

NSW YOUTH PARTICIPATION SURVEY

FINAL REPORT

NSW YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 2004

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PREFACE

This report summarises and discusses important information which young people between the ages of 12 and 25 gave the NSW Youth Advisory Council (YAC) as part of the NSW Youth Participation Survey.

The YAC was established in 1989 under the *NSW Youth Advisory Council Act*, to ensure that young people participate in the development of Government policies and programs which concern them. The YAC currently has 12 young people as its members.

The NSW Youth Participation Survey (the Survey) was launched on behalf of the YAC by the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC, Minister for Youth, during Youth Week 2004.

Between 29 March and 21 May 2004, about 2,400 young people throughout NSW responded to the Survey, giving the YAC information on how they participate or would like to participate in shaping their own lives and the life of their community.

The YAC would like to thank all those young people who responded to the Survey.

The information collected will help the NSW Government develop ways of working together with young people, local government, businesses and community organisations to improve opportunities for young people's participation in NSW.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The term 'youth participation' is a broad concept that refers to the active involvement of young people (i.e. people between 12 and 25 years of age) in all areas of society – the family, school, work place, place of worship, social group and wider community.

The NSW Youth Participation Survey was developed by the Office of Children and Young People on behalf of the NSW Youth Advisory Council and in consultation with the NSW Youth Interagency Taskforce, a group of government and non-government representatives established to help improve outcomes for young people in NSW.

The Survey aims to provide information on:

- the current level and type of participation for young people in NSW
- the type of activities which young people in NSW would like to participate in
- why young people choose to participate
- what would make it easier for young people to participate; and
- young people's knowledge of current Government participation mechanisms.

This information will help the NSW Government develop ways of working together with young people, local government, businesses and community organisations to improve opportunities for young people's participation in NSW.

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION AND ANALYSIS

During April 2004, the NSW Youth Participation Survey was placed on the NSW Government's Youth website www.youth.nsw.gov.au, and was distributed on behalf of the YAC to:

- All Local Government Youth Week Coordinators (164 Councils)
- The Principals of all NSW public and private high schools (629 schools), with a request that the survey be passed on to Student Representative Councils.

The Survey was also promoted through the Youth Action and Policy Association and IGNITE e-newsletters, the Youth2Youth and YouthGas websites and a range of other youth and community organisations.

Respondents who returned their surveys to the Office of Children and Young People by Friday 21 May (the deadline for completion of the Survey) went into a draw for one of 100 double passes to a local cinema.

Officers in the Office of Children and Young People (Corinne Fagueret with assistance from Aimee Said, Duncan Jamison and Erin Stephenson) analysed the data on behalf of the YAC, and prepared an Interim Report (June 2004), followed by this Final Report.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

As of 21 May 2004, 2,393 completed surveys had been received, 300 of which were submitted electronically.

Gender

Just over half of respondents (51.7%) were female, 35.2% were male and 13.1% did not report their gender.

Age

Approximately half of all respondents (50.4%) were aged between 15 and 17, 30.8% were aged between 12 and 14, 7.6% were aged 18 and over, and 11.2% did not report their age.

Geographical remoteness

Half of all respondents (50%) came from highly accessible areas of NSW¹, 16% came from accessible locations, and 3% came from moderately accessible and remote locations. The remainder of respondents (31%) had an unknown geographical remoteness.

Student Representative Council (SRC) membership

More than half of all respondents (60.4%) were members of their school SRC, indicating that the majority of young people completing the Survey were school students.

Aboriginal status

4.1% of respondents identified that they were from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.

Non-English speaking background (NESB) status

14.9% of respondents identified that they were from a non-English speaking background.

Disability status

3.2% of respondents identified that they had a disability.

ACTIVITIES WHICH RESPONDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN (Q.1)

Sport was the activity which most respondents (88.2%) had participated in, followed by:

- taking part in cultural activities-eg. theatre, bands, cinema, dance or visual arts (63.5%)
- being a member of a school SRC (60.4%)
- being a volunteer doorknocker collecting for a community organisation, or some other volunteer activity (47.6%)
- being a member of a group that helps out in the community (43.2%)
- setting up a project with friends such as a fun event for young people in the community (37.8%)
- being involved in a youth service committee or community group (32.1%)
- writing a letter to a newspaper or to Government (22.3%); and
- being a member of a local Council's Youth Council (9%).

¹ For a definition of 'highly accessible', 'accessible', 'moderately accessible' and 'remote', refer to Glossary.
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The figure for SRC membership (60.4%) is a direct reflection of the high number of SRC members who completed the Survey, and is not therefore representative of SRC membership for the general population of young people in NSW².

It is also worthwhile noting that SRC members completing the Survey reported consistently higher participation rates (approximately 8% higher on average) across all activities compared to non-SRC members. Given that SRC members comprised 60.4% of all respondents, this could indicate a bias in survey results towards greater participation rates than would otherwise be expected from the general population of young people.

Involvement in sport decreased with age, with only 78.7% of respondents aged 18 and over reporting that they played a sport. However, participation across all other activities increased with age. This could suggest that people aged 18 years and over have more time and/or greater motivation for participating.

Females were more likely than males to take part in cultural activities (69.6% compared to 56.3%) and volunteer (53.1% compared 41.6%); Aboriginal people were less likely than the general population to be members of their SRC (50% compared to 60.4%); and respondents who reported a disability were less likely than the general population to be members of a group that helps out in the community (33.8% compared to 43.2%) or to be involved in a youth service committee or community group (22.1% compared to 32.1%).

Interestingly, with the exception of the above-mentioned activities, the rates of participation reported by respondents with a disability were comparable to those provided in overall responses. Given the disadvantages commonly experienced by disabled people, this result should be carefully interpreted, and may simply indicate that the disabilities reported by survey respondents were not generally of a type which prevented their participation in the activities specified in Survey Question 1.

Finally, participation rates across most activities for respondents in highly accessible and accessible locations were comparable to those for respondents in moderately accessible and remote locations, exceptions being membership of a group that helps out in the community (45.8% compared to 35.5%) and SRC membership (58.5% compared to 76.3%). Respondents from moderately accessible and remote locations were also more likely than respondents from highly accessible and accessible locations to be members of their local Council's Youth Council (17.1% compared to 8.7%).

ACTIVITIES WHICH RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN (Q.2)

More than half (68.7%) of all respondents reported that they would like to have a say in decision-making in school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) or university. This was followed by:

- having a say in the ways in which the local area is developing and providing services/facilities for young people (56.3% of respondents)
- letting the Government know about the things that are important to young people (52.7% of respondents)
- influencing how the media represents young people (50.5% of respondents)

² In 2002, more than 12,000 secondary school students or approximately 4% of the total population of NSW secondary school students were members of their SRC (Department of Education and Training, unpublished data, 2002)

- having a say in the way local youth services are provided in the community (41.4% of respondents); and
- having a say in the way local shops, business or shopping malls treat young people (38.5% of respondents).

Similarly to Survey Question 1, SRC members reported consistently higher interest in participating across all activities compared to non-SRC members, suggesting that overall survey results may be biased towards a greater level of interest in participation than would otherwise be expected from the general population of young people in NSW.

Generally, the level of interest in participating increased with age across all activities. In particular, 70.5% of young people aged 18 and over reported that they would like to have a say in the ways local youth services are provided in their community, compared to 33.2% of young people aged 12-14 and 43.3% of young people aged 15-17. Similarly, approximately 20.8% more young people aged 18 and over (compared to young people aged 12-14) reported that they would like to have a say in the ways the local area is developing; and approximately 26% more young people aged 18 and over (compared to young people aged 12-14) reported that they would like to influence how the media represents them.

Females reported higher levels of interest in participating across all activities than males. However, results for Aboriginal, NESB and disability-identified respondents were comparable to those for overall responses, suggesting that respondents of Aboriginal, NESB or disability status are as likely to want to participate as the general population of young people in NSW.

Finally, levels of interest in participating across most activities for respondents in highly accessible and accessible locations were comparable to those for respondents in moderately accessible and remote locations, the exception being wanting to influence how the media represents young people. For this latter activity, respondents from moderately accessible and remote locations were approximately 13% less likely to want to influence how the media represents young people than young people from highly accessible and accessible locations.

WHY RESPONDENTS PARTICIPATE (Q.3)

The majority of respondents (84.5%) reported that they participate because they like to learn new things. This was followed by:

- 81.3% of respondents who reported that they participate because they like to contribute
- 76.3% of respondents who reported that they participate because they enjoy working in a group
- 73.7% of respondents who reported that they participate because they are passionate about something; and
- 20.9% of respondents who reported that they participate because their family or school expects them to.

The trend in these results was generally consistent across all demographic groups. It is interesting to note, however, the relatively low percentage of respondents (20.9%) who reported that their participation was motivated by their family or school's expectations.

It would be reasonable to expect that the influence of their parents and/or school would significantly impact on young people's decision to participate or otherwise. This statement is partly confirmed by research which shows that young people are more likely to participate if their parents show care, concern, warmth and encouragement towards their children's activities³.

WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR RESPONDENTS TO PARTICIPATE (Q.4)

The majority of respondents (81.1%) reported that feeling that their opinions are valued and taken seriously by adults would make it easier to participate. This was followed by:

- feeling comfortable to speak out and get involved (77% of respondents)
- feeling that they have a right to participate in decisions that affect them (76.3% of respondents)
- feeling safe to participate (72.7% of respondents)
- having access to relevant information, knowledge and training (67.7% of respondents)
- receiving feedback on how their involvement has changed things (65.9% of respondents)
- making sure that they can get to important meetings or activities (55.8% of respondents)
- knowing how to get involved in local youth bodies and organisations (51.7% of respondents)
- knowing how formal meeting work (43.5% of respondents)
- knowing how Government works (38.3% of respondents); and
- knowing about the three levels of Government (34% of respondents).

The trend in these results was generally consistent across all demographic groups, and young people's need to 'being taken seriously by adults' was further confirmed by the large number of respondents who highlighted the importance of this issue in their written comments in the Survey.

RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS (Q.5)

Over half (60.1%) of all respondents reported that they knew about students representative bodies in schools, TAFE and universities. This was followed by:

- 49.6% of respondents who knew about helping to set-up local community activities
- 46.7% of respondents who knew about youth leadership programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- 41.7% of respondents who knew about local arts programs
- 32.8% of respondents who knew about their local Council's Youth Council; and
- 23.8% of respondents who knew about the NSW Youth Advisory Council.

The trend in these results was generally consistent across all demographic groups, although the overall level of knowledge for non-SRC members tended to be lower than for SRC members, as did the level of knowledge for respondents from highly accessible and accessible locations compared to respondents from moderately accessible and remote locations.

³ See Fletcher, Elder and Mekos (2000) in Kaye McLaren (2002). *Youth Development Literature Review: Building Strength*. NZ Ministry of Youth Affairs. Wellington
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Respondents aged 18 and over tended to have a higher knowledge than younger people of the NSW Youth Advisory Council, Local Government's Youth Councils and youth leadership programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

As with Survey Question 1, respondents' relatively high awareness level for student representative bodies (60.1%) is likely to be a direct reflection of the high number of SRC members who completed the Survey. As such, it may not be representative of the level of awareness for student representative bodies among the general population of young people in NSW.

FIGURES AND TABLES

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Demographics of respondents

TABLE 1: Demographics of survey respondents

Activities which respondents have participated in (Survey Question 1)

FIG.1a: % of respondents by SRC status who participated in activities A-I

FIG.1b: % of respondents by gender status who participated in activities A-I

FIG.1c: % of respondents by age who participated in activities A-I

FIG.1d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who participated in activities A-I

FIG.1e: % of respondents by remoteness status who participated in activities A-I

TABLE 2: % 'yes' responses for each activity participated in

Activities which respondents would like to participate in (Survey Question 2)

FIG.2a: % of respondents by SRC status who would like to participate in activities A-F

FIG.2b: % of respondents by gender status who would like to participate in activities A-F

FIG.2c: % of respondents by age who would like to participate in activities A-F

FIG.2d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who would like to participate in activities A-F

FIG.2e: % of respondents by remoteness status who would like to participate in activities A-F

TABLE 3: % 'yes' responses for each activity respondents would like to participate in

Why respondents participate (Survey Question 3)

FIG.3a: % of respondents by SRC status who said that factors A-E were reasons for their participation

FIG.3b: % of respondents by gender status who said that factors A-E were reasons for their participation

FIG.3c: % of respondents by age who said that factors A-E were reasons for their participation

FIG.3d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who said that factors A-E were reasons for their participation

FIG.3e: % of respondents by remoteness status who said that factors A-E were reasons for their participation

TABLE 4: % 'yes' responses for each factor motivating respondents to participate

What would make it easier for respondents to participate (Survey Question 4)

FIG.4a: % of respondents by SRC status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

FIG.4b: % of respondents by gender status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

FIG.4c: % of respondents by age who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

FIG.4d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

FIG.4e: % of respondents by remoteness status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

TABLE 5: % 'yes' responses for each factor that would make it easier for respondents to participate

Respondents' knowledge of Government participation mechanisms (Survey Question 5)

FIG.5a: % of respondents by SRC status who know about activities A-F

FIG.5b: % of respondents by gender status who know about activities A-F

FIG.5c: % of respondents by age who know about activities A-F

FIG.5d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who know about activities A-F

FIG.5e: % of respondents by remoteness status who know about activities A-F

TABLE 6: % 'yes' responses for each activity respondents know about

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1: Demographics of survey respondents

Gender	Age	SRC member	Aboriginal status	NESB status	Disability status	Geographical remoteness*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51.7% female • 35.2% male • 13.1% unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30.8% between 12-14 • 50.4% between 15-17 • 7.6% 18 and over • 11.2% unknown 	60.4% of respondents	4.1% of respondents identified as Aboriginal	14.9% of respondents identified as NESB	3.2% of respondents identified as disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% HA • 16% A • 2% MA • 1% R • 0% VR • 31% unknown

* Geographical remoteness was measured using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA).

HA - Highly Accessible- refers to relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction.

A - Accessible- refers to some restrictions to accessibility of some goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

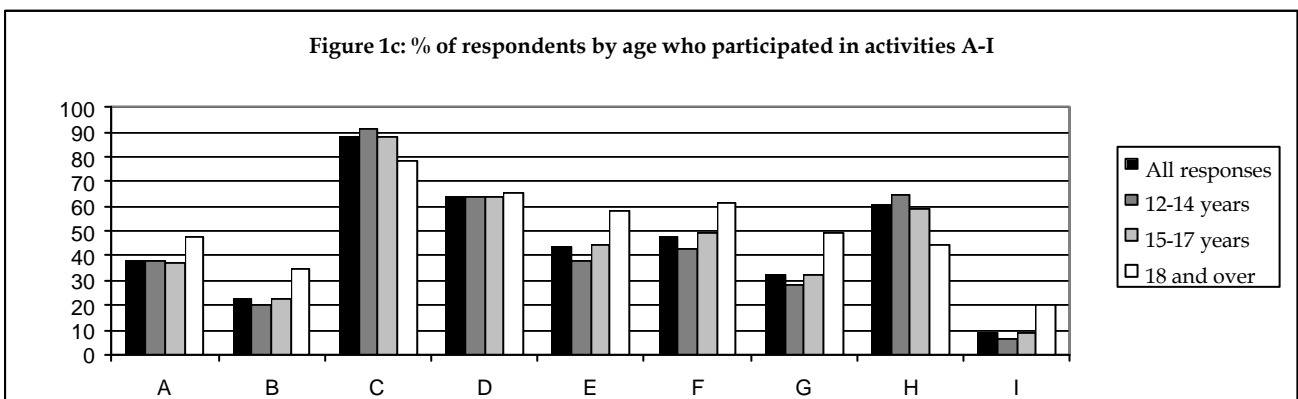
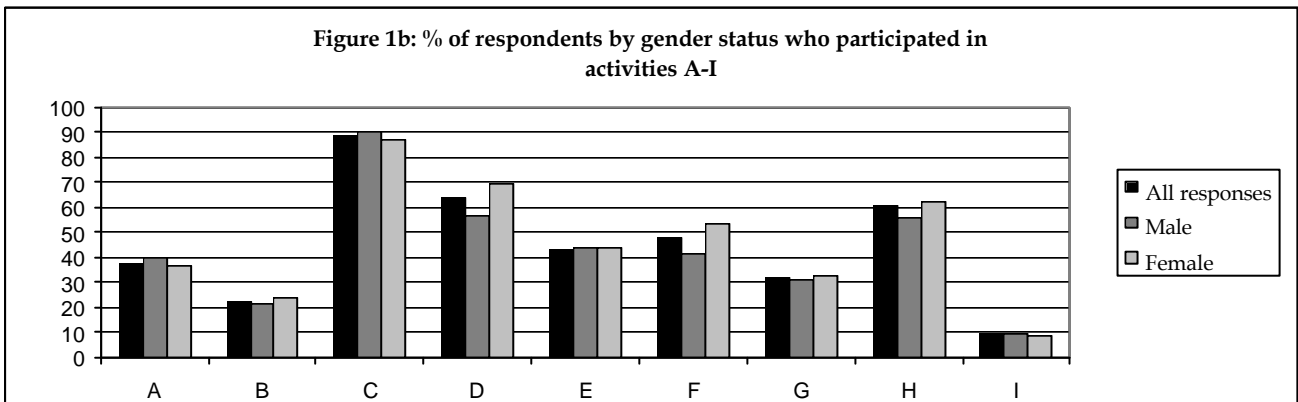
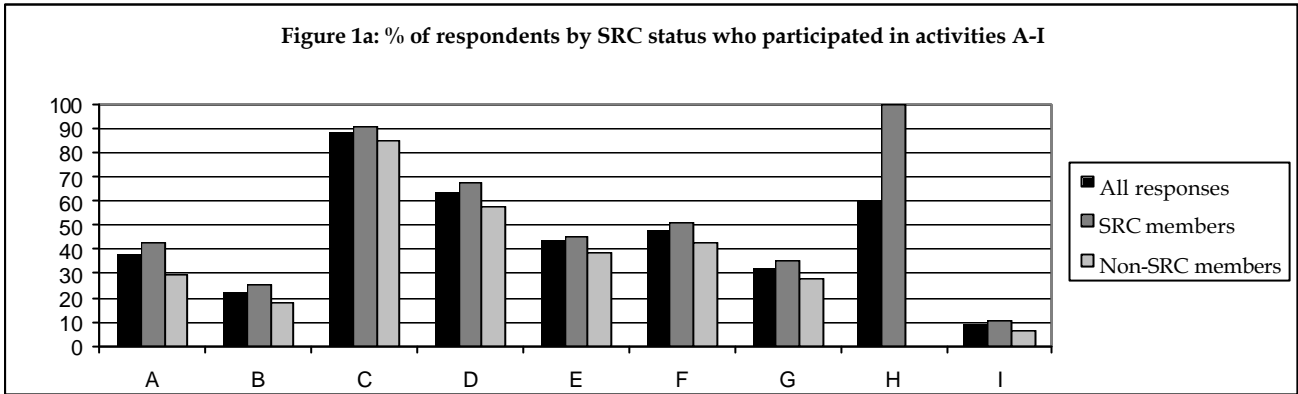
MA - Moderately Accessible- refers to significantly restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

R - Remote - refers to very restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

VR - Very Remote- refers to very little accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

ACTIVITIES WHICH RESPONDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN (Q.1)

- A- Setting up a project with friends such as a fun event for young people in the community
- B- Writing a letter to a newspaper or to Government
- C- Playing a sport such as hockey, skateboarding, tennis etc.
- D- Taking part in cultural activities such as theatre groups, bands, cinema, dance troupes or visual arts
- E- Being a member of a group that helps out in the community (eg. church youth group or Scouts/Guides)
- F- Being a volunteer doorknocker collecting for a community organisation, or some other volunteer activity
- G- Being involved in a youth service committee or in a community group
- H- Being a member of a school's Student Representative Council
- I- Being a member of a local Council's Youth Council



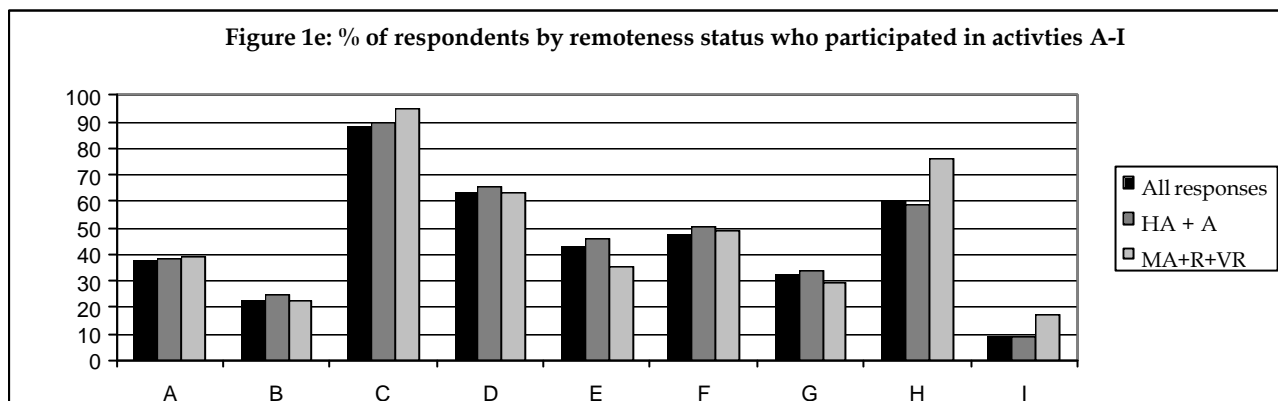
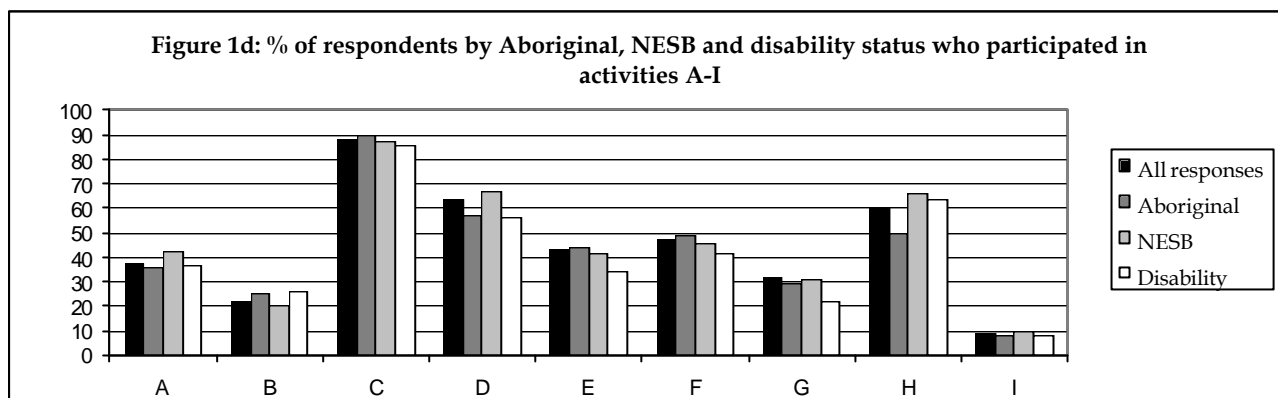


Table 2: % 'yes' responses for each activity participated in

Demographic group	Percentage of 'yes' responses								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
SRC	43.1	25.2	90.4	67.6	45.3	50.7	35.3	100	10.6
Non-SRC	29.3	18.1	84.5	57.2	38.9	42.6	27.8	0	6.8
Male	39.8	21.4	90.1	56.3	43.7	41.6	31.5	56.2	9.1
Female	36.6	24.1	87.1	69.6	43.8	53.1	32.6	62.3	8.6
12-14 yr olds	37.8	20.2	91.3	64	38.2	42.7	28	64.4	6.2
15-17 yr olds	36.9	22.9	88.3	63.5	44.3	49.5	32.2	59.4	8.6
18+ yr olds	47.5	34.4	78.7	65.6	58.5	61.2	49.2	44.3	20.2
Aboriginal	35.7	25.5	89.8	57.1	43.9	49	29.6	50	8.2
NESB	42.3	20.2	87.4	66.7	41.5	45.9	30.8	66.4	9.8
Disability	36.4	26	85.7	55.8	33.8	41.6	22.1	63.6	7.8
HA +A	38.5	24.4	89.4	65.5	45.8	50.1	33.5	58.5	8.7
MA+R+VR	39.5	22.4	94.7	63.2	35.5	48.7	28.9	76.3	17.1
All responses	37.8	22.3	88.2	63.5	43.2	47.6	32.1	60.4	9

- A-** Setting up a project with friends such as a fun event for young people in the community
- B-** Writing a letter to a newspaper or to Government
- C-** Playing a sport such as hockey, skateboarding, tennis etc.
- D-** Taking part in cultural activities such as theatre groups, bands, cinema, dance troupes or visual arts
- E-** Being a member of a group that helps out in the community (eg. church youth group or Scouts/Guides)
- F-** Being a volunteer doorknocker collecting for a community organisation, or some other volunteer activity
- G-** Being involved in a youth service committee or in a community group
- H-** Being a member of a school's Student Representative Council
- I-** Being a member of a local Council's Youth Council

ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN (Q.2)

- A. Having a say in the way local shops, businesses or shopping malls treat young people
- B. Having a say in the way local youth services are provided in the community
- C. Having a say in decision-making in school, TAFE or university
- D. Having a say in the ways in which the local area is developing and providing services/facilities for young people
- E. Letting the local and state Government know about the things that are important to young people
- F. Influencing how the media represents young people

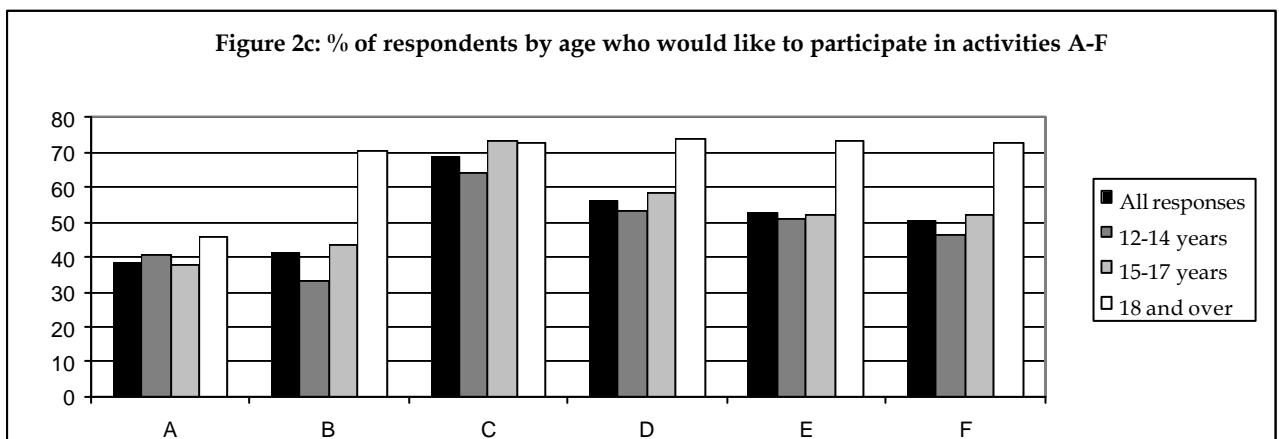
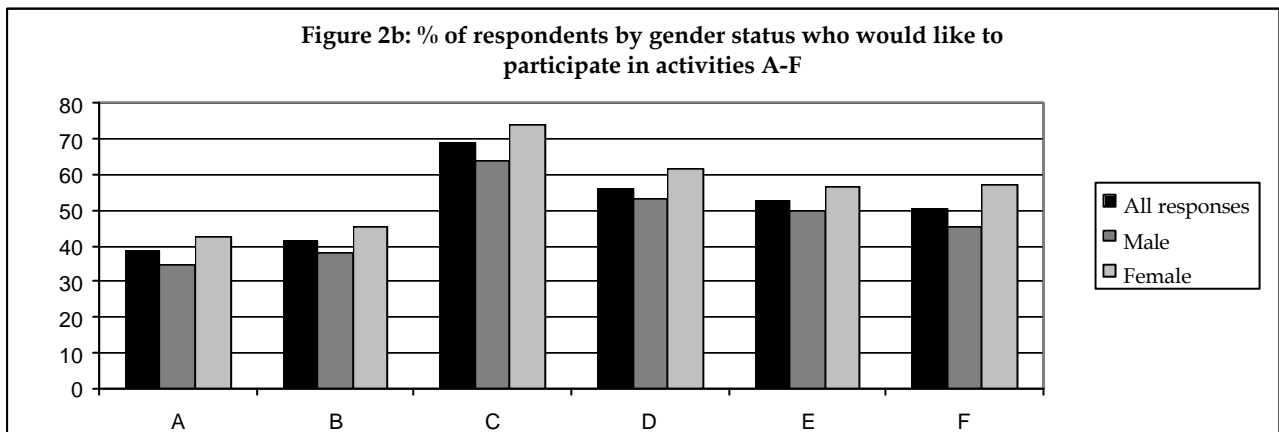
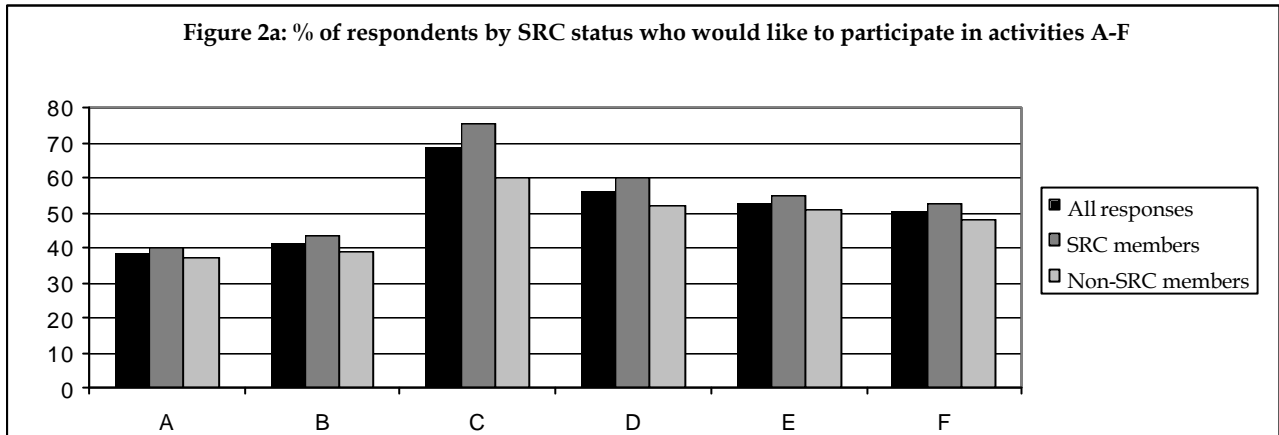


Figure 2d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who would like to participate in activities A-F

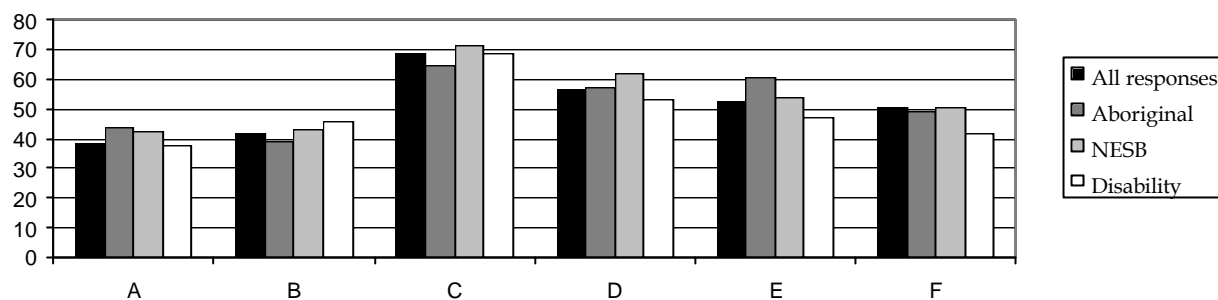


Figure 2e: % of respondents by remoteness status who would like to participate in activities A-F

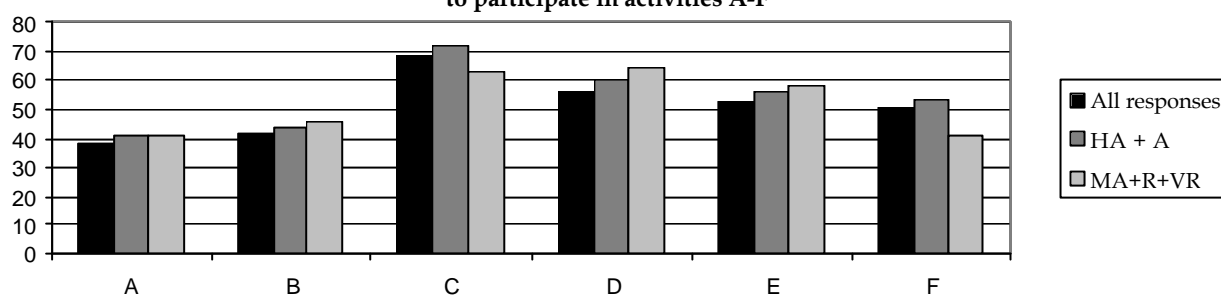


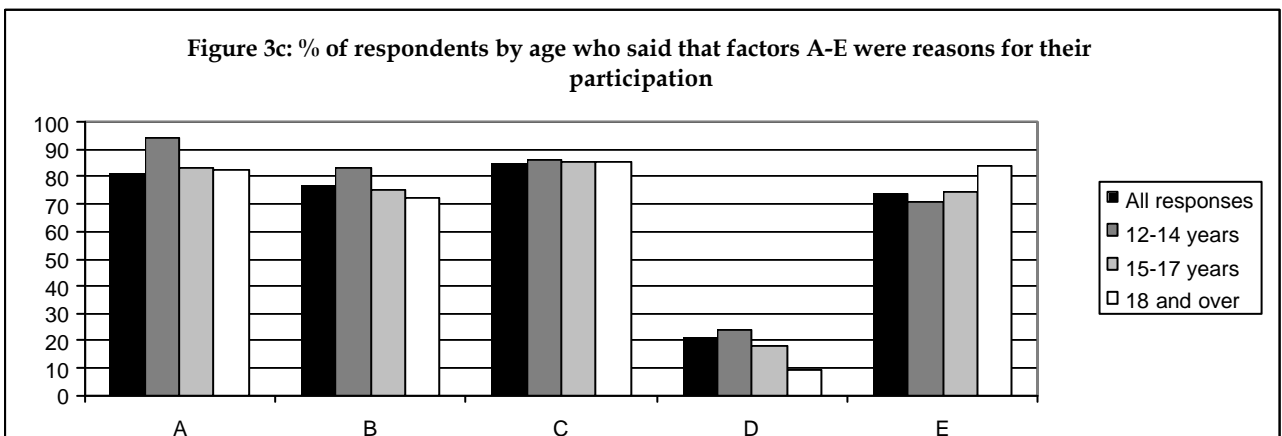
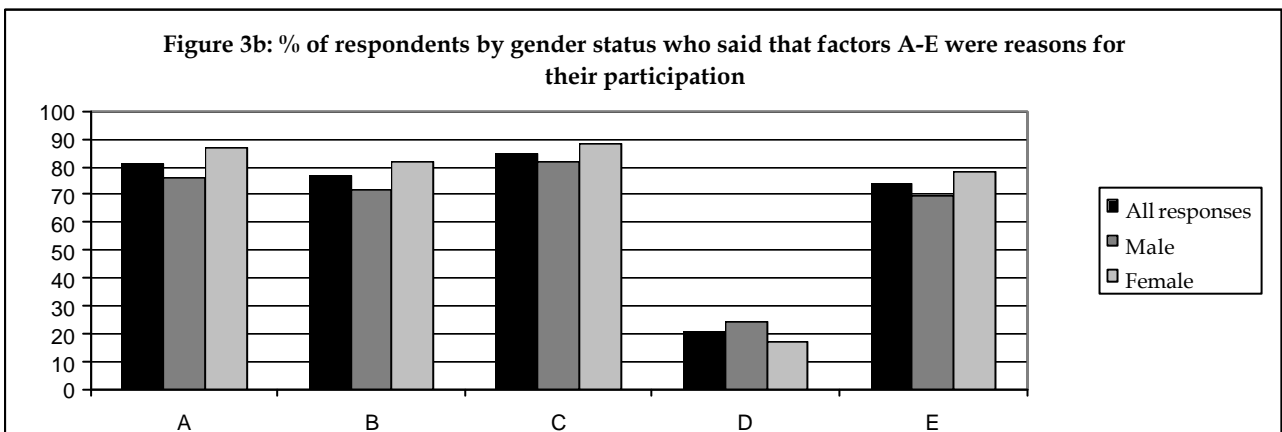
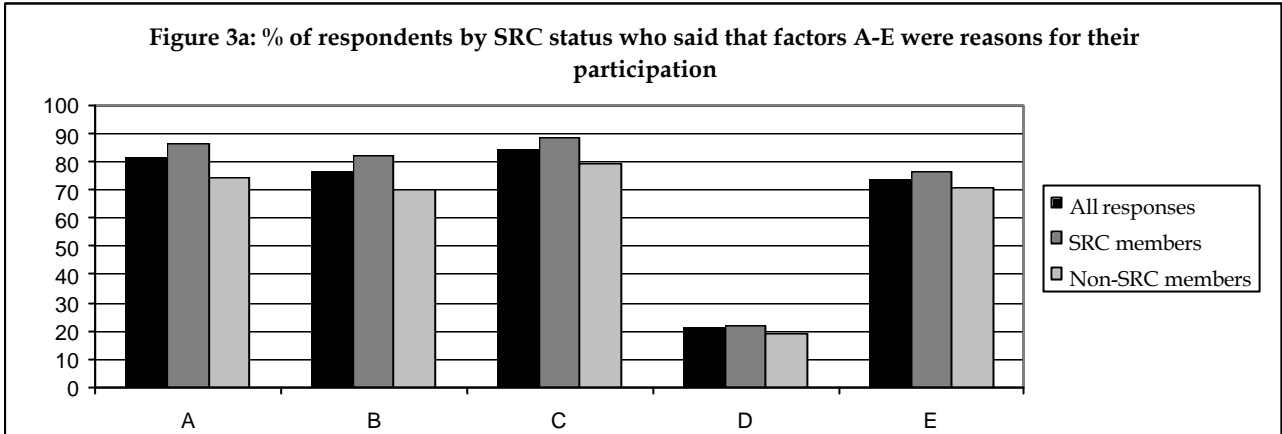
Table 3: % 'yes' responses for each activity respondents would like to participate in

Demographic group	Percentage of 'yes' responses					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
SRC	39.9	43.7	75.2	59.8	54.7	52.7
Non-SRC	37.1	38.8	60.1	52.2	50.8	48.2
Male	34.8	38.4	63.8	53	50	45.6
Female	42.4	45.5	74	61.3	56.8	57.1
12-14 yr olds	40.5	33.2	64.4	53	50.8	46.5
15-17 yr olds	38	43.3	73.2	58.2	52.3	51.9
18+ yr olds	45.9	70.5	72.7	73.8	73.2	72.7
Aboriginal	43.9	38.8	64.3	57.1	60.2	49
NESB	42.6	42.9	71.4	61.6	54.1	50.7
Disability	37.7	45.5	68.8	53.2	46.8	41.6
HA + A	41.3	43.5	71.9	60.4	55.8	53.1
MA + R + VR	40.8	46.1	63.2	64.5	57.9	40.8
All responses	38.5	41.4	68.7	56.3	52.7	50.5

- A- Having a say in the way local shops, businesses or shopping malls treat young people
- B- Having a say in the way local youth services are provided in the community
- C- Having a say in decision-making in school, TAFE or university
- D- Having a say in the ways in which the local area is developing and providing services/facilities for young people
- E- Letting the local and state Government know about the things that are important to young people
- F- Influencing how the media represents young people

WHY RESPONDENTS PARTICIPATE (Q.3)

- A. Because they like to contribute
- B. Because they enjoy working in a group
- C. Because they like to learn new things
- D. Because their family or school expect them to
- E. Because they are passionate about something



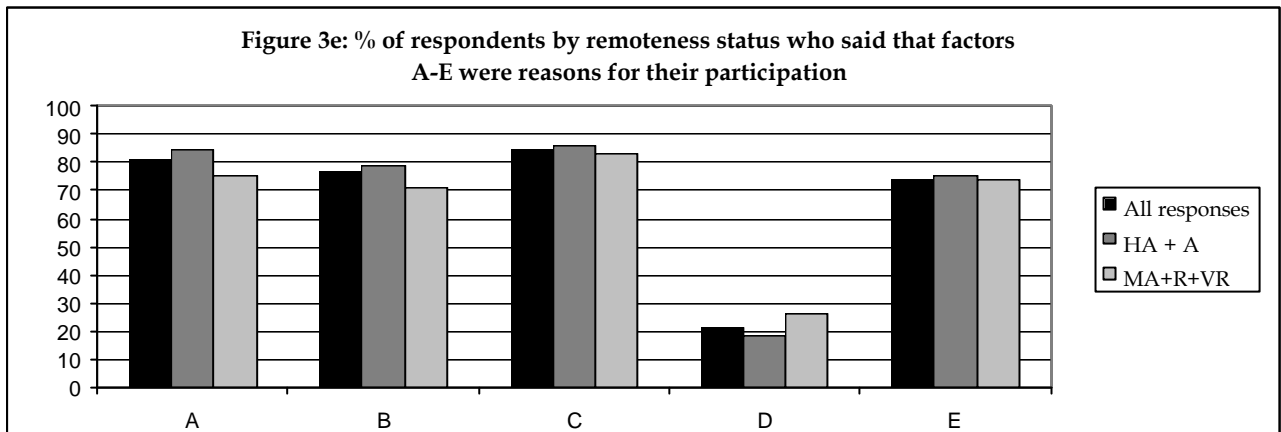
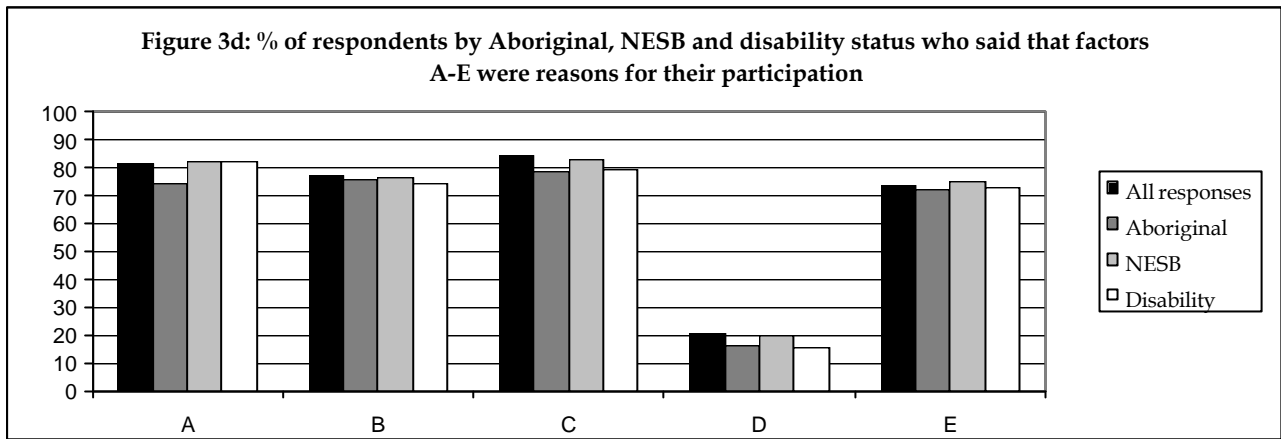


Table 4: % 'yes' responses for each factor motivating respondents to participate

Demographic group	Percentage of 'yes' responses				
	A	B	C	D	E
SRC	86.6	82	88.9	22.2	76.7
Non-SRC	74.6	70.2	79.4	19.1	70.6
Male	76.1	72	82.1	24	70
Female	86.6	81.6	88.3	16.9	78.1
12-14 yr olds	94.2	82.9	86	24.3	71
15-17 yr olds	83	75.2	85.3	18.5	74.7
18+ yr olds	82.5	72.7	85.2	9.3	84.2
Aboriginal	74.5	75.5	78.6	16.3	72.4
NESB	82.4	76.2	82.9	20.2	75.1
Disability	81.8	74	79.2	15.6	72.7
HA + A	84.4	78.6	86.2	18.5	75.4
MA + R + VR	75	71.1	82.9	26.3	73.7
All responses	81.3	76.8	84.5	20.9	73.7

- A- Because they like to contribute
- B- Because they enjoy working in a group
- C- Because they like to learn new things
- D- Because their family or school expect them to
- E- Because they are passionate about something

WHAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR RESPONDENTS TO PARTICIPATE (Q.4)

- A. Feeling that they have the right to participate in decisions that affect them
- B. Feeling that their opinions are valued and taken seriously by adults
- C. Feeling comfortable to speak out and get involved
- D. Feeling safe to participate
- E. Having access to relevant information, knowledge and training
- F. Making sure they can get to important meeting or activities
- G. Knowing how formal meetings work
- H. Knowing how Government works
- I. Knowing about the three levels of Government-local, state and Commonwealth
- J. Knowing how to get involved in local youth bodies and organisations
- K. Receiving feedback on how their involvement has changed things

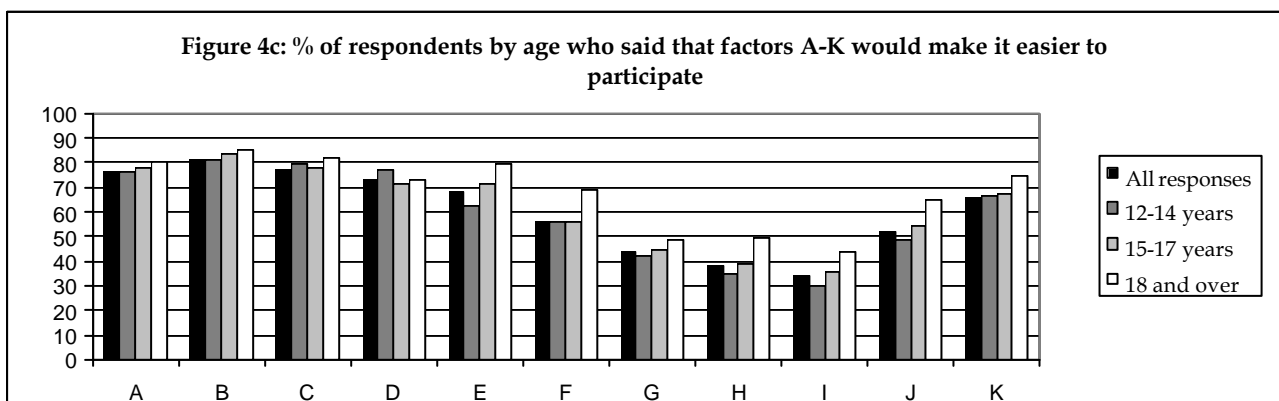
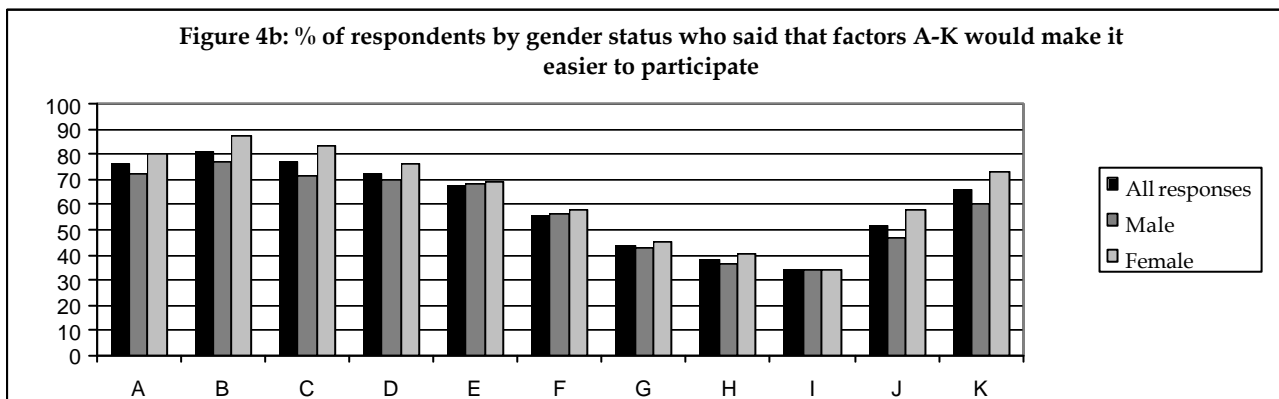
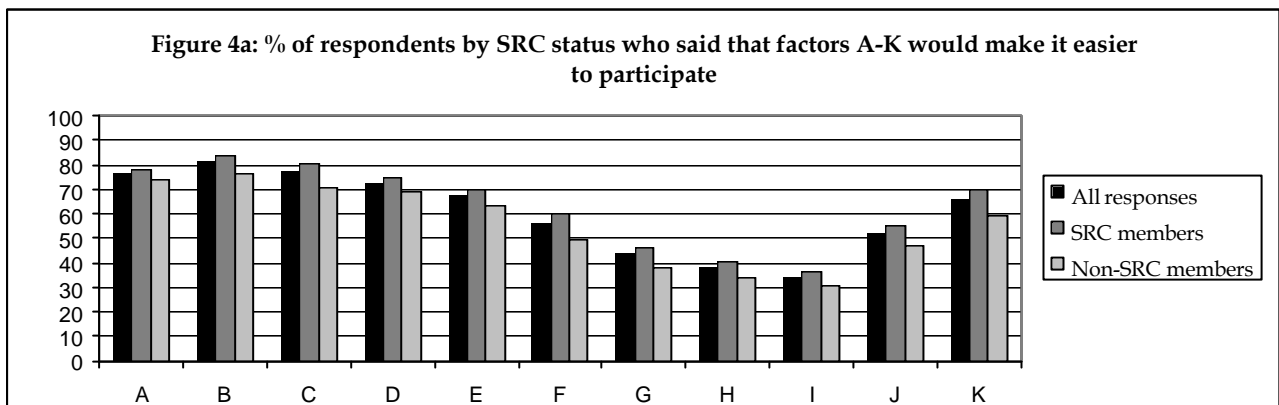


Figure 4d: % of respondents by Aboriginal, NESB and disability status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

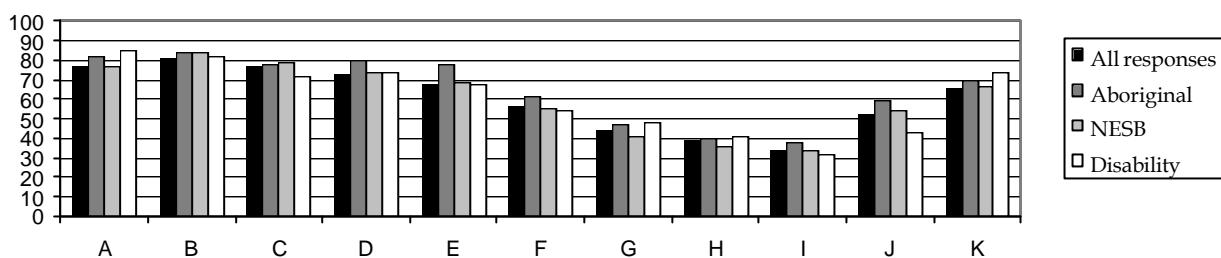


Figure 4e: % of respondents by remoteness status who said that factors A-K would make it easier to participate

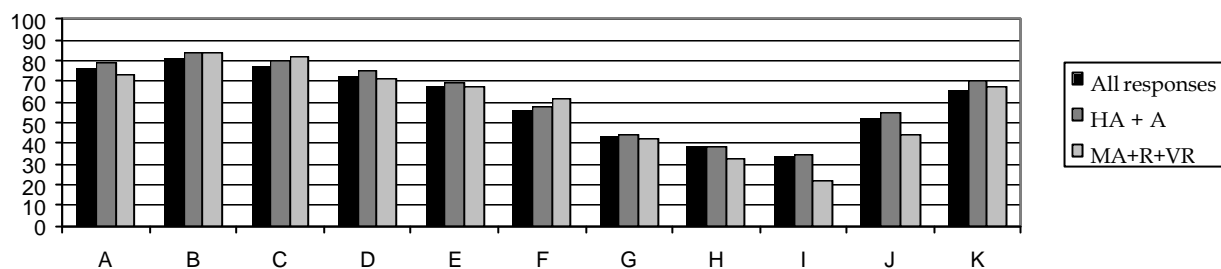


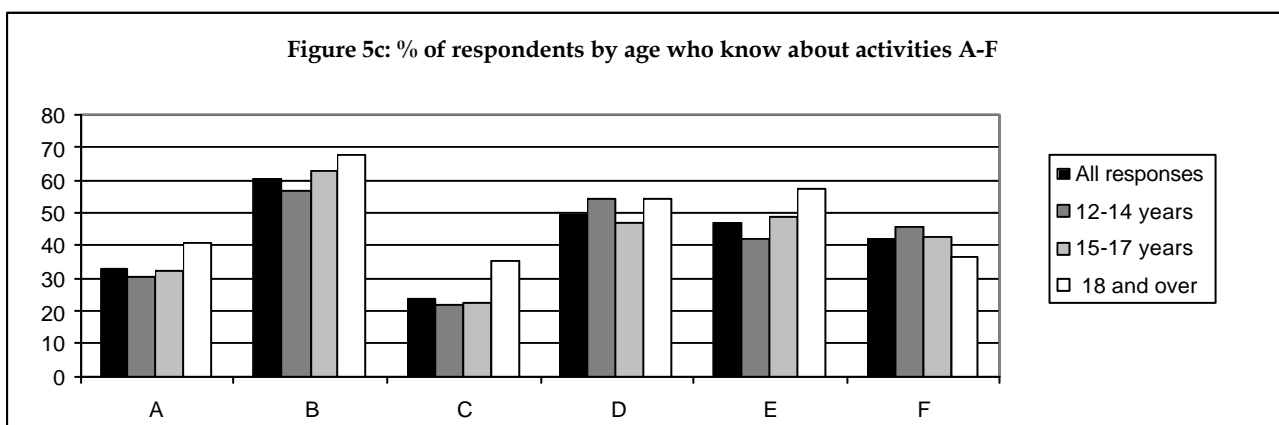
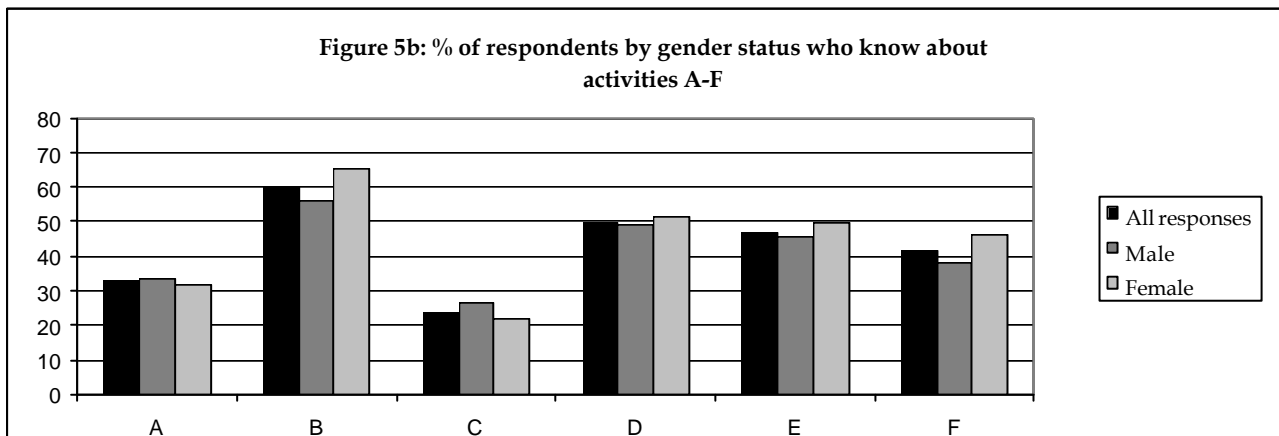
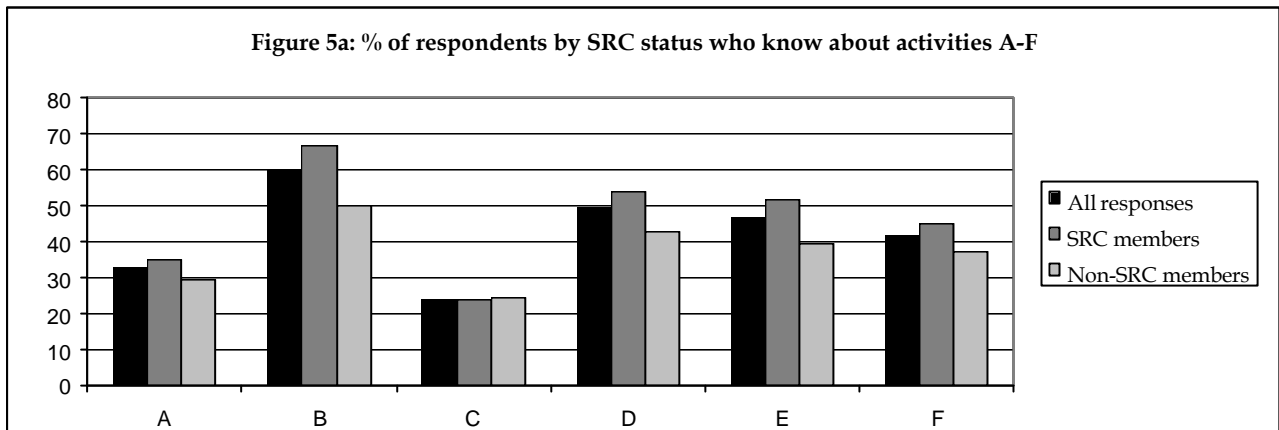
Table 5: % 'yes' responses for each factor that would make it easier for respondents to participate

Demographic group	Percentage of 'yes' responses										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
SRC	78.3	84	80.9	75.2	70.2	60	46.6	41	36.2	54.9	70.2
Non-SRC	73.7	76.8	71	68.9	63.6	49.5	38.5	33.9	30.6	46.7	59.6
Male	72.3	76.8	71.1	69.6	68.5	56.1	43.1	36.8	34	46.4	60.1
Female	80.4	87.1	83.3	76.1	69.3	58.2	45.6	40	34.3	58	72.7
12-14 yr olds	75.7	80.8	79	76.7	62.3	56.1	42.1	34.7	29.7	48.5	66.5
15-17 yr olds	78	83.3	77.8	71.6	71.5	55.8	44.4	38.7	35.3	53.9	66.9
18+ yr olds	80.3	84.7	81.4	72.7	79.2	68.9	48.6	49.2	43.7	64.5	74.3
Aboriginal	81.6	83.7	77.6	79.6	77.6	61.2	46.9	39.8	37.8	59.2	69.4
NESB	76.8	83.8	79	73.9	68.1	55.5	40.3	35.9	33.6	54.3	66.7
Disability	84.4	81.8	71.4	74	67.5	54.5	48.1	40.3	31.2	42.9	74
HA + A	78.7	83.6	80.5	74.7	69.6	58.1	44.1	38.8	34.2	55.3	70.1
MA + R + VR	73.7	84.2	81.6	71.1	67.1	61.8	42.1	32.9	22.4	44.7	67.1
All responses	76.3	81.1	77	72.7	67.7	55.8	43.5	38.3	34	51.7	65.9

- A- Feeling that they have the right to participate in decisions that affect them
- B- Feeling that their opinions are valued and taken seriously by adults
- C- Feeling comfortable to speak out and get involved
- D- Feeling safe to participate
- E- Having access to relevant information, knowledge and training
- F- Making sure they can get to important meeting or activities
- G- Knowing how formal meetings work
- H- Knowing how Government works
- I- Knowing about the three levels of Government-local, state and Commonwealth
- J- Knowing how to get involved in local youth bodies and organisations
- K- Receiving feedback on how their involvement has changed things

RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS (Q.5)

- A. Taking part in their Local Government's Youth Council
- B. Having a say through student representative bodies in schools, TAFE and Universities
- C. Having a say through the NSW Youth Advisory Council
- D. Helping to set-up local community activities, such as Youth Week activities, sport and recreation activities through Police and Community Youth Clubs and alcohol-free events through the Indent program
- E. Taking part in youth leadership programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- F. Taking part in local youth arts programs (by young people for young people)



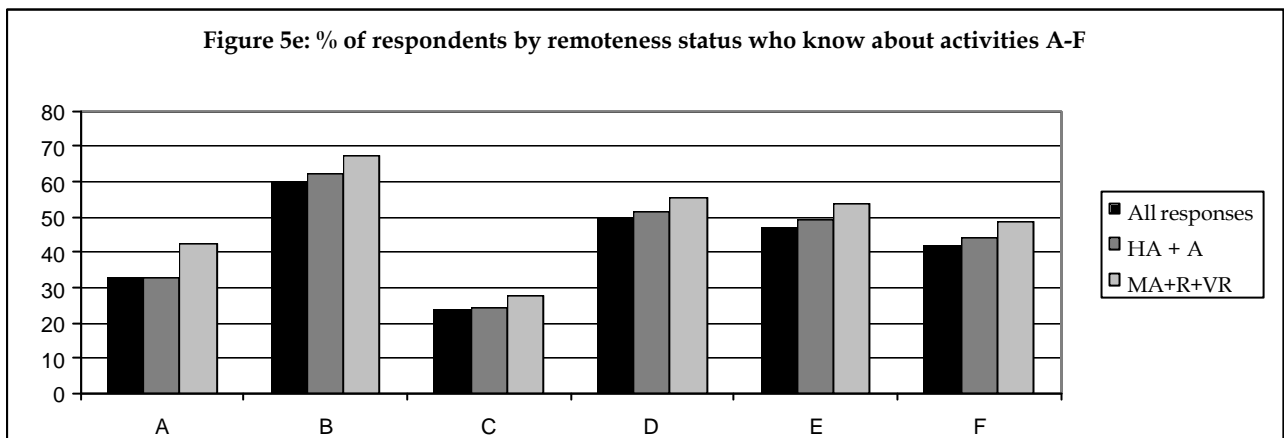
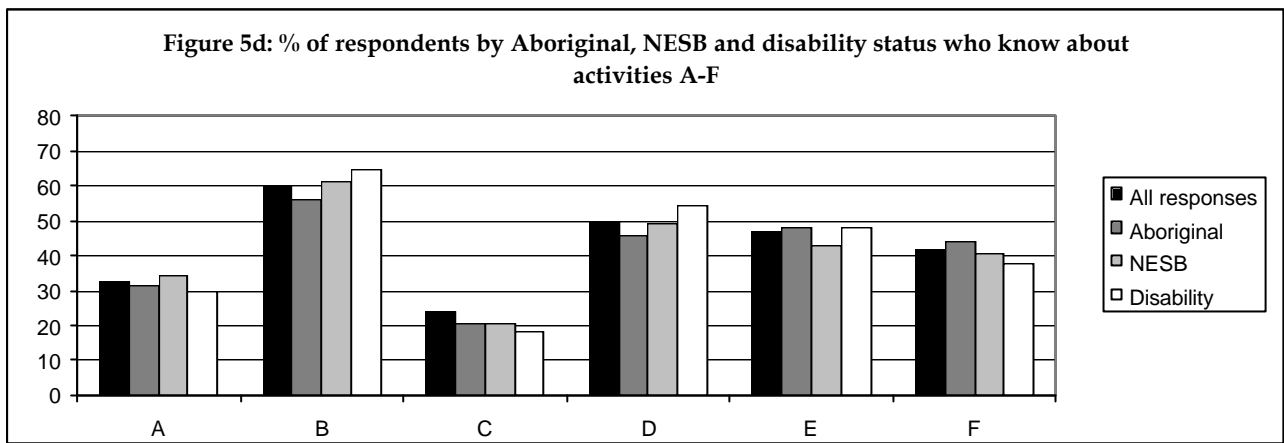


Table 6: % 'yes' responses for each activity respondents know about

Demographic group	Percentage of 'yes' responses					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
SRC	35	67	23.9	54.1	51.7	44.9
Non-SRC	29.4	50	24.2	43	39.7	37.4
Male	33.5	56.1	26.4	48.9	45.8	38.4
Female	31.9	65.5	22.1	51.5	49.7	46.2
12-14 yr olds	30.2	56.8	22.2	54.6	41.9	45.3
15-17 yr olds	32.3	63	22.5	47	49	42.3
18+ yr olds	40.4	67.2	35.5	54.1	57.4	36.6
Aboriginal	31.6	56.1	20.4	45.9	48	43.9
NESB	34.2	61.1	20.7	49.3	43.1	40.9
Disability	29.9	64.9	18.2	54.5	48.1	37.7
HA + A	32.7	62	24.1	51.4	49	43.9
MA + R + VR	42.1	67.1	27.6	55.3	53.9	48.7
All responses	32.8	60.1	23.8	49.6	46.7	41.7

- A-** Taking part in their Local Government's Youth Council
- B-** Having a say through student representative bodies in schools, TAFE and Universities
- C-** Having a say through the NSW Youth Advisory Council
- D-** Helping to set-up local community activities, such as Youth Week activities, sport and recreation activities through Police and Community Youth Clubs and alcohol-free events through the Indent program
- E-** Taking part in youth leadership programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- F-** Taking part in local youth arts programs (by young people for young people)

Are you between 12 – 25 years old?

**Just tell us about what you do
and have your say!**

WIN FREE tickets to the MOVIES!!!

All you have to do is fill out the survey below and you will be in the draw to win one of 100 double passes to a cinema near you! TOO EASY!

What's the survey about?

The NSW Youth Advisory Council advises the Government on things that are important to young people living in NSW.

The Council wants to be able to tell the NSW Government about how young people want to participate in shaping their lives and the life of their community.

So the Council has developed this survey so you can tell the NSW Government what you are involved in already in your community, and what you'd like to have a say in.

So here's your chance to have your say!

SURVEY.....

There are no right or wrong answers...we just want your help to tell the NSW Government what they can do to assist young people to participate in all aspects of life in NSW.

1. Here are some examples of how some young people participate in their community. Have you participated in any of these sorts of activities?

Y Yes
N No

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) Setting up a project with friends such as a fun event for young people in your community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Writing a letter to a newspaper or to Government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Playing a sport such as hockey, skateboarding, tennis etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Taking part in cultural activities such as theatre groups, bands, cinema, dance troupes or visual arts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Being a member of a group that helps out in the community, like a church youth group or a Scouts/Guides group | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Being a volunteer doorknocker collecting for a community organisation, or some other volunteer activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Being involved on a youth service committee or in a community group | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- h) Being a member of your school's Student Representative Council
- i) Being a member of your local Council's Youth Council

What other sorts of activities do you participate in?

2. What sorts of things would you like to participate in?

Y Yes
 N No
 M Maybe

- a) Having a say in the way local shops, businesses or shopping malls treat you
- b) Having a say in the way local youth services are provided in your community
- c) Having a say in decision-making in your school, TAFE or university
- d) Having a say in the ways in which your local area is developing and is providing services and facilities for young people
- e) Letting the local and state Government know about the things that are important to young people
- f) Influencing how the media represents young people

What other activities would you like to participate in?

3. Why do you (or do you want to) participate?

Y Yes
 N No

- a) Because you like to contribute
- b) Because you enjoy working in a group
- c) Because you like to learn new things
- d) Because your family or school expects you to
- e) Because you are passionate about something

Any other reasons?

4. We'd like it to be easier for you and other young people to participate in things that are important to you. What would make it easier for you to participate?

Y Yes
N No
M Maybe

- a) Feeling that you have a right to participate in decisions that affect your life
- b) Feeling that your opinions are valued and taken seriously by adults
- c) Feeling comfortable to speak out and get involved
- d) Feeling safe to participate
- e) Having access to relevant information, knowledge and training
- f) Making sure you can get to important meetings or activities
- g) Knowing how formal meetings work
- h) Knowing how Government works
- i) Knowing about the 3 levels of Government- local, State and Commonwealth?
- j) Knowing how to get involved in local youth bodies and organisations
- k) Receiving feedback on how your involvement has changed things

Anything else?

5. The NSW Government can help young people to participate in many different ways. Do you know about:

Y Yes
N No

- a) Having a say through your local government's youth council
- b) Having a say through student representative bodies in schools, TAFE and Universities?
- c) Having a say through the NSW Youth Advisory Council

- d) Helping to set-up local community activities, such as
 - Youth Week activities
 - sport and recreation activities through Police and Community Youth Clubs,
 - alcohol-free entertainment events through the *Indent* program
- e) Taking part in youth leadership programs like the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- f) Taking part in local youth arts programs (by young people for young people)

6. What three things most frustrate you living as a young person in your local community and wanting to participate in it?

7. Is there anything else that you'd like to tell us about how you participate in the community, or how you'd like to get involved?

8. For your chance to WIN one double pass to a cinema near you*, could you give us some information about yourself. Winners will be contacted directly and their first names listed on the NSW Youth website on Tuesday, 1 June 2004.

* see www.youth.nsw.gov.au/ for competition Terms & Conditions

Your name and address:

Your age: _____ years

Male/Female? (please circle)

Are you a member of the following groups:**

Y Yes
N No

An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

A person whose language at home is not English

A person with a disability

** This information will be used strictly in line with the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1988*. The information is collected for the purposes of entering you into the draw for movie tickets, and will also help us identify the needs of Aboriginal young people, young people who come from a non-English speaking background and young people who have a disability.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Aboriginal	Refers to a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
Young People	Refers to people aged between 12 and 25
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
HA	Highly Accessible (refers to relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction)
A	Accessible (refers to some restrictions to accessibility of some goods, services and opportunities for social interaction)
MA	Moderately Accessible (refers to significantly restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction)
R	Remote (refers to very restricted accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction)
VR	Very Remote (refers to very little accessibility of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction)
NESB	Non-English speaking background
SRC	Student Representative Council
YAC	NSW Youth Advisory Council