

Youth Voice Co-design Project - Findings

Presented at Youth Voice Session 13 July 2022



What we heard - Hopes and Dreams

Young people and carers are thinking lots about the future.

- Having an education
- Getting a job or a career
- Having financial security
- Being healthy and happy

"I want to be a rapper. It is my dream."

"To get a good job"

"I don't know yet what I'll do when I'm older (but no pressure)"

"I want to finish Yr 11 and 12"

"I want to get out of Mildura, I just don't want to be here"

"Make good choice"

"Buy a house"

"Keep working to live day by day to keep up with the bills"

"Pay off the house enjoy retirement work for ourselves."

"I don't know, as long as I get a good job I'm fine."

Young people have goals for their life and want to make them happen.

- Know what they like and what they are good at
- Look forward to independence
- Know what inspires them
- Are motivated

"When I grow up I want to complete my goals in life"

"Job in tech, I'm good at programming"

"I want to be a doctor or lawyer when I'm older, I used to dream of this when I was younger."

"When I'm older I want to play soccer, I'm inspired by Messi."

"When I'm older i want to become one of the first Islander hairdressers"

"Looking forward to save \$\$\$ and spending on car, house etc"



What we heard - What people love

Young people love to get out and to do things.

- Gaming
- Shopping
- Church
- Hanging out with friends
- Music
- Outdoor activities
- River
- Sleep

"Chill, quiet, small town has a lot to do, putt putt"
"Working, bible studies, Benetook farms, Deb training"
"Meeting up with friends on the weekend at the park"
"Sleep, eat, play games, gym"
"Soccer training, shopping, friends house, school - I like doing this"
"Water park, pool"
"Weekends - sleep in, talking to friends, play instruments"
"Centro"
"Hanging in mall"
"Food court"
"River is my fave thing"
"Sleep and tik toks - because I am lazy"
"Staying in bed, eating, sleeping, it's relaxing"

Sport is a great way to spend time with friends and
something to do

- A good hobby
- Way to socialise
- Something they have done for a long time
- Something people want to do

"Happy - time with friends and soccer"
"Play volleyball in free time"
"Soccer & basketball - like teams"
"Netball"
"Football"
"Table tennis"

What we heard - Challenges and Stressors

It's hard when there is nothing to do, or no way to get to things

- Age appropriate activities
- Same old stuff
- Boredom
- Access - cost, transport etc

"Don't get to do what you want - too young"

"Want to explore but can't because of age limits, but I get used to that"

"Nothing to do!"

"Life as a teenager is boring, as not much to do in Mildura"

"Putt Putt, bowling, movies - same old stuff, that's the only thing we have"

"Need more ways to meet up"

"Hard to access activities for youth unsupervised"

"Hard to afford activities"

"Knowing what options young people have"

"Don't have flexibility for different kids"

It's hard finding support

- Transport
- Pressures of juggling life & knowing it's the same for others
- Rest for families

"Single parent, transport is hard when needed to drive one kid"

"hard to get help from others when they have their own pressures"

"A good day is a day off - no respite usually"

"Can't drive, can't get places"

"Families are time poor"

What we heard - Challenges and Stressors

Sometimes it feels like there is no one to go to for help

- For families
- For young people
- Feeling heard
- Knowing how to get support

"Single parent, not a lot of support"

"Single parent, 5 kids, school not giving enough support to child with a disability until one teacher listened and took action"

"I feel like no one is there for me"

"No one to ask for help"

"Don't feel comfortable asking family or wellbeing for help"

"Not being listened to - adults or friends"

It's hard when people don't treat you right

- Bullying
- Friends
- Schools
- Families
- Feeling safe

"People being mean"

"Hard to find people to trust"

"Cheating and bullying - some people make it hard"

"All the wannabe eshays, gangsters - annoying"

"Bad about schools - people lying, spreading rumours"

"Hardest thing is the way people treat me"

"Sister being violent to family:

"Worried about kidnapping"

"Worried about safety when walking around"

What we heard - Challenges and Stressors

There are many pressures that come with being a young person

- Mental health
- Sexuality
- Drugs
- Stress

"Panic, depression, tired"

"More pressure about responsibility"

"Hard about being young, lots of thoughts about sex"

"Bad day, when things don't go to plan, unexpected"

"Drug capital of Vic, everyone know someone who.."

"Older kids need to take care of younger kids"

"Stressing about situations they don't like to be in"

School can be tough and stressful...especially when the support isn't there (or right)

- Importance of support in schools
- Increased pressure
- Feeling small with big changes and responsibility

"Year 7 is a tough year"

"Some teachers aren't helpful"

"Too much homework"

"Don't like school, want to drop out, only like hairdressing"

"Good because large range of subjects, bad - outdated facilities"

"Some teachers actually help and friends"

"You won't pass Yr 12 if you don't have any friends, hear this a lot"

What we heard - Makes a difference

Support from family and friends

- Quality time
- Unconditional love
- Positive relationships
- Knowing who is there for you

"Good relationship with family, including grandparents"

"Some people care, some people shouldn't be there"

"Family dinner - you get to talk to each other"

"Family always, they are my day 1's, always been there"

"When friends are happy, I'm happy"

"Someone listened to me"

"I support them, at the same time - help homework and stay in class"

Feel supported by church and school

- Social, spiritual, academic support
- Connection

"Going to church, I grew up in Church"

"Teachers support"

"Supportive group for Indigenous kids at school"

"Teachers push you to achieve"

"Good to have friends at school"

"Get to go to school"

"English language skills"

"Positives= teachers and people"

Life in Mildura can be really nice, especially when people are nice

- Small town
- Community
- Peaceful
- Places to visit

"Peaceful, places to visit and not big city crowded"

"What makes me happy - helping people and their smile"

"Small town, friends and family"

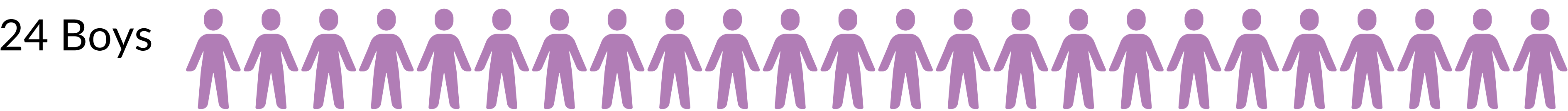
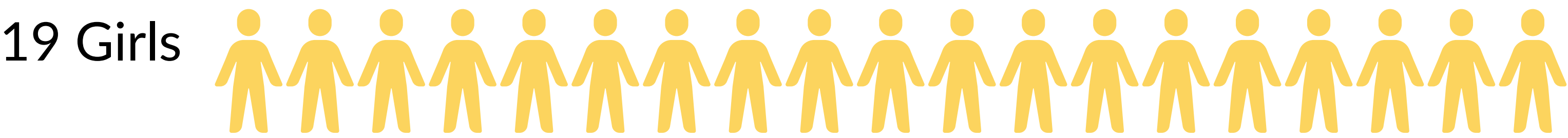
"Good when everyone is happy and gets along"

"Quiet, no hustle which is good, people nicer, close knit"

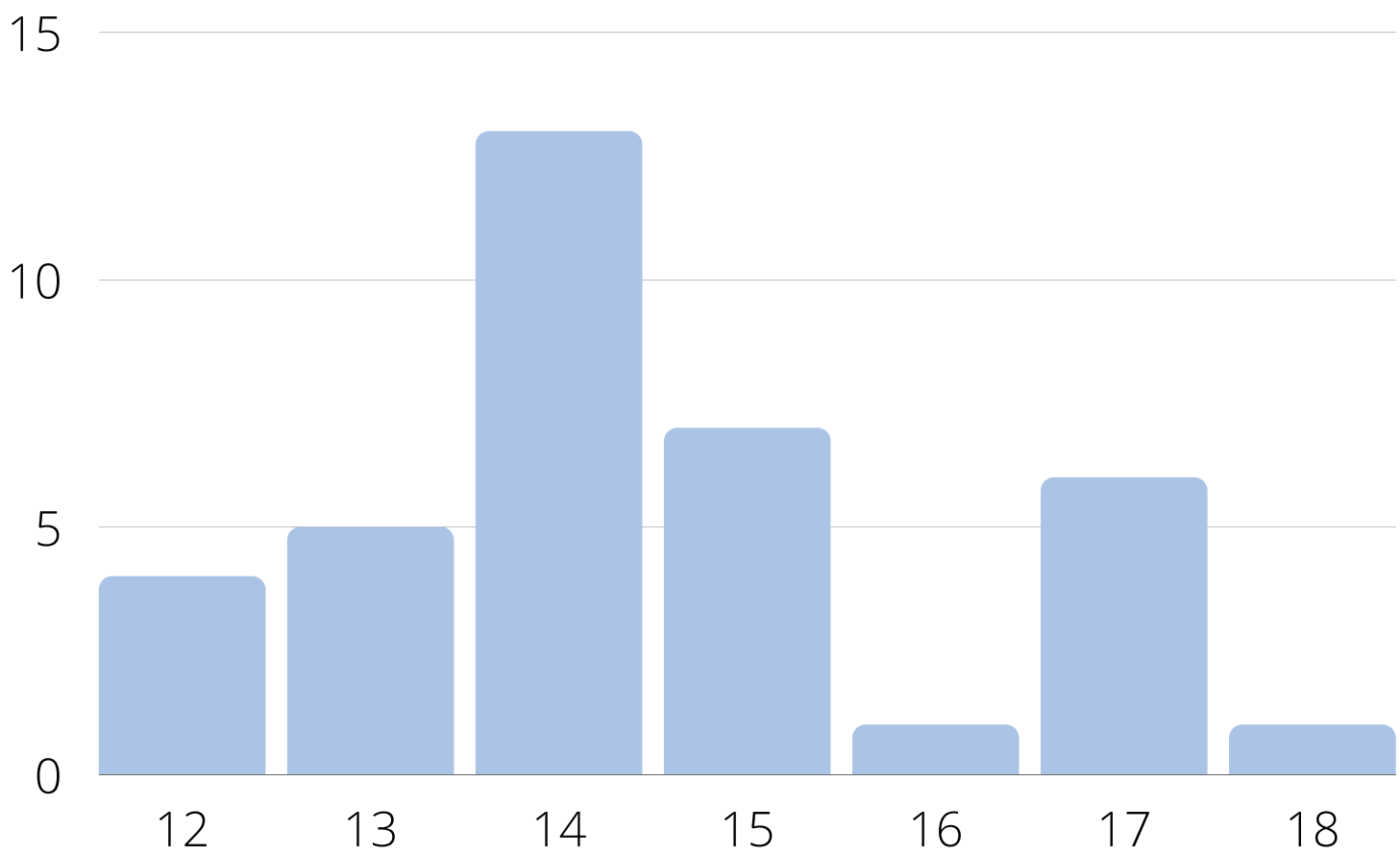


Who we spoke to

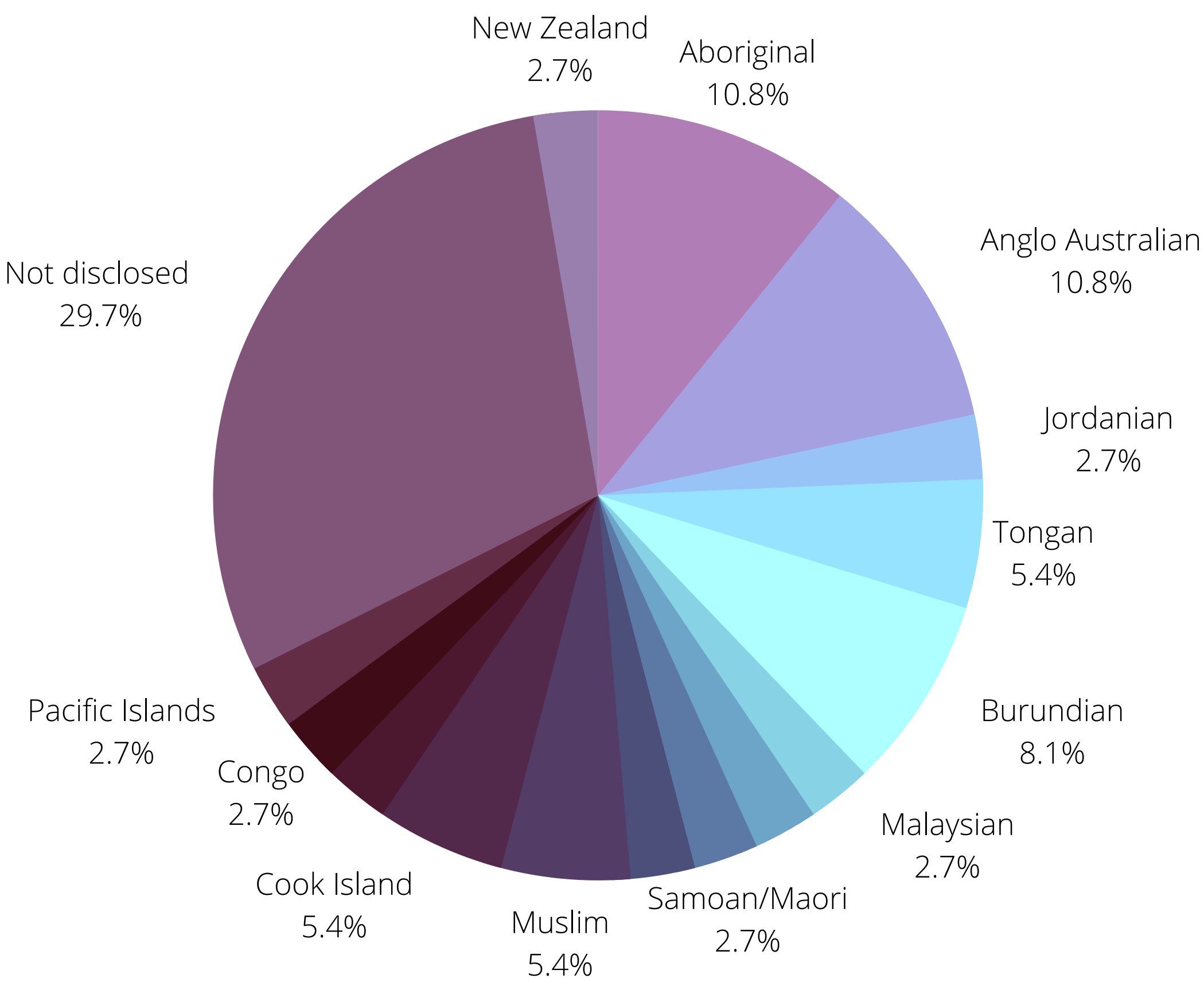
We heard from 40 people



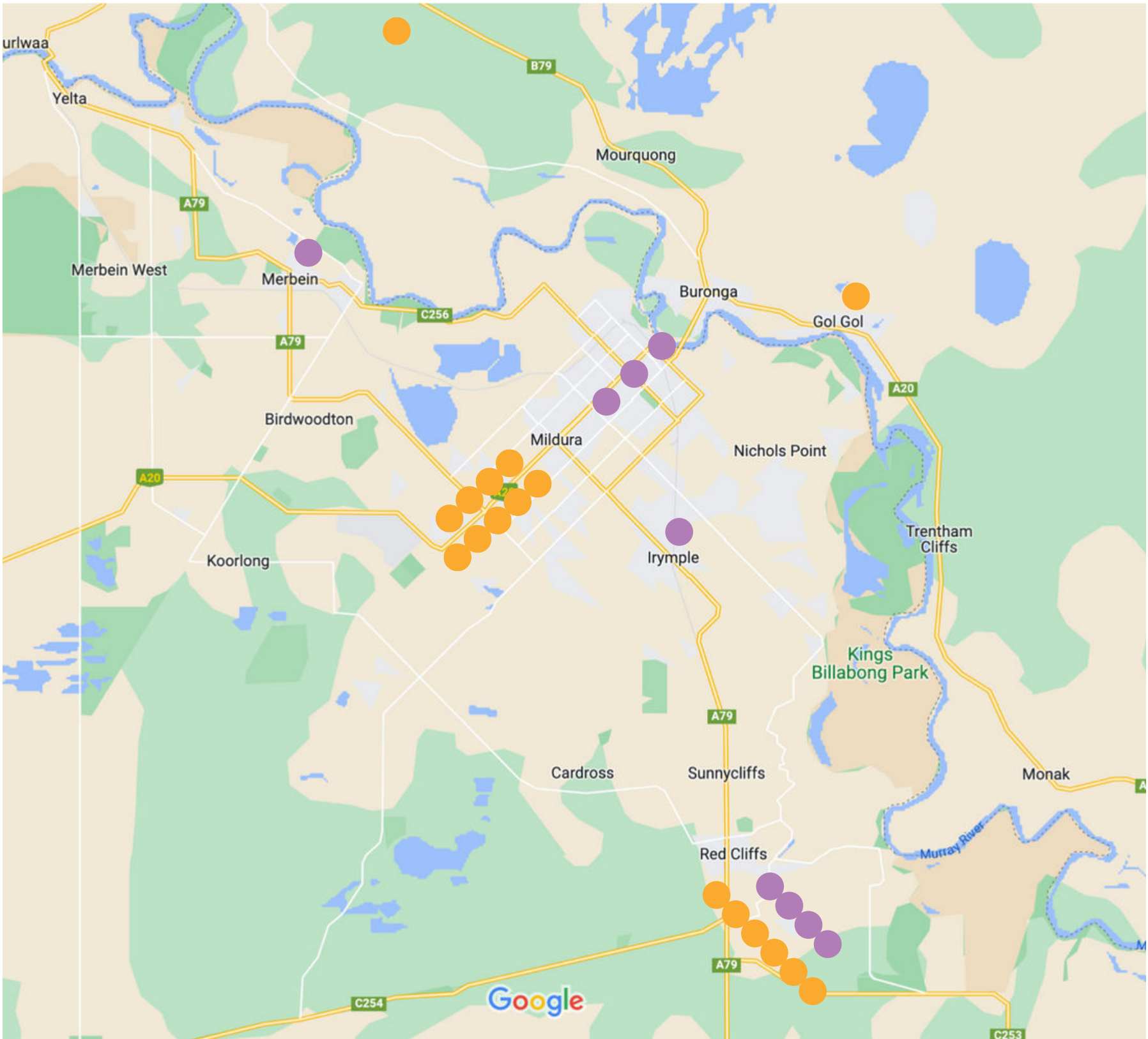
Estimated age of young people
(12-18 years old)



Cultural/country connection



Where people live now



Family make-up

