

# NEWS AND YOUNG AUSTRALIANS IN 2023:

HOW CHILDREN AND TEENS ACCESS, PERCEIVE AND ARE AFFECTED BY NEWS MEDIA

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## CREDITS

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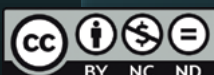
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# WHY WE UNDERTOOK THIS RESEARCH

**This longitudinal survey provides comprehensive findings about young Australians' news attitudes, practices and experiences. This is the third time we have carried out this triennial survey.**

We started the survey in 2017 because we wanted to address a lack of research about young people's news media practices in Australia at a time when news organisations were being challenged by declining advertising income, and public concerns about mis- and disinformation were on the rise. We recognised that many claims were being made about young people's supposed disengagement with news and overreliance on social media. We set out to provide national baseline data to test the credibility of these claims and to provide new insights into young Australians' news practices.

Across the three surveys we have found that most young people engage with news regularly, using multiple sources. Across all three surveys we have found that first and foremost young people get news from their families. However, we have seen changes to young people's news engagement over time. In 2017 and 2020, TV was the most frequent way that young people reported getting news, after people they know including family, friends and teachers. In 2023, social media surpassed live television as a frequent source of news for young people (49% versus 39%).

For the 2023 survey, the increase in the use of social media to get news prompted us to introduce a new set of questions about young people's engagement with news on social media platforms. We have also introduced new questions to assess young people's level of understanding about the use of algorithms to deliver news as well as new questions to help us explore their critical thinking in relation to news.

The findings demonstrate that young people often have a low level of understanding about how algorithms influence the news they see online. Only 40% of the respondents aged 12-16 years reported that they are familiar with the term algorithm in relation to news. Of those who are familiar with the term, most (65%) have concerns about algorithmic data collection. This suggests there is a need to develop young people's knowledge about algorithmic news practices so they can understand and manage the risks and opportunities posed by algorithms in relation to news.

For the first time, in 2023 we have examined the difference between young people with a high level of interest in news and those with a

low interest in news. The findings indicate that young people with a high interest in news are more likely to: ask critical questions about the news they consume, take steps to avoid misinformation, and are more motivated to act on news stories and take action online on issues that matter to them. These findings indicate the value of regular news engagement.

Young people are often forgotten in public discussions about the future of news. Worse still, they are often subject to over generalisation about their lack of interest in news and current affairs. We hope that this longitudinal survey data provides insights that can support an evidence-based discussion about young people's news practices and their news literacy needs. We also hope the data can support parents, media producers and educators who want to support young people to make active decisions about their news engagement including about where and how to source high quality, trustworthy and reliable news.

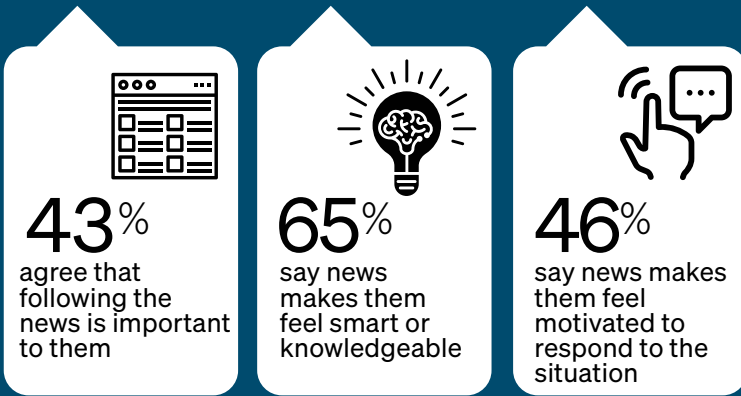




# News and Young Australians in 2023

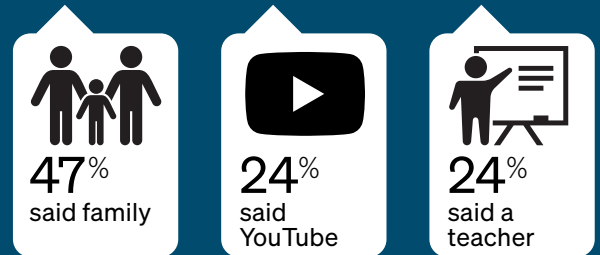
How Young People Access, Perceive and are Affected by News Media

## YOUNG AUSTRALIANS VALUE THE NEWS

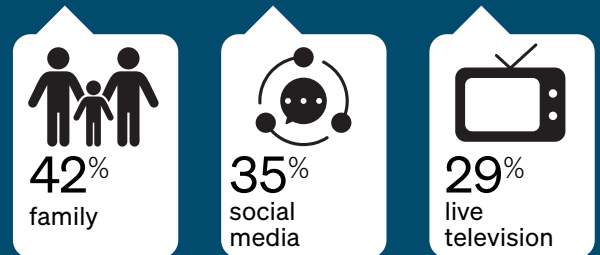


## PREFERRED SOURCES

The top 3 preferred news sources for children (8-12 yr olds):



The top 3 preferred news sources for teens (13-16 yr olds):



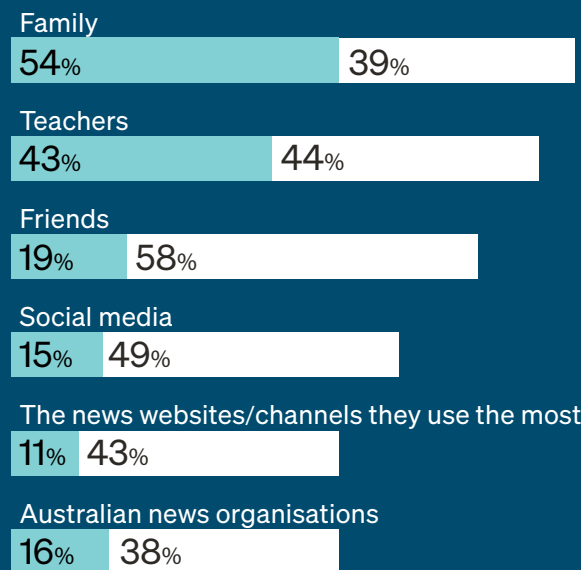
## NEWS SOURCES

When asked about news activities they did 'yesterday':



## TRUST

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



TRUST A LOT | TRUST SOME

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a source of news but **not as much** as you might think.

Children



Teens



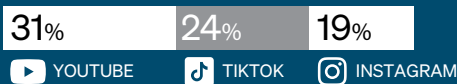
OFTEN SOMETIMES

When **using social media** to get news:

Children prefer



Teens prefer



## NEWS MADE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Australians find it difficult to **find news relevant** to people in their age group.

Children



Teens



STRONGLY AGREE AGREE

... most believe **young people need news made especially for them.**

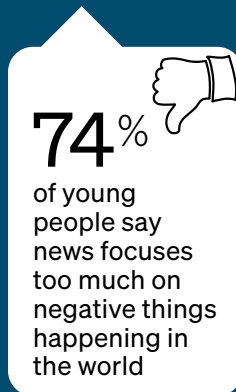
Children



Teens



## NEGATIVE & DISTRESSING



Which is why news often or sometimes makes young people feel:



59%  
Upset or sad



52%  
Afraid



48%  
Angry

## BIAS & NEGLECT

Young Australians believe news media organisations neglect them and many **believe they are biased.**



66%  
say news organisations have no idea what their lives are like



27%  
say news does not treat people from different race and ethnic background equally

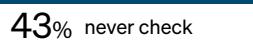


25%  
say news does not treat men and women equally

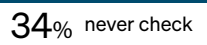
## CHECKING THE SOURCE

**Two in five** young people never check multiple sources to assess if online news stories are false or inaccurate.

Children



Teens



# KEY FINDINGS

Between June 2 and 30 2023, we surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,064 young Australians aged 8-16 years to understand their news engagement practices and experiences. This survey repeats and extends a survey we implemented in 2017 and 2020.

In this report we refer to two age categories we have used for our analysis: **children (aged 8-12)** and **teens (aged 13-16)**. We have also examined how the results varied based on the gender of the respondent, the education level of the respondent's parent/s, and the respondent's geographic location (regional/remote versus metropolitan). In addition, we considered the impact of each respondent's overall interest in news. This approach is explained further in the methodology section of this report.

Our key findings are as follows:

## 1 Young Australians get news regularly, from multiple sources, but most of all from their family

More than four in five (83%) young people had received news from at least one source the day before the survey. One third (33%) had received news from three or more sources.

Other people are the most common source of news for young people. Most young people often or sometimes get news from family (85%), teachers (71%) and friends (66%). Family are also young people's most preferred and trusted source of news.

## 2 Young Australians encounter news on social media – but mostly this is incidental

While we see a steady decline in the number of young people getting news from newspapers and television since 2017, there has been an overall increase in the number of young people who report getting news stories from social media. However, when we asked young people about their experience of getting news on the social media platforms they use, we found that only a small proportion use social media intentionally to find or get news.

Video-based platforms YouTube (68%) and TikTok (42%) are the social media platforms most frequently used by young people. For those that use YouTube, only 13% use the platform intentionally to get news while more than half (54%) encounter news incidentally. Just 10% of TikTok users use the platform to seek out news, while close to two thirds (64%) encounter news incidentally on the platform.

## 3 Most young Australians proactively seek out news

More than three quarters (78%) of young people report that they often or sometimes engage in one or more types of *proactive* news seeking – where they choose to get news, rather than others making this decision for them. The types of active news engagement we asked about include hearing about something happening in the world and following up to find out more, checking news websites or news apps to find out what is happening in the world, turning on the television or radio to get news, and following people or accounts on social media specifically to get news.

Teens aged 13-16 were far more likely than children to engage in three or more forms of active news seeking (40% versus 21%), while children aged 8-12 years were far more likely than teens to engage in no form of active news engagement (29% versus 14% for teens). This shows that proactive news engagement increases with age.

## 4 Despite a high level of news engagement via social media platforms, young Australians' knowledge of algorithms is low

Given the high use of social media among young people aged 12-16 years, it is surprising that only two in five (40%) reported that they were familiar with the term algorithm in relation to news.

More than half (57%) of the respondents who were familiar with the term said they are interested in learning more about how algorithms determine the



news they get online. This suggests there is an important opportunity for parents, educators and news organisations to increase young people's understanding of how algorithms are used to deliver news online.

## **5 Young Australians have low levels of trust in Australian news media organisations**

Less than one in five (16%) young people have a high level of trust in Australian news media organisations. Young people who exhibited the highest level of interest in news are eight times more likely to trust news from Australian news organisations 'a lot' when compared to those with the lowest interest in news (32% versus 4%). This finding suggests that news avoidance or disengagement is associated with a higher level of mistrust in Australian news organisations. Young people also have a low level of trust in the news they get from social media platforms. Young people trust the news they get from their families most of all.

## **6 Most young Australians don't believe they can identify misinformation and many don't take active steps to do this**

Just two in five (41%) young people believe they know how to tell real news from fake news (misinformation). While some young people are taking regular steps to identify and avoid

misinformation online, many are not. For those young people who get news online, the activity they most reported doing to identify or avoid misinformation was discussing a news story they were unsure about with a person they trust: more than half (57%) had done this in the past year, often or sometimes. Just over one third (35%) of young people said they had often or sometimes checked a number of different sources because they were concerned a news story was untrue or inaccurate.

## **7 Young Australians with a high level of interest in news are more likely to be news literate**

There is a very strong association between the level of interest young people exhibit in the news and their level of critical thinking about news. Young people with the highest level of interest in news were far more likely to report that they often or sometimes ask critical questions about the news they consume when compared to those with the lowest level of interest in news (76% versus 18%). Young people with a high level of interest in news are also more likely to take actions that will help them to avoid misinformation and they are far more likely to say they know about the use of algorithms to deliver news.

## **8 Most young Australians are not receiving regular news literacy lessons in school**

Only one in four young people (24%) said they had received a lesson at school in the past year to help them work out if news stories are true and can be trusted – and this is the same for children and teenagers. Less than one third (29%) of participants reported that they had been taught how to create their own news story in the past year. Although there has been a very modest increase in the number of young people who say they are receiving news literacy lessons in school when compared with past surveys, this finding suggests that most young people are still not receiving news media literacy lessons.

## **9 Most young Australians want to be able to access news made for people their age**

The news topic young people said they are most interested in was news about people their own age. However, almost two thirds (65%) of young people agree or strongly agree that it is difficult to find news relevant to people their age. This likely contributes to the perception most young Australians have that young people need news stories made especially for them. Young Australians from regional areas are slightly more likely to believe this (63%), when compared with young people from metropolitan areas (58%).

# FINDINGS IN DETAIL

All survey questions were mandatory and the analysis is based on the full sample responses of 1,064 participants, unless otherwise indicated.

Most of the survey questions were asked to **children aged 8-12** and **teens aged 13-16**, and we provide the findings for each age group in this report where this was the case. In addition, we analysed: 1) differences between girls and boys, 2) differences between young people from metropolitan

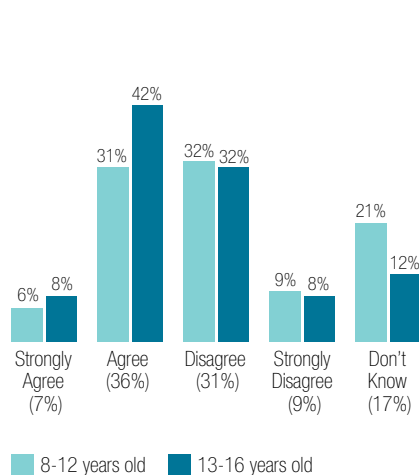
and regional/remote areas, and 3) differences between young people based on the level of education of their most educated parent/guardian. For each question we also considered if there were differences in responses that related to the respondent's level of interest in news. For each of these

factors, we note differences where they are notable. The results have also been compared with the 2017 and 2020 survey findings and statistically significant changes are discussed wherever we deemed these to be notable. For further detail see the methodology section.

## THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF NEWS TO YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

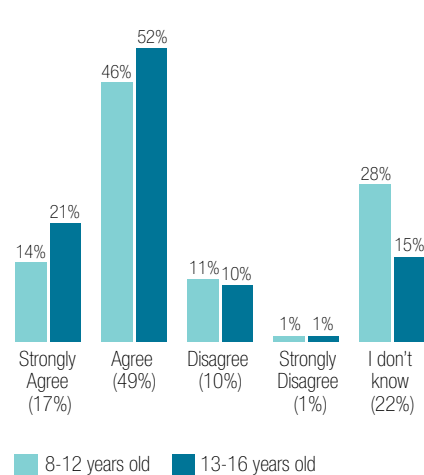
**FIGURE 1**

"Getting news stories is important to me"



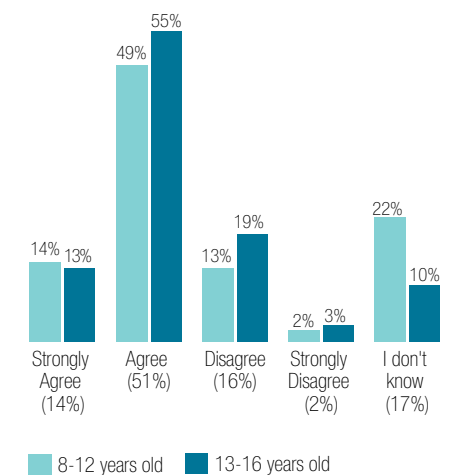
**FIGURE 2**

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



**FIGURE 3**

"I find it difficult to find news that is relevant to people my age"



Half (50%) of 13-16 year olds and 37% of 8-12 year olds agree that getting news stories is important (Figure 1). However, two thirds (66%) of young Australians agree or strongly agree that most news media have no idea what the lives of people their age are really like (Figure 2). This is consistent with results from earlier surveys. The sentiment increases with age: 60% for children compared with 73% for teens. Agreement with this statement increases in tandem with a higher level of interest in news. For example, 11% of those with the lowest interest in news strongly agreed with this statement, compared to 27% of those with the

highest level of interest in news. This suggests that **more news engagement is associated with young people being more critical of news media in terms of the representation of young people and the issues that matter to them.**

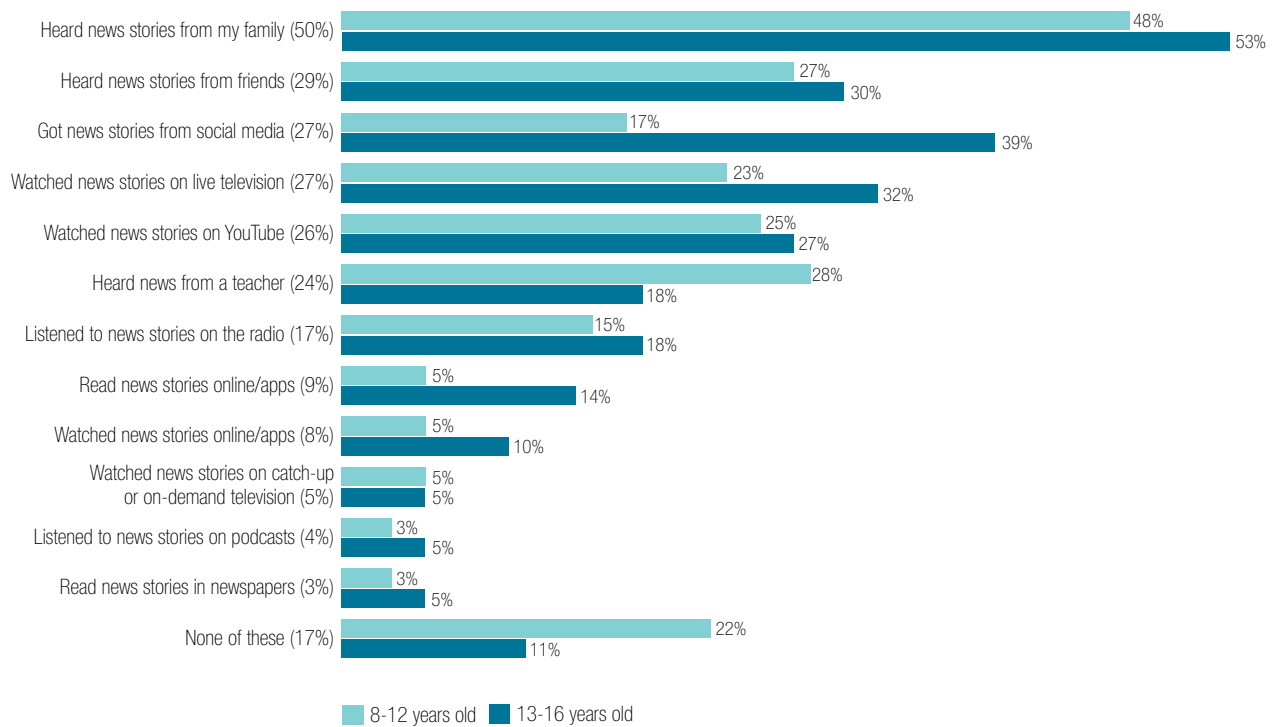
**Two thirds (65%) of young Australians agree or strongly agree that it is difficult to find news relevant to people their age** (Figure 3). There was minimal variation between children and teens, with the exception that children were much more likely to respond that they didn't know (22% versus 10% for teens). This most likely reflects the higher proportion of children who

say getting news is not important to them and that they are not regularly engaging with news. Teens are more likely to disagree or strongly disagree with this statement (22% versus 15% for children), which may reflect their higher level of ability to understand news stories produced primarily for an adult audience. Young people with a higher level of interest in news were more likely to disagree or strongly disagree that it is difficult to find news relevant to their age group: 29% among compared to 11% of the group with the lowest level of interest.

## PREVIOUS DAY'S NEWS ACTIVITY

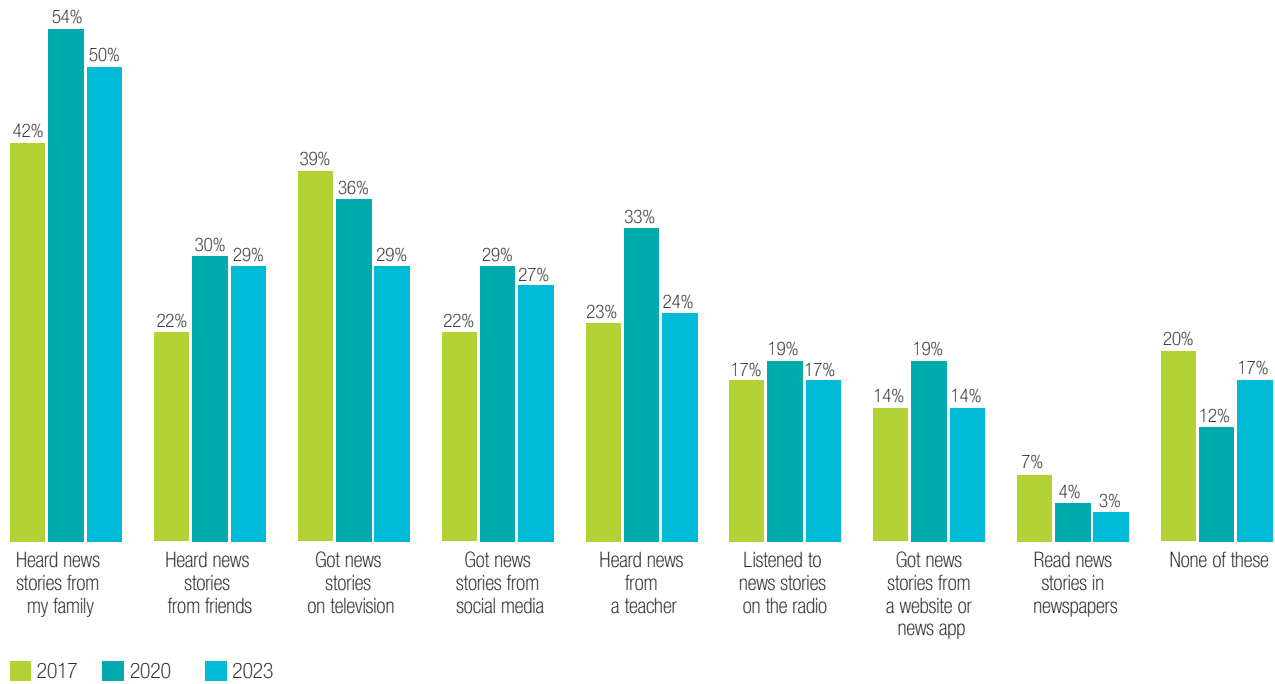
**FIGURE 4**

Which of the below activities, if any, did you do YESTERDAY?



**FIGURE 5**

Which of the below activities, if any, did you do YESTERDAY? [2017, 2020 and 2023 results]



**NOTE:** The 2023 figure for “Got news stories on television” includes those who selected “Yes” for both or either “Watched news stories on live television (e.g. ABC, Channel 9)” and/or “Watched news stories on catch-up or on-demand television”. The 2023 figure for “Got news stories from a website or news app” includes those who selected “Yes” to both or either “Watched news stories (as videos) on websites or news apps” and/or “Read news stories (as articles) on websites or news apps”.

While more than one third (40%) of young Australians say it’s not important for them to get news (Figure 1), **the majority (83%) of young people did access news from one or more sources** the day before they completed the change to survey (Figure 4). **Family members were the most common source of news for young people.** Around 50% of respondents got news from family (compared with 54% in 2020, see Figure 5), followed by 29% from friends (30% in 2020), 27% from social media (29% in 2020), 29% from television (36% in 2020), 26% from YouTube (which was not included in 2020), 24% from a teacher (33% in 2020) and 17% from radio (19% in 2020).

While **one third (33%) of young people accessed news from three or more sources** the day before the survey, **there was an increase in the number of young people who did not get news from any source on the previous day** (17% compared with 12% for 2020). This is possibly due to frequent lock-downs during the Covid-19 pandemic where the overall news and media consumption increased among adult Australians<sup>1</sup>. However, news engagement in 2023 the day before the survey is the same or higher across all sources when compared with 2017, other than for newspapers and television, suggesting that overall news engagement has not reverted back to pre-pandemic levels.

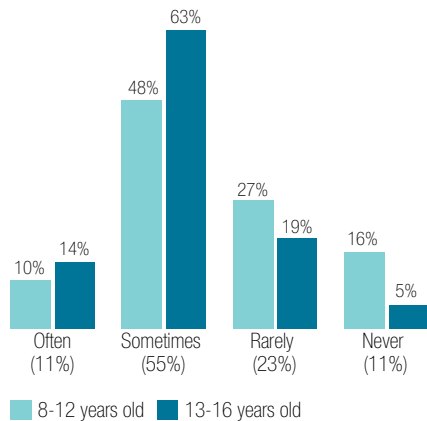
Some forms of news engagement have a strong association with age. Teens are far more likely to have used social media to get news (39% versus 17% for children) and to have read or watched news online (14% and 10% for teens, versus 5% and 5% for children, Figure 4). Young people living in metropolitan areas are more likely to have used YouTube to get news when compared with regional young people (29% versus 19%); they are also more likely to have watched news online (9% versus 4%) or listened to news on podcasts (5% versus 1%).

1. Park, S., McGuinness, K., Fisher, C., Lee, J. Y., McCallum, K., & Nolan, D. (2022). *Digital News Report: Australia 2022*. Canberra: News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

## ACTIVE NEWS SEEKING

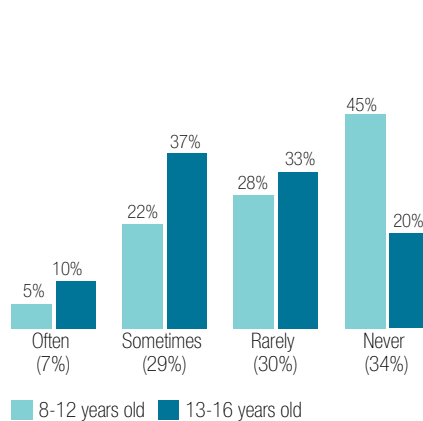
**FIGURE 6**

"I hear about something happening in the world and then I follow up to find out more"



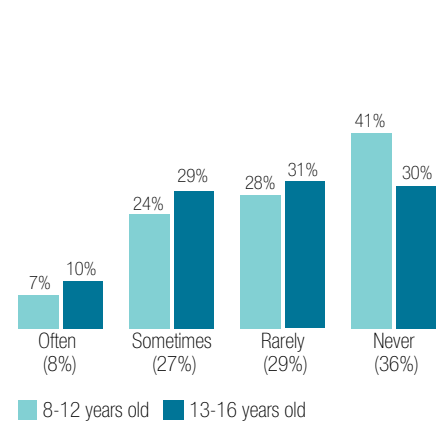
**FIGURE 7**

"I check news websites or news apps to find out what is happening in the world"



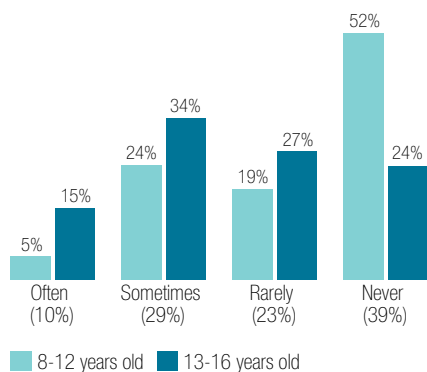
**FIGURE 8**

"I turn on the television or radio to get news"



**FIGURE 9**

"I follow people or accounts on social media specifically to get news"



Active news consumption is distinct from passive news consumption. Passive news consumption occurs when parents or others make the decision to turn on or share news. In active consumption, young people make the decision to access news themselves. **More than three quarters of young people reported that they actively consume news** by often or sometimes seeking out news (indicated by the number of young people who did at least one activity as indicated in Figures 6-9). Teens aged 13-16 are far more likely to engage in three or more forms of active news engagement (40% versus 21% for children). Children aged 8-12 years are far less likely to engage in any forms of active news engagement (29% versus 14% for teens).

**Two thirds (66%) of young people reported that they often or sometimes hear about something happening in**

**the world and follow up to find out more** (Figure 6). This increases with age: 58% of children do this compared to 77% of teens. Young people living in metropolitan areas are much more likely to do this often (13%), compared to young people living in regional areas (5%).

**More than one third (36%) of young people often or sometimes check news websites or apps to find out what is happening in the world** (Figure 7). There is a sharp increase in this practice as children become teenagers: 27% of children versus 47% for teens. Young people living in metropolitan areas are significantly more likely to check news websites or apps often or sometimes, when compared with young people in regional Australia (39% versus 29%). Boys (10%) are more likely to report doing this often, when compared with girls (4%).

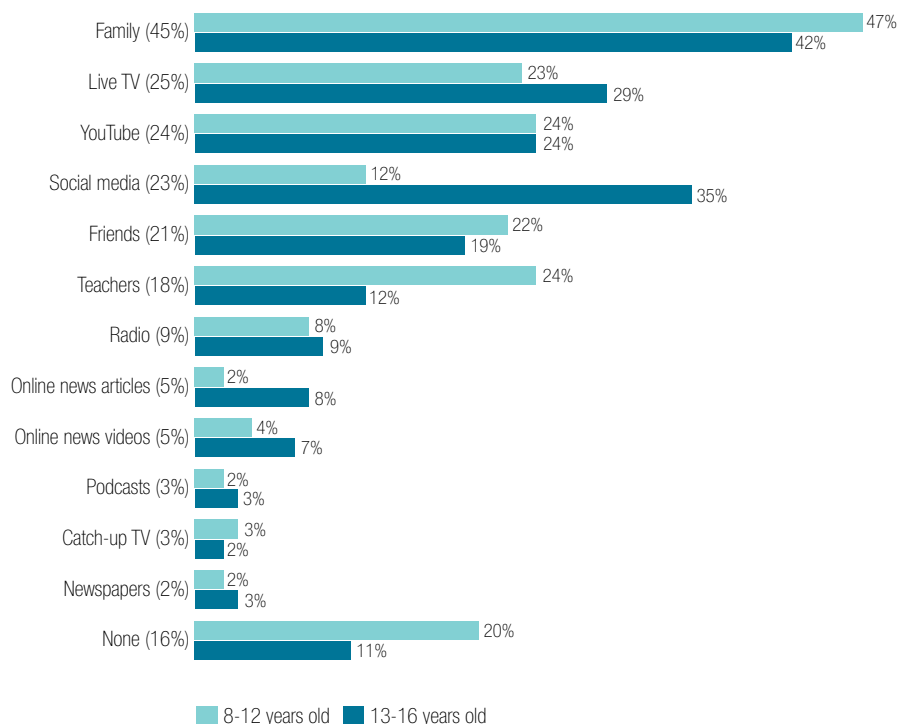
More than one third (35%) of young people say they turn on the television to get news often or sometimes (Figure 8). This increases with age, with 31% of children doing this compared with 39% of teens. Boys are more likely to report doing this *often* when compared with girls (11% versus 6%). Young people in regional areas are far more likely to say they never do this (43%), compared with those in metropolitan areas (34%).

More than one third (39%) of young people often or sometimes follow accounts on social media specifically to get news (Figure 9). Less than one third (29%) of children do this compared to almost half (49%) of teens. Young people in regional areas are far more likely to say they never do this (36%) compared with those in metropolitan areas (34%).

## WHERE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS PREFER TO GET THEIR NEWS

**FIGURE 10**

Where do you PREFER to get news stories from? (select up to 3)



We asked young Australians about their preferred news source (they could choose up to three, Figure 10). **Family is the most preferred news source for young people** (45%), mirroring the results from past surveys. This was followed by live television (25%), YouTube (24%), social media (23%) and friends (21%). Radio is twice as likely to be a preferred source of news by young people whose parents have a low level of education (14%) compared to a high level of education (7%).

**There are considerable differences between children's and teens' preferred news sources.** While both groups prefer to get news from family most of all, children aged 8-12 are more than twice as likely to prefer teachers as a source of news (24% versus 12%), while teens aged 13-16 are almost three times as likely to say they prefer social media as a source of news (35% versus 12%). Friends are more likely to be a preferred news source for children (22% compared with 19% for teens).



There was a considerable decline in the number of young people who indicated teachers are a preferred source of news (18%, down from 27% in 2020, Figure 10B). However, it is important to note that we changed the way we asked the question in 2023. In 2020 we asked respondents about 'Teacher or other

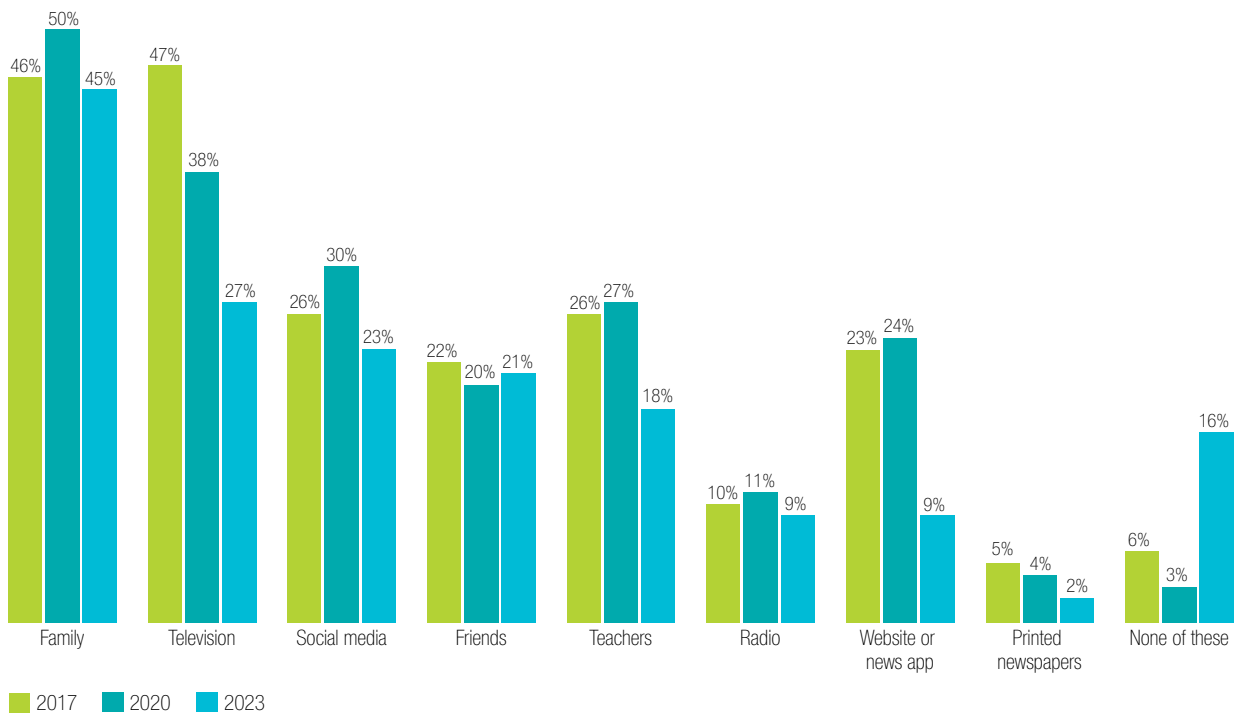
*adult in my life*'. In 2023, 'Teachers' was a distinct category, separate from 'Family' and 'Friends'.

The number of young people who said they prefer to get news from social media declined to 23%, down from 30% in 2020 (Figure 10B). The preference

in getting news from television (27% in 2023) also shows a significant decline (down from 47% in 2020 and 38% in 2017). There has been a large decline in the number of young people who preferred getting news from a website or news app: 9% in 2023 (down from 24% in 2020 and 23% in 2017).

**FIGURE 10B**

Where do you PREFER to get news stories from? (2017, 2020 and 2023)

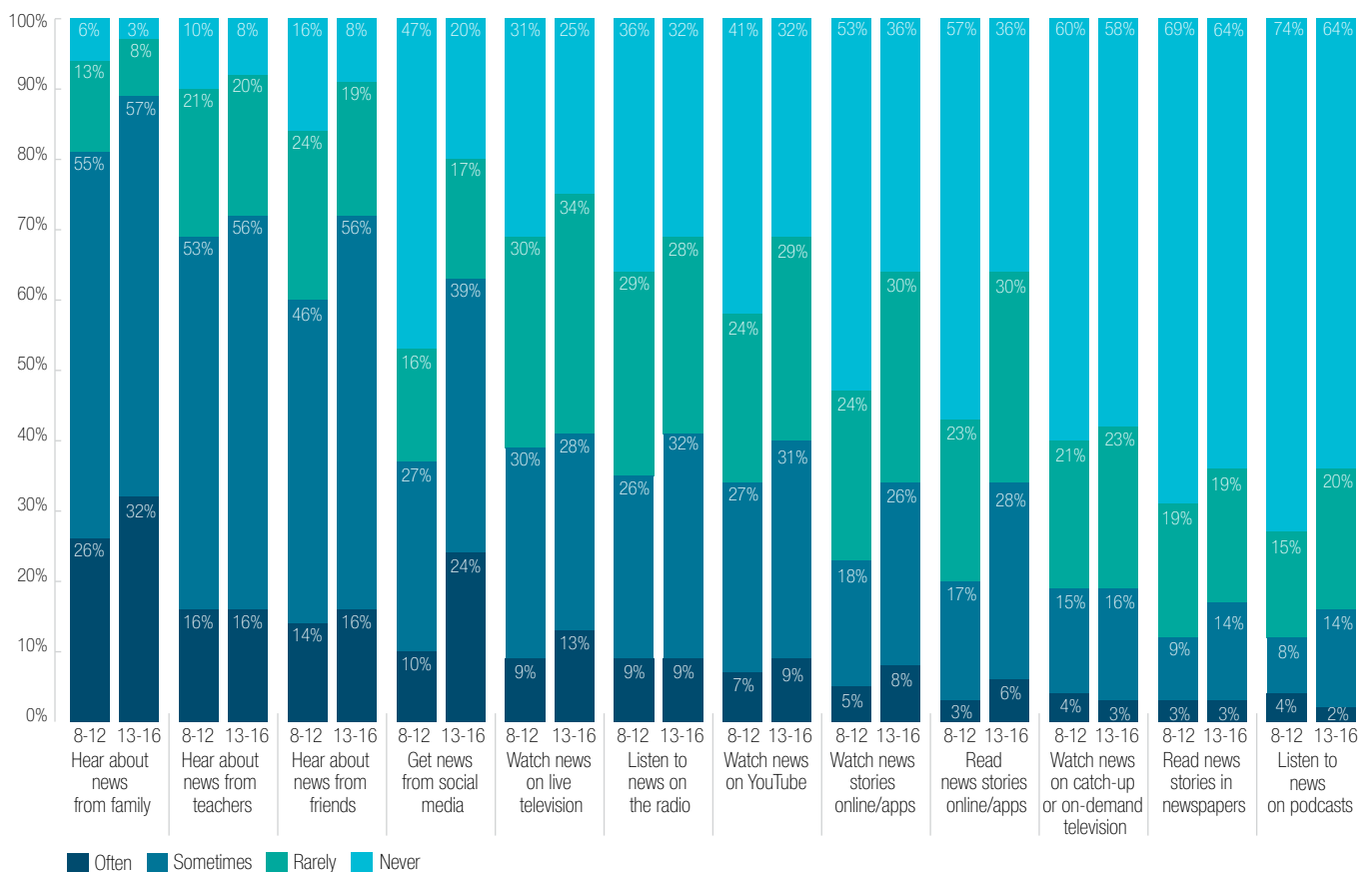


**NOTE:** The 2023 figure for "Television" includes those who "Live television" and/or "Catch-up television". The 2023 figure for "Website or news app" includes those who selected "Online news videos" and/or "Online news articles". The 2017 and 2020 figures for "Website or news app" includes those who selected "website" and/or "mobile phone app".

## FREQUENCY OF USING DIFFERENT SOURCES OF NEWS

**FIGURE 11**

How often do you do the following...?



In line with young people's preferred news sources, interpersonal relationships are also the most commonly used sources of news for young people (Figure 11). **The three sources used most frequently (often or sometimes) are family (85%), teachers (71%) and friends (66%)** – mirroring findings from 2020. This is the case for both children aged 8-12 and teens aged 13-16, with remarkably little differentiation among age or gender

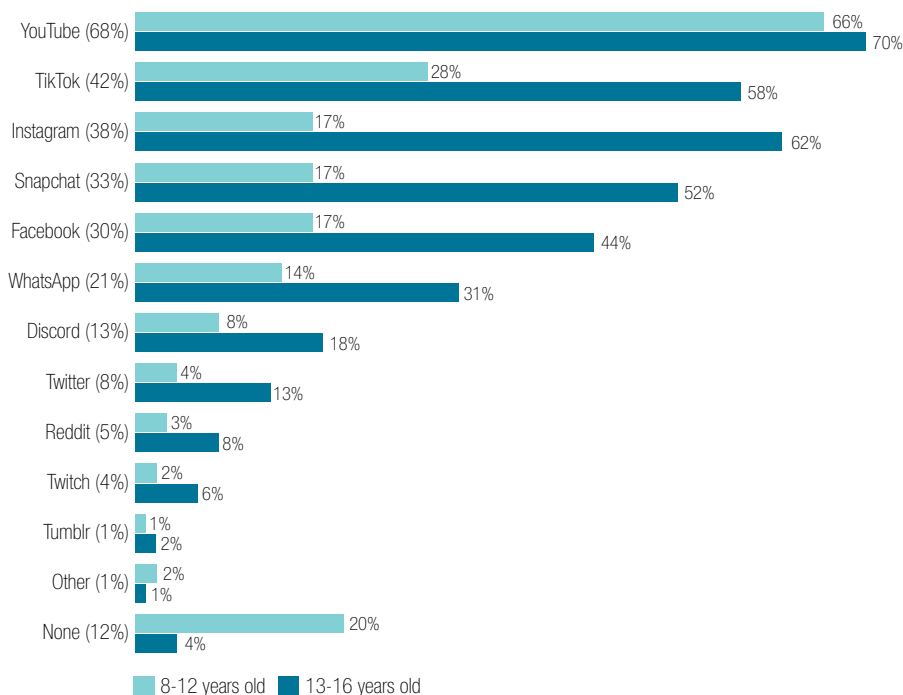
groups other than children being less likely to often or sometimes use friends as a news source (60% of children compared with 72% of teens). Social media is the second most reported frequent news source among teens: 24% of teens said they often use social media to get news, compared to 10% of children. Boys use YouTube to get news often or sometimes, which is higher than for girls (40% versus 32%). As with social media, the use of other online

news sources (reading online; watching online; YouTube) increases with age, but each of these news sources are also more likely to be used by young people living in metropolitan areas compared to regional, and among those with higher educated parents compared to lower levels of education.

## USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO ACCESS NEWS

**FIGURE 12**

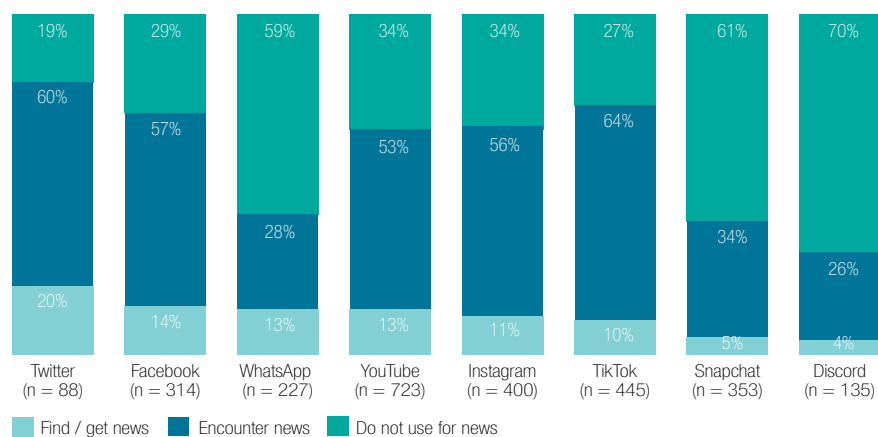
Which social media platforms do you use?



To explore news engagement on social media, we first asked young people which social media platforms they use (Figure 12). **Video-based platforms YouTube (68%) and TikTok (42%) are the most frequently used by young people.** Four platforms are used by more than half of teens aged 13-16: YouTube (70%), TikTok (58%), Instagram (62%) and Snapchat (52%). YouTube (66%) is the only platform used by more than half of children aged 8-12.

**FIGURE 13**

Of the social media platforms you use, which of the following best describes how you use them for news?



When we asked young people about their experience of getting news on the social media platforms they use (Figure 13), we found that **only a small proportion of young people who use social media intentionally use it to find or get news.** After Twitter, (used by only 8% of young people), Facebook is the platform used most often to actively seek out news (14% of young people who use this platform), followed by YouTube and WhatsApp (13% of young people who use these platforms). This figure was higher for some of the less popular platforms such as Twitter (20% of young people who use this platform) and Reddit (18% of young people who use this platform). The use of social media platforms to get/find news

**NOTE:** This figure examines news engagement on social media platforms, for those platforms where more than 5% of young people are using the platform. The label descriptions used in the survey were: 1) Find/get news = 'I use this platform to find and/or get news stories'; 2) Encounter news = 'I come across news stories while using this platform for other things'; and 3) Do not use for news = 'News is not part of the way I use this platform'.

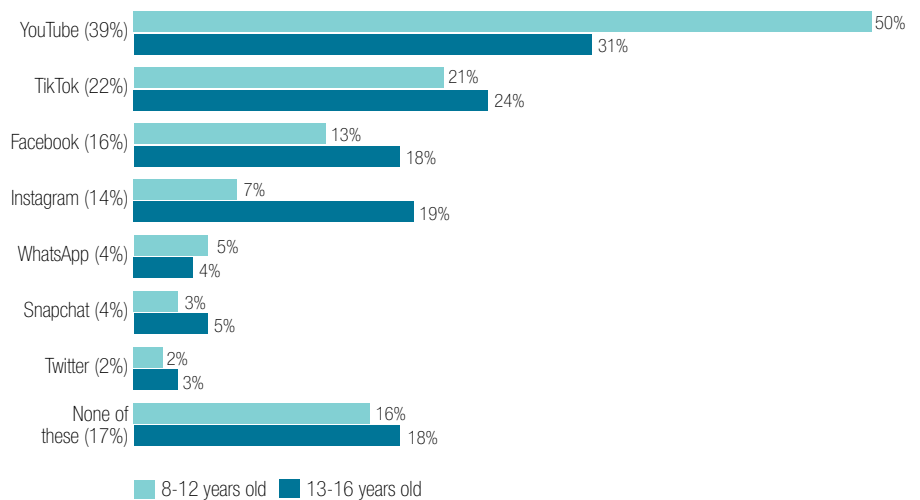
becomes more frequent for young people with a higher level of interest in the news. For example, among those who use YouTube, 31% of young people with the highest level of interest in news use the platform to get news, compared with 0% of YouTube users who have the lowest level of interest in news.

**When young people do encounter news on social media platforms, it is usually incidentally, while they are using the platform for other purposes.** With the exception of a few of the social media platforms used by a smaller number of young people (i.e. Snapchat, WhatsApp, Discord), more than half of young people that use each platform report that they are most likely to encounter news on this platform while doing other things (Figure 13). News was most often encountered incidentally by users of TikTok (64%), Twitter (59%), Facebook (57%), Instagram (55%) and YouTube (54%).

## PREFERRED SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR NEWS

**FIGURE 14**

On which of the following social media sites do you most PREFER to get news? (select up to 3) (n = 690)



We asked those young people who reported getting news from one or more social media platforms (n = 690) to select up to three platforms that they prefer to use to get news (Figure 14). **YouTube (39%) is the most preferred platform for getting news, followed by TikTok (22%), Facebook (16%) and Instagram (14%).** Facebook is the fifth most used platform by young people, but its position progresses to third as a preferred platform for getting news. Children aged 8-12 are more likely to

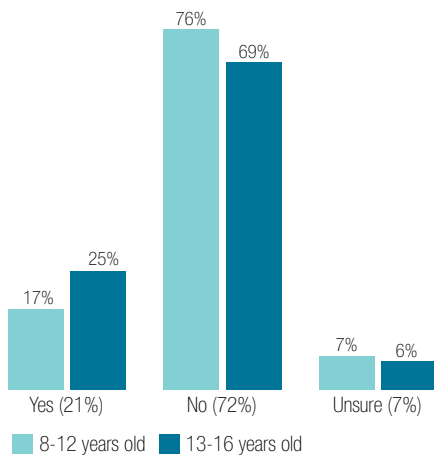
prefer YouTube (50%) when compared with teens aged 13-16 (31%). This likely reflects the greater diversity of platforms teens are using which results in less concentrated preferences. A notable proportion of young people (17%) reported they had no preference for any of the listed platforms for news, which was much higher for those with the lowest interest in news (42%) compared to those with the highest level of interest in news (6%).



## SHARING NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**FIGURE 15**

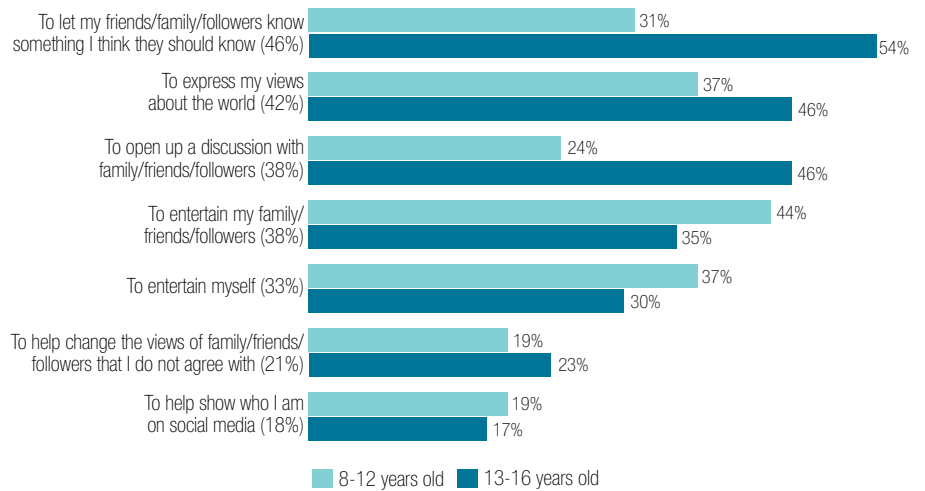
In the past six months, have you shared a news story on social media? (n = 690)



We asked young people who reported that they encounter or find/get news on one or more social media platforms (n = 690) if they had shared a news story on social media in the past six months (Figure 15). **Only one in five (21%) young people who had engaged with news on social media reported they had shared a news story on social media in the past six months.** Teens aged 13-16 are slightly more likely than children aged 8-12 to have shared a news story on social media (25% compared with 17% of children). Young people with the highest level of interest in news are far more likely to have shared a news story on social media (43% compared with just 2% for young people with the lowest level of interest in news).

**FIGURE 16**

Which of the following are reasons why you share news stories with others? Please select all that apply. (n = 146)



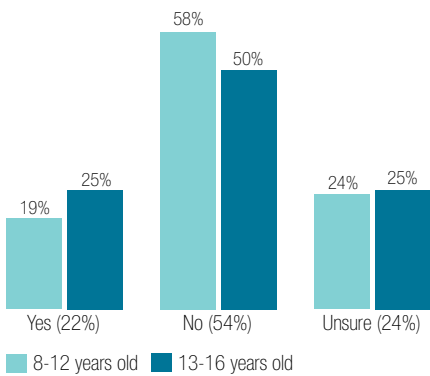
We asked young people who reported having shared a news story on social media (n = 146) reasons why they did this (Figure 16). The top reasons are to let their friends/family/followers know something they think they should know (46%), followed by wanting to express their views about the world (42%). Both of these reasons were more common responses for teens aged 13-16. Children aged 8-12 were also more likely to share stories for entertainment

purposes, while teens were more likely to report that they share news to inform others or express their views about the world. Boys were much more likely than girls to report sharing news in general. Reasons with the greatest difference between boys and girls were: 'to entertain myself' (41% boys versus 25% girls); 'to show who I am' (24% boys versus 10% girls); and 'to help change the views of family/friends/followers I do not agree with' (28% boys versus 15% girls).



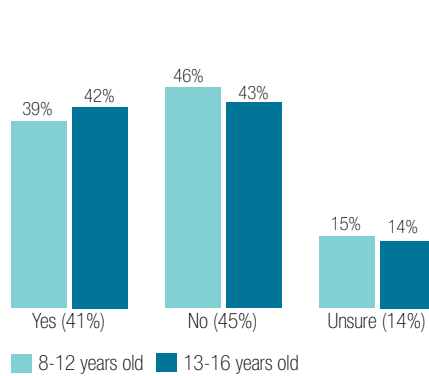
**FIGURE 17**

In the past six months, has someone shared a news story with you on social media that you later found out was wrong or untrue? (n = 931)



**FIGURE 18**

In the past six months, have you shared a news story with others on social media that you later found out was wrong or untrue? (n = 146)



Just over one in five (22%) young people who reported using one or more social media platforms said they had experienced someone sharing a story with them on social media that they later found was untrue in the six months before they completed the survey (Figure 17). A further one quarter (24%) said they were not sure if this had happened.

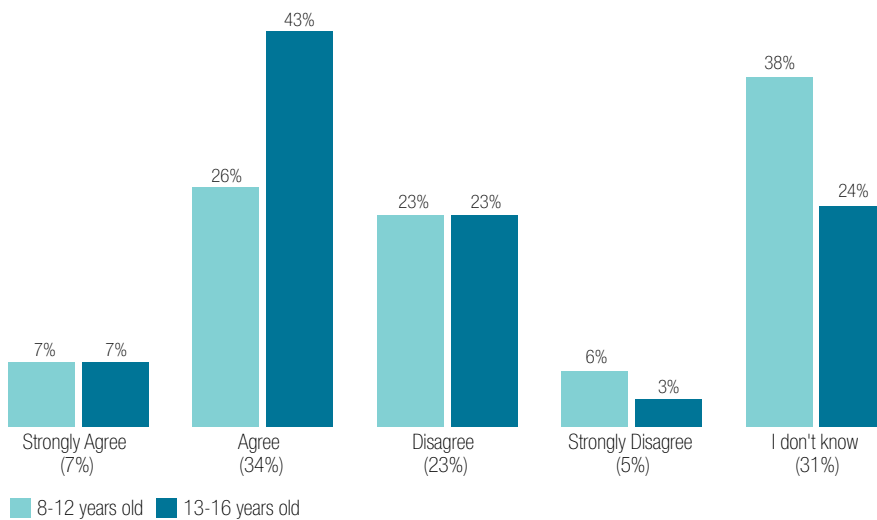
We also asked young people who reported having shared a news story on social media (n = 146), whether or not they had subsequently found out that a story they had posted was untrue (Figure 18). **Two in five (41%) of young**

**people reported that they had posted a news story they later discovered was untrue.** Young people who had shared a news story on social media (Figure 17) were much more likely to report they had a story shared with them they later found was untrue (55% versus 16% for those who had not shared news on social media). Young people with a higher level of interest in news were far more likely to report that they had had an untrue story shared with them (34% versus 9% for young people with a low level of interest).

## THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY MISINFORMATION

**FIGURE 19**

"I know how to tell fake news stories from real news stories"



**Less than half (41%) of young people agree they know how to tell fake news stories from real stories**, with 28% saying they can't do this and 31% saying they are unsure if they can (Figure 19). Teens aged 13-16 are more likely to believe they can do this than children aged 8-12 (50% of teens compared with 33% of children). Parental education level was associated with the responses: 31% of young

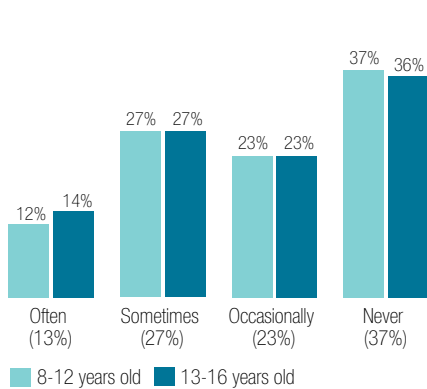
people with the lowest level of parental education believe they can tell fake news from real news, versus 46% who had a parent with the highest level of education. Young people with a high interest in news are far more likely to report they know how to tell fake news from real news when compared with young people with a low level of interest in news (61% versus 20%).

## TAKING ACTION TO AVOID MISINFORMATION AND SUPPORT TRUSTWORTHY NEWS

How often did you do any of the following activities in the past year? (n = 690)

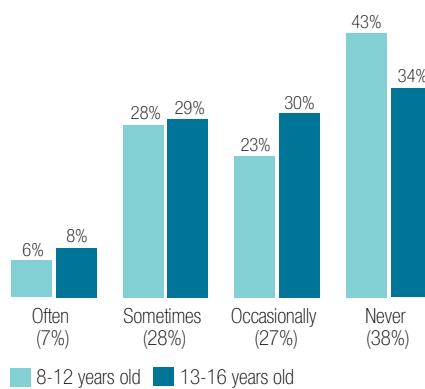
**FIGURE 20**

"I decided I would not share a news story because I was unsure if it was true or not"



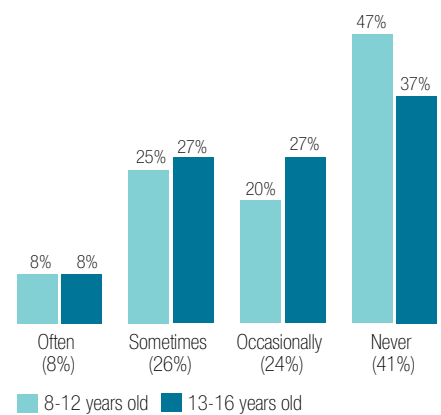
**FIGURE 21**

"I checked a number of different news sources because I was worried the news story was untrue or inaccurate"



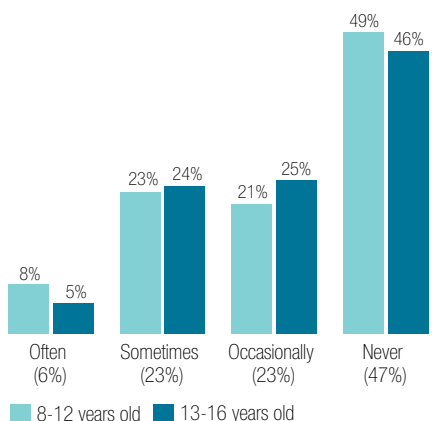
**FIGURE 22**

"I changed from one news source to another because I thought it was more trustworthy"



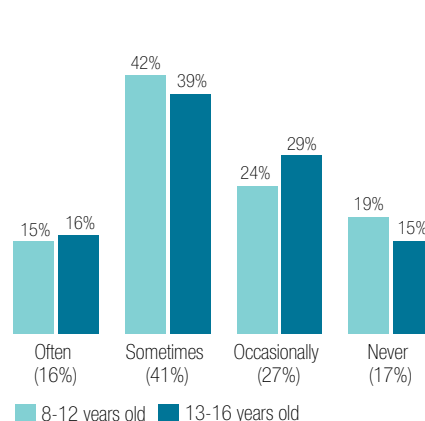
**FIGURE 23**

"I stopped using a particular news source because I was unsure about how much I could trust the reporting"



**FIGURE 24**

"I discussed a news story with a person I trust because I was unsure if it was true"



We asked young people who used one or more social media platforms to get news (n = 690) how often they had undertaken a series of activities in the past that could help them to identify or avoid misinformation (Figures 20 to 24). **The activity young people reported doing most is discussing a news story they were unsure about with a person they trust.** More than half (57%) of the respondents reported they had done so in the past year, often or sometimes. Young people with a high level of interest in news are far more likely to do this (69% versus 25%).

**More than one third (40%) of young people said they had not shared a news story because they were unsure if it was true.** Young people with a high interest in news were more than twice as likely to report doing this when compared with young people who have a low level of interest in news (50% versus 18%).

Just over one third (35%) of young people said they had checked a number of sources because they were concerned a news story was untrue or inaccurate. Young people living in metropolitan areas were more likely to do this (39%) compared with young people in regional areas (22%). Young people with parents with the highest level of education were more likely to do this (40%) when compared with young people whose parents had the lowest level of education (26%). Young people with a high level of interest in news were six times more likely to report checking multiple sources when compared with young people with a low level of interest (63% versus 10%).

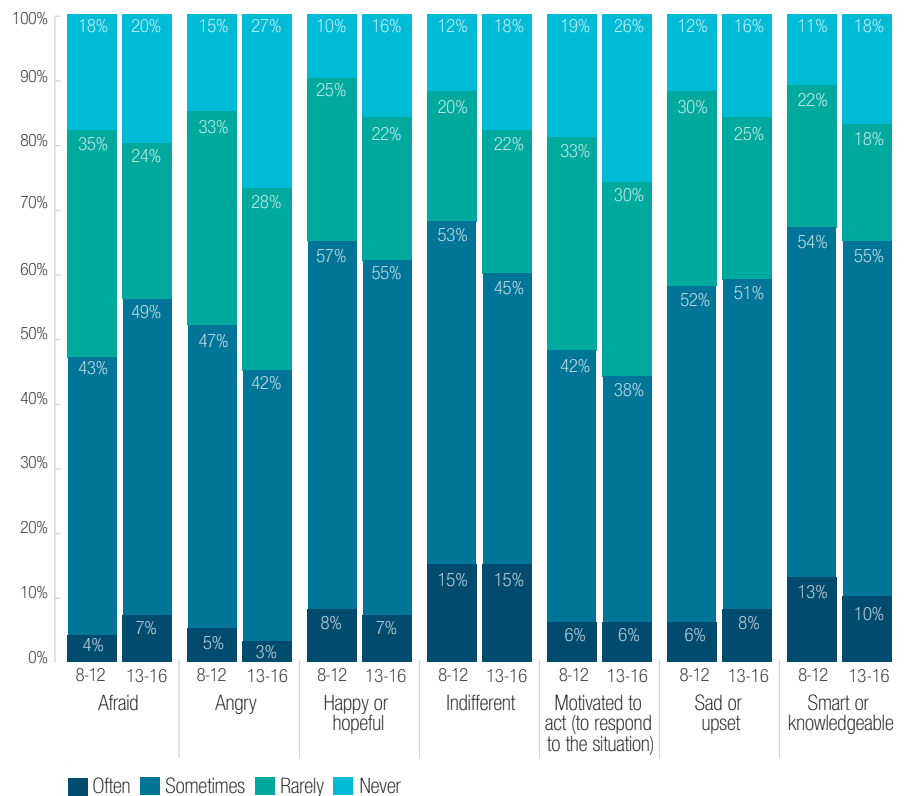
Just over one third (34%) of young people said they had changed from one news source to another because they thought it was more trustworthy. Young people in metropolitan areas (37%) were more likely to do this when compared with young people in regional areas (24%). Young people with a high level of interest in news (61%) were 15 times more likely to do this when compared with young people with a low level of interest in news (4%).

More than one quarter (29%) of young people said they had stopped using a news source because they were unsure how much they could trust the reporting. Young people with a high level of interest in the news (49%) were six times more likely to do this when compared with young people with a low level of interest in news (8%).

## HOW NEWS MAKES YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL

**FIGURE 25**

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



Both children aged 8-12 and teens aged 13-16 report that they often feel strong positive and negative emotions as a response to news stories (Figure 25).

The emotion young people report feeling most frequently (often or sometimes) as a response to news, is smart or knowledgeable (65%). This is followed by indifferent (64%) and happy or hopeful (63%).

Young people with a high level of interest in news were far more likely to report that news makes them feel 'smart or knowledgeable' (often or

sometimes) when compared with those with a low level of interest in news (88% versus 35%) and they are more likely to say news makes them feel 'happy or hopeful' (83% versus 38%).

Six in 10 (59%) young people report often or sometimes feeling 'sad or upset about news', while 52% often or sometimes feel 'afraid' and 48% feel 'angry'. Girls were more likely to respond that they often feel 'sad or upset' about news when compared with boys (9% versus 5%).

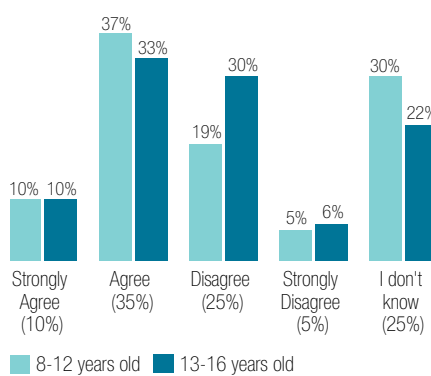
Teens are more likely than children to feel angry often or sometimes when hearing news stories (52% versus 45%) or indifferent (68% versus 60%). Children are more likely than teens to feel afraid (56% versus 47%).

Close to half (46%) of young people report that news makes them feel 'motivated to act' in response to the situation being reported on. Those with parent/s with the lowest level of education were far more likely to say they never feel this when compared with those with educated parent/s (30% compared to 18%). Those with a high level of interest in news were six times more likely to feel 'motivated to act' on news stories (83% versus 13%).

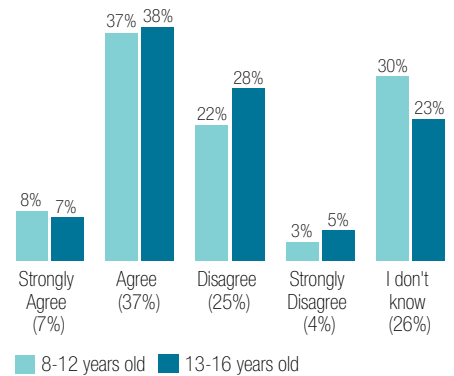
Across all options except 'indifferent', those with the highest level of interest in news were considerably more likely to respond 'often', suggesting their heightened interest in news is associated with having a greater emotional response to news.

## PERCEPTIONS OF BIAS IN THE NEWS

**FIGURE 26**  
"News treats people of different race and cultural backgrounds equally"



**FIGURE 27**  
"News treats women and men equally"



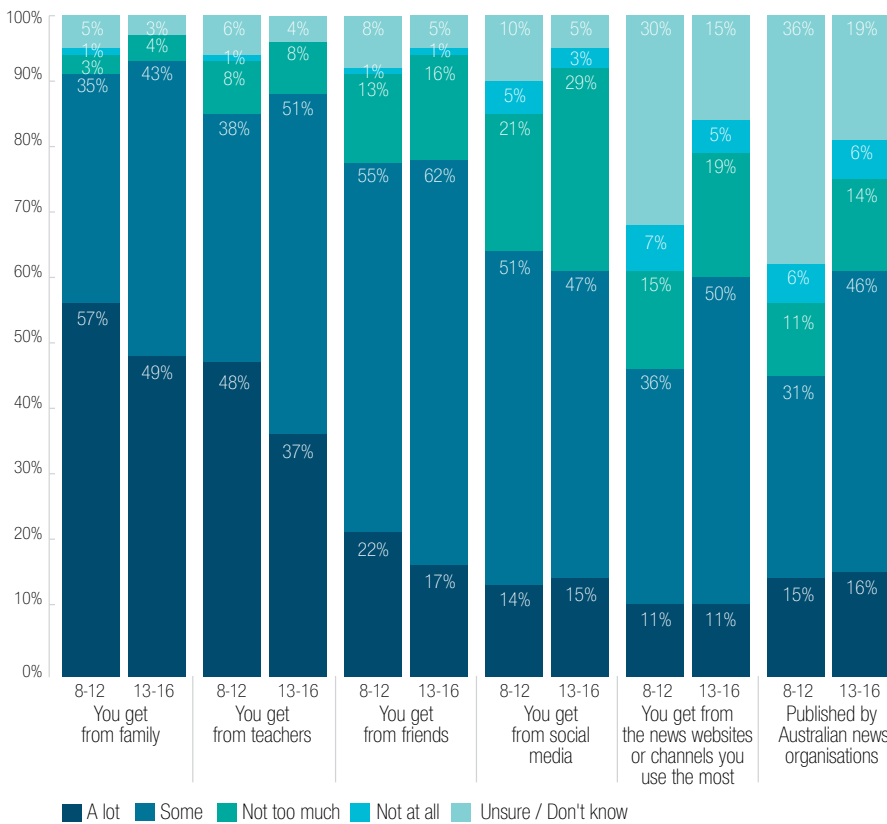
More than one quarter of young people (27%) perceive bias in the news when it comes to the treatment of people from different racial and cultural backgrounds (Figure 27). This is a reduction in perception of bias in this area since 2020 (down from 36%). Teens aged 13-16 are more likely to perceive this bias when compared to children aged 8-12 (33% versus 22%). Children are much more likely to report they don't know if this is true or not (41% versus 25% for teenagers). Those with a high level of interest in news were more likely to believe news treats people from different race and cultural backgrounds equally fair (63% versus 20% for those with the lowest level of interest in news). The reason for this is unclear: young people's perception may be influenced by the news media they choose to follow since those with a high interest in news are more proactive in their news consumption. It may also be that this group is less culturally diverse (we don't ask the participants about their own cultural diversity in the survey). Young people with the lowest level of interest in news

are much more likely to report that they don't know (54% compared with 12% for those with the highest level of interest in news).

A very similar pattern emerges for responses in terms of perceptions about the treatment of men and women (Figure 28). One quarter (25%) of young people believe men and women are not treated equally (down from 33% in 2010). Girls were more likely than boys to perceive bias in terms of the treatment of men and women (30% versus 21%). Children were much more likely to report they don't know (44% versus 26% for teenagers). Those with a high level of interest in news were far more likely to believe news treats men and women equally fair (64% versus 22%), while those with a low level of interest were far more likely to report they don't know (60% versus 13%). As noted, it's unclear why this would be the case. It may be that this group seeks out a wider range of media or representations – further research is required to gain more insight into this finding.

# TRUST IN NEWS

**FIGURE 28**  
How much do you trust the news stories...?



We asked young people how much they trust news they get from six different sources – family, friends, teachers, Australian news organisations, news organisations they use the most and social media (Figure 28). We extended the response options from previous years when we only asked about the first four of these sources.

As with past surveys, **young people trust their families most of all as a source of news** (54% responded 'a lot'), **followed by teachers** (43% 'a lot'). This highest level of trust then drops dramatically for friends (19% 'a lot'), Australian news organisations (16% 'a lot'), news on social media (15% 'a lot'), and finally, news websites or channels they follow (11% 'a lot'). Trust in news from family and teachers decreases with age.

**Trust in news published by Australian news organisations is associated with parent/s education level and their level of interest in news.** Some 32% of young people who indicated the highest level of interest in news said they trusted news from Australian news organisations 'a lot', whereas only 4% of those with the lowest interest in news said they trusted them 'a lot'. Around 45% of young people whose parent/s had the lowest level of education trust Australian news organisations 'some' (33%) and 'a lot' (12%). This is compared with 59% of young people whose parent/s had the highest level of education (40% for 'some' and 19% for 'a lot').

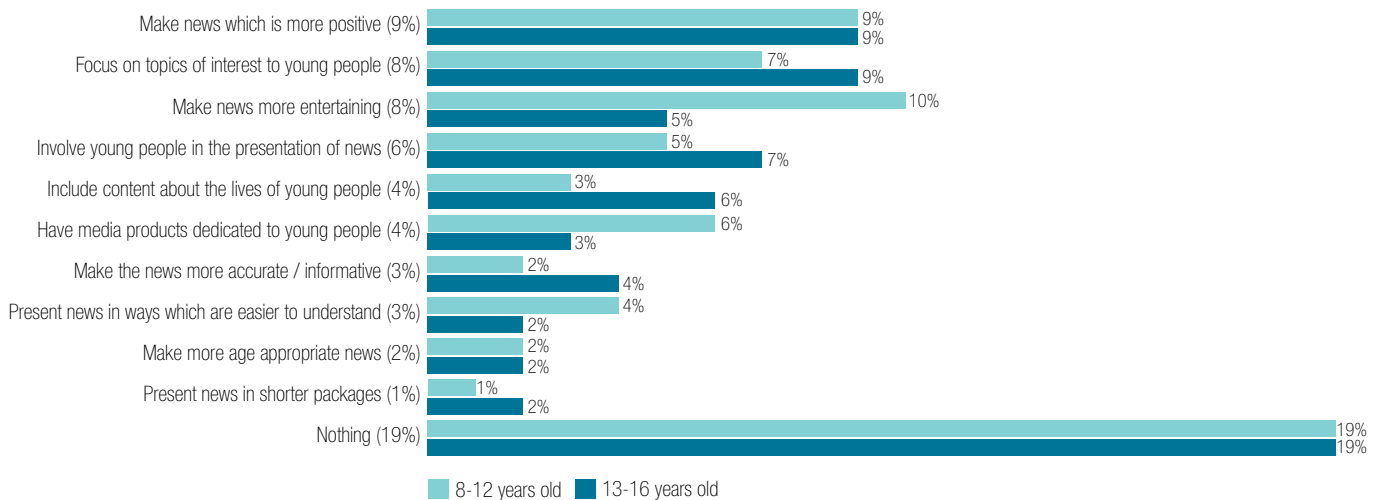
There is a similar trend when it comes to young people's trust in the news they get from websites or channels they use the most. We found that 83% of young people with the highest level of interest in news said they trusted news from websites or channels they follow 'a lot' (27%) or 'some' (56%), compared to those with the lowest interest in news who said they trusted news from these sources 'a lot' (3%) or 'some' (17%). Only 5% of young people whose parent/s had the lowest level of education had 'a lot' of trust in the news sources they use the most, compared to 15% of those who had a highly educated parent.



## HOW AUSTRALIAN NEWS MEDIA CAN BETTER SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE

**FIGURE 29**

Is there anything Australian news organisations could do to make the news more appealing to young people?



Young people were invited to provide an open-ended response about whether they believe there is anything Australian news organisations can do to make the news more appealing to young people (Figure 29). The open-ended responses were analysed using an inductive descriptive coding approach which resulted in a set of 10 categories. The majority of participant responses were assigned a single code (97%), with a small proportion assigned two codes (3%).

One in five young people (19%) do not believe there is anything that Australian news organisations could do to make the news more appealing to young people. The most frequent suggestions provided were to promote news content which is more positive and uplifting (9%), to make the presentation of news more entertaining (8%), to focus on news topics which are relevant to young people (8%), and to involve young people in the

presentation of news (6%). Regional/remote participants were more likely to suggest news organisations should have more positive stories (12%) than their metropolitan counterparts (8%). Children aged 8-12 were more likely to suggest news should be more entertaining (10%) than were teens aged 13-16 (5%). Children were also more likely to say they want news products dedicated to young people (6%) than were teens (3%).

**Is there anything Australian news organisations could do to make the news more appealing to young people?<sup>2</sup>**



Add more topics kids would like perhaps by running a survey on what kids find interesting

BOY, 11, VICTORIA

Have a news channel run by young people, and maybe get stories from young people

GIRL, 10, NORTHERN TERRITORY

treat us with respect and teach us about the news at school so we understand it better.

explain things on the news at night my parents watch

GIRL, 11, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Bring us happy news or exciting things kids have done

GIRL, 10, NEW SOUTH WALES

Have kids and teens reading the news. Talk about good things as well as bad things

GIRL, 12, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

More inspiring news stories to help with motivation

GIRL, 16, VICTORIA

dont make it so boring and hard to understand with big words etc - I switch off if it is to hard

BOY, 16, NEW SOUTH WALES

I think making it more informative, educational and entertaining at the same time

BOY, 10, NEW SOUTH WALES

Since some children may be worried, before showing a scene make a warning to any children watching and maybe explain for stories in words that kids can understand.

BOY, 9, NEW SOUTH WALES

Create a tik tok channel, have young people delivering the news

GIRL, 13, QUEENSLAND

Include more teen based stories that aren't so negative, possibly finding teens who've had big impacts in our world and reporting on them. This would personally make me feel more motivated.

GIRL, 16, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Find some good stories about teenagers that are happy and also stories about teenagers ideas to fix climate change

GIRL, 15, QUEENSLAND

Stop making click bait and over exaggerated stories to scare people

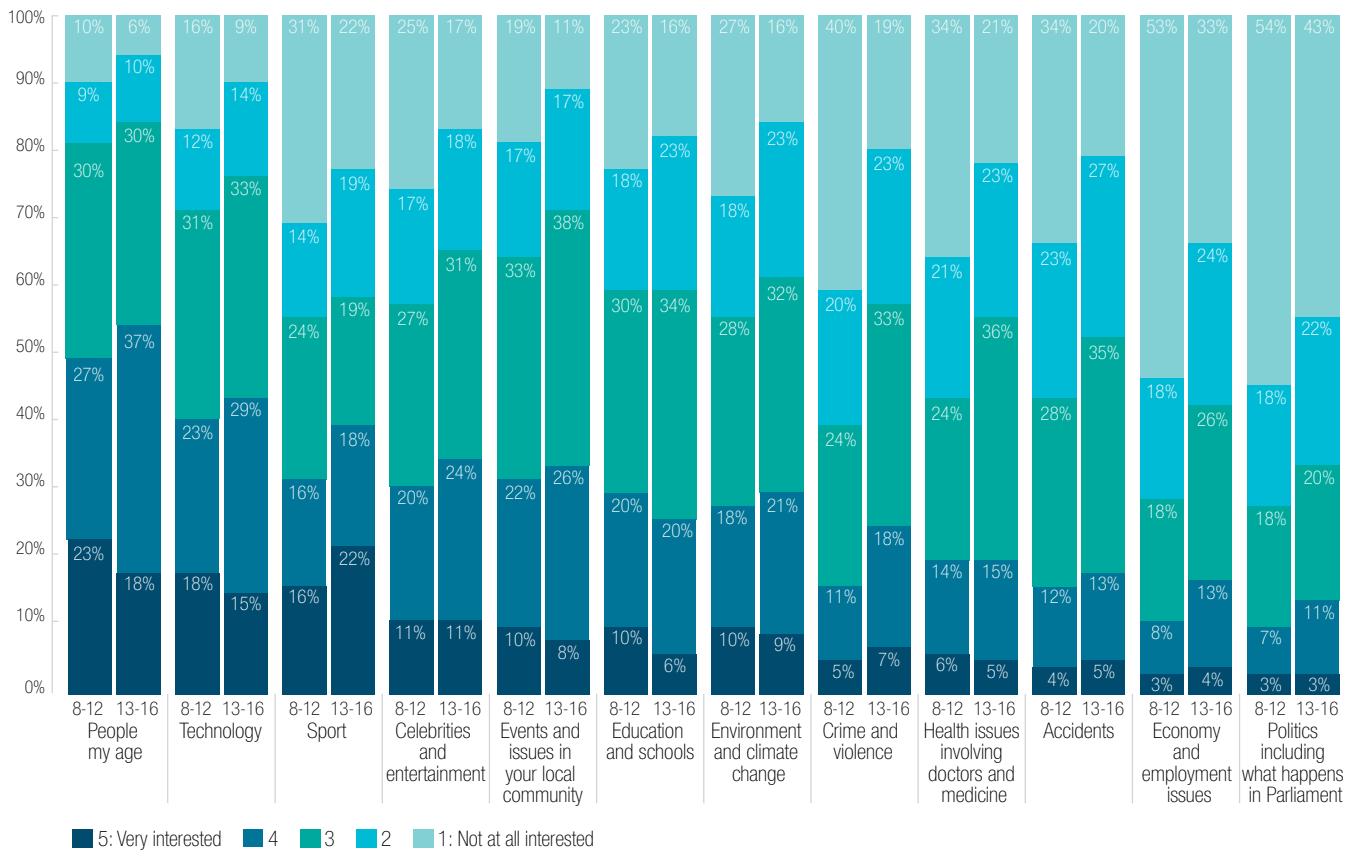


GIRL, 16, QUEENSLAND

2. We have chosen not to edit young people's quotes in any way to retain their authentic voice. The only change made to these quotes has been to shorten them.

# NEWS TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

**FIGURE 30**  
How much are you interested in news about the following topics?



**NOTE:** Percentages in brackets above are the proportion of all participants who responded as having an interest of Level 4 or 5.

We asked young people about their level of interest in a range of news topics (Figure 30). In 2023, **the topic young people said they were most interested in was news about people their own age (53%), followed by technology (43%), sport (36%), celebrities and entertainment (33%).**

Young Australians are least interested in news about politics (11%), the economy (14%) and accidents (16%).

News topics with the greatest disparities between boys and girls were sport (boys 49% versus girls 20%), technology (boys 53% versus girls 31%),

and celebrities and entertainment (boys 26% versus girls 40%). While politics had the lowest level of interest, it also had the greatest variance based on where young people live – 14% of metropolitan young people are interested in stories about politics, while only 5% of young people in

regional areas have this interest. The only news topic where regional young people had more interest than metropolitan was news about young people their age – 56% for regional versus 51% for metropolitan.

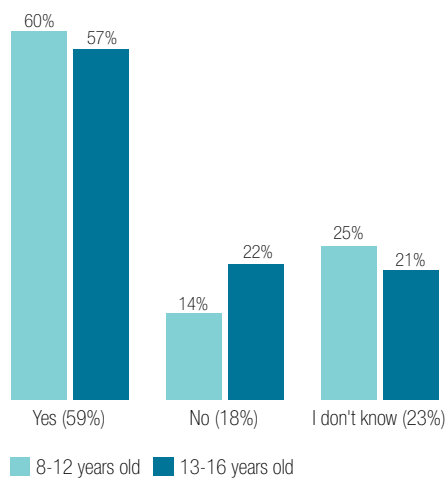
Young people with parent/s with a low level of education showed less interest in news about health (14%) when compared with young people with parent/s with a high level of education (25%). Young people with parent/s with a high level of education were also more likely to be interested in news about the economy (19% versus 9% for the lowest level of education), parliament (15% versus 8%), and climate change and the environment (33% versus 21%). Overall interest in news topics generally shows a small increase with age, with the most pronounced being for news about crime and violence (31% of children aged 8-12 versus 40% of teens aged 13-16).

One quarter (24%) of children and 15% of teens reported they were not interested (Level 4 or 5, Figure 30) in any of the 12 presented news topics.

## NEWS MADE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**FIGURE 31**

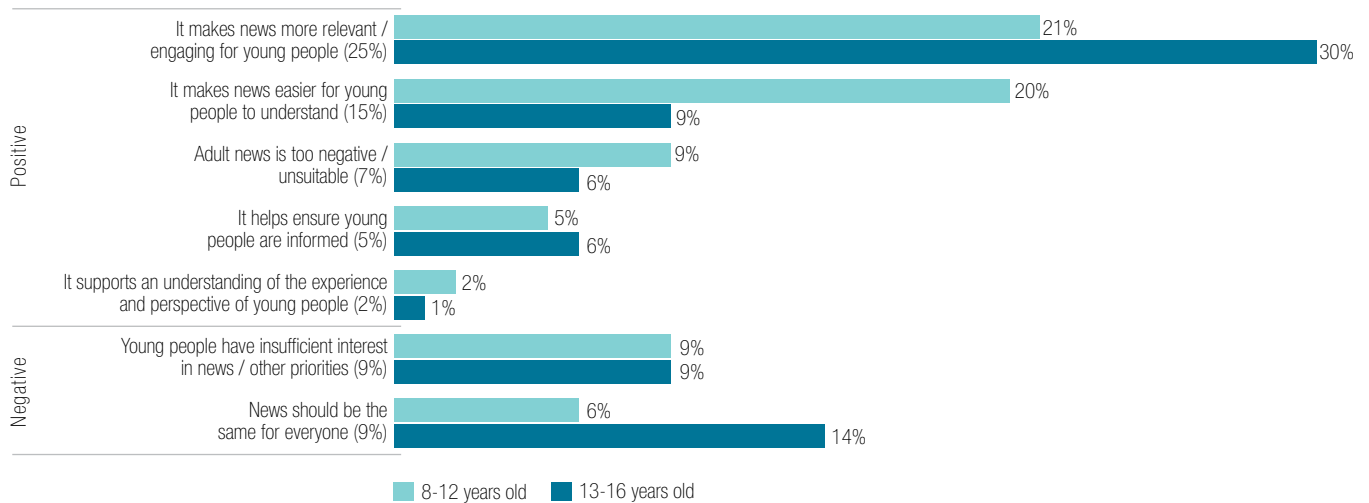
Do you think young people your age need news stories that are made especially for them (and not for adults)?



More than half (59%) of the respondents agreed that young people need news stories made especially for them (Figure 31). This figure is up 6% from 2020. Girls were more likely to agree with this statement when compared with boys (62% of girls versus 56% of boys). Agreement was highest among those with the highest level of interest in news (67% versus 44% for the lowest level). Young people with the lowest level of interest in news were more than twice as likely to respond 'I don't know' to this question (36% versus 15% for those with the highest level of interest in news). Young people from regional areas were slightly more likely to agree that young people need news made especially for them (63% regional versus 58% metropolitan).

**FIGURE 32**

Can you explain why you think this?



Young people were invited to provide an open-ended response to explain why they thought young people do or do not need news stories made especially for them (Figure 32). Responses were coded into seven categories (five positive/agreement; two negative/disagreement), with a total of 732 participants providing a response that was coded into these categories (39 responses or 4% of responses were assigned to two codes). **The most common reasons given to support the idea that young people need news made especially for them were that it is 'more relevant and/**

**or engaging for young people' (25%), followed by it 'makes news easier for young people to understand' (15%).** Teens aged 13-16 were more likely to suggest young people need news made especially for them to make news more relevant (30% of all teens), compared to children aged 8-12 (21%). Children were more likely to say young people need news made for them so it is easier to understand (20%), compared to teens (9%). Those with a high interest in news were most likely to say that news made for young people helps ensure that young people are informed (10% versus 5% for those with a low interest in news).

The most common reasons cited to support the idea that young people do not need news made especially for them is that young people didn't have sufficient interest in news to warrant this (9%) and that news should be the same for everyone (9%). Teens were much more likely to agree that the news should be the same for everyone (14%) compared to children (6%).

**Do young people need news made for them?**



“ I think news stories always seem confusing so my mum and dad help me to understand what is happening...I think it would be really good to have more news that kids my age can understand more because some people don't have mums that know as much as my mum.

GIRL, 13, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The news is always negative and it's not what we want to hear. If we have our own news platforms just for us, maybe that spark of good that is happening in the world is enough to cheer us up.

GIRL, 13, QUEENSLAND

Yes, because we have different interests, perspectives, and information needs compared to older generations. it can increase our engagement with current events and help us develop a better understanding of the world.

BOY, 13, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Because news people sometimes make it hard to understand or violent and most kids don't like that. There should be a kids news channel that doesn't focus on bad stuff and have things that kids can understand.

BOY, 11, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

It would be pretty good to hear about what other people my age go through in other countries and hear about what kids are doing with their time and about their experiences of a jobs.

BOY, 14, QUEENSLAND

Because sometimes mainstream media doesn't talk about things that we want to hear & know about. More articles actually written by people my age would be interesting.

BOY, 15 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Half the time I do not understand what they are saying so it would be good if it was explained in a way that we could understand.

BOY, 12, QUEENSLAND

it is good to see and hear news about younger people and what they have achieved and their aims and ambitions for the future.”

BOY, 14, NEW SOUTH WALES

“Because i dont want to see things that is too full on as i tend to fixate on things. And it can give me a lot of anxiety.

GIRL, 9, QUEENSLAND

Yes, because it feels like we are seen and heard more and that we can better relate to what we are hearing.

GIRL, 14, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It would make us more knowledgeable of what's going on in the world if it is more accessible.

GIRL, 14, QUEENSLAND

Make it relevent so we can understand and form a healthy relationship with news.

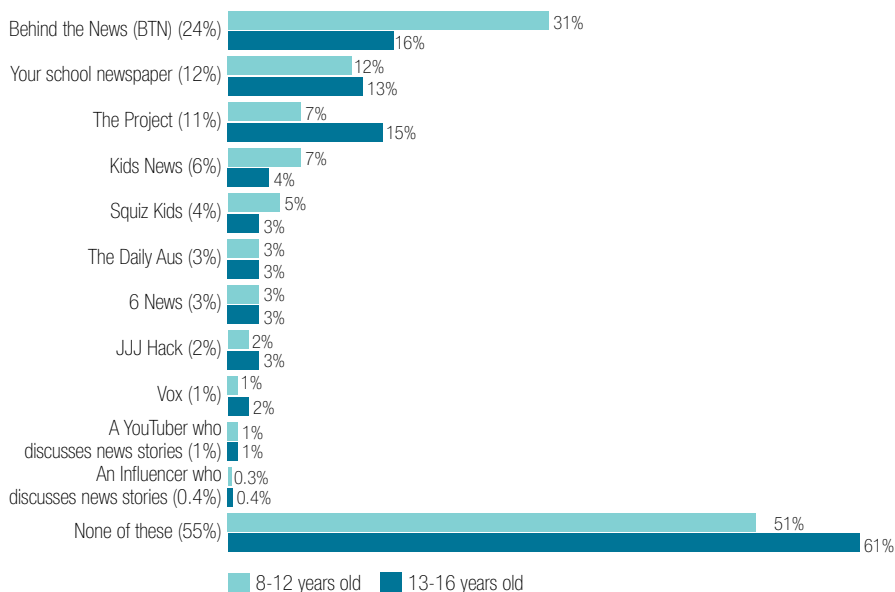
BOY, 15, NEW SOUTH WALES

News shouldn't just assume everyone reading it is an adult.

GIRL, 14, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**FIGURE 33**

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

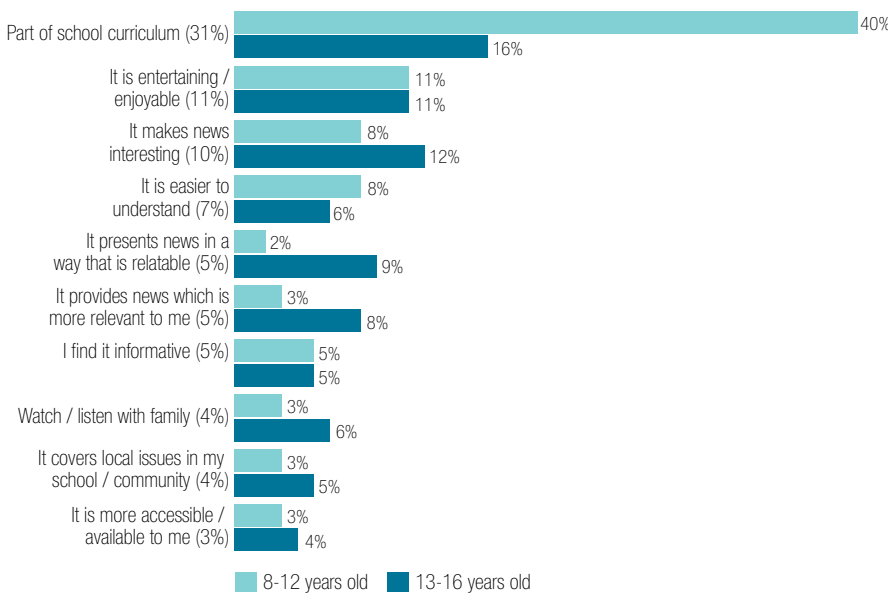


Although most young people believe they need news made especially for them, **more than half (55%) of respondents said they were not regularly using any Australian news media that has been created for young people** (Figure 33). There has been an increase in the number of young people not engaging with Australian youth-focused news media since 2020, when this figure was 48%. Just three of the Australian news media programs we listed are being used regularly by more

than 10% of the respondents: *Behind the News* (24%, up from 22% in 2020), the school newspaper (12%, up from 11% in 2020) and *The Project* (11%, down from 14% in 2020). *Behind the News* (BTN) is much more commonly watched by children aged 8-12 (31%) compared to teens aged 13-16 (16%). Conversely, *The Project* is more regularly watched by twice as many teens (15%) compared to children (7%).

**FIGURE 34**

Can you tell us why you use these news media for young people? (n = 473)



For those young people who indicated that they regularly use Australian news media made for young people (n = 473), we asked why they use this media (Figure 34). Open-ended responses by participants were coded using a classification of 10 different options.

**The most common reason provided by young people for using news media made for young people is that it is part of their school's curriculum (31%), with this reason particularly high among children aged 8-12 (40%), reflecting the frequent use of *BTN* in Australian**

primary classrooms. Young people with the lowest level of interest in news are far more likely to provide this reason (65%) when compared to those with the highest level of interest in news (12%). This suggests that *BTN* plays an important role in engaging students who would otherwise have little interest in news. The next most common reasons provided were that participants found news made for young people more entertaining or enjoyable (11%), more interesting (10%), or easier to understand (7%).

**Why do you use news made for young people?**

“The project is funny but informative I get a lot of my news from there. The school paper tells me about other teenagers and there news.

GIRL, 15, QUEENSLAND

Mum makes us watch it to hear news for kids

GIRL, 12, NEW SOUTH WALES

The teachers think it's [*BTN*] a great way for students to learn more about the world.

BOY, 10, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

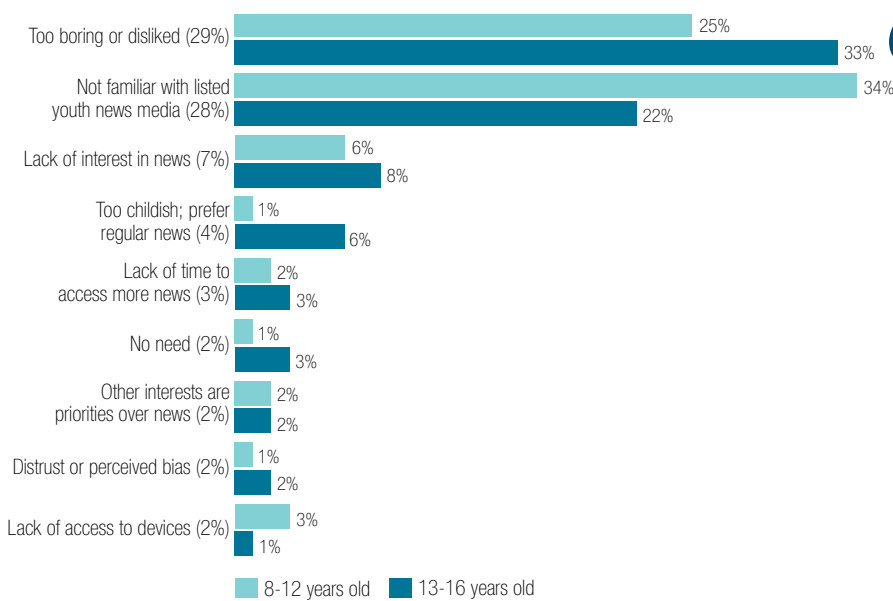
Squiz kid has more kids related news and kids can easily understand.

GIRL, 11, NEW SOUTH WALES



**FIGURE 35**

Can you tell us why you don't use any of these news media for young people? (n = 590)



For those young people who reported they do not regularly use news media made for young people (n = 590), we asked them to explain why not. Open-ended responses were coded using a classification of nine different options. The most common reason provided was that participants disliked the nominated youth-focused news media or found them too boring (29%).

**A significant number of participants (28%) reported that they are not familiar with the listed youth-focused news options, with this figure rising to 34% for children aged 8-12 years.** Some 7% of participants said they did not use any of the options because of overall lack of interest in news, with a smaller number (4%) citing that news made for young people was too childish.

**Can you tell us why you don't use any of these news media for young people?**

“They are for younger kids and they dumb down the news for them to understand. There is no news for 12-16 year old kids

BOY, 12, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

not aware of many of them, no time, so busy with sport and homework

BOY, 12, VICTORIA

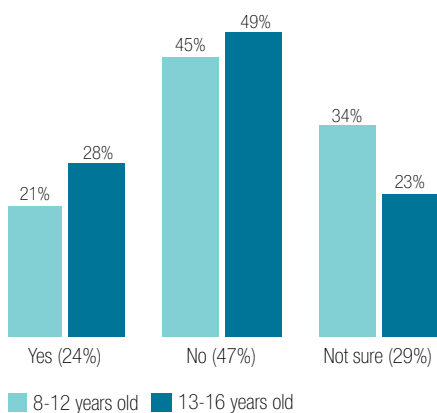
too childish, and feels like they tell us what they think we should know

GIRL, 15, QUEENSLAND

## NEWS LITERACY EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

**FIGURE 36**

In the past year have you been taught how to decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted?

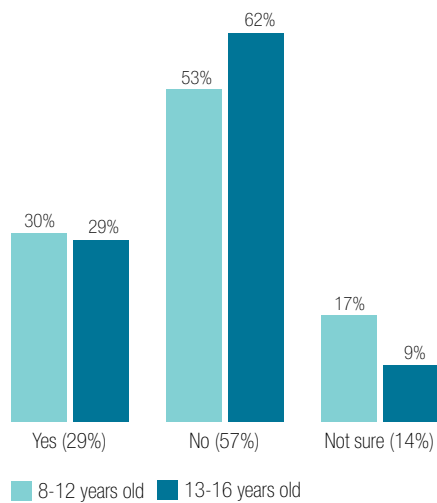


We explored young people's news literacy education at school by asking young people about their critical engagement with news stories and the opportunities they have been afforded to create their own news stories in the classroom (Figure 36).

**One quarter (24%) of young Australians indicated that they have received a lesson in class to help them decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted in the past year.** This is a 4% increase from 2017 and 2020. Teens aged 13-16 were more likely to report this than children aged 8-12 (28% versus 21%). Young people were more likely to report this if they had a parent with a high level of education (28% versus 18% for the lowest level of education). The likelihood that young people reported this increased in line with their interest in news (40% for those with the highest level of interest compared to 13% with a lowest level).

**FIGURE 37**

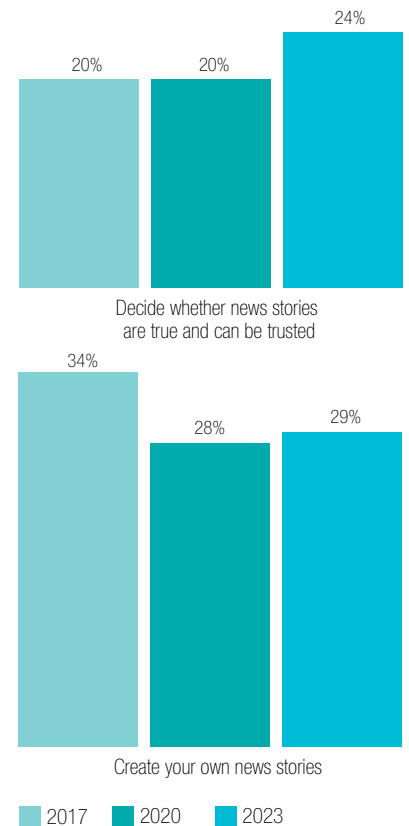
In the past year have you been taught how to create your own news stories?



**Almost one third (29%) of young Australians reported that they had been taught how to create their own news stories in the past year** (Figure 37). This was a slight increase from 28% in 2020, although the figure was higher in 2017, at 34%. Young people whose parent/s have a high education level (32%) were more likely to say this compared with those with parent/s with a low level of education (24%). Young people with a higher level of interest in news were far more likely to report they had been taught to create their own news stories compared to those with a low level of interest in news (43% versus 18%). This may suggest that exposure to news in the classroom may foster a greater interest in the news. Likewise, it may also suggest that young people with an interest in news may choose to write news stories when that option is provided to them.

**FIGURE 38**

In the past year have you been taught at school how to ... (2017, 2020 and 2023)



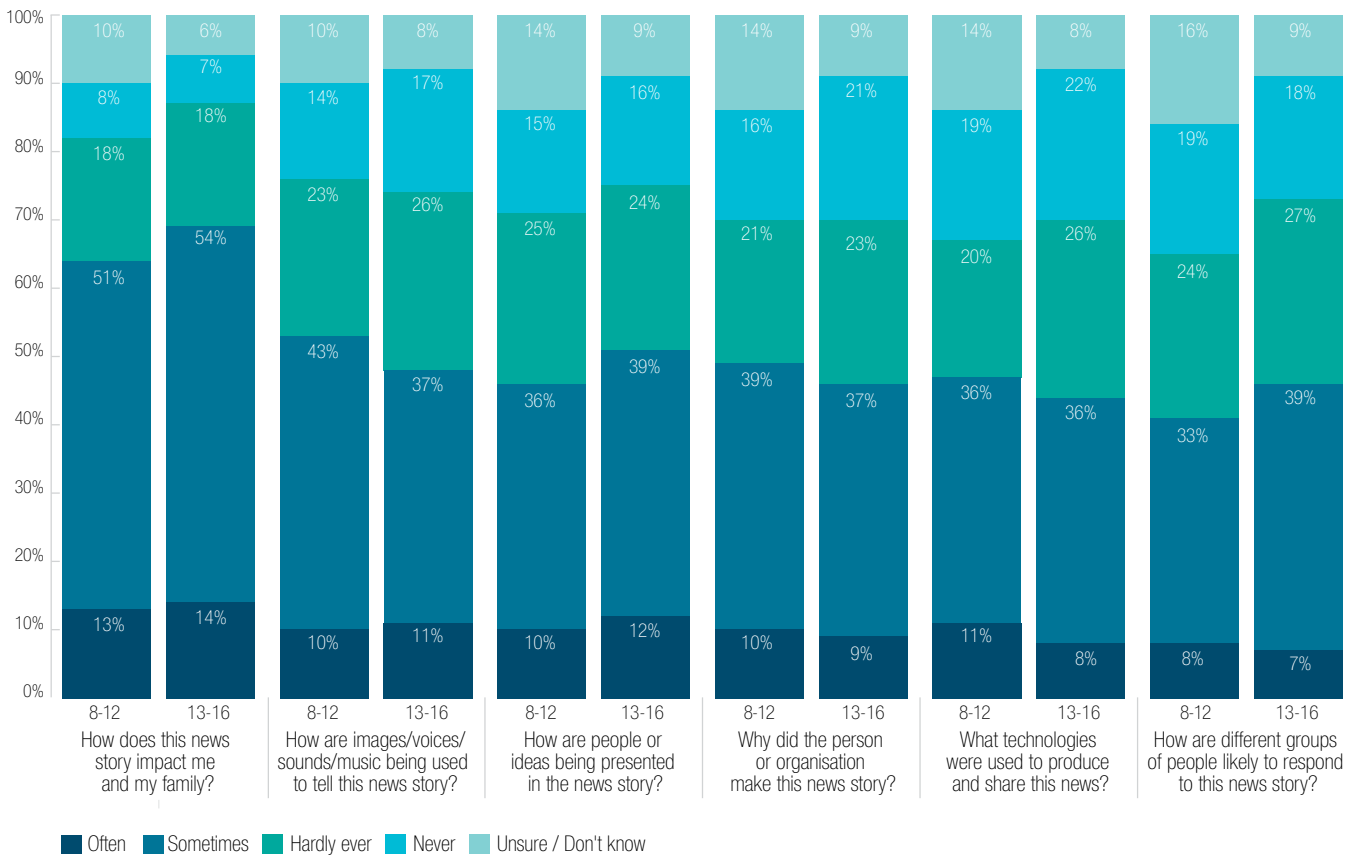
There has been a small increase in the number of young people who say they have been taught how to decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted. In 2023, the response rate was 24%, compared with 20% for both 2020 and 2017 – an increase of 4% (Figure 38). There is a slight (1%) increase of young people reported to have lessons on how to create their own news stories in 2023 when compared with 2020 but this figure is 5% lower than 2017. However, these findings show that most young people are not receiving ongoing news media literacy education.



# NEWS MEDIA LITERACY

**FIGURE 39**

When you get news online (e.g. social media, websites, YouTube, apps), how often do you think about the following things? (n = 843)



**NOTE:** We asked this question only to those who responded that they used online news sources or social media platforms to get news (n = 843).

For the first time in this survey we investigated the extent to which young people report critically reflecting on online news stories (Figure 39). Participants were asked six questions which were selected to capture the critical foundations of media literacy

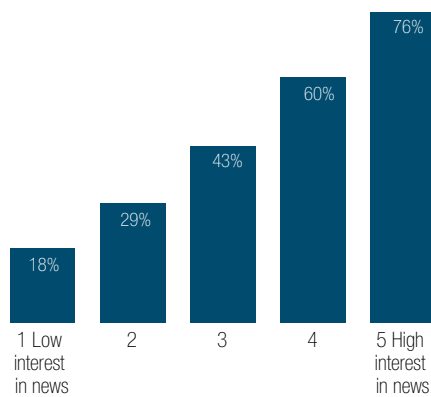
based on the key concepts framework used by the Australian Media Literacy Alliance (AMLA)<sup>3</sup>. These questions were only asked to those young people who reported that they often, sometimes or rarely use websites, apps and/or social media platforms to get news (n = 843).

**Overall we found that most young people who get news online report asking critical questions about the news they encounter.** Two thirds (67%) of respondents reported that they often or sometimes think about how news stories they access online might impact

3. See <https://medialiteracy.org.au/media-literacy-framework/>

them and their family. Just over half (51%) report they often or sometimes think about how images/voices/sounds are used to convey news stories. A similar proportion (49%) say they consider how people or ideas are being presented in the news story, while 48% said that they consider the reasons why a person or organisation made the news story (often or sometimes). Young people were slightly less likely to report that they thought about the technologies used in the production and dissemination of news stories (45%), or considered how different people or groups might respond differently to news stories (43%). Boys are more likely to report that they ask why a person or news organisation made a news story when compared to girls (52% versus 42%), and to ask what technologies are used to make and share news (50% versus 40%). We do not see substantial variation between children aged 8-12 years and teens aged 13-16 years. However children were more likely to respond that they 'don't know' (range between 10% and 16%) which may suggest they did not fully comprehend what was being asked.

**FIGURE 40**  
Frequency of selecting 'Often' or 'Sometimes' across all six items, by level of interest in news

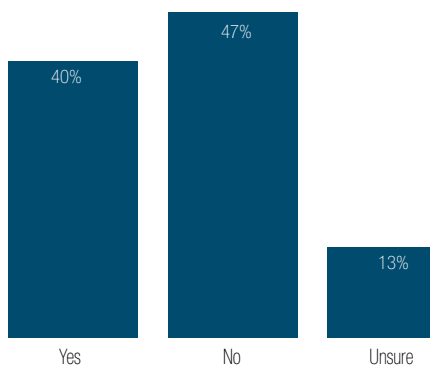


When we examined how participants responded across the six items based on their level of interest in news, a strong trend emerged (Figure 40). Young people with the highest level of interest in news are much more likely to report that they often or sometimes think critically about news media when compared with those with the lowest level of interest (76% versus 18%). A much smaller variation was also found between those living in metropolitan areas compared to those living in regional parts of Australia (52% versus 45%).

## AWARENESS ABOUT THE USE OF ALGORITHMS TO DELIVER NEWS

**FIGURE 41**

Have you heard of the term 'algorithms' in relation to online news? (n = 627)



**NOTE:** This question was only asked to the respondents aged 12-16 years.

This year we asked respondents aged 12-16 years a series of questions about algorithms and news engagement for the first time. We did not ask children aged 8-11 this because we were not confident they would understand the questions and we did not feel the questions would be relevant to the large number of children who don't use social media or access news online.

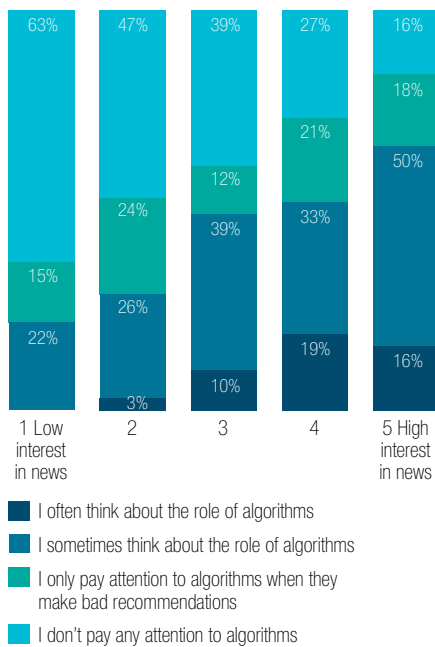
First, we asked young people if they had heard of the term 'algorithm' in relation to online news (Figure 41). Given the high use of 'social media to get news' among young people aged 12-16, it is surprising that the majority of respondents indicated they had not heard of the term 'algorithms' in relation to news (47%) or were unsure if they had (13%). **Only 40% of the respondents reported that they were familiar with the term algorithm in relation to news.** Young people with

parent/s with a high level of education were more likely to be aware of news algorithms compared to those whose parent/s had a low level of education (44% versus 31%). Young people with the highest level of interest in news were more likely to be familiar than those with a low level of interest in the news (48% versus 31%).

We asked the respondents who were familiar with the term algorithm (n = 251), how much attention they pay to algorithms when they get news online (Figure 42). Nearly half of these respondents (48%) indicated that they often or sometimes consider the role of algorithms, whereas one third (33%) said that they do not pay any attention to algorithms. One in five (19%) said that they only take notice of algorithms when they encounter poor recommendations.

**FIGURE 42**

Which of the following best describes how much attention you pay to algorithms when getting news online by level of interest in news? (n = 251)



**NOTE:** We asked this question to respondents who said they had heard of the term 'algorithms' (n = 251).

Young people's level of interest in news significantly influences their response to algorithms when consuming news online (Figure 42). Most respondents with the lowest level of interest in news reported that they do not pay any attention to algorithms (63%), compared to just 16% of respondents with the highest level of interest in news. Conversely, respondents with the highest level of interest in news were three times as likely to report that they sometimes or often think about the role of algorithms while accessing news online (65% compared to 22% for those who have the lowest level of interest in news).

Young people whose parent/s have a low level of education were more likely to pay no attention to algorithms (47% versus 31%).

We asked respondents aged 12-16 years who had heard of the term algorithm in relation to news (n = 251) about their perceptions and responses to algorithms (Figure 43). The results show that two thirds of young people are concerned about the data

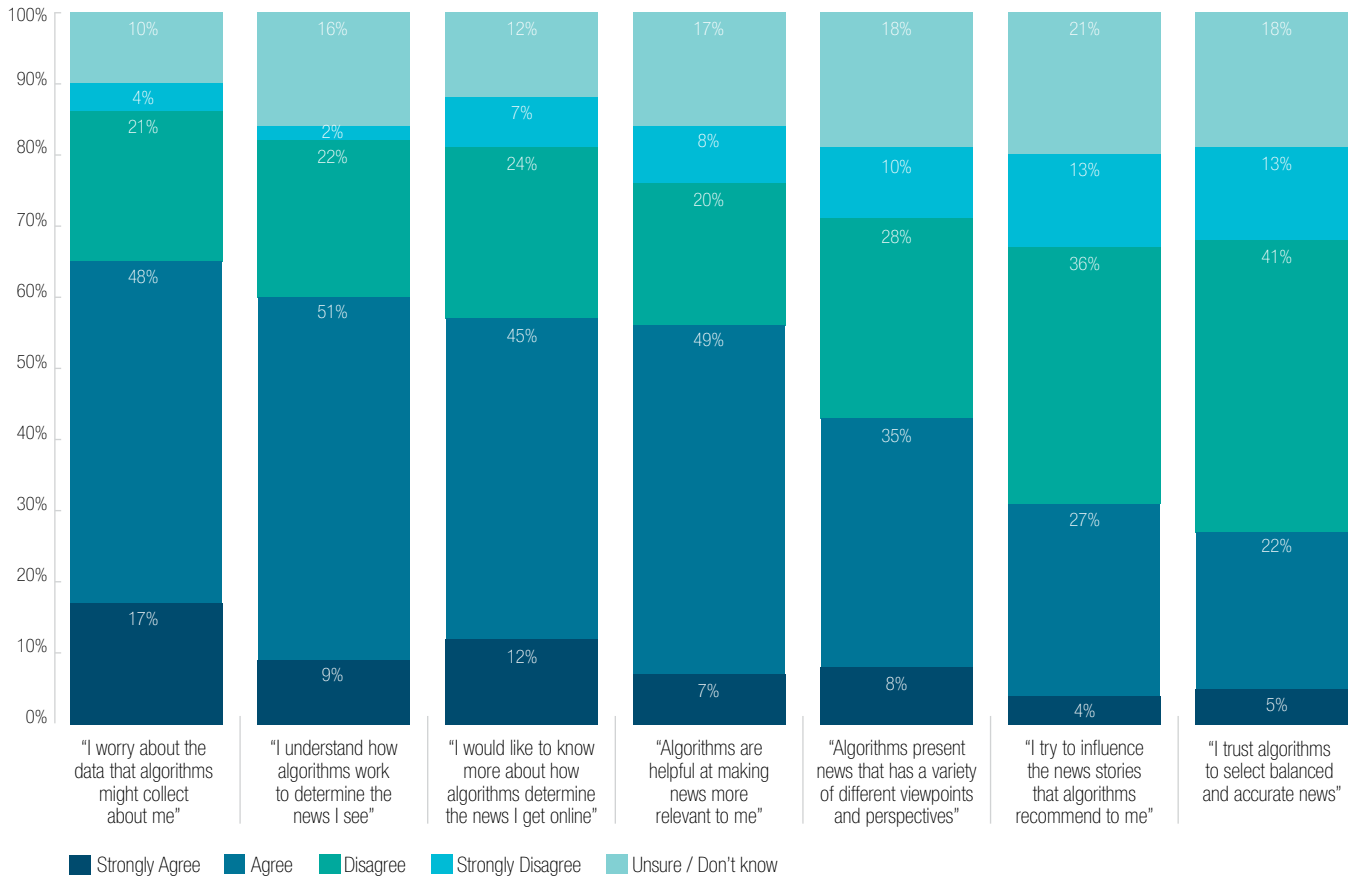
algorithms might collect about them (65%). A majority of this sub-group also indicated that they understand how algorithms work to determine the news they see (60%). More than half of the respondents said they are interested in learning about how algorithms determine the news they get online (57%).

Just over half (56%) of this sub-group who had heard of the term algorithm view algorithms as a helpful tool that enhances the relevance of news to them. However, their sentiment towards the quality of algorithmic news presentation is mixed. Less than half (43%) of this sub-group strongly agreed or agreed that algorithms provide news with diverse viewpoints and perspectives. **Only 27% of this sub-group trust algorithms to curate balanced and accurate news.**

Nearly one third of this sub-group (31%) indicated that they take an active role in algorithmic recommendations, trying to influence the news stories that algorithms recommend to them.

**FIGURE 43**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (n = 251)



NOTE: We asked this question to respondents who said they had heard of the term 'algorithms'.

**Young people who have a high interest in news are significantly more likely to have a better understanding of news algorithms and to view them positively.** More than two thirds of the respondents with the highest level of interest in news agreed or strongly agreed that they understand how algorithms function in determining the news they encounter (71%), compared

to 41% among those with the lowest level of interest in news. A similar proportion agreed or strongly agreed that algorithms enhance the relevance of news to them (68% compared with 48% among those with the lowest interest level). It is perhaps a surprise that young people highly interested in news also demonstrated greater trust in algorithmic recommendations,

agreeing or strongly agreeing that algorithms curate balanced and accurate news (51%) when compared with respondents with the lowest level of interest in news (19%). However, young people with a high level of interest in news also demonstrate higher levels of concerns about the data that algorithms might collect about them (75%), compared to those



with the lowest level of interest in news (48%). There is also a notable difference in the level of interest in learning about news algorithms. The vast majority of respondents with the highest level of interest in news agreed or strongly agreed that they are interested in learning more about how algorithms determine the news they access online (80%), whereas this sentiment was shared by just a quarter (26%) of those with the lowest level of interest in news. Young people who have a high interest in news are also more inclined to actively engage with algorithmic recommendations: 57% agreed or strongly agreed they make an effort to influence the news stories suggested by algorithms compared with only 11% for those with the lowest level of interest in news.

Boys are more likely than girls to strongly agree that algorithms are helpful at making news more relevant to them (10% of boys versus 3% of girls) and to strongly agree they'd like to know more about how algorithms work (17% versus 7%). One third of boys (33%) agreed or strongly agreed that they try to influence the news stories that algorithms recommend to them, while this was the case for only 27% of girls.

Only one in five (19%) young people from regional areas reported they try to influence algorithmic news recommendations, compared to one third (33%) of respondents living in metropolitan areas. Young people in metropolitan areas are more likely to be interested in learning more about news algorithms when compared with

young people in regional areas (59% in metropolitan areas versus 46% in regional areas).

Parental education levels are associated with young people's understanding of news algorithms. The majority of respondents with parent/s that have the highest level of education (71%) agreed or strongly agreed that they understand news algorithms, in contrast to less than half of the respondents with parent/s with a low level of education (43%). Young people with parent/s with a high level of education are more likely to express concern about personal data usage (66%) compared to respondents with parent/s who have a low level of education (59%).

## NEWS AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Building on our study of adult media use and civic engagement<sup>4</sup>, we introduced new questions to enable us to explore the connection between young people's news engagement and their civic engagement. We did this by asking young people aged 12-16 years whether they agree or disagree with a series of statements (Figure 44). **On the whole young people indicate a high level of respectful online engagement.** Four in five young people (80%) agreed that they are careful to make sure that the pictures they post or share will not embarrass other people or

get them into trouble. Four in five (80%) young people said they avoid having arguments online, while three in five (69%) agreed that they choose their words carefully when expressing disagreement with people online. However, only half of young people (49%) said they try to end arguments or dramas during their online interactions.

**Although young Australians indicate a high level of respectful online engagement, their actions are more limited when it comes to digital civic activities.** Three in five young people

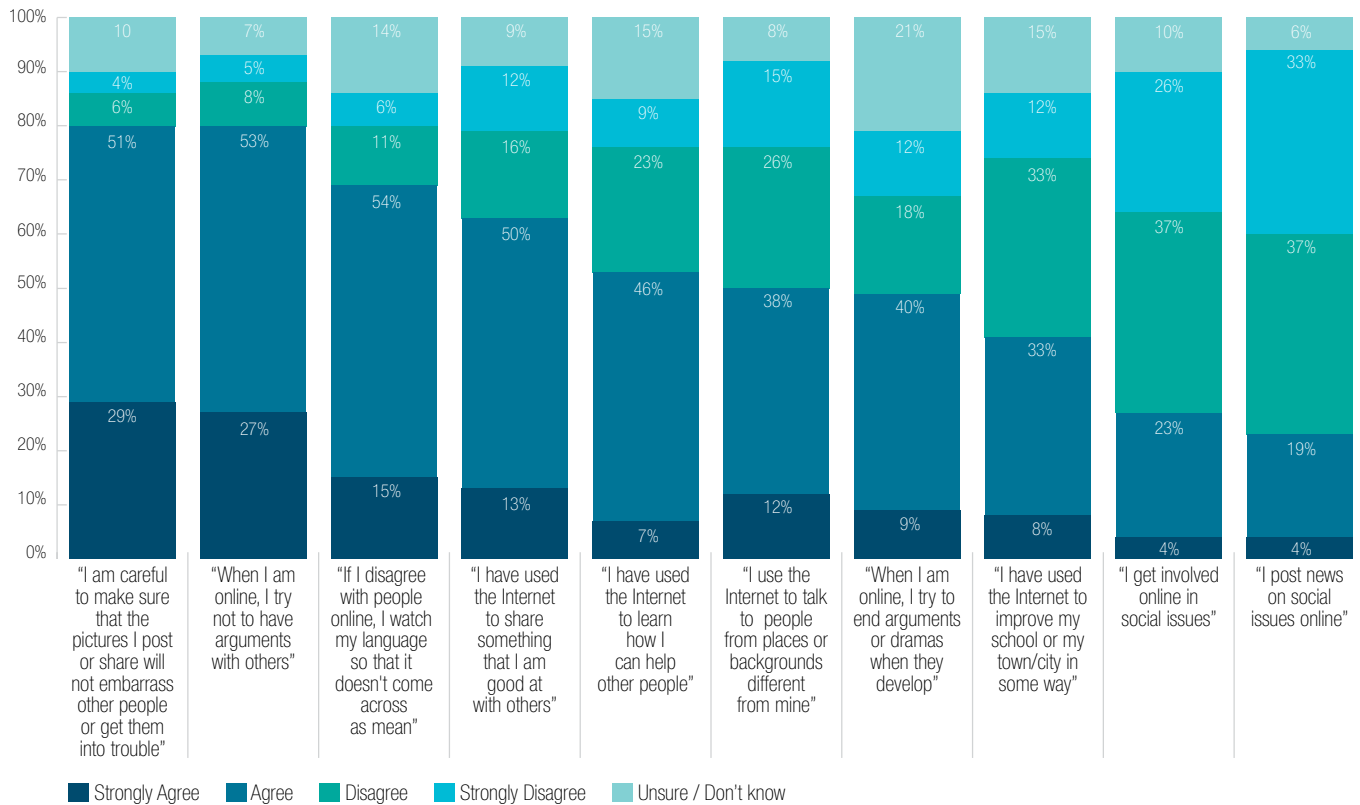
have used the internet to share something they are good at with others (63%). Just over half of young people (53%) said they have used the internet to learn how they can help others and half (50%) have used the internet to communicate with people from different places or with different backgrounds to their own. Two in five (41%) young people reported using the internet to improve their school or town/city and one in five had engaged in social issues online (27%), or posted news related to social issues (23%).

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4. See Park, S., Young Lee, J., Notley, T., & Dezuanni, M. (2023). Exploring the relationship between media literacy, online interaction, and civic engagement. *The Information Society*, 39:4, 250-261

**FIGURE 44**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (n = 627)



**NOTE:** We asked this question to all respondents aged 12-16 (n = 627).

**Young people's overall interest in news significantly influences their level of digital citizenship engagement.**

Respondents with higher levels of interest in news were more likely to indicate a higher overall level of online respect and greater participation across all digital civic activities. The difference between those with a low versus high level of news interest was particularly pronounced when it comes to engagement with social issues. More than half of those highly interested in news reported getting involved online in social issues (56%), compared to

only 9% of those who have the lowest level of interest in news. Similarly, 54% of those who have the highest level of interest in news engaged in posting news about social issues online, while this figure was only 3% among those with the lowest level of interest in news. Respondents who have higher levels of interest in news were also far more likely to communicate with others from different places and backgrounds (73%) compared to less than one third of young people who have the lowest level of news interest (31%).

Young people's parent/s education background also has an impact on digital civic engagement (but not on level of online respect). Those with at least one parent who had the highest level of education were more likely to have used the internet to learn how to help other people (56% compared with 46% for the lowest level of education), or to improve their school or town/city (44% versus 33%).

Girls were more cautious when it came to sharing pictures online: 85% of girls said that they are careful to ensure

that pictures they post or share will not embarrass other people, compared to 77% of boys. Girls were also more inclined than boys to choose their words carefully when expressing disagreements with people online (74% compared with 64%), and they were more conscious about avoiding online arguments (82% compared with 78%). Boys were more likely than girls to engage in posting news about social issues (25% compared with 21%) and interact with people from diverse places or backgrounds online (53% versus 46%).

## CONCLUSION

News plays an important role in young people's everyday lives.

The 2023 survey findings show a return or at times slight reduction in young people's news engagement when we compare the results with 2017. However, we see a marked drop in young people's news engagement if we compare the results with the 2020 survey, when news engagement was heightened at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This drop in

news engagement is perhaps not surprising, since it mirrors the results for adults as well, as indicated in the *Digital News Report: Australia 2023*. While families remain young people's top source of news, this year we found a consistent rise in news engagement via social media platforms, particularly video-based platforms.

The shift in young people's news engagement via social media highlights the need for media literacy education that emphasises learning about visual literacy and algorithms. Although we see a modest increase in the number of young people who had a news literacy lesson in school in the past year, three in four young people did not receive any lessons in school over the past year to help them determine if news content is true and trustworthy, indicating a gap in media literacy education. Furthermore, many young people do not feel that news is made for people their age, which also suggests an important opportunity for news providers.

We also see an opportunity for media literacy education to supplement instances where young people do show increased interest in the news.

The survey indicates that there are many positive outcomes related to increased news engagement such as an increased likelihood to ask critical questions, to avoid misinformation, and to take action on issues that matter to them. Surprisingly, however, the survey also indicates that those most interested in news also believe that the news is not biased in terms of cultural and gender representations. Given that a range of research shows cultural and gender bias exists in news reporting, there would seem to be an opportunity to focus on these areas as an aspect of media literacy education.

Finally, as in previous years, we found that young people are interested in the news, but they do not trust mainstream media organisations to provide them with news, and they do not believe that they are understood by these organisations. We believe that mainstream news organisations have an important role to play in a functioning democracy and it is troubling that young people seem to be turning away from the news. It is imperative that news organisations continue to engage with young people in meaningful, fair and supportive ways.

# METHODOLOGY

**TABLE 1** Number of participants

	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	ACT
<b>Total</b>	<b>1064</b>	306	301	195	101	112	24	5	20
<b>Gender</b>									
Boys	<b>559</b>	170	155	98	47	64	10	4	11
Girls	<b>500</b>	133	146	97	53	48	14	1	8
Non-binary	<b>5</b>								
<b>Age</b>									
8-12 years old	<b>576</b>	173	163	97	53	59	13	4	14
13-16 years old	<b>488</b>	133	138	98	48	53	11	1	6

## THE SURVEY PROCESS

Our online survey was conducted between June 2 and June 30 2023. We employed one of Australia's largest and most established online survey companies to carry out the survey.

To ensure widespread representation we used representative interlocking age (8-12 and 13-16) and gender<sup>5</sup> (boy, girl) categories. We also included representative interlocking state (NSW/ACT, VIC/TAS, QLD, SA/NT, WA) and region categories (metropolitan, inner regional, outer regional/remote). Targets for each of these categories were set according to Australian Bureau of Statistics proportions.

The participants are broken down in Table 1 by gender and age categories.

We only invited survey responses between Tuesday and Saturday because the survey asks young people about their engagement with news the day before the survey and this includes a question about teachers. Therefore we wanted to ensure the day before the survey was Monday to Friday to avoid skewing these results. We also

felt having data from Monday to Friday would more accurately reflect young people's everyday news experience.

Overall, 2,353 adults received an invitation for their child to participate in a survey. At this stage, to avoid participation bias, no information was provided about the survey's focus. These adults were initially asked their postcode and whether they had any children aged 8-16 years. A total of 701 (30%) stated they did not have children in this age group and were screened out on that basis, while 23 (1%) were screened out for providing an invalid postcode. In addition, 37 (2%) respondents were screened out because the quotas for gender, age or location were already met. If adults stated they did have a child or children aged 8-16 years they were asked whether they would permit them to participate in the survey after reading an information sheet about the survey's focus. We also suggested that a parent or guardian be present to assist children aged 12 and under with any questions in the survey they did not understand. At this stage 33 (1%) adults declined to invite their child to participate or their child declined

to participate, while 236 children declined to participate, subsequent to their parent/s consent. Finally, 31 (1%) respondents were screened out because of inconsistencies made between responses from parents and children regarding the child's age and/or gender, while an additional 141 (6%) were screened out because they did not complete the survey. Later, 87 (4%) respondents were removed during quality assurance checks carried out by the survey company. These checks included detecting participants whose responses identify them as flatliners (who respond to questions the same way) or speeders (those who have completed the survey in less than five minutes), and checks on duplicates (including checks for a repeat of the IP address since we included one child per household only).

## SURVEY DESIGN

Most of the questions in our survey were based on one designed and implemented in the United States by Common Sense Media. This was published as *News and America's kids: How young people perceive and are impacted by the news*<sup>6</sup>. We adapted this survey with their permission. The Common Sense Media survey was, in turn, based partly on a survey designed and implemented by Pew Research Center for an adult population. After preliminary testing with young people, we adapted many of the questions for a local context. We also added additional questions to assess news media literacy training in schools and the use of Australian-made, child-focused news media.

5. Non-binary gender responses were randomly assigned to boy/girl for the purpose of establishing sampling quotas.

6. <https://www.common sense media.org/research/news-and-americas-kids-how-young-people-perceive-and-are-impacted-by-the-news>

In 2020, we added a new question about the actions young people take to check the veracity and quality of news to avoid misinformation. This question was largely adapted from the 2019 Reuters Institute Global Digital News survey as seen in the Australian report, published by University of Canberra's News and Media Research Centre (N&MRC)<sup>7</sup>. We also added new questions to support young people to make suggestions about how Australian news media could serve them better.

In 2023, we added new questions designed to measure news media literacy, algorithmic news literacy and digital citizenship. The news media literacy question set was adapted by our research team based on a question set initially co-developed by authors Michael Dezuanni and Tanya Notley in collaboration with Tessa Jolls, Pierre Fastrez, Camille Tilleul and Renee Hobbs. The algorithmic news literacy questions were developed with assistance from Angela Blakston and informed by research into algorithmic literacy by Leyla Dogruel and colleagues<sup>8</sup>. The digital citizenship questions were adapted from previous research published by UNESCO<sup>9</sup> and by Lisa Jones and Kimberly Mitchell<sup>10</sup>.

Two new question sets (about algorithms and digital citizenship) were only asked to young people aged 12-16 years because our preliminary testing found that these questions were not likely to be easily understandable by children younger than this.

## IMPLEMENTATION

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

Each initial respondent (adult) was rewarded based on whether they completed the survey or were screened out because the quota had been filled. The rewards provided can be used

to redeem a shopping gift card. A survey completion was given a reward valued at approximately \$2. The small incentives provided by this company are delivered to members by post to a physical address as this has numerous data quality benefits in terms of enhanced validation of respondents.

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

## DATA ANALYSIS

The majority of survey questions were asked to young people aged 8-16 years. Where this is the case, we compared results for children aged 8-12 and teens aged 13-16 and we provide this analysis for each question in the report. In addition, we analysed: 1) differences between girls and boys<sup>11</sup>, 2) differences between young people from metropolitan and regional/remote areas, and 3) differences between young people based on the level of education<sup>12</sup> of their most educated parent/guardian. For each question we also considered if there were differences in responses that related to the respondent's level of interest in

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7. Fisher et al (2019). *Digital News Report: Australia 2019*. News and Media Research Centre, University of Canberra.

8. Dogruel, L., Masur, P., & Joeckel, S. (2021). Development and Validation of an Algorithm Literacy Scale for Internet Users. *Communication Methods and Measures*, 16(2), 115-133.

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11. Participants were able to select from non-binary gender options, however comparative reporting only considers differences between girls and boys due to the small number of non-binary respondents.

12. Level of education was coded to three values: Low (secondary school or lower), Medium (certificate, diploma or advanced diploma) and High (bachelor degree or higher).

news<sup>13</sup>. For each of these factors we considered, we note differences where the results were notable. Differences were considered notable if a response selected by a group differed from the sample's average response by  $\pm 20\%$  or more.

In 2023 we introduced a new classification of the intensity of each participant's overall level of interest in news. This measure was developed using answers to other questions in the survey, comprising an aggregate of normalised scores of (i) the frequency with which they proactively access news, (ii) the frequency with which they access different news sources and (iii) their interest across a range of 12 different news topics. These aggregate scores were used to classify participants into quintiles, each representing 20% of the entire sample. The resulting group of young people classified as having the highest level of interest in news showed moderate correlations with other demographic variables. In particular, teens are over-

represented in the highest quintile of news interest, whereas regional participants and those whose parents have the lowest level of education are under-represented.

Percentages shown in the report may not total 100 due to rounding.

## DEFINITIONS

Participants were instructed that the survey would ask a range of questions about 'news' and 'news stories'. Research by the Pew Research Center<sup>14</sup> suggests that different definitions of news do not result in systematically different results in surveys, including when compared to not providing participants with any definition. Nevertheless, to establish a common frame of reference, we provided participants with the broad definition of news used in Pew's research: "Information about events and issues currently happening in the world that involve more than just your friends and family".

We also provided young people with definitions for selected key words used in the survey. These words were underlined and respondents could scroll over the word to see the definition on a computer/laptop or scroll to the bottom to see them on a smartphone.

- *celebrities*: Famous people, especially in entertainment or sport
- *economy*: This refers to finances, the stock market and employment issues
- *parliament*: The group of people who make laws or policies in Australia is called the Parliament. It includes the Prime Minister, the government and other people who were voted in to represent Australians
- *fake news*: False information that is presented as true and accurate
- *race and cultural backgrounds*: This refers to a group or individual's cultural background or country of origin (where they were born)

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13. A measure of the intensity of each participant's interest in news was calculated based on their level of active news engagement, frequency of using news platforms and their aggregate interest in news across 12 topics. Participants were assigned to one of five equal quintiles.

14. <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2020/12/08/appendix-additional-guidance-on-using-surveys-to-measure-news-consumption/>

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# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Associate Professor Tanya Notley**

investigates the social and cultural impact of communication technologies at Western Sydney University, where she is Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and a member of the Institute for Culture and Society. She collaborates with cultural institutions, media literacy and social justice organisations. Tanya is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Media Literacy Alliance (AMLA).

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undertakes research investigating the social dimensions of cultural production and consumption, with a particular interest in the dynamics of cultural fields and musical taste. He is a postdoctoral research fellow at the MARCS Institute at Western Sydney University, where his current research focuses on investigating the evolution of domains of artistic practice.

**Dr Hua Flora Zhong**

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

**Professor Sora Park**

is Professor of Communication at the News & Media Research Centre, University of Canberra. She is the project leader of the *Digital News Report: Australia*, and author of *Digital Capital* (2017, Palgrave). She has published widely on the impact of digital technology on audiences, with a special focus on digital and social exclusion and the distribution of opportunities and privileges in society.

**Dr Jee Young Lee**

is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts & Design, University of Canberra. Her research focuses on social and cultural impacts of digital communication and technologies, including emerging digital excluded social groups in developed communities, digital engagement and digital trust among young people and growing technology adoption in emerging markets, such as Asia-Pacific regions, and its effects on individuals and societies.

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undertakes research about digital media, literacies and learning in home, school and community contexts. He is the Program Leader for Digital Inclusion and Participation for QUT's Digital Media Research Centre which produces world-leading research for a creative, inclusive and fair digital media environment. He is also a chief investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child.



# APPENDIX: TOPLINES

We examined the changes between 2017, 2020 and 2023 responses using Chi-square test. The level of statistical significance is often expressed as a p value. A p value less than 0.05 ( $p < .05$ ) is statistically significant. A post hoc z-test was conducted to compare whether the two proportions are statistically different.

**1.** Do you have any of the following devices?

**a. Mobile phone**

Yes, I have my own	64%
Yes, I share one with other people in my home	6%
No	30%

**b. iPad or Tablet**

Yes, I have my own	58%
Yes, I share one with other people in my home	17%
No	25%

**c. Laptop**

Yes, I have my own	53%
Yes, I share one with other people in my home	17%
No	29%

**2.** Please select how often you do each of the following.

**a. I hear about something happening in the world and then I follow up to find out more**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	66%
Often	11%
Sometimes	55%
<b>Rarely/Never (NET)</b>	34%
Rarely	23%
Never	11%

**b. I check news websites or news apps to find out what is happening in the world**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	36%
Often	7%
Sometimes	29%
<b>Rarely/Never (NET)</b>	64%
Rarely	30%
Never	34%

**c. I turn on the television or radio to get news**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	35%
Often	8%
Sometimes	27%
<b>Rarely/Never (NET)</b>	65%
Rarely	29%
Never	36%

**d. I follow people or accounts on social media specifically to get news**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	39%
Often	10%
Sometimes	29%
<b>Rarely/Never (NET)</b>	62%
Rarely	23%
Never	39%

**3.** How often do you do each of the following activities?

**a. Watch news on live television (e.g. ABC, Channel 9)**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	39%
Often	10%
Sometimes	29%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	61%
Hardly ever	32%
Never	29%

**b. Watch news on catch-up or on-demand television (e.g. iView, 7Plus)**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	18%
Often	3%
Sometimes	15%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	81%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	59%

**c. Watch news on YouTube**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	37%
Often	8%
Sometimes	29%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	63%
Hardly ever	26%
Never	37%

**d. Watch news stories (as videos) on websites or news apps**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	28%
Often	6%
Sometimes	22%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	72%
Hardly ever	27%
Never	45%

**e. Read news stories (as articles) on websites or news apps**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	27%
Often	5%
Sometimes	22%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	73%
Hardly ever	26%
Never	47%

**f. Read news stories in newspapers**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	14%
Often	3%
Sometimes	11%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	83%
Hardly ever	19%
Never	67%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 62.46,  $p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2017; fewer selected "Rarely" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020; and more young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**g. Get news from social media**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	49%
Often	16%
Sometimes	33%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	51%
Hardly ever	17%
Never	34%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 41.88,  $p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Often" in 2023 than 2020; fewer selected "Rarely" in 2023 than 2017; and more young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**h. Listen to news on the radio**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	38%
Often	9%
Sometimes	29%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	62%
Hardly ever	28%
Never	34%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 43.80,  $p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2020; fewer selected "Rarely" in 2023 than 2020; and more young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**i. Listen to news on podcasts**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	13%
Often	3%
Sometimes	10%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	86%
Hardly ever	17%
Never	69%

NOTE: new option for 2023.

**j. Hear about news from friends**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	66%
Often	15%
Sometimes	51%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	35%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	13%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 43.05,  $p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Often" in 2023 than 2020; and more selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**k. Hear about news from family**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	84%
Often	29%
Sometimes	56%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	16%
Hardly ever	11%
Never	5%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 36.63,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Rarely" in 2023 than 2020 and more selected "Never" in 2023 than 2020.

**l. Hear about news from teachers**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	71%
Often	16%
Sometimes	55%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	30%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	9%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 177.65,  $p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Often" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020 respectively; more selected "Rarely" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively; and more selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

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

<b>News from friends/family/teacher (NET)</b>		
Heard news stories from my family	50%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=32.28, p<.001$
Heard news stories from friends	29%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=16.38, p<.001$
Heard news from a teacher	24%	
<b>News Online (NET)</b>		
Got news stories from a social media (e.g. Instagram, TikTok)	27%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=14.20, p<.001$
Watched news stories on YouTube	26%	
Read news stories (as articles) on websites or news apps	9%	
Watched news stories (as videos) on websites or news apps	8%	
Listened to news stories on podcasts	4%	
<b>Traditional (NET)</b>		
Watched news stories on live television (e.g. ABC, Channel 9)	27%	
Listened to news stories on the radio	17%	
Watched news stories on catch-up or on-demand television (e.g. iView, 7Plus)	5%	
Read news stories in newspapers	3%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=15.42, p<.001$
<b>None of these</b>		
	17%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=21.00, p<.001$

**5.** Where would you prefer to get news stories from? Select up to 3 options.

<b>Friend/Family/teacher</b>		
family	45%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=6.08, p<.05$
friends	21%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=0.87, p=.65$
teachers	18%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=24.81, p<.001$
<b>Online</b>		
YouTube	24%	
social media	23%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=14.14, p<.001$
news videos on websites or news apps	5%	
news articles on websites or news apps	5%	
podcasts	3%	
<b>Traditional</b>		
live television (e.g. 6pm or 7pm TV news)	25%	
radio	9%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=4.59, p=.10$
catch-up or on-demand television	3%	
printed newspapers	2%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=7.24, p<.05$
None. I am not interested in getting news stories	16%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=120.64, p<.05$

**6.** How much do you trust the news stories...

**a. published by Australian news organisations**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	
A lot	16%
Some	38%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	
Not too much	12%
Not at all	6%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	
	28%

*There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 470.07, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Not too much", fewer selected "Some" and more selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer young Australians selected "A lot" in 2023 than in 2017.*

**b. you get from the news websites or channels you use the most**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	
A lot	11%
Some	43%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	
Not too much	17%
Not at all	6%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	
	23%

**c. you get from social media**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	
A lot	15%
Some	49%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	
Not too much	25%
Not at all	4%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	
	7%

**d. you get from friends**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	77%
A lot	19%
Some	58%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	16%
Not too much	15%
Not at all	1%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	6%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 127.85, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Not too much" and "Not too much", and more selected "A lot" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. More young Australians selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020.

**e. you get from teachers**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	87%
A lot	43%
Some	44%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	9%
Not too much	8%
Not at all	1%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	5%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 36.20, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Not at all" in 2023 than 2017; and more selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**f. you get from family**

<b>A lot/Some (NET)</b>	93%
A lot	54%
Some	39%
<b>Not too much/Not at all (NET)</b>	3%
Not too much	3%
Not at all	0%
<b>Unsure/don't know</b>	4%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 35.24, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Not too much", more selected "Some" in 2023 than 2017. More young Australians selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**7. Which of the following social media platforms do you use?**

		Compared with 2017 and 2020
YouTube	68%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=318.78, p<.001$
TikTok	42%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=183.32, p<.001$
Instagram	38%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=135.57, p<.001$
Snapchat	33%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=178.14, p<.001$
Facebook	30%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=0.78, p=.68$
WhatsApp	21%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=73.97, p<.001$
Discord	13%	
Twitter	8%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=9.41, p<.01$
Reddit	5%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=18.63, p<.001$
Twitch	4%	
Tumblr	1%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=1.05, p=.59$
Other	1%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=2.37, p=.31$
None	12%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=221.79, p<.001$

**8. For each of the social media platforms you use, which of the following best describes how you use them for news?**

	I use this platform to find and/or get news stories	I come across news stories while using this platform for other things	News is not part of the way I use this platform
YouTube (n = 723)	13%	53%	34%
TikTok (n = 445)	10%	64%	27%
Instagram (n = 400)	11%	56%	34%
Snapchat (n = 353)	5%	34%	61%
Facebook (n = 314)	14%	57%	29%
WhatsApp (n = 227)	13%	28%	59%
Discord (n = 135)	4%	26%	70%
Twitter (n = 88)	21%	60%	19%
Reddit (n = 54)	17%	56%	28%
Twitch (n = 43)	16%	28%	56%
Tumblr (n = 12)	42%	42%	17%

**9.** On which of social media sites listed below do you most prefer to get news stories or news headlines? Choose up to 3.

BASE: On which of the following social media sites do you most prefer to get news? (n = 690)

YouTube	39%
TikTok	22%
Facebook	16%
Instagram	14%
Snapchat	4%
WhatsApp	4%
Twitter	2%
Reddit	1%
Discord	1%
Twitch	0%
Tumblr	0%
Other	0%
None of these	17%

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

BASE: On which of the following social media sites do you most prefer to get news? (n = 690)

Yes	No	Unsure
21%	72%	7%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(4, n = 1992) = 14.61, p < .01$ . More young Australians selected "No" in 2023 than 2020, and fewer selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017.

**11.** Which of the following are reasons why you share news stories with others?

BASE: In the past six months, have you shared a news story on social media? (n = 146)

To let my friends/family/followers know something I think they should know	46%
To express my views about the world	42%
To entertain my family/friends/followers	38%
To open up a discussion with family/friends/followers	38%
To entertain myself	33%
To help change the views of family/friends/followers that I do not agree with	21%
To help show who I am on social media	18%

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

BASE: In the past six months, have you shared a news story on social media? (n = 146)

Yes	No	Unsure
42%	45%	14%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(4, n = 1858) = 157.46, p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Yes" and fewer selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer selected "No" in 2023 than 2017.

**13.** In the past six months, has someone shared a news story with you on social media that you later found out was wrong or untrue?

BASE: Which of the following social media platforms do you use? (n = 931)

Yes	No	Unsure
22%	54%	24%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 1992) = 14.61, p < .01$ . More young Australians selected "No" in 2023 than 2020, and fewer selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2017.

**14.** How often did you do any of the following activities in the past year?

BASE: For each of the social media platforms you use, which of the following best describes how you use them for news? Figures include participants who reported using one or more social media platforms to encounter or find news (n = 690).

NOTE: Comparison with 2020 was not conducted because the base questions are different between 2020 and 2023.

**a. I decided I would not share a news story because I was unsure if it was true or not.**

Often/Sometimes (NET)	40%
Often	13%
Sometimes	27%
Occasionally/Never (NET)	60%
Occasionally	23%
Never	37%

**b. I checked a number of different news sources because I was worried the news story was untrue or inaccurate.**

Often/Sometimes (NET)	35%
Often	7%
Sometimes	28%
Occasionally/Never (NET)	65%
Occasionally	27%
Never	38%

**c. I changed from one news source to another because I thought it was more trustworthy.**

Often/Sometimes (NET)	34%
Often	8%
Sometimes	26%
Occasionally/Never (NET)	65%
Occasionally	24%
Never	41%

**d. I stopped using a particular news source because I was unsure about how much I could trust the reporting.**

Often/Sometimes (NET)	29%
Often	6%
Sometimes	23%
Occasionally/Never (NET)	59%
Occasionally	12%
Never	47%

**e. I discussed a news story with a person I trust because I was unsure if it was true.**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	57%
Often	16%
Sometimes	41%
<b>Occasionally/Never (NET)</b>	44%
Occasionally	27%
Never	17%

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

**a. angry**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	48%
Often	4%
Sometimes	44%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	52%
Hardly ever	31%
Never	22%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 64.35,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" and fewer selected "Sometimes" and "Often" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**b. sad or upset**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	59%
Often	7%
Sometimes	52%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	41%
Hardly ever	27%
Never	14%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 93.38,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" and "Hardly ever" and fewer selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**c. afraid**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	52%
Often	6%
Sometimes	46%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	48%
Hardly ever	29%
Never	19%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 24.55,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2020.

**d. indifferent**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	64%
Often	15%
Sometimes	49%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	36%
Hardly ever	21%
Never	15%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 24.55,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.

**e. happy or hopeful**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	63%
Often	7%
Sometimes	56%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	36%
Hardly ever	23%
Never	13%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 28.64,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2017.

**f. Motivated to act, to respond to the situation**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	46%
Often	6%
Sometimes	40%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	55%
Hardly ever	32%
Never	23%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 44.04,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than 2020.

**g. smart or knowledgeable**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	65%
Often	11%
Sometimes	54%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	35%
Hardly ever	20%
Never	15%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2$  (6, n = 3133) = 46.02,  $p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Never" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer selected "Sometimes" in 2023 than in 2017.

**16.** Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**a. I know how to tell fake news stories from real news stories.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	43%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	34%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	28%
Disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	5%
I don't know	31%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 36.70, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Strongly agree" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer young people selected "Disagree" in 2023 than in 2020 and more selected "Agree" in 2023 than 2017.

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

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	66%
Strongly Agree	17%
Agree	49%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	11%
Disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	1%
I don't know	22%

There is no statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 12.27, p = .14$ .

**c. Getting news stories is important to me.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	43%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	36%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	40%
Disagree	31%
Strongly disagree	9%
I don't know	17%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 17.16, p < .05$ . More young Australians selected "Disagree" in 2023 than 2020 and fewer selected "Agree" in 2023 than in 2020.

**d. News treats people of different race and cultural backgrounds equally.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	39%
Strongly Agree	8%
Agree	31%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	27%
Disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	5%
I don't know	33%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 39.04, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Disagree" and more selected "Strongly agree" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively. Fewer young people selected "Disagree" in 2023 than in 2017 and 2020, respectively. More young people selected "I don't know" in 2023 than 2020.

**e. News treats women and men equally.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	39%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	32%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	25%
Disagree	21%
Strongly disagree	4%
I don't know	36%

There is statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(8, n = 3133) = 42.49, p < .001$ . Fewer young Australians selected "Strongly disagree" and more selected "Strongly agree" and "I don't know" in 2023 than 2020.

**f. News focuses too much on negative things happening in the world.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	74%
Strongly Agree	24%
Agree	50%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	11%
Disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	2%
I don't know	16%

**g. I find it difficult to find news that is relevant to people my age.**

Agree (1, 2) (NET)	65%
Strongly Agree	14%
Agree	51%
Disagree (3, 4) (NET)	18%
Disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	2%
I don't know	17%

**17.** How much are you interested in news about the following topics?

**a. News about crime and violence**

Scale 1/2 (NET)	52%
1 (Not at all interested)	31%
2	21%
Scale 3	28%
Scale 4/5 (NET)	20%
4	14%
5 (Very interested)	6%

**b. News about health issues involving doctors and medicine**

Scale 1/2 (NET)	50%
1 (Not at all interested)	28%
2	22%
Scale 3	30%
Scale 4/5 (NET)	20%
4	14%
5 (Very interested)	6%

**c. News about the economy and employment issues**

Scale 1/2 (NET)	65%
1 (Not at all interested)	44%
2	21%
Scale 3	22%
Scale 4/5 (NET)	14%
4	10%
5 (Very interested)	4%

**d. News about education and schools**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	40%
1 (Not at all interested)	20%
2	20%
Scale 3	32%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	28%
4	20%
5 (Very interested)	8%

**e. News about events and issues in your local community**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	32%
1 (Not at all interested)	15%
2	17%
Scale 3	35%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	33%
4	24%
5 (Very interested)	9%

**f. News about celebrities and entertainment**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	38%
1 (Not at all interested)	21%
2	17%
Scale 3	29%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	33%
4	22%
5 (Very interested)	11%

**g. News about technology**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	26%
1 (Not at all interested)	13%
2	13%
Scale 3	32%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	43%
4	26%
5 (Very interested)	17%

**h. News about sport**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	43%
1 (Not at all interested)	27%
2	16%
Scale 3	22%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	36%
4	17%
5 (Very interested)	19%

**i. News about politics including what happens in Parliament**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	69%
1 (Not at all interested)	49%
2	20%
Scale 3	19%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	11%
4	9%
5 (Very interested)	3%

**j. News about accidents**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	53%
1 (Not at all interested)	28%
2	25%
Scale 3	31%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	16%
4	12%
5 (Very interested)	4%

**k. News about environment and climate change**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	42%
1 (Not at all interested)	22%
2	20%
Scale 3	30%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	28%
4	19%
5 (Very interested)	9%

**l. News about people my age**

<b>Scale 1/2 (NET)</b>	17%
1 (Not at all interested)	8%
2	9%
Scale 3	30%
<b>Scale 4/5 (NET)</b>	53%
4	32%
5 (Very interested)	21%

**18.** Do you think young people your age need news stories that are made especially for them (and not for adults)?

Yes	No	I don't know
59%	18%	23%

*There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(4, n = 3133) = 70.90, p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Yes" and fewer selected "I don't know" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020, respectively.*



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

		Compared with 2017 and 2020
Behind the News (BtN)	24%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=3.51, p=.17$
The Project (Channel 10)	11%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=5.41, p<.05$
Your school newspaper	12%	$\chi^2(2, n = 3133)=2.91, p=.23$
Kids News ( <a href="https://www.kidsnews.com.au">https://www.kidsnews.com.au</a> )	6%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=1.15, p=.28$
Squiz Kids	4%	
The Daily Aus	3%	
6 News ( <a href="https://www.6newsau.com/">https://www.6newsau.com/</a> )	3%	
JJJ Hack	2%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=0.43, p=.51$
A YouTuber	1%	$\chi^2(1, n = 2133)=39.52, p<.001$
Vox	1%	
An Influencer who discusses news stories	0%	
None of these	55%	

**20.** In the past year have you been taught at school how to decide whether news stories are true and can be trusted?

Yes	No	Not sure
24%	47%	29%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(4, n = 3133) = 20.85, p < .001$ . More young Australians selected "Yes" and more selected "Unsure" in 2023 than 2020, and fewer selected "No" in 2023 than 2017 and 2020 respectively.

**21.** In the past year have you been taught at school how to create your own news stories?

Yes	No	Not sure
29%	57%	14%

There is a statistically significant difference when compared with 2017 and 2020,  $\chi^2(4, n = 3133) = 12.11, p < .05$ . More young Australians selected "No" in 2023 than 2017.

**22.** When you get news online (e.g. social media, websites, YouTube, apps), how often do you think about the following things? (n = 843)

**a. Why did the person or organisation make this news story?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	48%
Often	10%
Sometimes	38%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	40%
Hardly ever	22%
Never	18%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	12%

**b. How are images/voices/sounds/music being used to tell this news story?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	51%
Often	11%
Sometimes	40%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	40%
Hardly ever	25%
Never	15%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	9%

**c. How are people or ideas being presented in the news story?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	49%
Often	11%
Sometimes	38%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	40%
Hardly ever	24%
Never	16%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	12%

**d. How are different groups of people likely to respond to this news story?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	43%
Often	7%
Sometimes	36%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	44%
Hardly ever	25%
Never	19%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	12%

**e. What technologies were used to produce and share this news?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	45%
Often	9%
Sometimes	36%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	44%
Hardly ever	23%
Never	21%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	11%

**f. How does this news story impact me and my family?**

<b>Often/Sometimes (NET)</b>	67%
Often	14%
Sometimes	53%
<b>Hardly ever/Never (NET)</b>	26%
Hardly ever	18%
Never	8%
<b>Unsure/Don't know</b>	8%

**23. Have you heard of the term 'algorithms' in relation to online news? (n = 627)**

Yes	No	Not sure
40%	47%	13%

**24. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

BASE: Have you heard of the term 'algorithms' in relation to online news? (n = 251)

**a. I understand how algorithms work to determine the news I see.**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	60%
Strongly Agree	9%
Agree	51%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	24%
Disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	2%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	16%

**b. Algorithms present news that has a variety of different viewpoints and perspectives**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	43%
Strongly Agree	8%
Agree	35%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	38%
Disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	10%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	18%

**c. Algorithms are helpful at making news more relevant to me**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	56%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	49%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	28%
Disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	8%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	17%

**d. I trust algorithms to select balanced and accurate news**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	27%
Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	22%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	54%
Disagree	41%
Strongly disagree	13%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	18%

**e. I try to influence the news stories that algorithms recommend to me**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	31%
Strongly Agree	4%
Agree	27%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	49%
Disagree	36%
Strongly disagree	13%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	21%

**f. I worry about the data that algorithms might collect about me**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	65%
Strongly Agree	17%
Agree	48%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	25%
Disagree	21%
Strongly disagree	4%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	10%

**g. I would like to know more about how algorithms determine the news I get online**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	57%
Strongly Agree	12%
Agree	45%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	31%
Disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	7%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	12%

**25.** Which of the following best describes how much attention you pay to algorithms when getting news online?

BASE: Have you heard of the term 'algorithms' in relation to online news? (n = 251)

I often think about the role of algorithms	12%
I sometimes think about the role of algorithms	36%
I only pay attention to algorithms when they make bad recommendations	19%
I don't pay any attention to algorithms	33%

**26.** Do you agree or disagree with the statements listed below? (n = 627)

**a. I have used the Internet to improve my school or my town/city in some way**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	41%
Strongly Agree	8%
Agree	33%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	45%
Disagree	33%
Strongly disagree	12%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	15%

**b. I have used the Internet to learn how I can help other people**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	53%
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	46%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	32%
Disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	9%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	15%

**c. I have used the Internet to share something that I am good at with others**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	63%
Strongly Agree	13%
Agree	50%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	28%
Disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	12%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	9%

**d. I get involved online in social issues**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	27%
Strongly Agree	4%
Agree	23%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	63%
Disagree	37%
Strongly disagree	26%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	10%

**e. I post news on social issues online**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	23%
Strongly Agree	4%
Agree	19%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	70%
Disagree	37%
Strongly disagree	33%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	6%

**f. I use the Internet to talk to people from places or backgrounds different from mine**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	50%
Strongly Agree	12%
Agree	38%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	41%
Disagree	26%
Strongly disagree	15%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	8%

**g. If I disagree with people online, I watch my language so that it doesn't come across as mean**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	69%
Strongly Agree	15%
Agree	54%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	17%
Disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	6%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	14%

**h. When I am online, I try not to have arguments with others**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	80%
Strongly Agree	27%
Agree	53%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	13%
Disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	5%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	7%

**i. When I am online, I try to end arguments or dramas when they develop**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	49%
Strongly Agree	9%
Agree	40%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	30%
Disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	12%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	21%

**j. I am careful to make sure that the pictures I post or share will not embarrass other people or get them into trouble**

<b>Agree (1, 2) (NET)</b>	80%
Strongly Agree	29%
Agree	51%
<b>Disagree (3, 4) (NET)</b>	10%
Disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	4%
<b>Unsure/ Don't know</b>	10%







