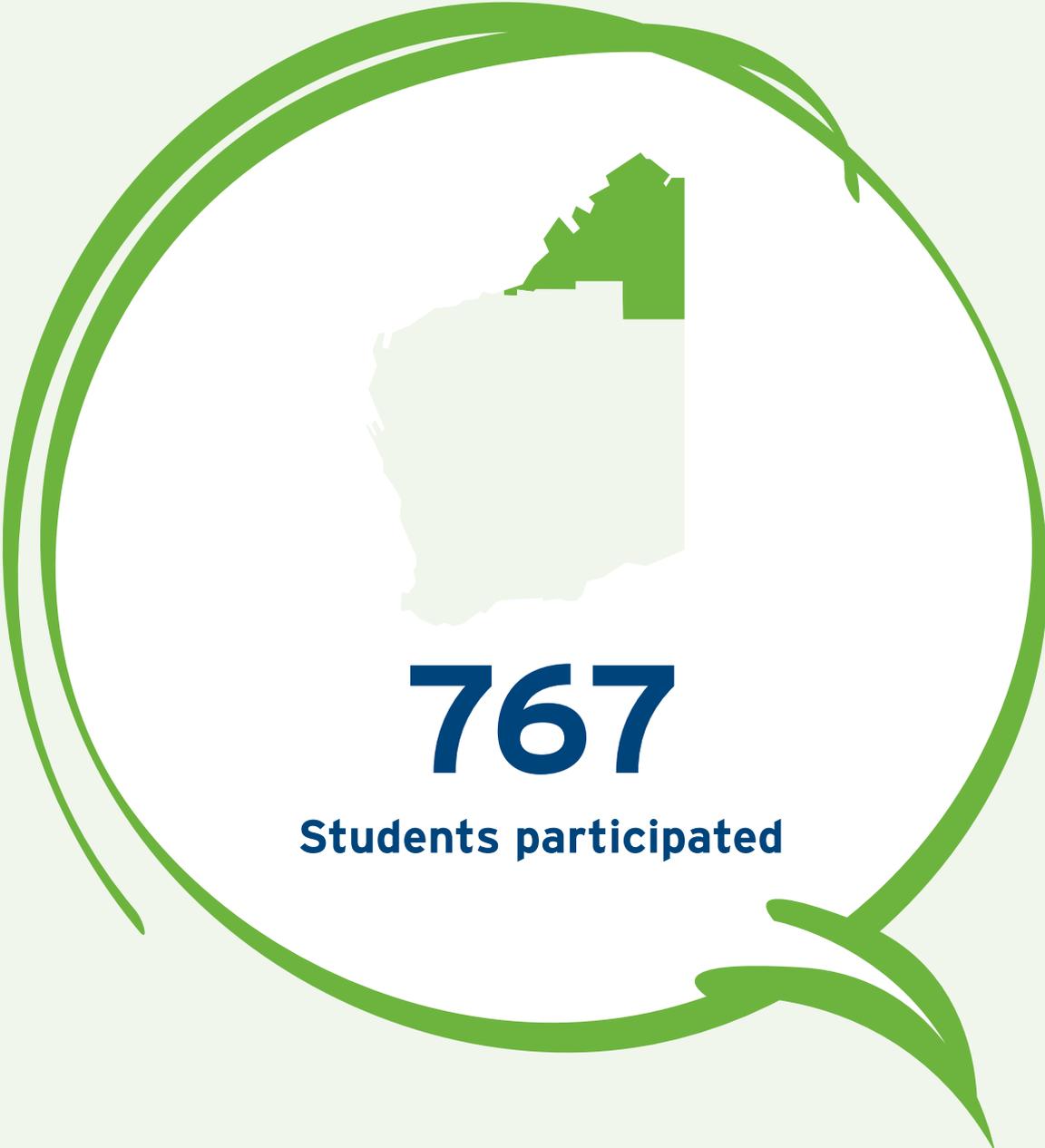


# Kimberley



# Kimberley key findings



Compared to students across the state, a lower proportion of students in the Kimberley **reported their health is very good or excellent.**

In particular, **a lower proportion of Aboriginal students** than non-Aboriginal students in the Kimberley rated their **health as excellent/very good** (29.8% vs 56.4%).

**A greater proportion** of secondary students in the Kimberley compared to WA students overall reported that they **have done vigorous exercise seven or more times in the previous seven days** (29.1% compared to 19.8%).



**Students in the Kimberley are marginally more likely to report higher life satisfaction than students across the state** (67.4% compared to 61.4%).

Young people in the Kimberley are more likely than those across other regions in WA to have **tried smoking and had experiences with marijuana.**



Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of students in the Kimberley said it is **very important to them to be at school every day.** This is the highest proportion across all regions in WA (all of WA: 53.8%).



**Aboriginal students in the Kimberley have very positive attitudes towards school** with two-thirds (67.7%) reporting that attending school is very important to them (58.3% non-Aboriginal) and that **they like school a lot** (Aboriginal: 39.8%, non-Aboriginal: 19.6%).

**A higher proportion of students in the Kimberley** than students across WA do not **feel safe in their local area.**

**Three-quarters (77.3%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students reported that their family gets along very well or well.** This is consistent with the results across WA (76.1%).



Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 are just as likely to **feel safe at home most of the time or all of the time** as non-Aboriginal students (Aboriginal: 87.0%, non-Aboriginal: 90.4%).

A higher proportion of secondary students in the Kimberley than students across WA **do not feel safe in their local area all or most of the time** (56.3% vs 69.9%).



More than one-quarter (29.8%) of secondary students in the Kimberley reported that they **do not have their own tablet, laptop or computer** compared to one in ten (11.7%) secondary students across WA.

## Overview

A total of 767 children and young people across Years 4 to 12 from six primary schools and five secondary schools in the Kimberley took part in the Speaking Out Survey 2021.

One-half (52.8%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students surveyed in the Kimberley identified as girls, 44.9 per cent identified as boys and 2.3 per cent selected the option that they identify 'in another way'.

More than one-third (36.8%) of participants reported being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This is a much greater proportion than in the Perth Southern (5.4%) or Northern (3.6%) metropolitan areas.

Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, 97.0 per cent reported speaking English at home and 13.8 per cent reported (also) speaking other language(s) at home. The other languages spoken included Tagalog/Filipino, German and Aboriginal languages including Aboriginal English, Yulparija and Yawuru.

Many students in the Kimberley liked doing the survey and felt that it provided them with an opportunity to have their say:

*“Good something get my mind off things I could explain myself freely so thank you 😊.”*

*(male, 9 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“I like the survey because it ask me questions that made me calm.”*

*(male, 9 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“I really like how you feel you should talk to us children about asking questions instead of asking parent’s only.”*

*(female, 10 year-old, undisclosed Aboriginal status)*

*“I liked the survey and it was fun to answer questions anonymous and it was nice to speak out about everything.”*

*(female, 10 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“It really helped me get a lot of things off my chest, without having to say stuff to a person face to face.”*

*(female, 14 year-old, Aboriginal)*

**▲▲ I thought that the survey was fine and I also hope that teacher parents and adults take how their children or students are feeling and acting seriously as well as what we have to say because we shouldn't be kept silent. ▼▼**

*female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

## Healthy and connected

**More discussion in school about warning signs for mental health issues such as anxiety (earlier on in education) and healthy friendships (what is acceptable, what is not, warning signs for this). More places for young people to go that are safe so we have something to do that's positive.**

*(female, 16 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

### Physical health

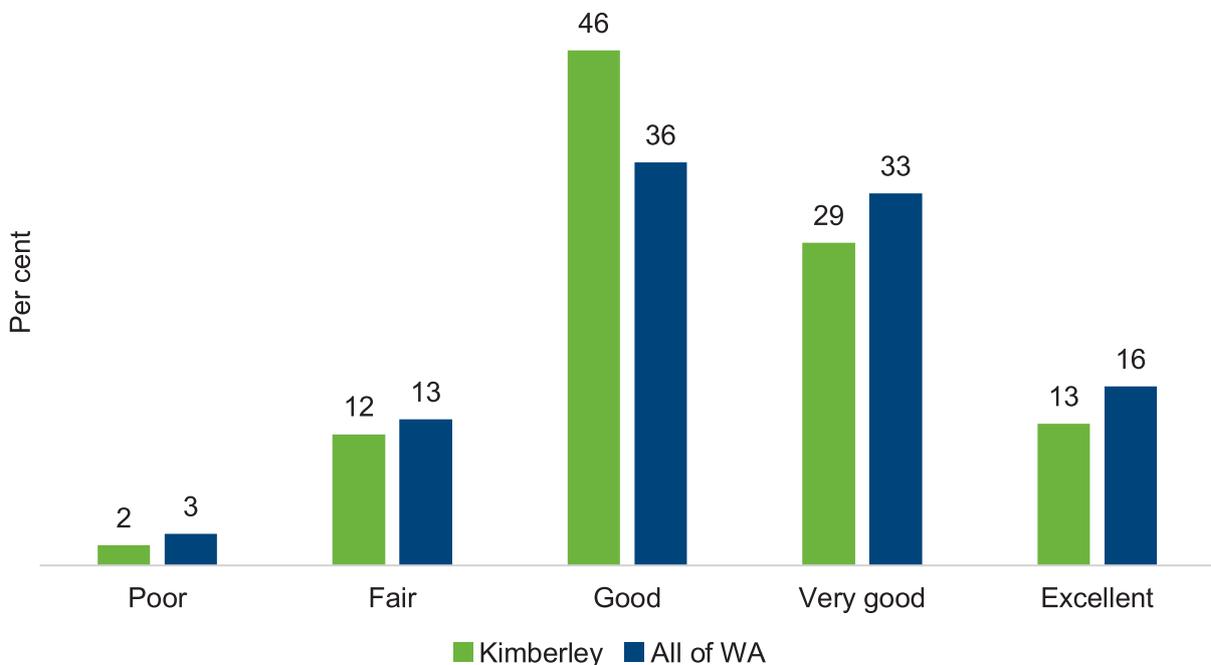
Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, 41.0 per cent reported that their health is very

good or excellent (Years 4–6: 43.9%; Years 7–12: 39.1%), while 13.4 per cent reported that their health is poor or fair (Years 4–6: 8.6%; Years 7–12: 16.7%).

Compared to students across the state, a lower proportion of students in the Kimberley reported their health as very good or excellent.

One in five (21.0%) secondary students in the Kimberley reported having a long-term health problem, while 5.7 per cent reported having a long-term disability. The most commonly reported long-term health problems were asthma and anxiety/depression. The most commonly reported disabilities were ADHD, vision impairment and learning difficulties including dyslexia.

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting their general health ratings



With regard to eating regular meals, 15.4 per cent of students in the Kimberley reported that they never or hardly ever eat breakfast. Primary school students are less likely than secondary students to report they never or hardly ever eat breakfast (5.2% compared to 22.3%). Further, girls are more likely than boys to report they never or hardly ever eat breakfast in both primary school (girls: 8.1%; boys: 1.5%) and secondary school (girls: 26.5%; boys: 15.5%).

These results are consistent with results for students across WA.

A greater proportion of secondary students in the Kimberley compared to WA students overall reported that they had done vigorous exercise seven or more times in the previous seven days (29.1% compared to 19.8%). In particular, a higher proportion of girls in the Kimberley than girls in WA overall reported doing vigorous exercise seven or more times in the previous week (28.6% compared to 12.4%).

Year 4 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley also reported the following with respect to their physical health:

- 60.5 per cent reported brushing their teeth twice or more the previous day (Years 4–6: 57.4%; Years 7–12: 62.6%). One in ten (10.0%) Year 4 to Year 12 students reported they did not brush their teeth the previous day. This is the highest proportion across the state (all of WA: 4.5%).

- 45.0 per cent reported they care very much about eating healthy food (Years 4–6: 49.4%; Years 7–12: 42.3%) and 35.9 per cent reported they care some (Years 4–6: 31.4%; Years 7–12: 38.8%).
- Fewer than one in five (17.6%) secondary students reported only eating fruit a few times a week or less (all of WA: 24.8%). This is the lowest proportion across all regions.
- 41.4 per cent reported caring very much about how they look (Years 4–6: 40.0%; Years 7–12: 42.2%) and 30.2 per cent reported they care some (Years 4–6: 28.8%; Years 7–12: 31.0%).
- Three-quarters (77.2%) of Year 4 to Year 6 students reported going to sleep on a school night before 9pm, while 54.8 per cent of Year 7 to Year 12 students reported going to sleep on a school night before 10pm. These proportions are higher than the average across the state.



**Girls are more likely than boys to report they never or hardly ever eat breakfast**

## Mental health

Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, 7.3 is the mean life satisfaction (on a scale from 0 to 10). The mean life satisfaction across all of WA is 6.8.

Primary school students have a higher mean result than secondary students (Years 4–6: 8.2; Years 7–12: 6.6).

Students in the Kimberley are marginally more likely to report higher life satisfaction than students across the state (67.4% compared to 61.4%).

Female secondary students are more than three times as likely to report low life satisfaction than their male peers, with 25.8 per cent of female students reporting low life satisfaction (0 to 4) compared to

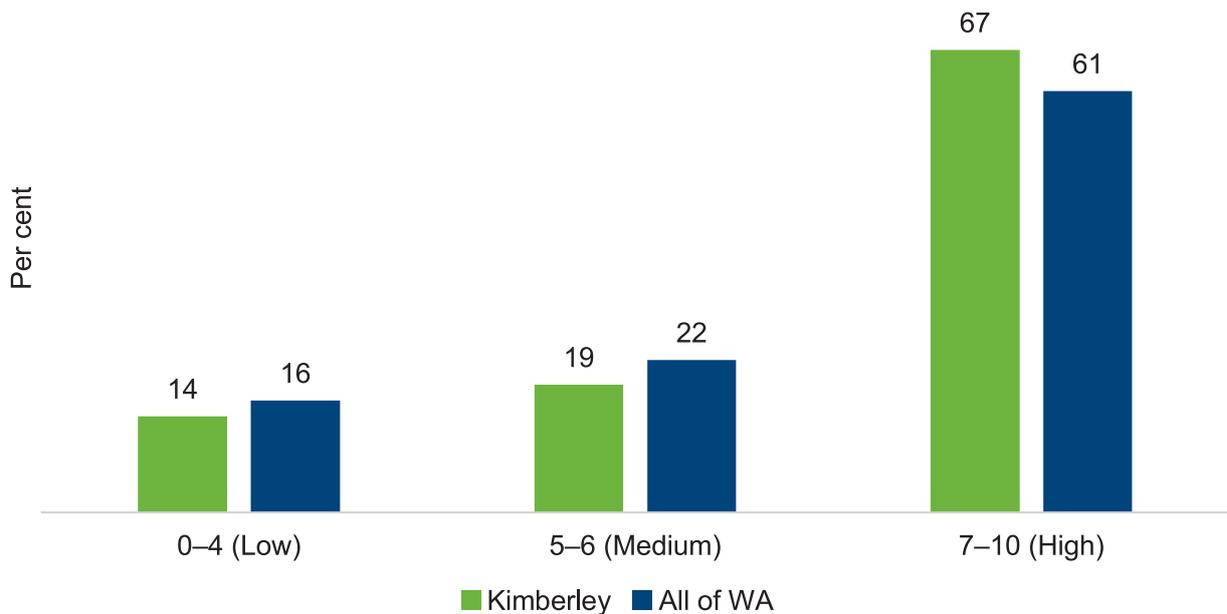
8.5 per cent of male students. This is similar to results for female young people across WA.

Male students in the Kimberley are significantly less likely than those across the state to report low life satisfaction (8.5% vs 13.4%).

Secondary school students in the Kimberley also reported:

- 44.9 per cent agreed and 23.1 strongly agreed that they feel good about themselves, while one-third disagreed (disagreed: 26.5%; strongly disagreed: 5.6%).
- 49.5 per cent agreed and 22.6 per cent strongly agreed that they can deal with things that happen in their life.

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students rating their life satisfaction on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is the worst possible life and 10 the best possible life



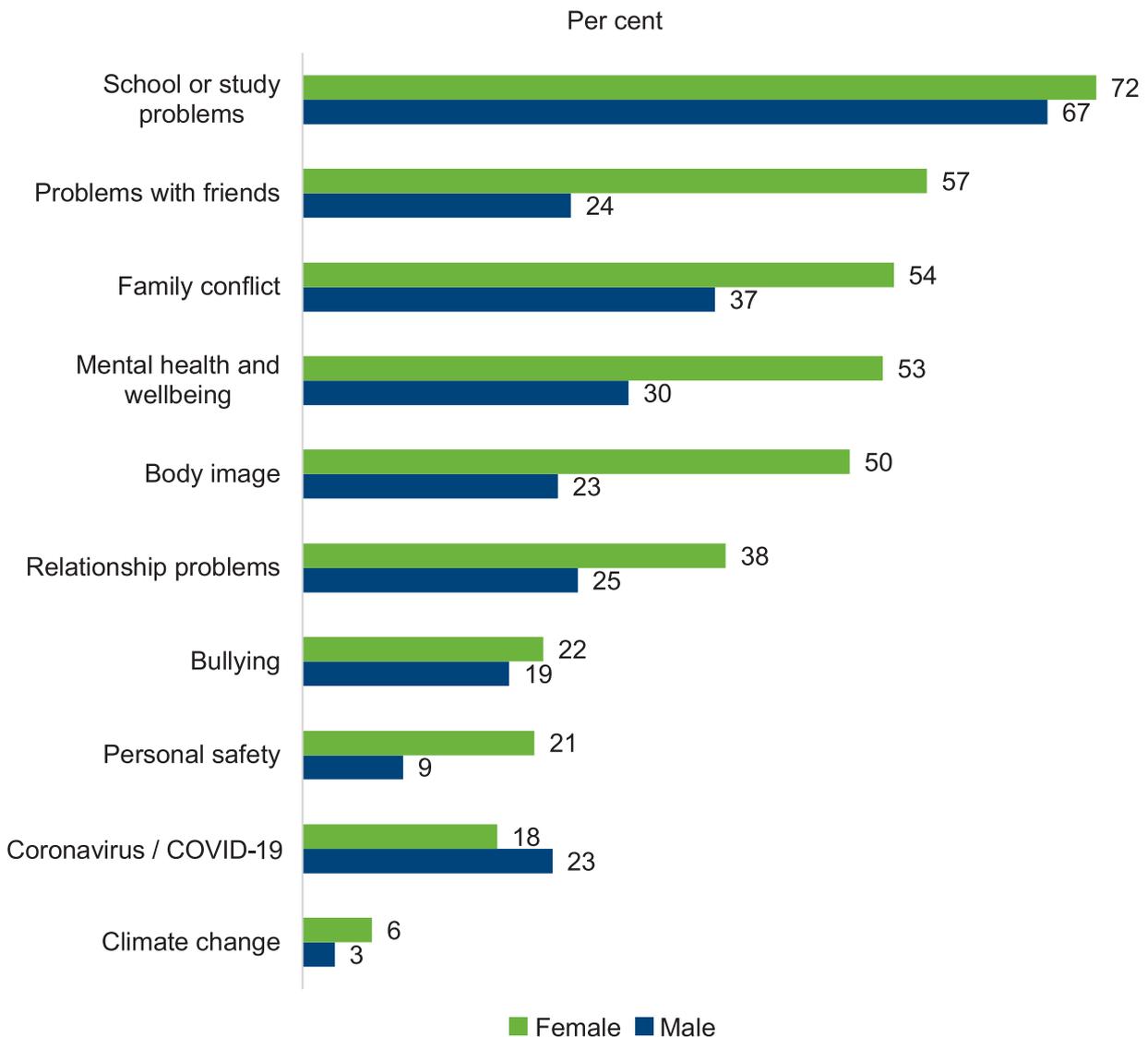
In Years 9 to 12, 61.2 per cent of students reported they had felt sad, blue or depressed for two or more weeks in a row in the previous 12 months (all of WA: 59.2%).

The Kimberley has the greatest gender gap across all regions for responses to this question, where 39.9 per cent of male Year 9 to Year 12 students reported feeling sad, blue and depressed for two or more weeks in a row in the previous 12 months, compared to 76.7 per cent of female students (all of WA – male: 47.3%; female: 68.7%).

Year 9 to Year 12 students were asked about sources of stress during the year. School and study problems were most commonly reported, with family conflict, mental health and problems with friends also rating highly.

There are gender differences in responses, with greater proportions of female students reporting being affected by stress across all sources except for coronavirus/COVID-19.

**Proportion of students reporting sources of stress in the previous 12 months**



## Access to support for physical and mental health

Of the secondary students surveyed in the Kimberley:

- 68.5 per cent said they know where to get support in their school for stress, anxiety, depression or other emotional health worries.
- 64.0 per cent said they know where to get support in their local area for stress, anxiety, depression or other emotional health worries.

Compared to the rest of WA, secondary students in the Kimberley are less likely to report they have got help for problems with stress, anxiety, depression or other emotional health worries in the previous 12 months (28.4% compared to 36.7%). This is particularly true of male students, with only 21.5 per cent reporting they had got help for these issues compared to 30.3 per cent for males across WA.

The most commonly used sources of support for secondary students in the Kimberley were parents (84.5%), other family (71.4%), friends including boyfriend or girlfriend (66.6%), school psychologist, school chaplain or school nurse (57.7%) and teachers (55.4%).

Due to the high proportion of Aboriginal students in the Kimberley, 37.5 per cent of all students have contacted an Aboriginal health worker or medical service.

Of the students who had asked for help, 85.0 per cent found other family members helpful, 84.1 per cent found parents helpful, while 68.0 per cent found teachers helpful. Young people in the Kimberley are more likely than students across WA to have gone to other family members (not their parents) for support and to have found them helpful.

Female students are more likely than male students to report that in the previous 12 months, there had been a time when they wanted or needed to see someone for their health but weren't able to (female: 31.1%; male: 7.3%). Most female students (80.9%) who reported they were unable to see someone stated it was because they felt embarrassed or ashamed.

These results are consistent with those across WA.

**“ I have tried many of times but adults don't listen because they know my parents and think that the problems I have could not be from my family. ”**

*(male, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

## Risk-taking and healthy behaviours

Students in Years 7 to 12 were asked questions about alcohol, smoking and other drugs, and about sexual health. Some questions were only asked of students in Years 9 to 12.

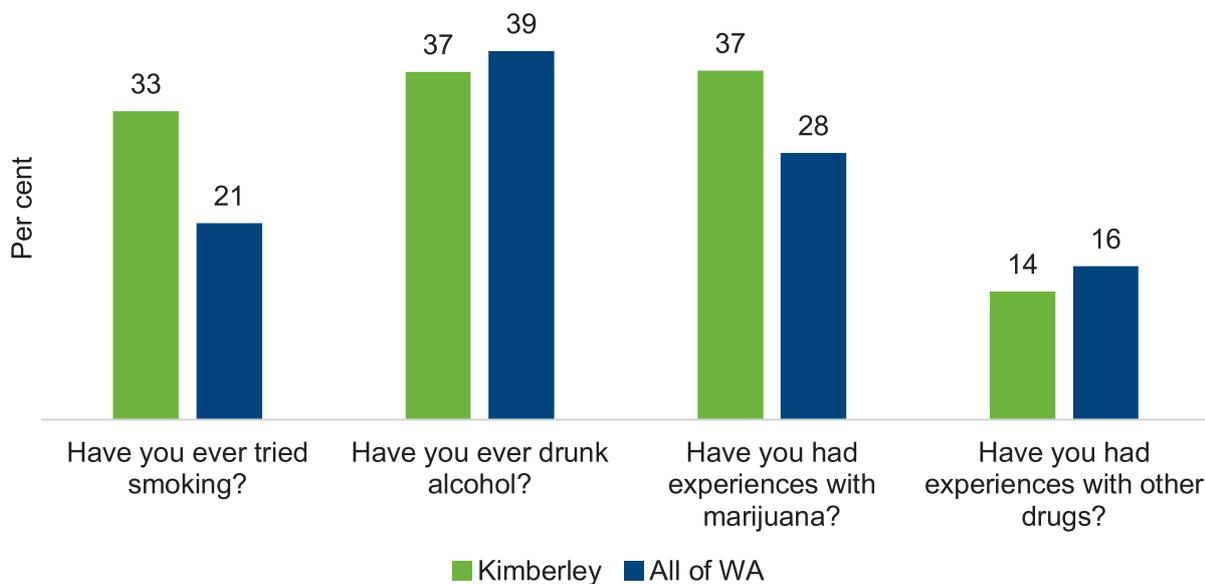
### Alcohol and other drugs

Young people in the Kimberley are more likely than those across other regions in WA

to have tried smoking or had experiences with marijuana (smoking: 32.8% vs 20.9%; marijuana: 37.1% vs 28.4%). (This is not necessarily using marijuana themselves).

A similar proportion of young people in the Kimberley compared to the rest of the state have tried drinking alcohol (37.0% vs 39.2%) or other drugs (13.6% vs 16.3%).

**Proportion of young people in Years 7 to 12 who responded ‘yes’ to the question on whether they have tried smoking or drinking, or had experiences with marijuana or other drugs (Years 9 to 12 only)**



*Note: The questions asked were: Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?; Have you ever drunk alcohol (more than just a few sips, like a full can of beer or a glass of wine)?; Have you ever had any experiences with marijuana? Response options were: ‘No’, ‘Yes’ and ‘Prefer not to say’.*

In the Kimberley, a high proportion of Year 7 to Year 12 students stated that their friends use cigarettes (42.1%), drink alcohol (45.0%) or use marijuana (38.1%). These are marginally higher than the overall results for the state (33.7%, 44.1% and 33.6% respectively).

Of the secondary students surveyed in the Kimberley:

- 76.9 per cent reported having learnt 'some' or 'a lot' about alcohol and 77.3 per cent had learnt about cigarettes/smoking at school.
- 59.7 per cent said they had learnt 'some' or 'a lot' about marijuana and 64.3 per cent had learnt about other drugs at school.

More than one-third (36.5%) of students felt like they did not know or were not sure they knew enough about the health impacts of marijuana. This is similar to the responses from students across WA.

Three in 10 (29.8%) of students did not know or were not sure where to go if they needed help for something related to smoking, drinking or other drugs. This is consistent with WA responses overall (30.2%).

### Sexual health

One-quarter (23.9%) of female secondary school students in the Kimberley reported that they have learnt nothing about pregnancy and contraception at school (male: 15.3%), while 50.0 per cent reported they have learnt a lot or some (male: 62.2%).

Two in five (41.2%) female students in the Kimberley reported that they do not feel they know enough or are unsure they know enough about sexual health and ways to support their sexual health (male: 29.5%). Similarly, one-half (50.8%) of female students reported that they do not feel they know enough or are unsure they know enough about pregnancy and contraception (male: 37.6%). These results are consistent with those across the state.

Almost one-third (31.7%) of secondary students in the Kimberley do not know or are unsure about where to go if they need help for something related to their reproductive or sexual health (all of WA: 40.8%).

In Years 9 to 12, 52.6 per cent of female students and 20.7 per cent of male students reported they had ever been sent unwanted sexual material, such as pornographic pictures, videos or words. This sexual material was overwhelmingly sent via social media platforms.

### Problematic behaviours and emotions related to being online

Of the students surveyed in this region:

- 34.1 per cent said they feel bothered 'fairly often' or 'very often' when they cannot be on the internet (Years 4–6: 23.0%; Years 7–12: 39.1%).
- 28.8 per cent said they feel bothered when they cannot play electronic games (Years 4–6: 35.3%; Years 7–12: 25.8%).
- 27.3 per cent of male and 51.8 per cent of female secondary students said they feel bothered when they cannot use their mobile phone.
- 11.6 per cent of male and 19.4 per cent of female secondary students said they go without eating or sleeping either fairly often or very often because of their mobile phone.

These results are similar to the responses across WA.

### Connection to community

In Years 4 to 6, the proportion of students in the Kimberley who reported they like where they live is a significant majority (83.8%) – which is in line with their peers across WA.

In Years 7 to 12, the proportion of students who reported they like where they live is just over two-thirds (69.2%), below the WA average (79.3%). Moreover, Year 7 to Year 12 students are significantly more likely to disagree a lot that they like where they live compared to secondary students across WA (10.6% vs 4.0%).

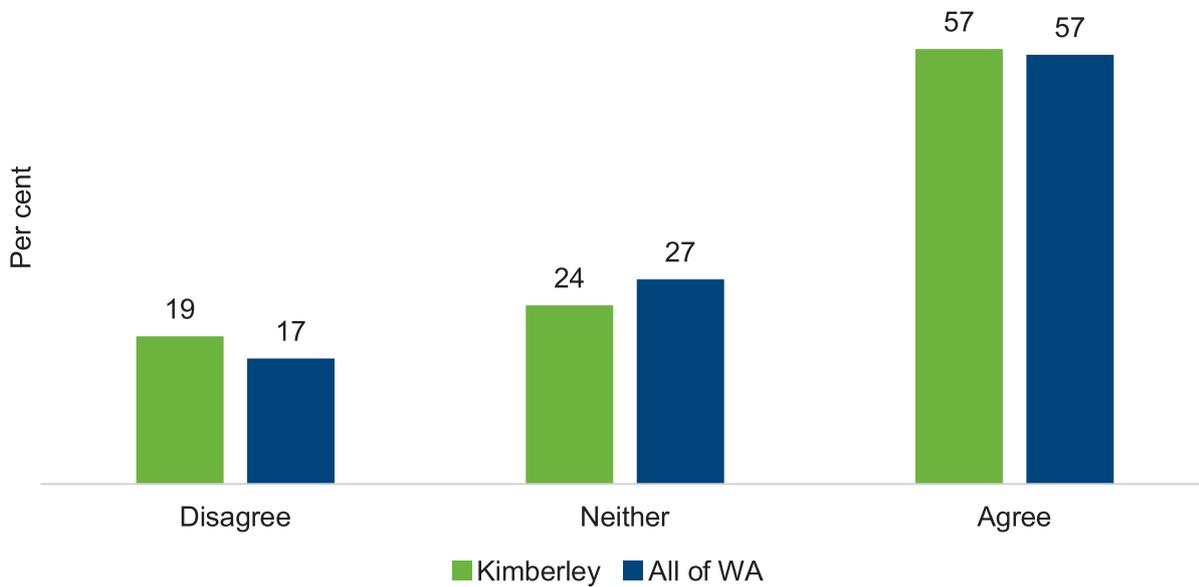
Most students in Years 4 to 6 feel like they belong in their community (74.7%), report

that there are fun things to do where they live (75.8%) and that there are outdoor places to go like parks or skate parks (75.6%). Around one in seven (13.5%) children in Years 4 to 6 disagrees that there are outdoor places to go like parks or skate parks – this is a lower proportion than across WA (7.0%).

In contrast, of the secondary students surveyed, just over one-half (57.2%) reported that they feel like they belong in their community, while almost one in five (19.4%) disagreed.

These results are consistent with the results across all of the state.

### Proportion of Year 7 to Year 12 students who feel like they belong in their community



Almost one-half (47.4%) of Year 7 to Year 12 students agree a lot and 29.2 per cent agree a bit that there are outdoor places to go in their area, like parks, ovals or skate parks. However, only one-quarter (25.8%) agree a lot that there are fun things to do where they live (19.9% agree a bit). One-third (34.7%) disagree with this statement.

In regard to the activities that children and young people in the Kimberley do when they are not at school:

- 64.1 per cent said they spend time hanging out with family every day or almost every day (Years 4–6: 60.3%; Years 7–12: 66.5%).
- 62.3 per cent said they spend time using the internet on a smartphone or computer every day or almost every day (Years 4–6: 39.0%; Years 7–12: 76.4%). This is lower than the overall WA responses (Years 4–6: 50.7%; Years 7–12: 90.6%).

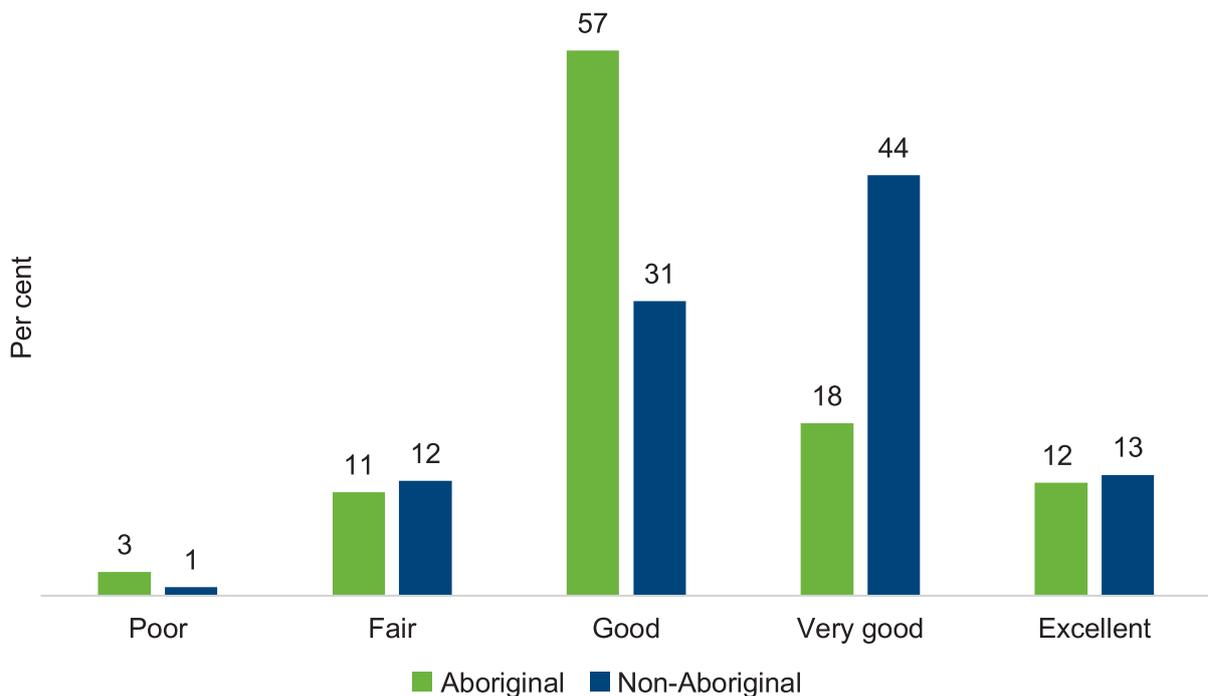
- 45.7 per cent said they spend time practising or playing a sport every day or almost every day (Years 4–6: 44.9%; Years 7–12: 46.2%).
- 39.1 per cent said they spend time hanging out with friends every day or almost every day (Years 4–6: 41.0%; Years 7–12: 37.8%).

### Aboriginal children’s and young people’s views on feeling healthy and connected

A lower proportion of Aboriginal students than non-Aboriginal students in the Kimberley rated their health as excellent/very good (29.8% vs 56.4%).

Almost all (96.4%) Aboriginal secondary students reported that physical activity, sport or exercise is ‘definitely’ or sort of an important part of their life compared to 85.1 per cent of non-Aboriginal students.

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting their general health ratings



Further, a higher proportion of Aboriginal students than non-Aboriginal students reported they had done vigorous exercise seven or more times in the previous week (Aboriginal: 32.0%, non-Aboriginal: 25.7%).

Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 12 students reported similar life satisfaction to non-Aboriginal students, with more than two-thirds (68.6%) of Aboriginal students rating their life satisfaction as high (7 to 10). Additionally, similar proportions of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 12 students agree that they are able to do things as well as most other people (Aboriginal: 78.4%, non-Aboriginal: 76.6%).

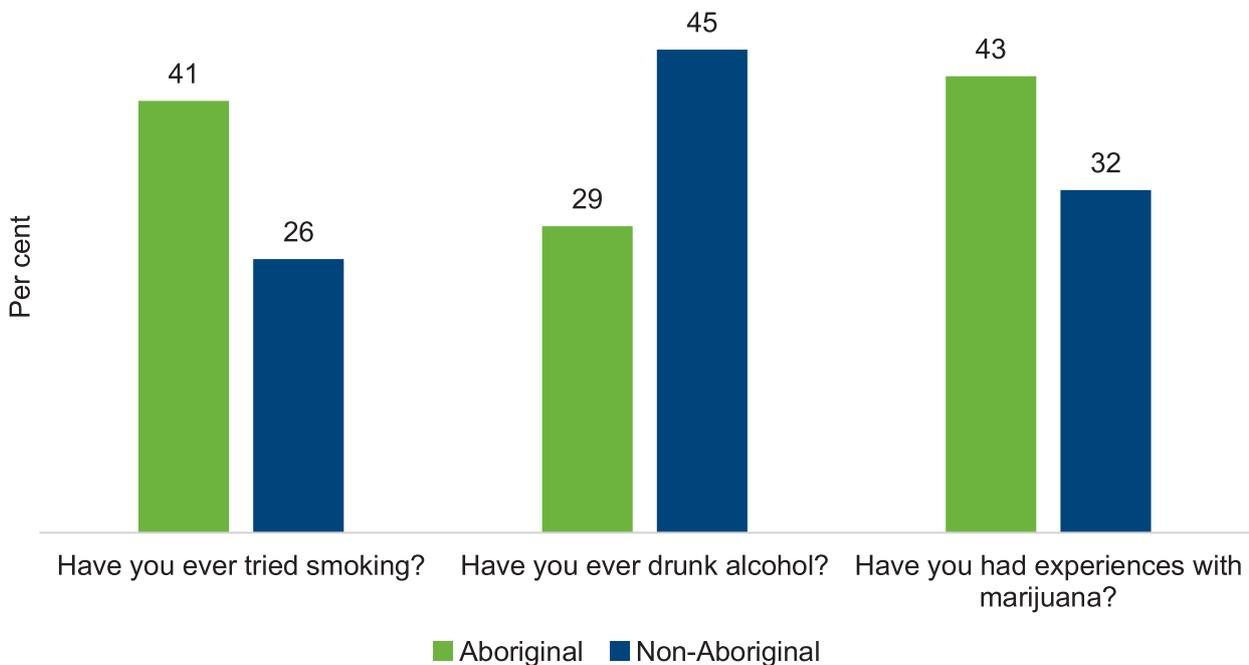
However, Aboriginal secondary students in the Kimberley are more likely to disagree that they can deal with things that happen in their life (Aboriginal: 12.8%, non-Aboriginal: 5.2%).

The top three stressors reported by Aboriginal secondary students were school or study problems (56.9%), family conflict (42.5%) and problems with friends (40.2%). Aboriginal students are less likely than non-Aboriginal students to report mental health and wellbeing as a source of stress (32.6% vs 49.3%).

Aboriginal secondary students are more likely than non-Aboriginal students to feel very often bothered when they could not use their mobile phone (32.6% compared to 14.8%).

Aboriginal secondary students in the Kimberley are more likely to have tried smoking and those in Years 9 to 12 are more likely to have had experiences with marijuana than non-Aboriginal students. However, Aboriginal students are less likely to have drunk alcohol.

**Proportion of young people in Years 7 to 12 who have tried smoking or drinking, or had experiences with marijuana (Years 9 to 12 only)**



*Note: The questions asked were: Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?; Have you ever drunk alcohol (more than just a few sips, like a full can of beer or a glass of wine)?; Have you ever had any experiences with marijuana? Response options were: 'No', 'Yes' and 'Prefer not to say'.*

In terms of connection to culture and community, of the Aboriginal students in the Kimberley:

- 82.3 per cent said they know their family’s country, and of these students 92.3 per cent said they spend time on their family’s country. This is the highest proportion across the state.
- 41.0 per cent said they talk Aboriginal language some or a lot, which is the highest proportion across the state (all of WA: 27.1%).
- 69.4 per cent said they do cultural or traditional activities with their family.

Aboriginal children (Years 4 to 6) in the Kimberley are more likely than non-Aboriginal children to feel like they belong in their community (Aboriginal: 78.9%, non-Aboriginal: 66.2%).

Aboriginal secondary students are more likely than non-Aboriginal students to feel like they belong in their community (66.4% compared to 48.7%).

### **What do children and young people in the Kimberley say about being healthy and connected?**

Students were asked the following open text questions related to health and mental health:

- Thinking about mental health and other emotional worries, like stress, anxiety and depression, what are some of the ways families, communities, schools or adults in general could be more helpful?
- Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences with seeking help for health issues, including mental health worries?

### **Feeling anxiety, depression and sadness**

*“I have trouble fitting in, staying fit, being equal to others, i get teased for my size and looks, I have anxiety and depression.”*

*(female, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“My mum refuses to take me, my friends tease me for having anxiety and I feel like a party pooper.”*

*(female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Umm when I get a bit mad I cut myself sometimes.”*

*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“There is no where I can go if I need help but I’m not really worth much so I don’t care. 🙄”*

*(male, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

**“ If I feel down at school I don’t want the teachers being nosey and constantly pressuring me to tell them I don’t want my parents blaming my anxiety on my phone. ”**

*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### Talking about mental health

*“Just checking up on how we feel more often and using our ideas more.”*  
(male, 11 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“It would help to have a more concerned family and teachers who actually help me.”*  
(female, 12 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“Take me fishing and hunting.”*  
(male, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“I want adults to stop thinking they’re always right. I’d also like them to stop invalidating kids problems. I’d also like them to realise that things aren’t the same as they were when they were kids, the world has changed. I’d also like them to stop brushing off kids mental health problems as “teenage angst”.”*  
(female, 15 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

### Talking about getting support

*“I find it hard to talk to my parents [they] think my mental health is irrelevant.”*  
(female, 12 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“I search up on YouTube or the internet how to cope with anxiety.”*  
(female, 12 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“Late last year I hit my rock bottom but by finally going to a councillor I’ve helped myself and my mental state.”*  
(male, 16 year-old, Aboriginal)

### Views on their local area

Three hundred and eight students from the Kimberley answered the free text question: ‘If there was one thing you could change about your local area, what would it be?’ Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, the top things that they would like to change in their local area were:

- More fun activities to do and places to hang out.
- Make it safer.
- Would like more, closer shops, a mall, movies, greater diversity.
- More, upgraded outdoor spaces or parks.

*“We could have more indoor entertainment because in wet season it’s too hot to do anything outside and no one can swim at the beach because of the irukandji jellyfish.”*  
(female, 12 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“More skate parks and places to practise sports Also fun things like bounce or rock climbing.”*  
(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“That there were more options to do things in town that are for everyone, not just sport. Not every Aussie kid wants to be a football player, you know.”*  
(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“A park and a swimming pool and cold water fountains.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“Put a park and make sure there are no alcohol or cigarettes allowed in the park.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“The fact that there’s nothing to really do after you’ve lived here for 8 years. I’m growing up and nothing in this place interests me anymore.”*

*(female, 15 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Facilities for youths that are safe (eg in indoor bowling).”*

*(female, 16 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Yes, I would like some more things to do when it’s hot it would be nice if there was a better shopping center or indoor movies, theme park, Timezone.”*

*(female, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

In comparison to the rest of WA, students from the Kimberley are more likely to mention safety as an issue in their local area.

*“The amount of kids that fight and shame people and think their the boss mostly in parks/public areas.”*

*(female, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“Not to have so much drugs around.”*

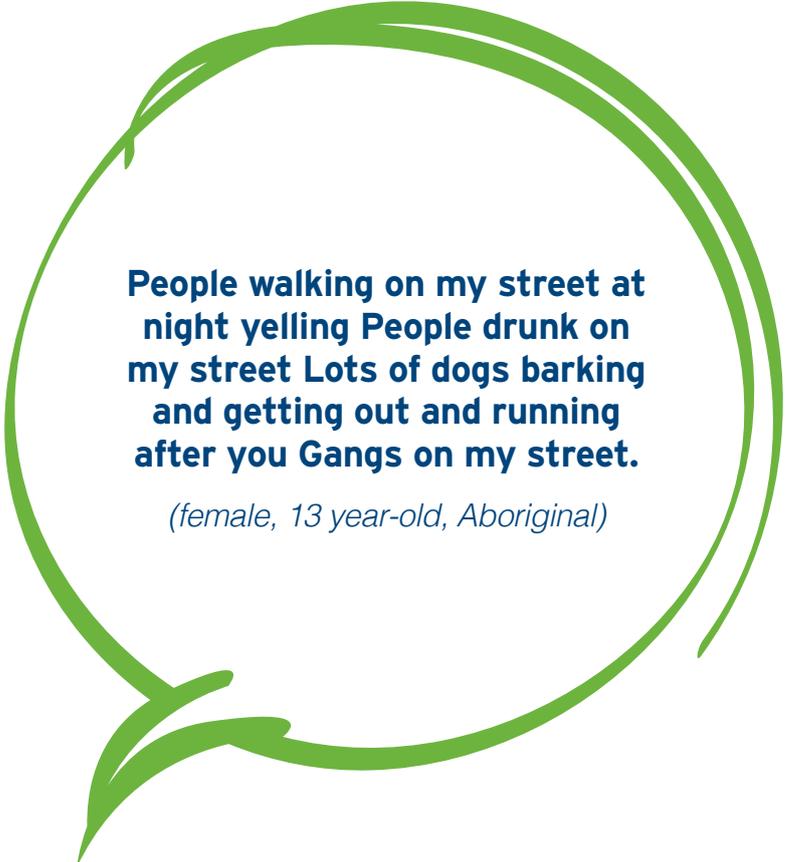
*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“The crime, it used to be really safe and could do stuff without worrying, but now lots of things are limited with all the fighting and stealing.”*

*(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Overall, I would like to feel safer in my area and other places around Broome- especially at night.”*

*(female, 15 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*



**People walking on my street at night yelling People drunk on my street Lots of dogs barking and getting out and running after you Gangs on my street.**

*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

## Learning and participating

**“ Too much of the work is being given out at the same time, maybe the teachers can evenly distribute the homework throughout the terms. Homework is always due in the same week, given out in the same week and most students don’t have enough time to complete it. ”**

*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### Attendance

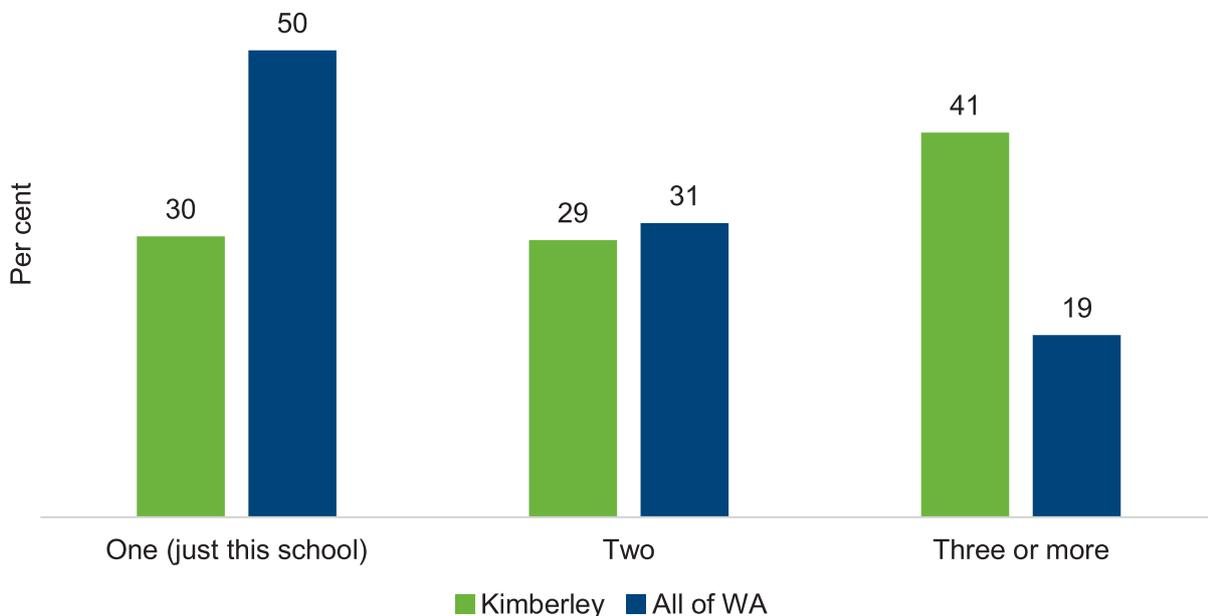
Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of students in the Kimberley said it is very important to them to be at school every day. This is the

highest proportion across all regions in WA (all of WA: 53.8%).

A very high 80.1 per cent of students in Years 4 to 6 said it is very important to them to be at school every day (all of WA: 64.5%). A lower proportion (52.7%) of students in Years 7 to 12 felt it is important to be at school every day, although this is still the highest proportion of all regions (all of WA: 48.0%).

At the same time, students in the Kimberley are more likely to have attended multiple schools since they started primary school or secondary school, with 40.8 per cent of Year 4 to Year 6 students having attended three or more schools since they started primary school (all of WA: 19.3%).

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 6 students reporting how many different schools they have gone to since they started primary school



Further, 30.5 per cent of secondary students in the Kimberley have wagged school in the previous 12 months. This is the highest proportion across all regions and nearly double the proportion of students who had wagged across WA (all of WA: 17.0%).

More than one-quarter (27.1%) of Year 7 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley have been suspended from school – again, almost double the proportion of students suspended across WA (17.1%).

When it comes to learning activities outside of school, only 22.6 per cent of Year 4 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley reported doing homework every day or almost every day (all of WA: 43.1%). One-quarter (24.1%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley hardly ever or never spend time doing homework (all of WA: 16.1%). The low proportion of students doing homework every day or almost every day is consistent across both primary school (20.7%) and secondary school (23.9%).

### Liking school and sense of belonging

Students in the Kimberley are generally very positive about school.

Of the Year 4 to Year 12 students surveyed in the Kimberley, almost one-third (31.6%) reported they like school a lot (all of WA: 26.3%), 23.0 per cent like school a bit (all of WA: 25.4%), while 15.3 per cent reported they don't like school much or at all (all of WA: 19.8%).

Almost three-quarters (73.2%) of secondary students in the Kimberley feel like they belong in their school, which is similar to the overall WA result (70.2%).

Of the Year 4 to Year 12 students:

- 78.8 per cent agreed they feel happy at school (Years 4–6: 90.6%; Years 7–12: 70.7%).
- 79.4 per cent agreed they like learning at school (Years 4–6: 90.2%; Years 7–12: 73.0%). This is the highest proportion of positive responses of all regions (all of WA: 73.3%).
- 61.2 per cent said they usually get along with classmates (Years 4–6: 54.7%; Years 7–12: 65.5%).
- 56.6 per cent said they usually get along with their teachers (Years 4–6: 62.6%; Years 7–12: 52.4%).

Less than one-half of students (42.0%) said their parents, or someone in their family, ask about their schoolwork or homework often (Years 4–6: 36.8%; Years 7–12: 45.6%). This is the equal lowest of all regions across WA (all of WA: 55.6%).

### Feeling safe at school

Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, one-third (33.2%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students said they feel safe at school all the time and 39.8 per cent said they feel safe at school most of the time. However, one in ten (10.5%) reported that they feel safe at school a little bit of the time or never. These results are similar to those across the state.

Around two in five (43.2%) Year 4 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley have been bullied by students at their school, 8.4 per cent did not know whether they had been bullied and 7.9 per cent 'preferred not to say'.

Female students are more likely than male students to report they have been bullied, with over one-half (53.8%) of female students in Years 4 to 6 reporting they have been (traditionally) bullied (male: 31.8%). This is higher than the response rate for female Year 4 to Year 6 students across WA (37.4%). In secondary school, 41.0 per cent of female students reported (traditional) bullying (male: 30.6%).

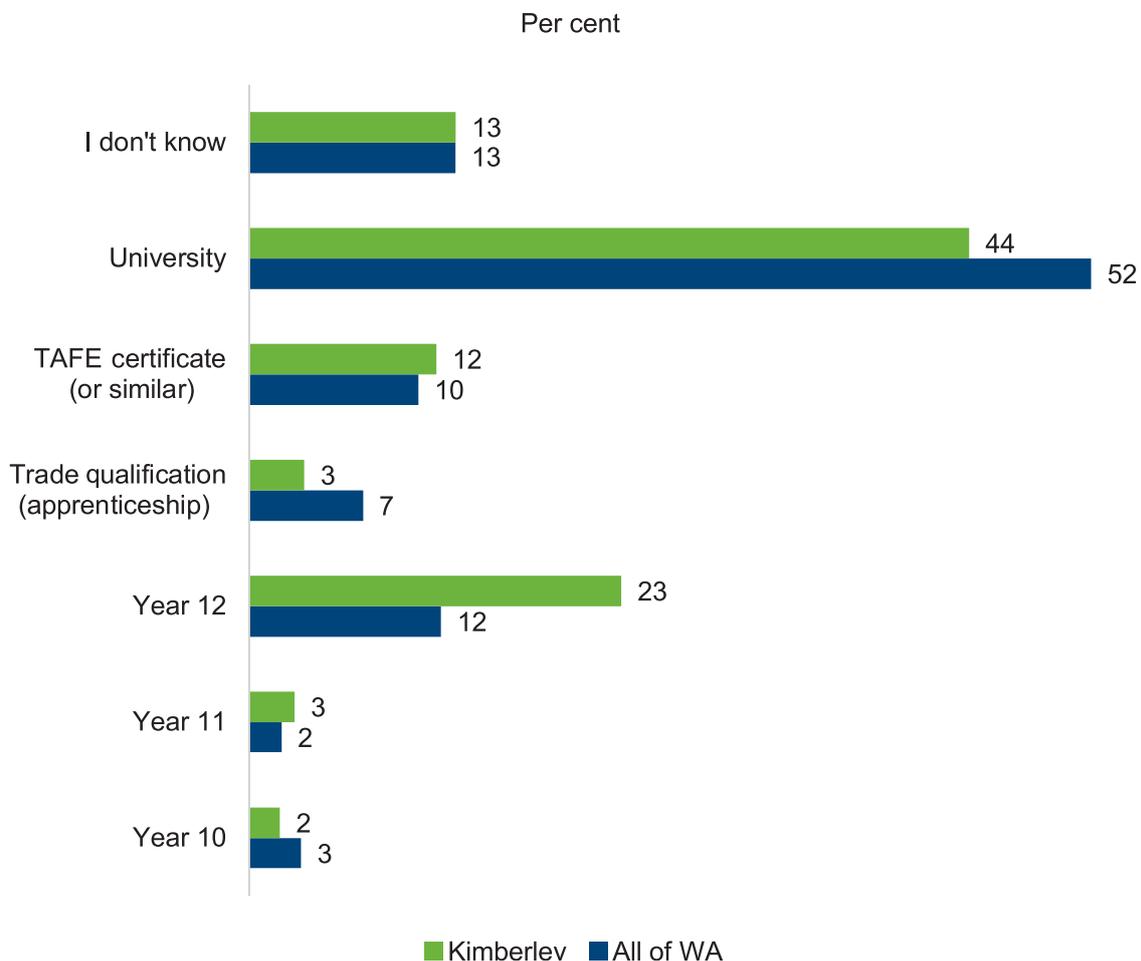
In secondary school, 21.4 per cent of female students and 8.9 per cent of male students reported they had been cyberbullied. These results are similar to those across WA.

In terms of the nature of the bullying, 37.1 per cent of those who were bullied said they have been teased about their cultural background, the colour of their skin or their religion sometime in the previous three months.

### Transition from school

While many secondary students in the Kimberley want to go to university (44.3%), it is a lower proportion of students than across the state more broadly (51.8%). Over one-quarter (27.6%) of students in the Kimberley do not intend to go on to further study after secondary school.

### Proportion of Year 7 to 12 students reporting highest level of education they would like to achieve (single choice only)



Of the Year 7 to Year 12 students surveyed in this region:

- 36.2 per cent reported having a regular part-time job in the last year (all of WA: 28.0%).
- 68.0 per cent said it is ‘very much true’ or ‘pretty much true’ that at their school they are learning knowledge and skills that will help them in the future (all of WA: 61.4%).

### Independence and autonomy

Young people in the Kimberley have similar levels of independence and autonomy to those across the state. Of the secondary students surveyed in the Kimberley:

- 80.3 per cent said they are allowed to go to and from school on their own (all of WA: 80.9%).

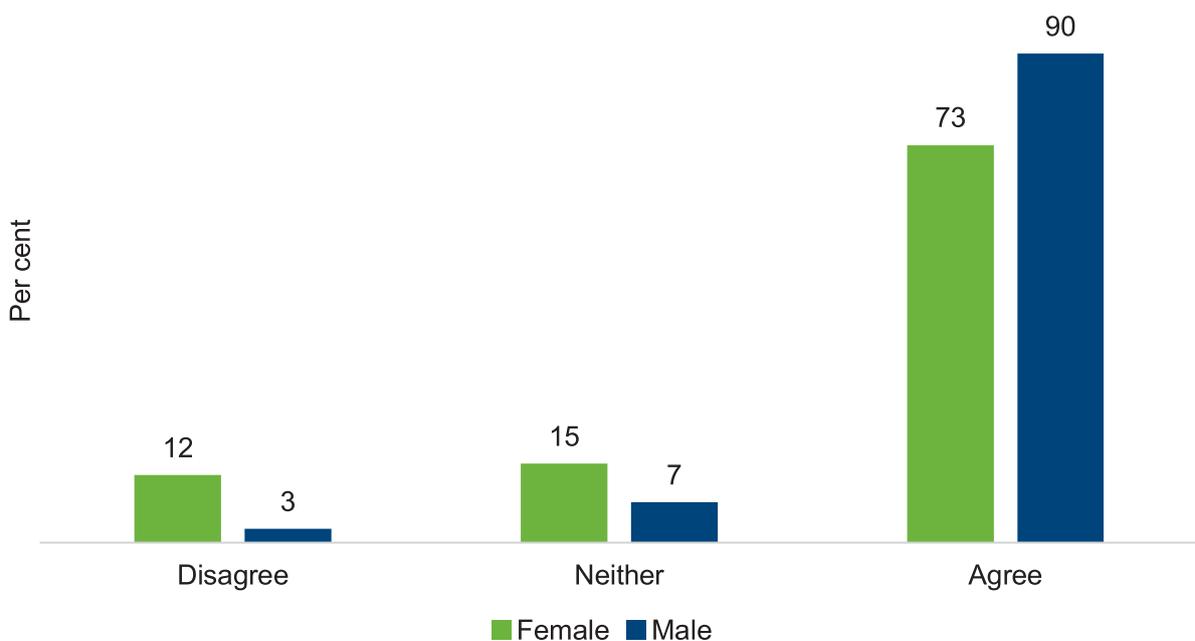
- 68.7 per cent said they are allowed to go places other than school on their own (all of WA: 76.0%).
- 27.2 per cent said they are allowed to go out alone at night in their local area (all of WA: 31.2%).

Female students are less likely to be allowed to do all of these activities. In particular, only 18.9 per cent of female students are allowed to go out at night, compared to 39.0 per cent of male students.

In terms of being able to make decisions about their own life, most (79.9%) young people in the Kimberley felt involved in making decisions about their life. However, female students are less likely than male students to feel this way.

This is consistent with the results across WA.

### Proportion of Year 7 to Year 12 students responding to the statement: ‘I feel involved in making decisions in my life’



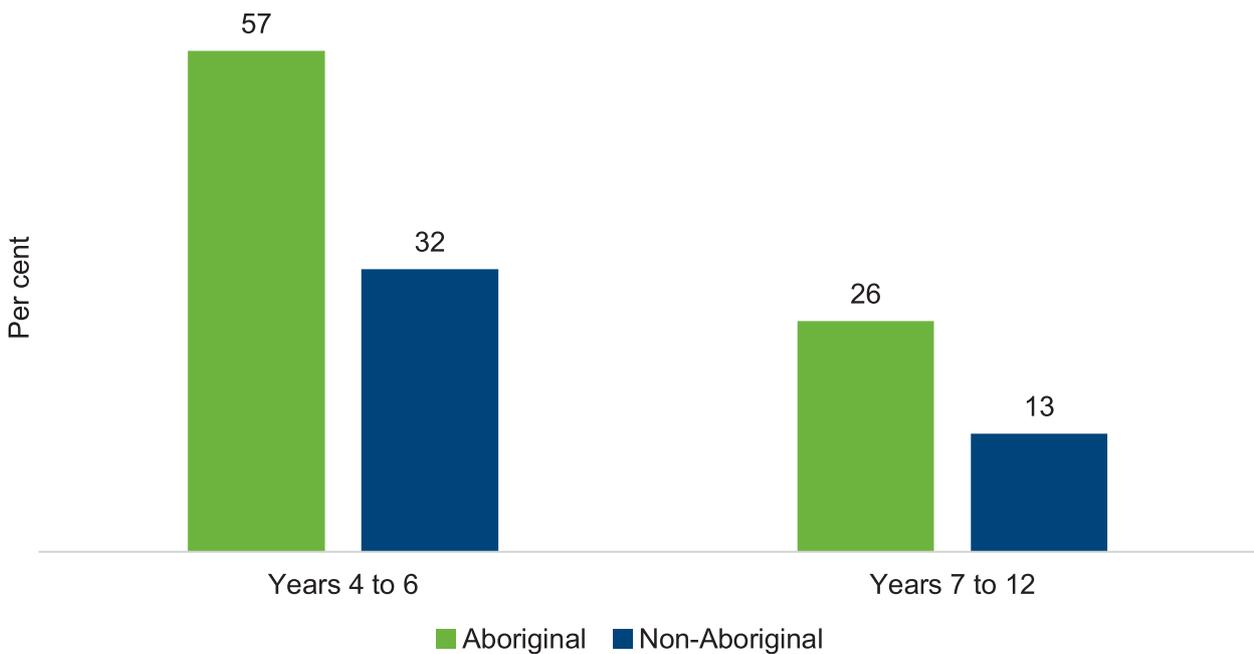
### Aboriginal children's and young people's views on learning and participating

Two-thirds (67.7%) of Aboriginal students in the Kimberley said it is very important to them to be at school every day (non-Aboriginal students: 58.3%).

Aboriginal children and young people are more likely to like school a lot than non-Aboriginal children and young people.

In Years 4 to 6, over one-half (56.9%) of Aboriginal students in the Kimberley reported liking school a lot, compared to 32.1 per cent of non-Aboriginal students. In secondary school, one-quarter (26.2%) of Aboriginal students said they like school a lot compared to 13.4 per cent of non-Aboriginal students.

#### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students who reported they like school 'a lot'



A high proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 Aboriginal students agree that school is a place where they like learning (Years 4–6: 93.8%; Years 7–12: 74.8%).

However, Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are more likely to have attended multiple schools since they started primary school or secondary school, with 50.0 per cent of Year 4 to Year 6 Aboriginal students having attended three or more schools since they

started primary school (non-Aboriginal: 27.2%) and 29.1 per cent of Aboriginal secondary students having attended three or more schools (non-Aboriginal: 9.2%).

In addition, 43.7 per cent of Aboriginal secondary school students in the Kimberley have wagged school in the previous 12 months for a full day or more, compared to 17.4 per cent of non-Aboriginal students.

Further, 41.2 per cent of Aboriginal Year 7 to Year 12 students reported they have been suspended from school (been sent home for a few days for doing something wrong) (12.9% of non-Aboriginal students).

A much higher proportion of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 12 students than non-Aboriginal students feel safe at school all the time (Aboriginal: 43.1%, non-Aboriginal: 19.2%), at the same time a higher proportion of Aboriginal students never feel safe at school (6.9% compared to 2.3%).

Aboriginal students experience bullying by students from their school in similar proportions to non-Aboriginal students with 43.8 per cent of Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 reporting some form of bullying, which is the same proportion as non-Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal students are less likely than non-Aboriginal students to get along with their teachers all the time (49.6% compared to 63.4%), however are more likely to report it is 'very much true' that there is a teacher at school who really cares about me (47.2% compared to 32.6%).

Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are less likely than non-Aboriginal students to report they would like to go to university (38.9% compared to 50.5%) and more likely to say they do not intend to do any further study after secondary school (31.6% compared to 23.2%).

Aboriginal secondary students in the Kimberley are less likely than non-Aboriginal students to have worked for pay in the previous 12 months (32.5% compared to 67.2%). In comparison, across WA, 50.5 per cent of Aboriginal secondary students worked for pay in the previous 12 months.

## What do children and young people in the Kimberley say about learning and participating?

The following responses are from secondary school students who were asked the open text question: 'The majority of secondary school students feel stressed by school work or study. What do you think are the main reasons for this?'

### Talking about schoolwork stress

*"The pressure we are put on to get good grades, have friends, be quiet and be happy."*

*(female, 12 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*"Because we don't really understand the work the teachers give us most of the time they have to repeat it so we can't understand."*

*(female, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*"I feel very stressed at school sometimes because I feel like if I'm not doing enough to please my parents they are gonna be disappointed in me."*

*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*"Because teachers give students too much homework, they are also teaching students shit we won't ever use in life, teach us shit we could use like how to pay taxes, how to vote, how to buy a house, how to get a job."*

*(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*"I think the main reason for this is that we all worried to fail a subject and that due to this we won't be able to get a job."*

*(female, 14 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“They could be more helpful if they actually had a way of keeping a class a under control and giving those who are smarter options to learn more and have more access, we also need more entertainment provisions around so we aren’t just bored and there needs to be more order, but all of this is just an opinion.”*

*(male, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“There is a lot of pressure for them to do well. Especially for the older years, getting into university via ATAR is a big expectation.”*

*(female, 16 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### **Feeling unsafe at school or being bullied**

*“I think the commissioner could try stop bullying other people on the internet and in real life because bullying is not good for anybody because it hurts their feelings and them self that’s why I would really appreciate if the commissioner would do that for me and the people around us.”*

*(female, 10 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Girls threatening to bash you.”*

*(female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“Some of the people in Broome can be quite scetchy or dodgy and there is a lot of bullying at school.”*

*(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“... help students who are getting bullied and not just brush them off, not force students to talk, help in the school yard if there’s a fight, listen to the students when they have a problem, not just say to everything “just give it a week it’ll blow over” actually communicate with the parents about things going on in school.”*

*(female, 15 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### **Other comments on school**

*“Teach our culture.”*

*(female, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“Provide a place like star but for other girls as well because at school our cultures feel separated.”*

*(female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“If I don’t feel like I have a connection with the teacher, I don’t feel encouraged to work harder and when I’m not interested in something it’s hard for me to focus, I usually don’t say the answer to some stuff even though I know it’s right, I’m scared it could be wrong and get laughed at.”*

*(female, 14 year-old, Aboriginal)*

*“There should be more learning from year 6 about consent and what is right and wrong a few of my friends have been sexually assaulted.”*

*(female, 15 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

*“More support at school Educate student more about mental health and sexuality AND CONSENT More support in the community about mental health.”*

*(female, 16 year-old, non-Aboriginal)*

## Safe and Supported

**“ I have nothing else to say. Except that my family is low on money. And I’m suffering from not eating or sleeping much. And I’m extremely stressed about school work. ”**

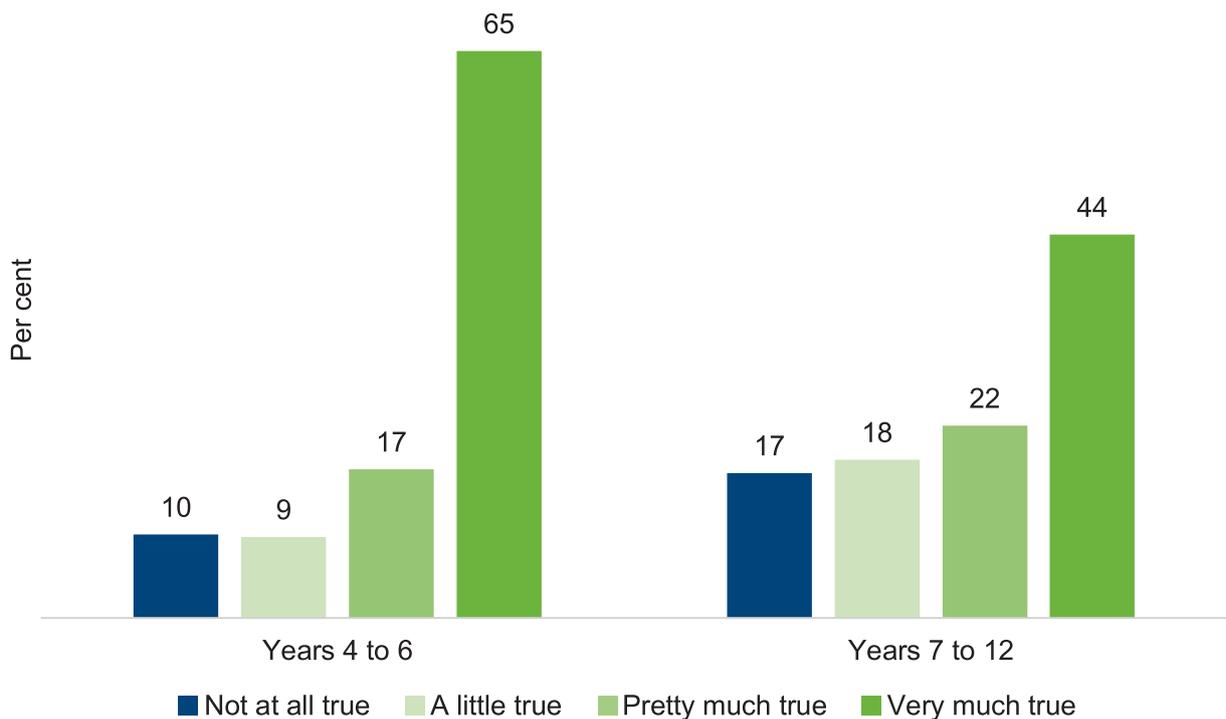
*(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### Supportive relationships

The majority of children and young people in the Kimberley reported that they have a parent or other adult where they live who they can talk to about their problems. However, secondary students are much less likely than primary school students to feel this is ‘very much true’ (43.6% compared to 64.5%).

These results are consistent with the responses across WA.

**Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students responding to the statement, ‘Where I live, there is a parent or adult who I can talk to about my problems’**



Further, of the Year 4 to Year 12 students surveyed in the Kimberley:

- 46.4 per cent reported it is ‘very much true’ they live with a parent or another adult who listens when they have something to say (Years 4–6: 51.2%; Years 7–12: 43.2%).
- A high proportion (15.0%) of secondary students reported it is not at all true that

they live with a parent or another adult who listens when they have something to say – this was the highest proportion reporting this in regions across the state (all of WA: 6.7%).

- 61.7 per cent said it is very much true they live with a parent or another adult who believes they will achieve good things (Years 4–6: 59.9%; Years 7–12: 62.8%).

Female secondary students in the Kimberley are much more likely than male secondary students to report that they do not live with a parent or other adult who listens to them when they have something to say (38.8% vs 14.4%) or whom they can talk to about their problems (43.5% vs 19.2%).

Three-quarters (77.3%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students reported that their family gets along very well or well (Years 4–6: 82.2%; Years 7–12: 74.0%). This is consistent with the results across WA (76.1%).

Most students (73.9%) in the Kimberley reported that if they were having serious problems, they have an adult they would feel okay talking to (Years 4–6: 80.0%; Years 7–12: 69.7%). Female secondary students are much less likely than their male peers to feel that they have an adult whom they would feel okay talking to (female: 65.5%; male: 79.1%).

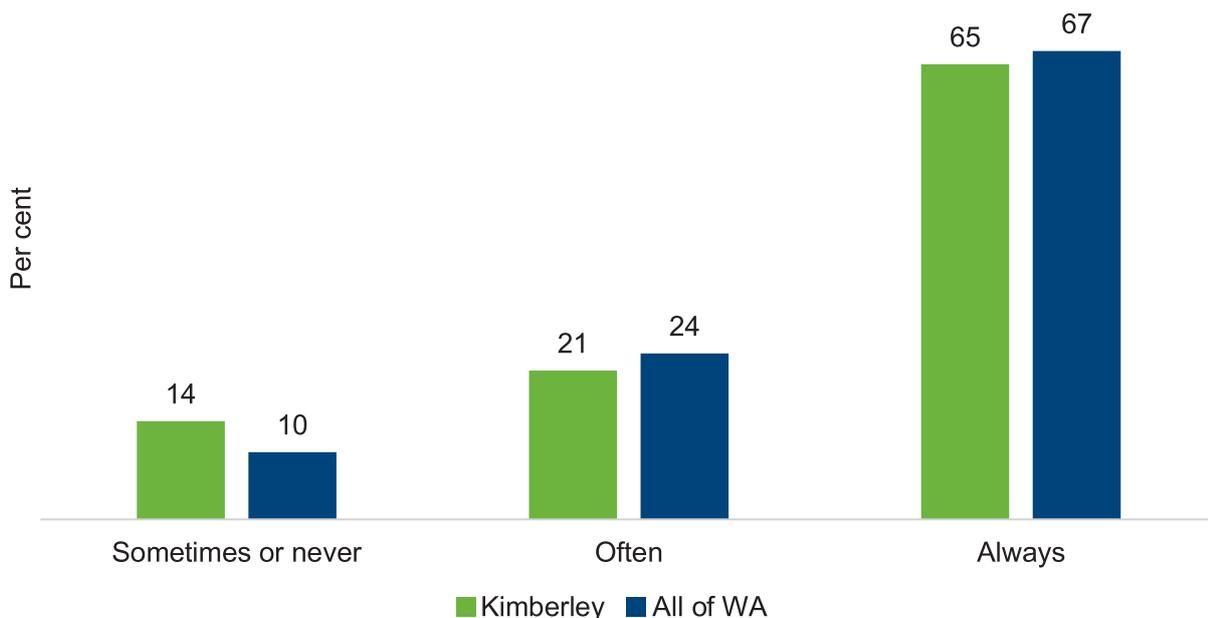
Most children and young people in the Kimberley felt that they are very good at making friends (54.5%) and have enough friends (86.9%).

### Material basics

Students in the Kimberley are more likely to be missing out on things than other students around the state.

In particular, 14.0 per cent said there is only sometimes or never enough food to eat at home (Years 4–6: 17.3%; Years 7–12: 11.7%). This is a higher proportion than reported by children and young people across WA (9.6%).

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting whether there is enough food to eat at home



Of the students surveyed in this region:

- 16.1 per cent have seven or more people living in their home (all of WA: 6.9% have seven or more people). It should be noted, it is principally Aboriginal children and young people reporting they have seven or more people living in their home (Aboriginal: 28.9%; non-Aboriginal: 2.9%).
- 80.0 per cent said they have their own bedroom (Years 4–6: 68.0%; Years 7–12: 88.0%).
- 7.3 per cent reported their family does not own a car used for family transport (Years 4–6: 14.4%; Years 7–12: 2.6%).

One in nine (11.0%) of Year 4 to Year 12 students in the Kimberley does not have access to the internet at home, compared to 3.8 per cent of students across WA.

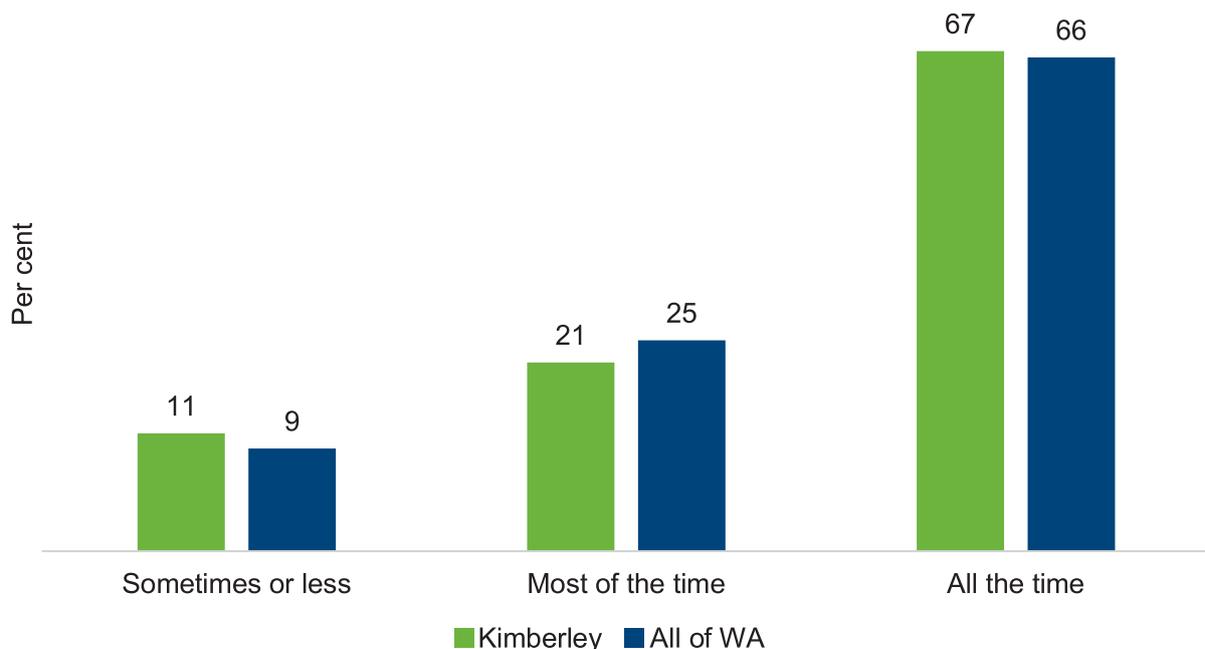
These results are principally because the Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are more likely to be living with economic disadvantage than non-Aboriginal students, as outlined below.

### Safe in the home

Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley, 66.8 per cent said they feel safe at home all the time (Years 4–6: 64.3%; Years 7–12: 68.3%), while 21.2 per cent said they feel safe at home most of the time (Years 4–6: 21.3%; Years 7–12: 21.1%).

These results are similar to the responses across the state.

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting how often they feel they feel safe at home



Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley:

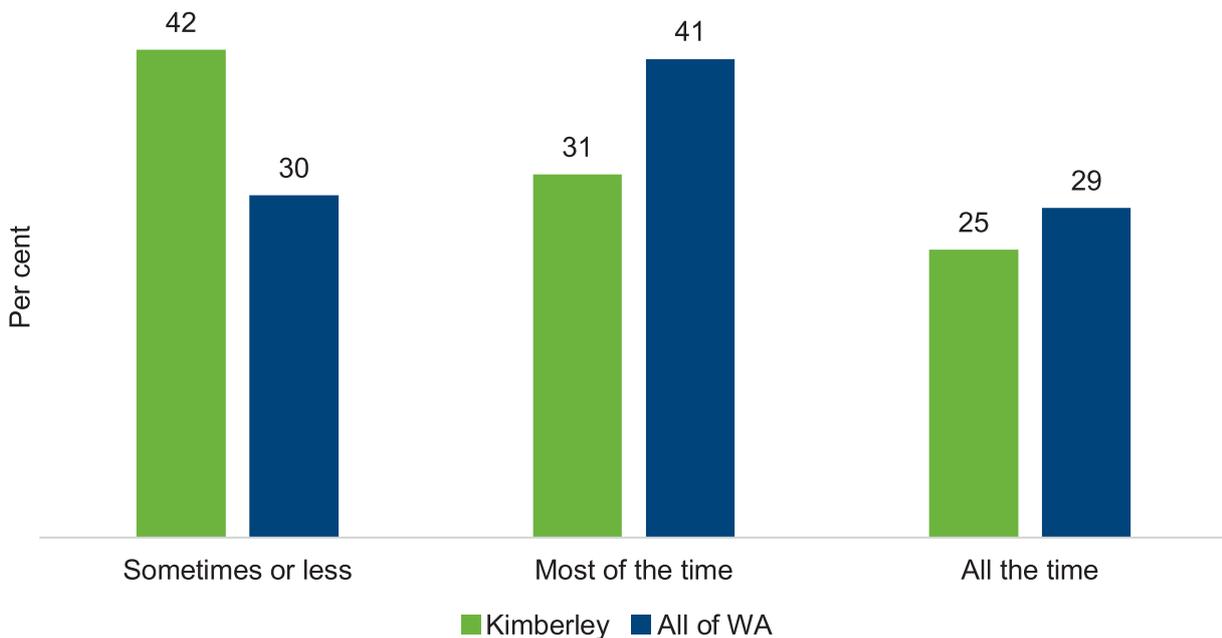
- 24.5 per cent said they are ‘somewhat’ or ‘a lot’ worried that someone in their home or family will be fighting (Years 4–6: 30.1%; Years 7–12: 20.7%).
- 22.3 per cent said they are ‘somewhat’ or ‘a lot’ worried that someone in their home or family will hurt somebody (Years 4–6: 25.6%; Years 7–12: 20.3%). This is a higher proportion than across WA (17.1%).
- 31.7 per cent of secondary students reported they had stayed away from home overnight because of a problem.

### Safe in the community

Of the students surveyed in this region, 29.0 per cent said they feel safe in their local area all the time (Years 4–6: 35.9%; Years 7–12: 24.9%), while 28.8% said they feel safe in their local area most of the time (Years 4–6: 24.6%; Years 7–12: 31.4%).

A higher proportion of secondary students in the Kimberley than students across WA do not feel safe in their local area all or most of the time (42.2% vs 29.6%).

### Proportion of Year 7 to Year 12 students reporting how often they feel safe in their local area



Female secondary students are less likely to feel safe (consistent with the results across WA), however male students in the Kimberley are also significantly less likely to feel safe all or most of the time than male students across WA (Kimberley: 60.3%; all of WA: 75.8%).

A high proportion (42.8%) of young people in Years 9 to 12 in the Kimberley reported they have been hit or physically harmed by someone on purpose. This is similar to the overall WA result. The most reported places where this occurred are at home, at school and in the neighbourhood.

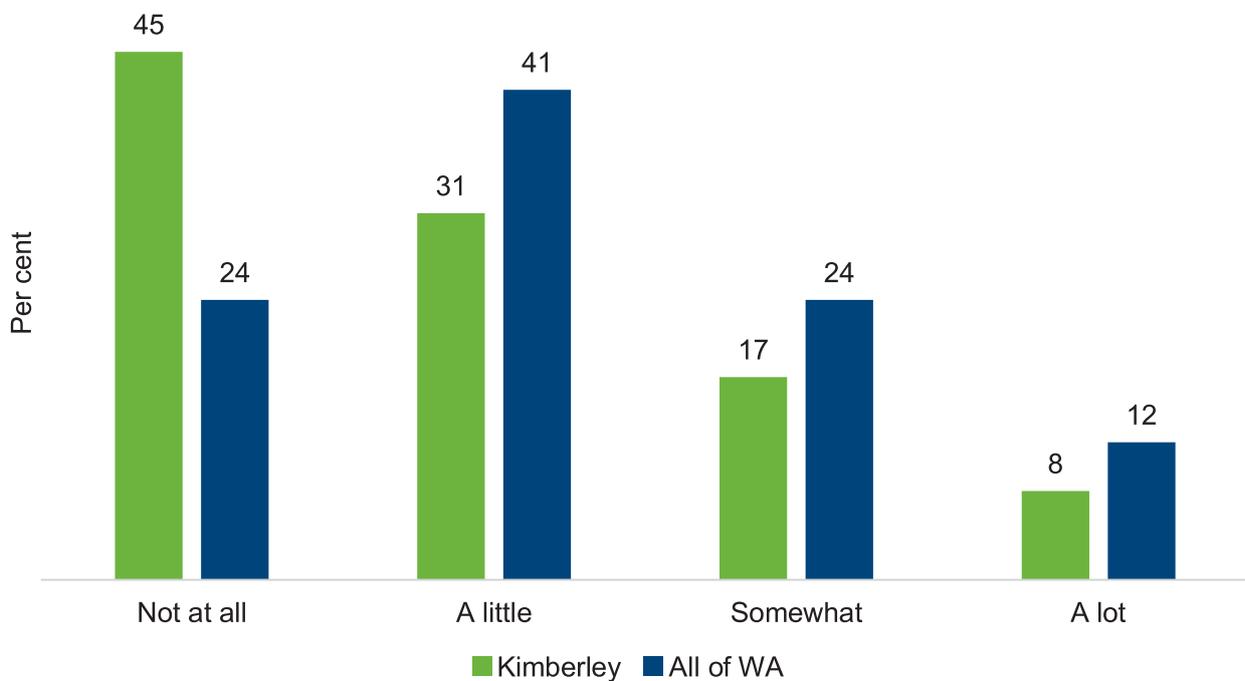
## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Of the Year 4 to Year 12 students surveyed in the Kimberley, when asked about the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting changes to daily life, most reported that the

pandemic had not affected their life in a bad way (not at all: 44.5%, a little: 30.9%).

Children and young people in the Kimberley reported being less affected than children and young people across the state.

### Proportion of students responding to the question: ‘Thinking about the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting changes to daily life, how much has this affected your life in a bad way?’



Of the students surveyed in the Kimberley:

- 27.7 per cent reported feeling very or somewhat stressed/anxious, while 45.4 per cent reported feeling very or somewhat relaxed when they thought of COVID-19.
- 43.4 per cent reported feeling worried if they missed school due to COVID-19 in the previous calendar year – 2020 (a little: 33.9%; a lot: 9.5%).

One in five (19.0%) of Year 9 to Year 12 students stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had been a source of stress to them in the previous year. This is consistent with the responses from young people across the state.

## Aboriginal children's and young people's views on feeling safe and supported

### Supportive relationships

Aboriginal young people in the Kimberley are less likely than non-Aboriginal young people to feel listened to by the parents or other adults they live with. One-quarter (26.2%) of Aboriginal secondary students reported it is not at all true that they live with a parent or another adult who listens when they have something to say compared to 3.9 per cent of non-Aboriginal students.

At the same time, a majority (67.6%) of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 12 students said that where they live, there is a parent or another adult they can talk to about their problems or worries and almost three-quarters (73.2%) said there is an adult they would feel okay talking to if they had serious problems.

Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are more likely than non-Aboriginal students to be worried a lot that someone in their home or family will be fighting (Aboriginal: 23.7%; non-Aboriginal: 6.8%). Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 are also much more likely to be worried a lot that someone in their family would hurt somebody (Aboriginal: 23.5%; non-Aboriginal: 5.2%) and to be worried a lot that someone in the home would hurt themselves (Aboriginal: 23.8%; non-Aboriginal: 6.0%).

However, Aboriginal young people are more likely than non-Aboriginal young people to feel that their siblings and other family members care about them a lot (siblings: 52.3% vs 40.6%; other family members: 60.5% vs 50.9%).

Forty per cent of Aboriginal children in Years 4 to 6 moved home two or more times in the previous 12 months, compared to 8.1 per cent of non-Aboriginal children this age. Aboriginal families are often more mobile than non-Aboriginal families with various social and cultural factors influencing these patterns including cultural norms and values regarding kinship and family obligations, and maintaining connections to Country.<sup>3</sup>

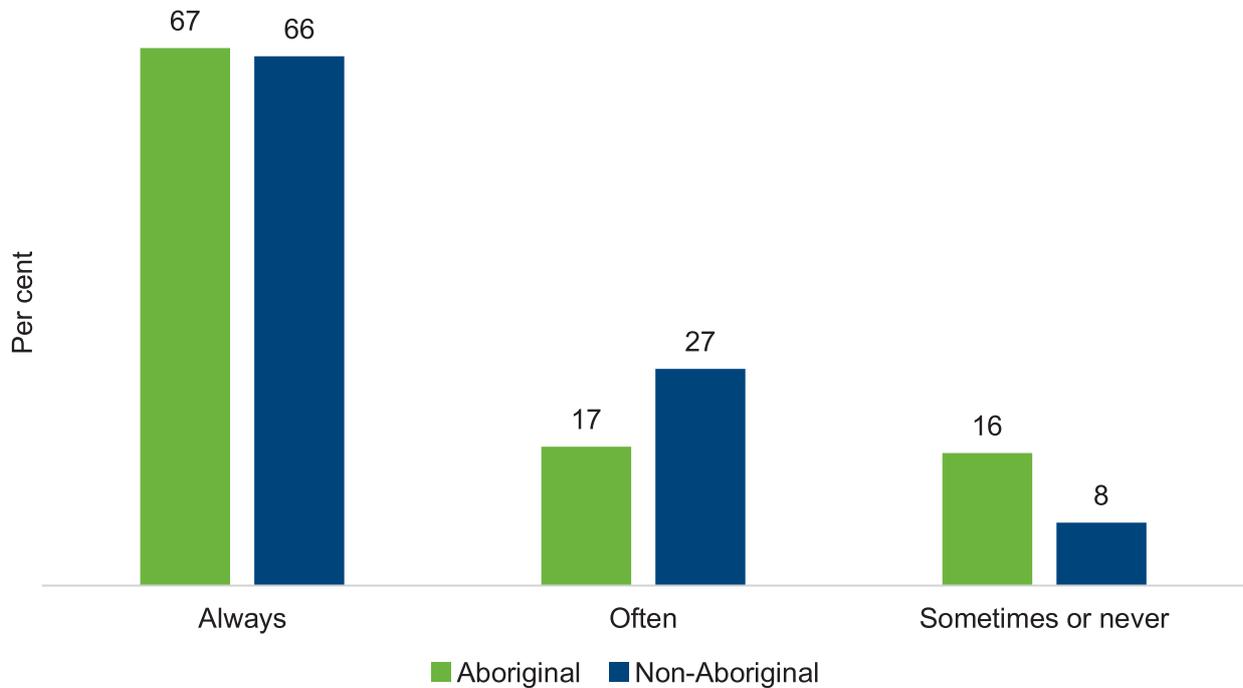
### Material basics

Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are more likely to be experiencing some form of material disadvantage in comparison to their non-Aboriginal peers:

- One in 10 (10.6%) Year 4 to Year 12 Aboriginal students reported that their family does not have a car (non-Aboriginal: 1.4%).
- Almost one-quarter (23.1%) of Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 do not have enough money in their family for them to go on a school excursion or camp (non-Aboriginal: 9.6%).
- Two in five (41.6%) Aboriginal secondary school students do not have their own tablet, laptop or computer, compared to 18.4 per cent of non-Aboriginal students.
- One in five (16.1%) Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 does not have access to the internet at home (non-Aboriginal: 5.1%).
- One in five (16.4%) Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 12 students said there is only sometimes or never enough food to eat at home when they are hungry (non-Aboriginal: 7.8%).

<sup>3</sup> Dockery AM & Colquhoun S 2012, [Mobility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: A literature review](#), Curtin University.

**Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting whether there is enough food to eat at home when they are hungry**



A high proportion of Aboriginal students reported living in a house with seven people or more (28.9%) compared to a much lower proportion of non-Aboriginal students (2.9%).

**Aboriginal students in the Kimberley are more likely than non-Aboriginal students to be worried a lot that someone in their home or family will be fighting**

### Feeling safe

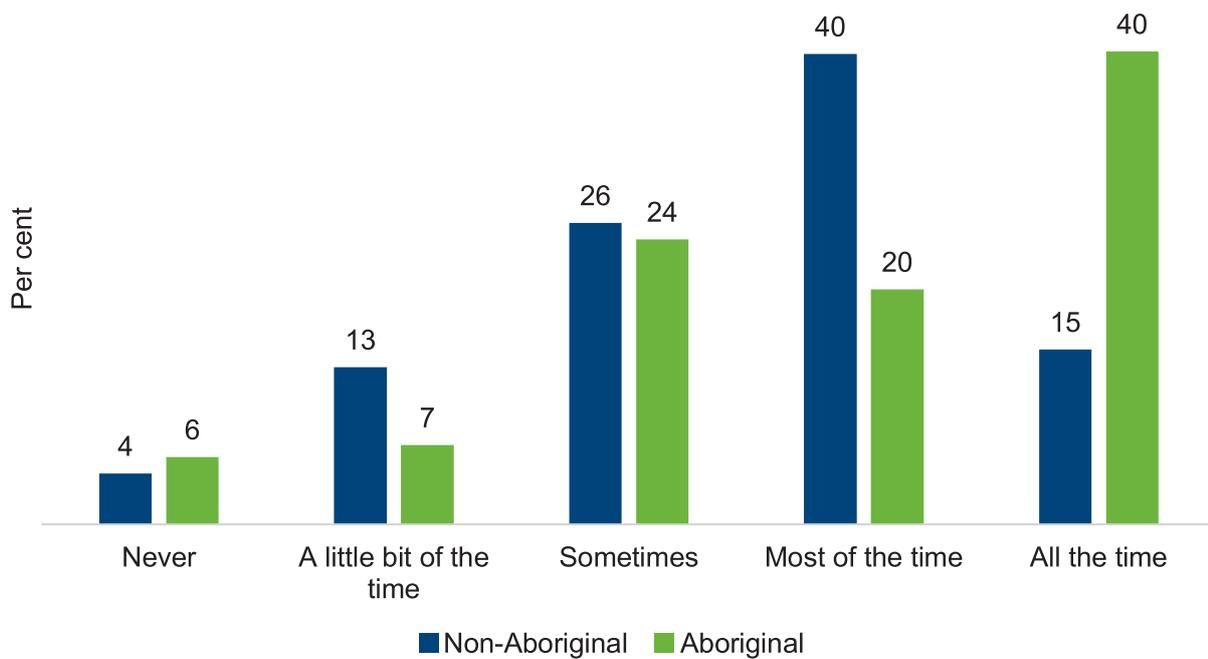
Aboriginal students in Years 4 to 12 are just as likely to feel safe at home most of the time or all of the time as non-Aboriginal students (Aboriginal: 87.0%, non-Aboriginal: 90.4%).

Aboriginal children and young people in the Kimberley are more likely to feel safe all the time in their local area than non-Aboriginal children and young people.

**“ All the crimes that are happening in this town and aren’t being dealt with e.g obberies car burnings mugged injured. ”**

*(male, 14 year-old, Aboriginal)*

### Proportion of Year 4 to Year 12 students reporting how often they feel safe in their local area



## What do children and young people in the Kimberley say about being safe and supported?

### Supportive relationships

*“My parents are really helpful towards me they listen very well to me if i had a problem I would talk to them about it and they would listen to me about my problem and offer me the support I need.”*  
(male, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“No. I feel safe with my family and my friends. They help me a lot.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“Talk to me. Actually listen to what I’m saying. Give GOOD advice. Say it so that I can understand.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“I mainly to talk to my brother and parents about my issues at school, online or in public.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“Having therapists at school or people who are good with students so we can talk to them when upset.”*  
(female, 15 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“I think it’s important for family members to check in and teachers should be taught to notice when kids aren’t the same.”*  
(female, 15 year-old, Aboriginal)

### Feeling unsafe

The following statements were generally in response to the question: ‘What are some of the things that make you feel unsafe?’

*“Old men walking behind me for ten mins straight, and the dark.”*  
(female, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“Gangs, people getting into big arguments or fights and just sometimes randomly.”*  
(male, 12 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“When people try to brake into our house. When mum and dad fight... When my parents fought with my grandfather.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“People that walk around at night when they are drunk.”*  
(female, 13 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“I would really like it if the boss person could make consequences for the young people who inflict violence on the other young people in the community. We do not feel safe going to school or going anywhere in Broome because we are afraid we might be beaten up or threatened. It needs to change because kids feeling unsafe is not good at my age... The recent bashing and violence in the area by girls my age to other girls makes me feels unsafe when I go out anywhere even with my parents.”*  
(female, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“I had a lot of break-ins in my area. Many cars were stolen. I would like to change that. Also my parents do not let my siblings and I go out of the house to go to parks or ride our bikes because we don’t know what could happen to us.”*  
(female, 14 year-old, non-Aboriginal)

*“All the crimes that are happening in this town and aren’t being dealt with e.g obberies car burnings mugged injured.”*  
(male, 14 year-old, Aboriginal)

*“All the people who walk around the town fighting people for no reason.”*  
(female, 16 year-old, Aboriginal)