (adult) was rewarded based on whether they completed the survey or were screened out because the quota had been filled. The rewards provided can be used to redeem a shopping gift card. A survey completion was given a rewards valued at \$2. The small incentives provided by this company are delivered to members by post to a physical address as this has numerous data quality benefits in terms of enhanced validation of respondents.

The data we received was de-identified and on agreement the survey company removed all copies they had of the data once it was received by us.

## DATA PROCESSING

The data were screened by frequency in SPSS to identify skip-patterns and out of range values. All questions in Likert Scale forms were eyeballed to locate any patterned selection, e.g. selection in same categories across all items, or selections in a zig zag pattern. No errors or inconsistencies were found. As a result no panel respondents were removed from analysis for this report.

**Table 5. Number of participants.**

	<b>Total</b>	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	316	236	213	102	72	29	12	20
Gender									
Boys	<b>510</b>	160	120	105	56	36	16	8	9
Girls	<b>490</b>	156	116	108	46	36	13	4	11
Age									
8-12 years	<b>546</b>	160	151	118	44	41	17	5	10
13-16 years	<b>454</b>	156	85	95	58	31	12	7	10



# About the authors

**Dr Tanya Notley** investigates the social and cultural impact of communication technologies. She collaborates with a number of media literacy, human rights and social justice organisations to design communication initiatives. Her research has examined the ways government policy, schools, parents and libraries can enable young people to access and use digital technologies effectively. At Western Sydney University, Tanya is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a Senior Researcher with the Institute for Culture and Society.

**A/Prof Michael Dezuanni** undertakes research about digital media, literacies and learning in home, school and community contexts. He is the Associate Director of Queensland University of Technology's Digital Media Research Centre within the Creative Industries Faculty. He was the expert advisor for Media Arts to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority during the development of the Australian Curriculum and he is an honorary life member of Australian Teachers of Media, Queensland in recognition of his contributions to the field of Media Literacy.

**Dr Hua Flora Zhong** has rich experience in managing research activities throughout the life cycle of projects, and undertaking advanced quantitative and qualitative analysis for studies in the fields of education, applied linguistics, gender studies and educational psychology. Flora has also worked on a number of large scale research projects funded by the Australian Research Council in educational and social psychology, school education, and Indigenous education. As a Senior Research Officer at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, Flora is responsible for providing high level research support and coordinating the day-to-day management of research activities of the Institute.

**Saffron Howden** is the co-founder and editor of *Crinkling News*, the only national newspaper for young Australians. She has been a journalist for over 16 years, including for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Daily Telegraph*, Australian Associated Press (AAP) and BBC Australia.

# Appendix: Toplines

Q4. In the past one month, have you used any of the following social-networking sites?

Base: 8-12 years (N=546)

YouTube	85%
Another social media network site	23%
I did not use any social media network sites	13%

Base: 13-16 years (N=454)

YouTube	73%
Facebook	64%
Instagram	59%
Snapchat	54%
Twitter	13%
Tumblr	4%
Reddit	4%
Another social media network site	4%
I did not use any social media network sites	5%

Q5. How often do you do each of the following activities?

a. Read Newspapers in print (%)

Often/Sometimes (NET)	20%
Often	4%
Sometimes	16%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	80%
Hardly ever	29%
Never	51%

c. Watch news stories on television

Often/Sometimes (NET)	63%
Often	19%
Sometimes	44%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	37%
Hardly ever	26%
Never	11%

b. Listen to news stories on the radio

Often/Sometimes (NET)	42%
Often	10%
Sometimes	32%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	58%
Hardly ever	31%
Never	27%

d. Get news stories from a social media network

Often/Sometimes (NET)	48%
Often	16%
Sometimes	32%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	52%
Hardly ever	23%
Never	29%

**Q5. How often do you do each of the following activities? (continued)**

e. Get news stories from a website or mobile phone app

Often/Sometimes (NET)	39%
Often	12%
Sometimes	27%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	61%
Hardly ever	25%
Never	36%

g. Hear about news stories from family

Often/Sometimes (NET)	86%
Often	32%
Sometimes	54%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	14%
Hardly ever	10%
Never	4%

f. Hear about news stories from friends

Often/Sometimes (NET)	71%
Often	17%
Sometimes	54%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	29%
Hardly ever	20%
Never	9%

h. Hear about news stories from teachers or other adults in your life

Often/Sometimes (NET)	84%
Often	27%
Sometimes	57%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	16%
Hardly ever	11%
Never	5%

**Q6. Do you watch/read/listen to the same news as your parent/s or guardian/s?**

Often/Sometimes (NET)	73%
Often	20%
Sometimes	53%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	27%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	6%

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Q7. Which of the below activities, if any, did you do yesterday?

News from friends/family/teacher (NET)	87%
Heard news stories from my family	42%
Heard news from a teacher at school	23%
Heard news stories from friends	22%
News Online (NET)	36%
Got news stories from a social media network	22%
Got news stories from a website or mobile phone app	14%
Traditional (NET)	63%
Watched news stories on television	39%
Listened to news stories on the radio	17%
Read news stories in newspapers	7%
None of these	20%

---

Q8. Where would you prefer to get news stories from?

Friends/family/teacher (NET)	94%
Heard news stories from my family	46%
Heard news from a teacher at school	22%
Heard news stories from a teacher or other adult in my life	26%
News Online (NET)	51%
Got news stories from a social media network	26%
Got news stories from a website or mobile phone app	25%
Traditional (NET)	62%
Watched news stories on television	47%
Listened to news stories on the radio	10%
Read news stories in newspapers	5%
None of these	6%

Q9. How often are you in the following places when you hear or see news?

a. At home

Often/Sometimes (NET)	91%
Often	42%
Sometimes	49%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	9%
Hardly ever	7%
Never	2%

b. At school in the classroom

Often/Sometimes (NET)	68%
Often	14%
Sometimes	54%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	32%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	11%

c. At school but outside the classroom

Often/Sometimes (NET)	46%
Often	8%
Sometimes	38%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	54%
Hardly ever	33%
Never	21%

d. On public transport

Often/Sometimes (NET)	20%
Often	4%
Sometimes	16%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	80%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	58%

e. In the library (school or public)

Often/Sometimes (NET)	34%
Often	5%
Sometimes	29%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	66%
Hardly ever	31%
Never	35%

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Q10. How often do you access news stories when you are...

a. by yourself

Often/Sometimes (NET)	44%
Often	10%
Sometimes	34%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	56%
Hardly ever	28%
Never	28%

b. with your parent/s or guardian/s

Often/Sometimes (NET)	73%
Often	21%
Sometimes	52%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	27%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	6%

d. with your friend/s

Often/Sometimes (NET)	41%
Often	7%
Sometimes	34%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	59%
Hardly ever	33%
Never	26%

d. with your teacher/s at school

Often/Sometimes (NET)	58%
Often	8%
Sometimes	50%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	42%
Hardly ever	28%
Never	14%

Q11. How much, if at all, do you trust the news stories you get from...

a. news organisations

A lot/Some (NET)	74%
A lot	23%
Some	51%
Not too much/Not at all (NET)	23%
Not too much	17%
Not at all	6%
Preferred not to say	3%

c. family

A lot/Some (NET)	91%
A lot	58%
Some	33%
Not too much/Not at all (NET)	7%
Not too much	6%
Not at all	1%
Preferred not to say	2%

b. friends

A lot/Some (NET)	66%
A lot	13%
Some	53%
Not too much/Not at all (NET)	32%
Not too much	28%
Not at all	4%
Preferred not to say	2%

d. teachers

A lot/Some (NET)	87%
A lot	43%
Some	44%
Not too much/Not at all (NET)	11%
Not too much	9%
Not at all	2%
Preferred not to say	2%

Q12. Do you ever get news stories or news headlines on any of the social media network sites listed below?

Facebook	31%
Twitter	5%
Instagram	15%
Tumblr	2%
YouTube	34%
Reddit	2%
Snapchat	10%
I do not get news or news headlines on any social media network sites	41%

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**Q13. On which of social media sites listed below do you most prefer to get news stories or news headlines?**

Base: Young Australian who get news stories or headlines from one of the social media network sites from Q12 (N=590)

Facebook	34%
Twitter	2%
Instagram	10%
Tumblr	1%
YouTube	28%
Reddit	1%
Snapchat	5%
other	2%
None of these	17%

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**Q14. When you follow a link to a news story on a social media network site, how much attention, if any, do you pay to thinking about who made the news story?**

Base: Young Australian who get news stories or headlines from one of the social media network sites from Q12 (N=590)

A lot/Some attention (NET)	54%
A lot of attention	10%
Some attention	44%
Very little/No attention (NET)	46%
Very little attention	32%
No attention at all	14%

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**Q15. In the past six months, have you shared a news story on social media?**

Base: Young Australian who get news stories or headlines from one of the social media network sites from Q12 (N=590)

Yes	No	Unsure
22%	67%	11%



Q15b. When you are using the internet (including social media) and you see news stories, how often do you try to work out whether or not the news story is true?

Often/Sometimes (NET)	46%
Often	10%
Sometimes	36%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	54%
Hardly ever	30%
Never	24%

Q16. In the past six months, have you shared a news story with others that you later found out was wrong or untrue?

Yes	No	Unsure
7%	62%	31%

Q17. When you watch, read or hear about news stories, do you feel...?

a. angry

Often/Sometimes (NET)	56%
Often	6%
Sometimes	50%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	44%
Hardly ever	30%
Never	14%

c. afraid

Often/Sometimes (NET)	57%
Often	6%
Sometimes	51%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	43%
Hardly ever	30%
Never	13%

b. sad or upset

Often/Sometimes (NET)	71%
Often	8%
Sometimes	63%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	29%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	7%

d. indifferent

Often/Sometimes (NET)	69%
Often	16%
Sometimes	53%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	31%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	10%

Q17. When you watch, read or hear about news stories, do you feel...? (continued)

e. happy or hopeful

Often/Sometimes (NET)	69%
Often	7%
Sometimes	62%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	31%
Hardly ever	24%
Never	7%

g. smart or knowledgeable

Often/Sometimes (NET)	69%
Often	10%
Sometimes	59%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	31%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	9%

f. Motivated to act, to respond to the situation

Often/Sometimes (NET)	48%
Often	6%
Sometimes	42%
Hardly ever/Never (NET)	52%
Hardly ever	36%
Never	16%

Q18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a. The news covers issues that matter to me.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	38%
Strongly Agree	4%
Agree	34%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	39%
Disagree	33%
Strongly disagree	6%
I don't know	23%

b. Getting news stories is important to me.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	44%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	37%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	38%
Disagree	29%
Strongly disagree	9%
I don't know	18%

Q18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (continued)

c. News treats people of different race and ethnic backgrounds equally fair.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	38%
Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	33%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	33%
Disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	5%
I don't know	29%

f. Young people often appear on the news talking about things which affect them.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	41%
Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	36%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	34%
Disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	6%
I don't know	25%

d. News treats women and men equally fair.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	40%
Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	35%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	27%
Disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	4%
I don't know	33%

g. Most news media have no idea what the lives of people my age are really like.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	63%
Strongly Agree	13%
Agree	50%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	14%
Disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	2%
I don't know	23%

e. I know how to tell fake news stories from real news stories.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	34%
Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	29%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	32%
Disagree	25%
Strongly disagree	7%
I don't know	34%

h. I am able to talk about news stories that distress or upset me with my family.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	81%
Strongly Agree	25%
Agree	56%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	10%
Disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	3%
I don't know	9%

Q18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (continued)

i. I am able to talk about news stories that distress or upset me with my teacher/s.

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	58%
Strongly Agree	6%
Agree	52%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	25%
Disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	5%
I don't know	17%

Q19. On a scale of 1-5 how important is it for you hear about the following topics?

a. News about crime and violence

Very important/important (NET)	34%
Very important	15%
Important	19%
Moderately important	36%
Slightly/not important (NET)	30%
Slightly important	20%
Not at all important	10%

c. News about the economy and employment issues

Very important/important (NET)	52%
Very important	27%
Important	25%
Moderately important	27%
Slightly/not important (NET)	21%
Slightly important	15%
Not at all important	6%

b. News about health issues involving doctors and medicine

Very important/important (NET)	33%
Very important	13%
Important	20%
Moderately important	31%
Slightly/not important (NET)	36%
Slightly important	24%
Not at all important	12%

d. News about education and schools

Very important/important (NET)	27%
Very important	11%
Important	16%
Moderately important	34%
Slightly/not important (NET)	39%
Slightly important	24%
Not at all important	15%

Q19. On a scale of 1-5 how important is it for you hear about the following topics? (continued)

e. News about events and issues in your local community

Very important/important (NET)	23%
Very important	8%
Important	15%
Moderately important	34%
Slightly/not important (NET)	43%
Slightly important	29%
Not at all important	14%

h. News about sport

Very important/important (NET)	38%
Very important	21%
Important	17%
Moderately important	26%
Slightly/not important (NET)	36%
Slightly important	20%
Not at all important	16%

f. News about celebrities and entertainment

Very important/important (NET)	43%
Very important	22%
Important	21%
Moderately important	29%
Slightly/not important (NET)	28%
Slightly important	19%
Not at all important	9%

i. News about politics including what happens in Parliament

Very important/important (NET)	58%
Very important	32%
Important	26%
Moderately important	24%
Slightly/not important (NET)	18%
Slightly important	12%
Not at all important	6%

g. News about technology

Very important/important (NET)	17%
Very important	6%
Important	11%
Moderately important	31%
Slightly/not important (NET)	52%
Slightly important	34%
Not at all important	18%

Q20. Do you think young people need news media that is made just for them?

Yes	No	I don't know
45%	15%	40%

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Q21. Do you regularly (once a month or more) use any of the following news media that have been created for young people?

ABC Me	20%
<i>Crinkling News</i>	2%
<i>Behind the News</i> (BtN)	25%
School newspaper	14%
Other	1%
Do not use regularly	56%

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Q22. In the past year, have you had any lessons at school to help you decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted?

Yes	No	Not sure
20%	54%	26%

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Q23. In the past year, have you had any lessons at school to help create your own news stories?

Yes	No	Not sure
34%	52%	14%



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