

**Australian Government  
Department of Education, Skills and Employment  
& Year13**

## **Regional & Rural Living Survey**

**RESEARCH RESULTS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS  
April 2020**



**Brief:**

Year13 is to run a quantitative and qualitative survey to understand the attraction, retention and mobilisation of youth into rural and regional areas and the impact of fire, drought and flood disasters on their decisions.

**Data Collection** – Quantitative and qualitative research

Survey data was collected through Year13's social media and digital channels, targeting Australian males and females aged 15 – 24 living in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas across Australia between 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Online with  $n_T= 2058$  (total completed)

Interviews were conducted over the phone with males and females within the 15 – 24 age range living in regional and rural areas across Australia between 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 who were sourced through Year13's social media and digital channels.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Young Australians are on the move. But where from, where to and for what reasons? These questions will be answered in this report. The results of Year13's national survey of over 2,000 young people aged 15 to 24 have found that those from regional, rural and remote areas are significantly more likely to be planning to move to another town or city in the next five years than those from metropolitan areas, defined as 'capital cities' in this report.

### Where are they going and will they return?

58% of youth surveyed from non-metropolitan areas said they planned to leave home and move elsewhere compared to 39% from metropolitan areas. For the majority of youth, including those from metropolitan areas, who plan on moving, a capital city is their destination of choice. When it comes to their medium-term plans following moving, one in two of all young people who plan on moving to another town or city are not sure if they will return home, while a third have said they will. The remainder have stated they will not return home.

*"Perks of living in rural/regional Australia are that it's beautiful, you know everyone and it can be very peaceful but there aren't a lot of things to do, especially for young adults. There also aren't a lot of employment opportunities and it can be quite hard to get to other places. I wouldn't choose to live in a rural/regional area in my teen years or early 20s but I think they're a nice place to be in as a child and to return to later on in life."*

*Female, 16, Victoria, regional*

### Are they being pushed or pulled away from home?

In broad terms, 'pull' factors are stronger than 'push' factors in young Australians' consideration of moving. That is, the attractions of another town or city are pulling more youth to relocate from home, as opposed to issues with where they live pushing them to move away. However, the more remote their hometown, the more likely a young person is to cite issues with where they live as a reason for potentially moving, with this most pronounced for young people in remote areas, followed by rural and then regional.

*"After seeing many of the graduating year 12's pack their bags and move to Sydney, it's inspired me to do the same. In some ways I feel Like I haven't lived the typical 'fun, rebellious schooling life' so seeing the parties, clubbing and festivals many former students are now attending really influences myself. I've spoken to many people about university preferences, many of which have said they are open and interested in moving rural or regional. But for me, Sydney isn't just about the education but the lifestyle too."*

*Female, 16, NSW, regional*

## Why young people will and won't move

Overall, employment is the most common factor influencing a young person's decision to move to another town or city, followed by lifestyle and then education. When it comes to what is potentially preventing young people from moving, family and friends are the top factors holding them back. Just 8% of youth wouldn't move to another town or city, showing that with the right factors, the majority of young people are open to moving to another town or city.

*"I do think my town has good opportunities for trade or mining based careers, but if you aren't interested in that there isn't much else. I think if the quality of education in my town improved it would be a lot better. I think having a university would be great but might not make sense due to the lower population, but if the quality of online courses improved it would be incentive for recent graduates to just study online. I also think shopping and entertainment needs a major upgrade as (apart from the local pub and restaurant) there is nothing affordable for young adults to do."*

*Female, 17, Queensland, rural*

## Where would they like to live?

Young people from metropolitan areas are significantly less likely to want to live in regional and rural areas than young people who call regional and rural areas home. The clear majority of youth from regional and rural areas do in fact like to live in these areas, however they are compelled to leave due to a lack of education and employment options. As such, employment and education are the top areas in need of improvement to stop young people from leaving regional and rural areas and to as well attract young people from metropolitan areas to them.

*"People should be able to complete more training in rural Australia. For example, there are very few pathways for healthcare workers that involve training exclusively in a regional area. As much as it is possible, rural areas should provide full education and employment training. I think the Government should start a program where they will waive HECS fees if you work in a rural area for five years. Many people would jump at it and you would not see the workforce shortages you see at the moment."*

*Male, 20, Tasmania, metropolitan*

The report's findings show that the more remote their hometown, the more likely a young person is to move away from home for education or employment. Simultaneously, young people from regional and rural areas are less likely than their metropolitan counterparts to say a course or a job from where they live is keeping them in their hometown.

*"Currently I am resided in Grafton, NSW. It is a great community with plenty of heritage, good healthcare, great people, etc. The problem with regional towns are the limited further education and job opportunities available, hence why most graduates leave for the cities. If regional and rural areas had a larger dynamic range of opportunities for young adults to enter the workforce, I think it would appeal to a wider audience, as smaller towns are slower and quite pleasant to live in."*

*Male, 17, NSW, regional*

## What young people want most where they live

When asked what makes an ideal town or city to relocate to, youth are seeking areas that have beaches and clean air, access to healthcare, thriving nightlife and fast internet, the course they want to study and a better quality of course if possible, with better employment opportunities and higher pay on offer than where they live.

*“Having lived in a small (at the time) town in north West Australia, the strong sense of community and familiarity inherent in a smaller population is attractive to me. If there was a rural community that also had access to higher education and infrastructure as well as suitable terrain for adrenaline sports i.e. beaches or mountains, that would be an ideal place for me to live.”*

*Male, 18, Western Australia, metropolitan*

## Droughts and natural disasters

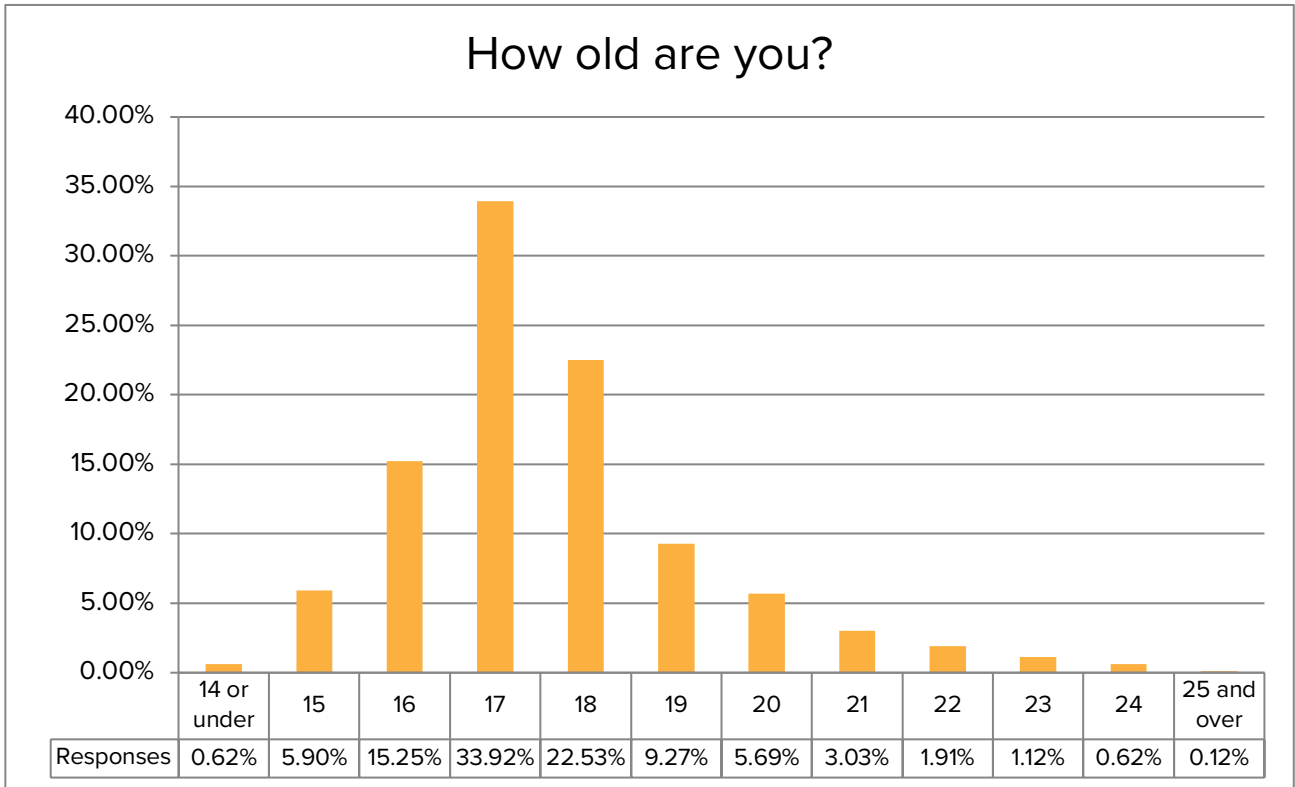
When it comes to how drought and natural disasters like bushfires and floods affect the likelihood of young Australians to want to live in regional or rural areas, a third say they make them less likely to want to. For these young people the threat to their safety and the threat to their future stability from these events is what concerns them most.

*“Living in rural Australia would be something of great interest to me because I’ve always appreciated the relaxed lifestyle that comes with living in a non-urban environment. However, residing in rural Australia comes with its risks. Having witnessed the nationwide emergency of the bushfires, I’ve found myself reconsidering the option of residing in rural Australia. Protective measures which take into consideration the safety of the citizens and the conservation of the local heritage, would increase the likelihood of an urban citizen to abandon the city lifestyle.”*

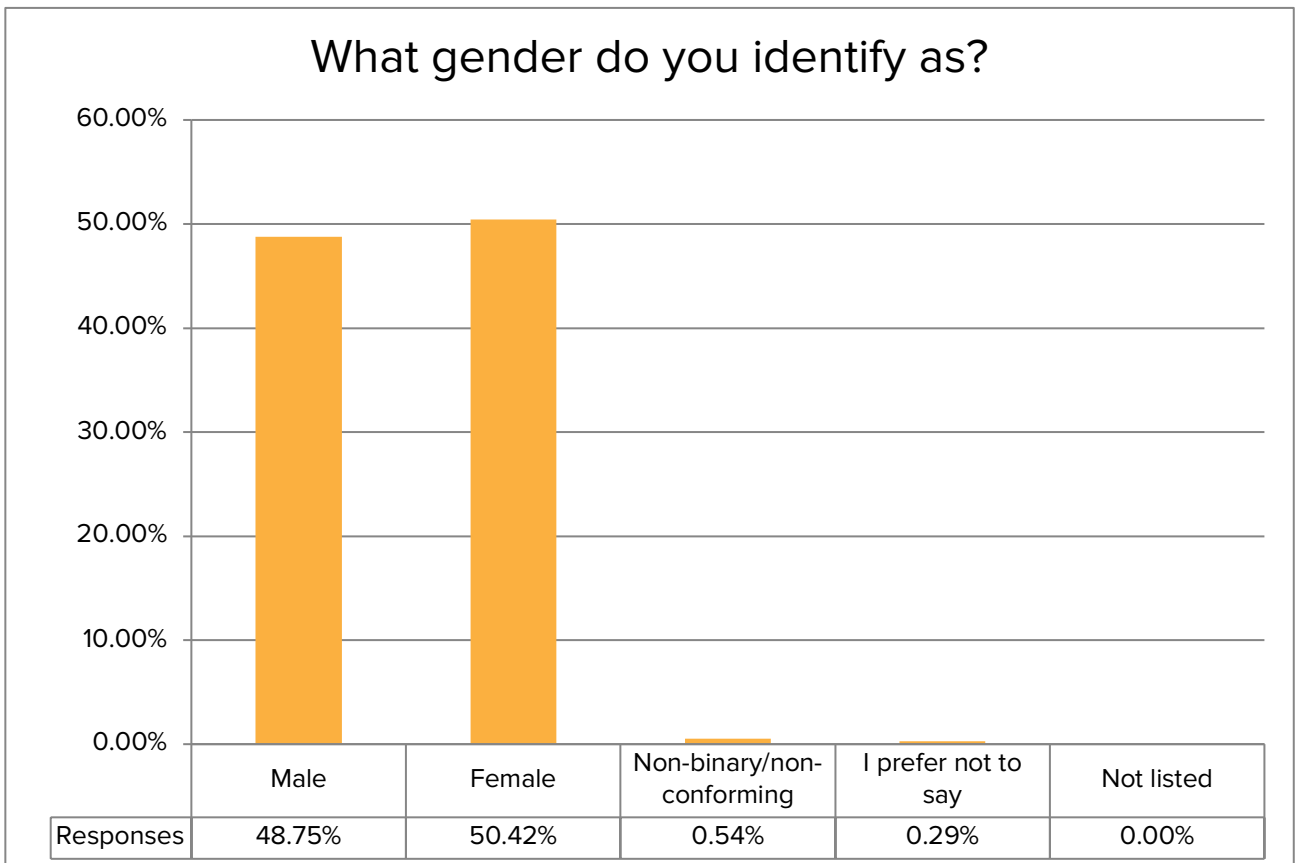
*Female, 17, NSW, metropolitan*

**Please see the rest of the report for more in-depth statistical breakdowns of these findings.**

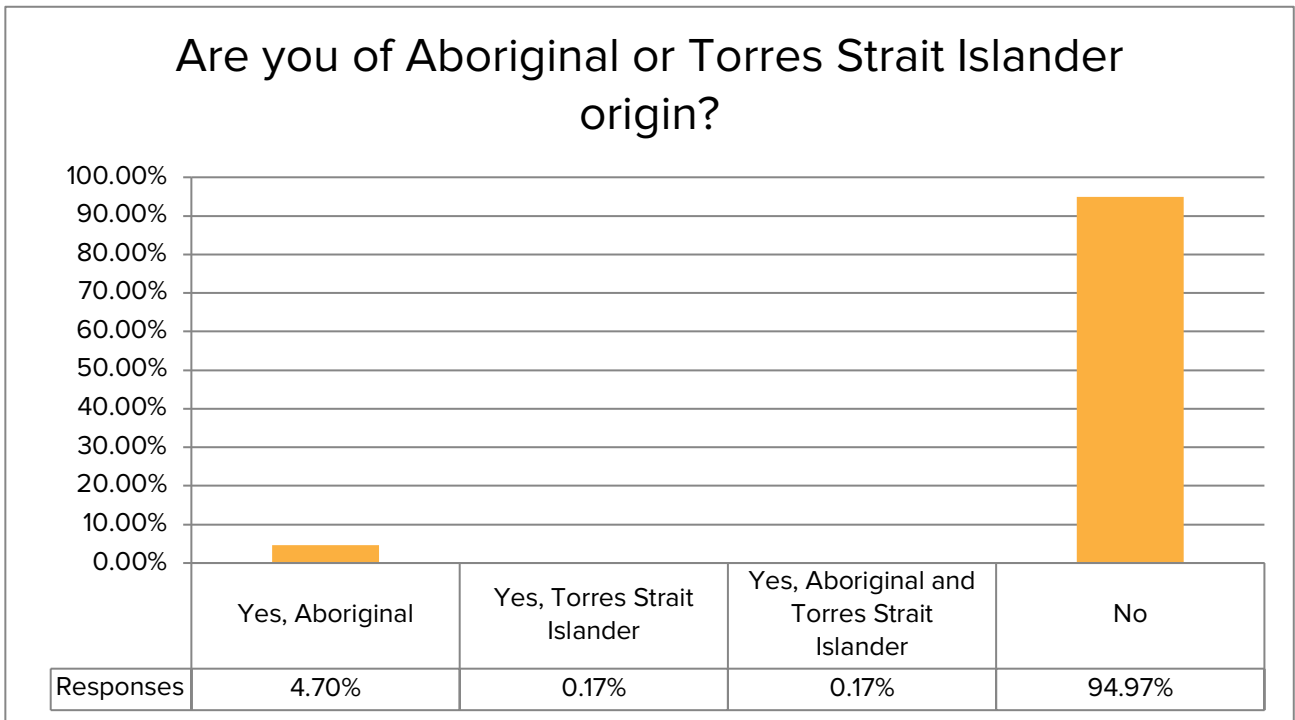
**Q1. How old are you?**



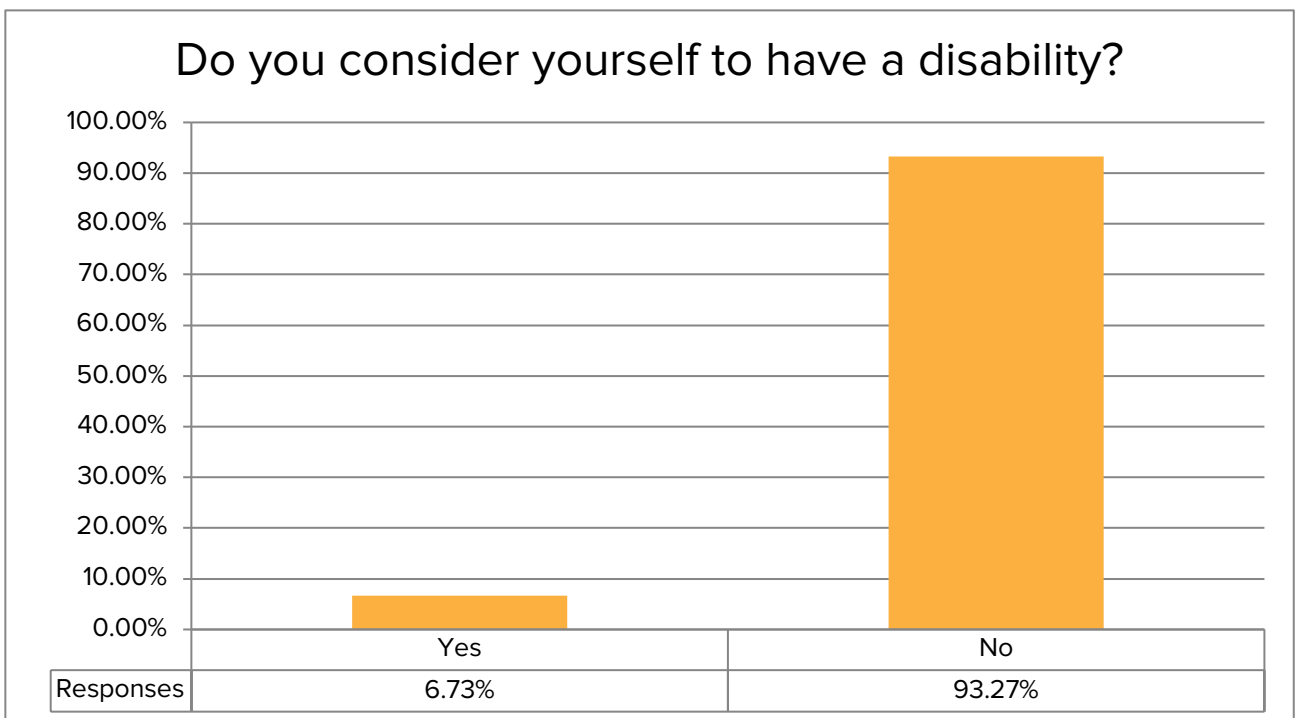
**Q2. What gender do you identify as?**



**Q3. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?**

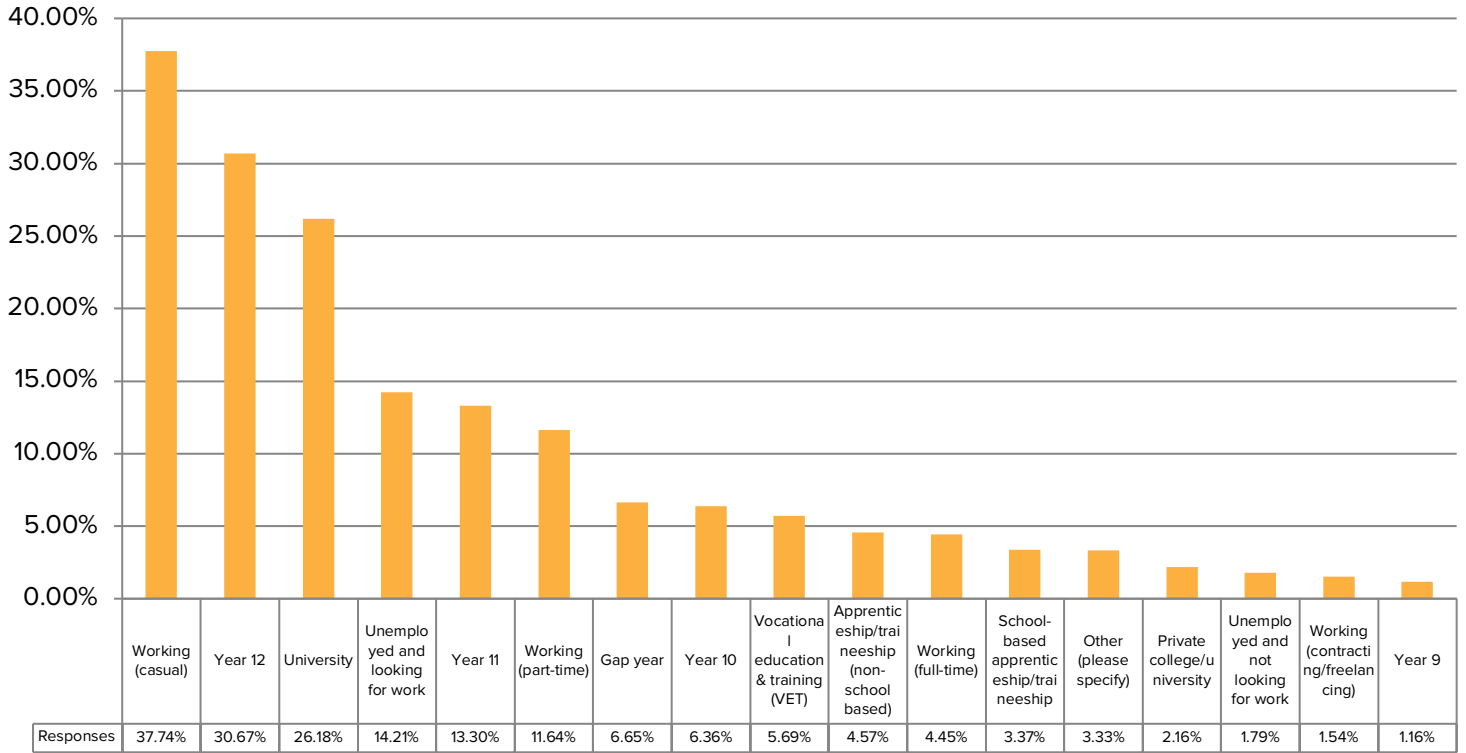


**Q4. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**



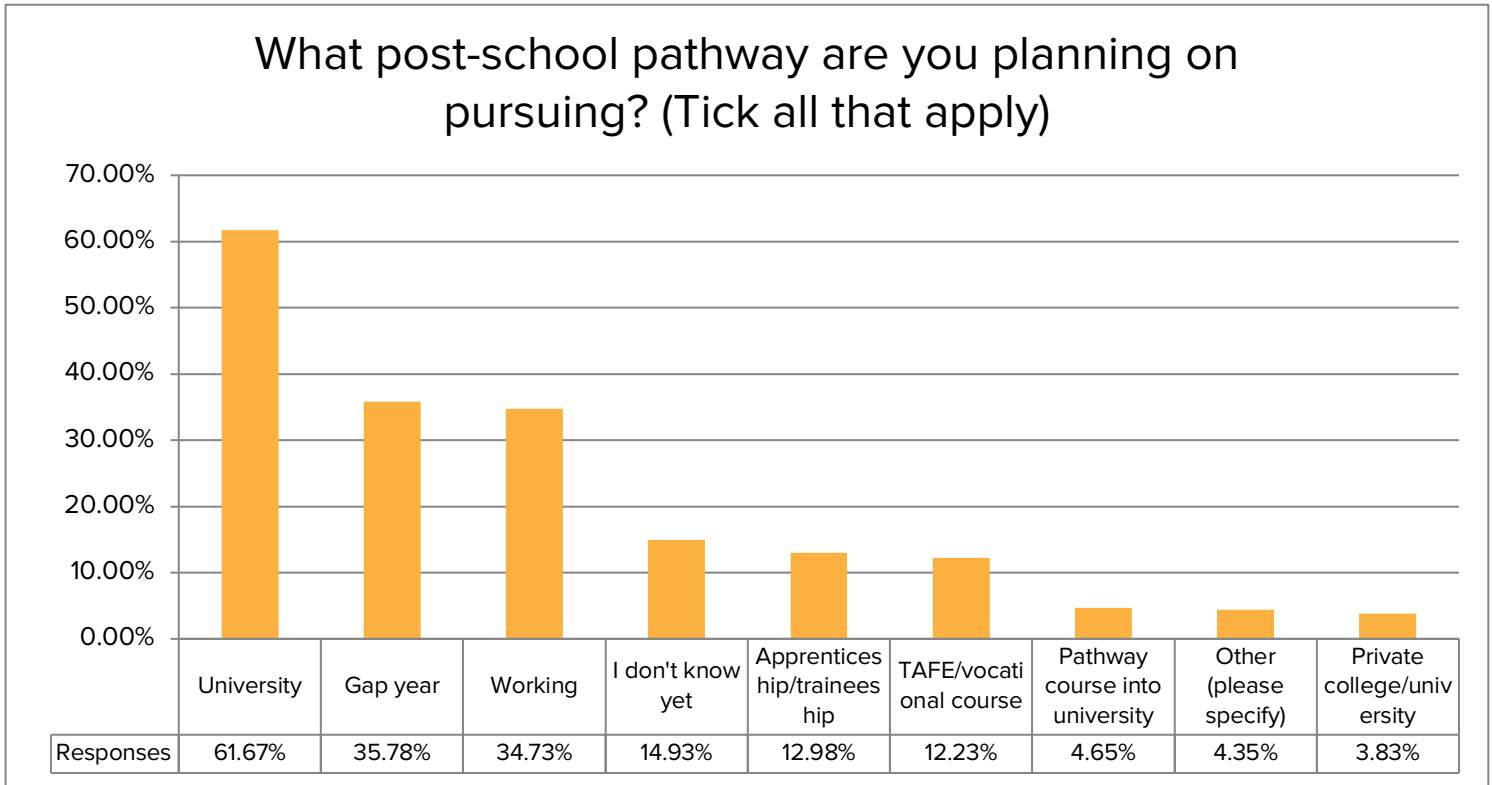
Q5. Which of the following describes your current situation?

Which of the following describes your current situation?  
(Tick all that apply)

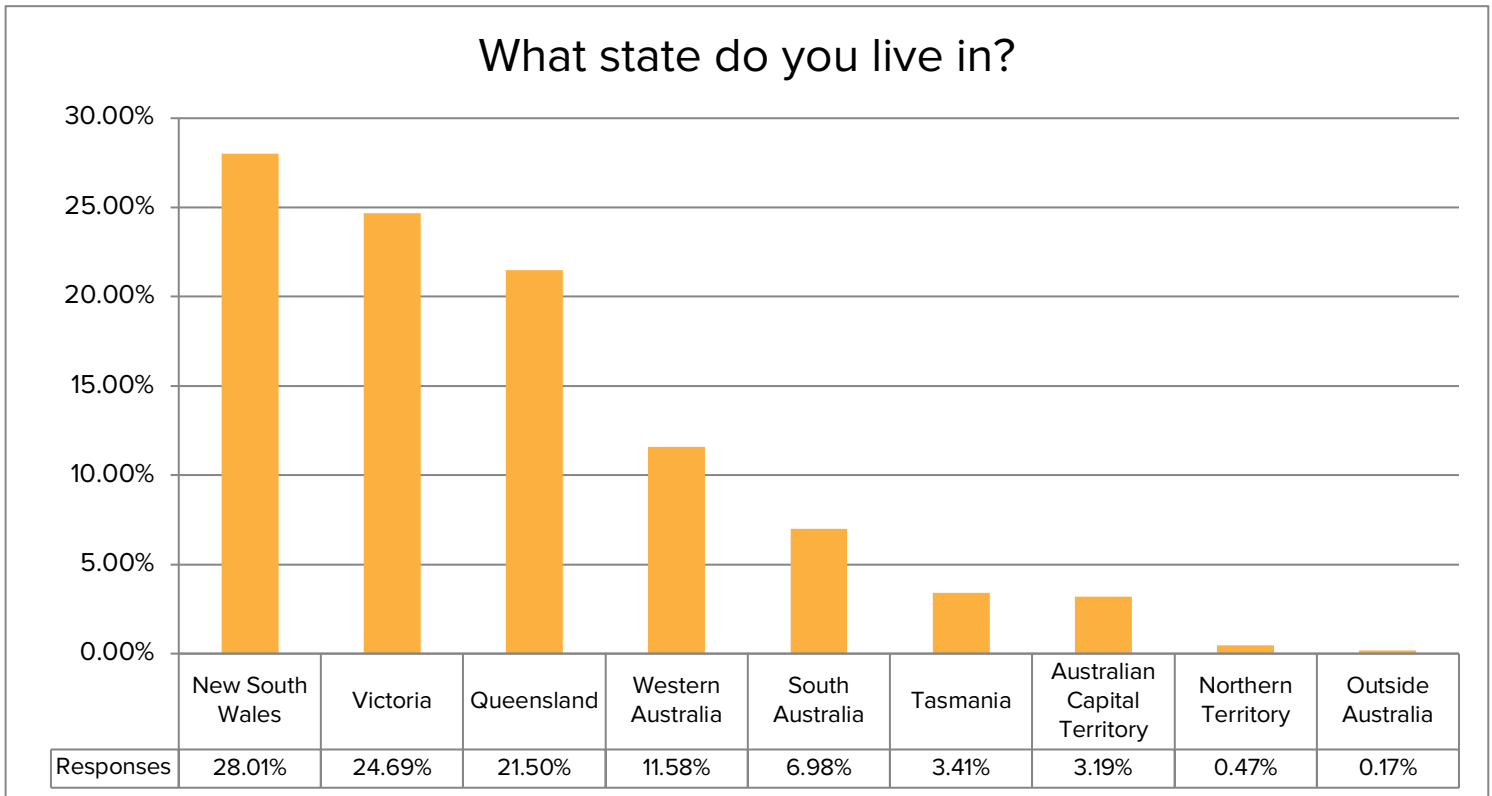




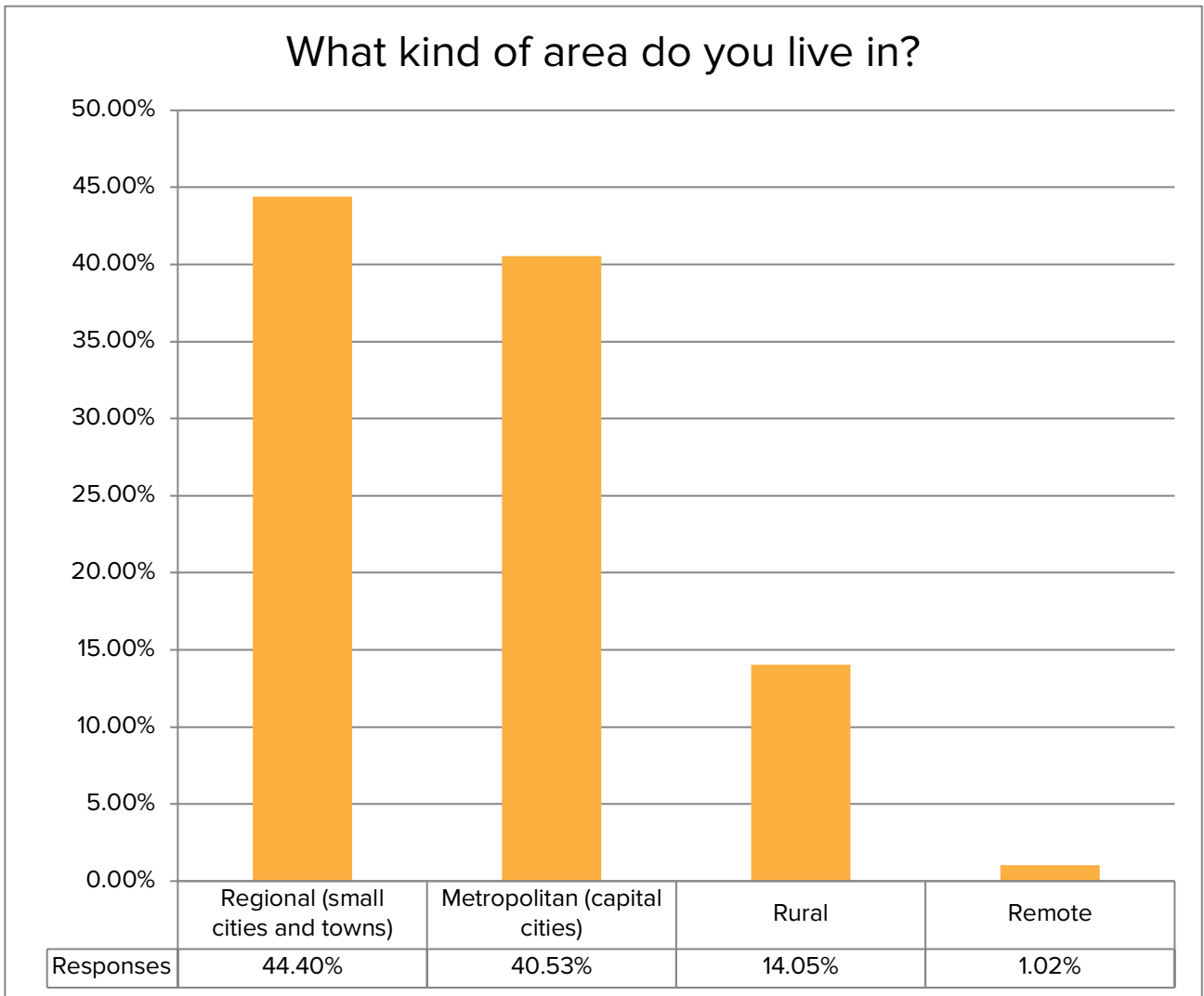
**Q6. What post-school pathway are you planning on pursuing?**



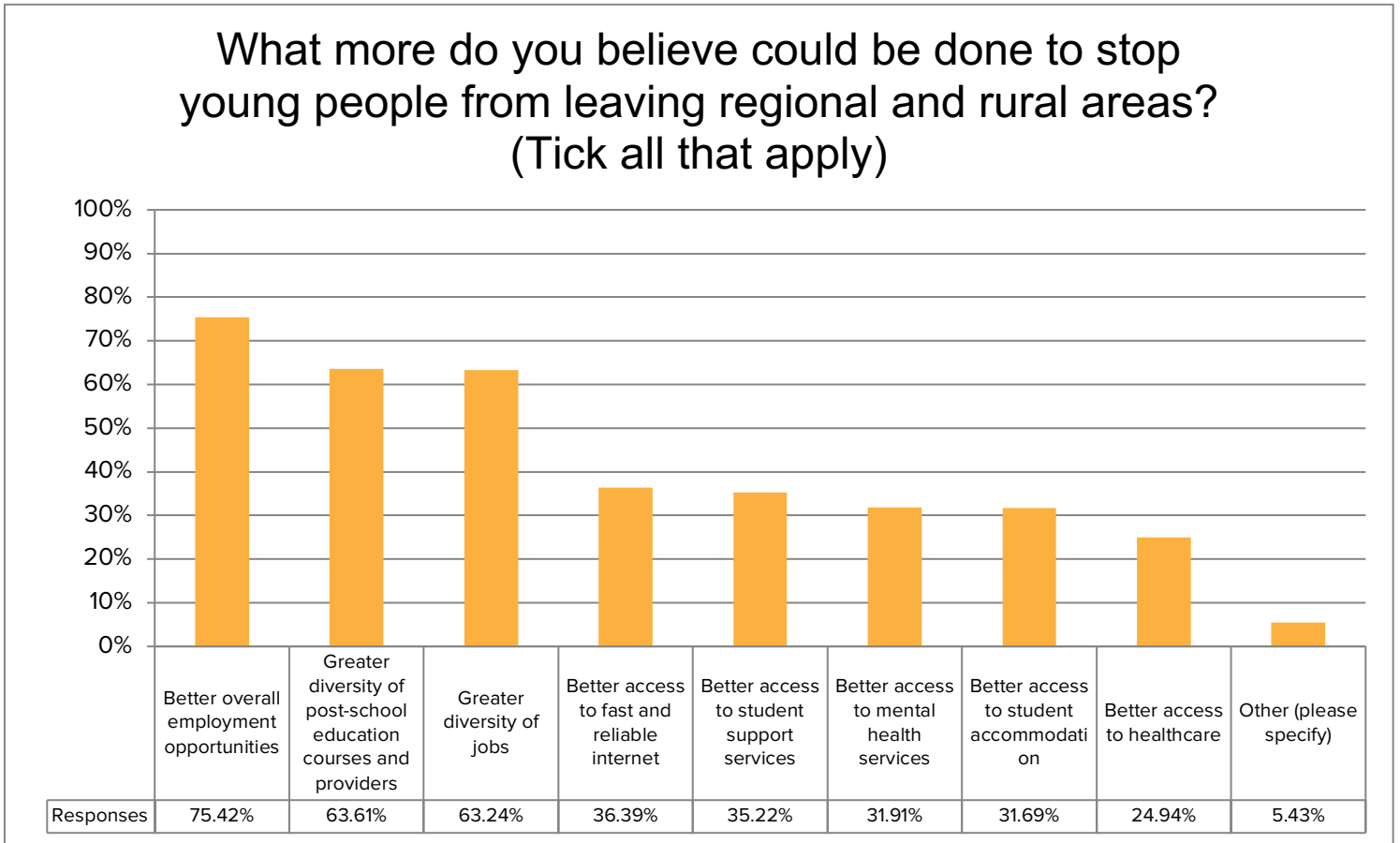
**Q7. What state do you live in?**



Q8. What kind of area do you live in?



**Q9. What more do you believe could be done to stop young people from leaving regional and rural areas? (Tick all that apply)**



This question was only able to be answered by survey respondents living in regional, rural or remote areas. Employment and education were found to be the top areas in need of improvement to stop young people from leaving regional and rural areas.

Respondents identified the key factors to stop young people from leaving as:

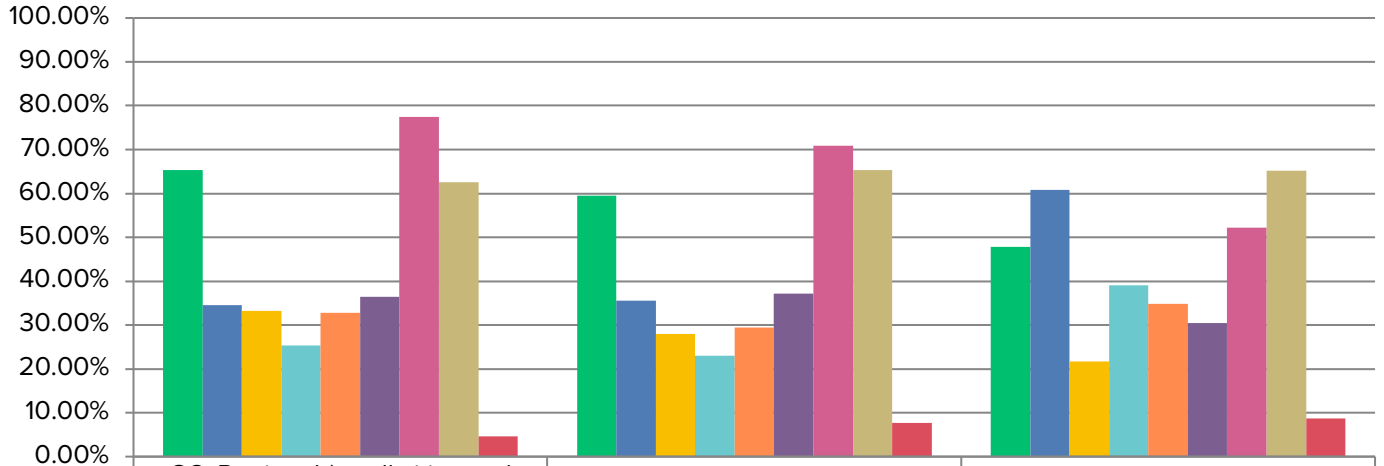
- Better overall employment opportunities
- Greater diversity of post-school education courses and providers
- Greater diversity of jobs

Respondents identified the least important factors to stop young people from leaving as:

- Better access to healthcare
- Better access to student accommodation
- Better access to mental health services
- Better access to student support services

A breakdown of young people from regional, rural and remote areas found the results were consistent between those from regional and rural areas while those from remote areas had some different preferences (see chart next page):

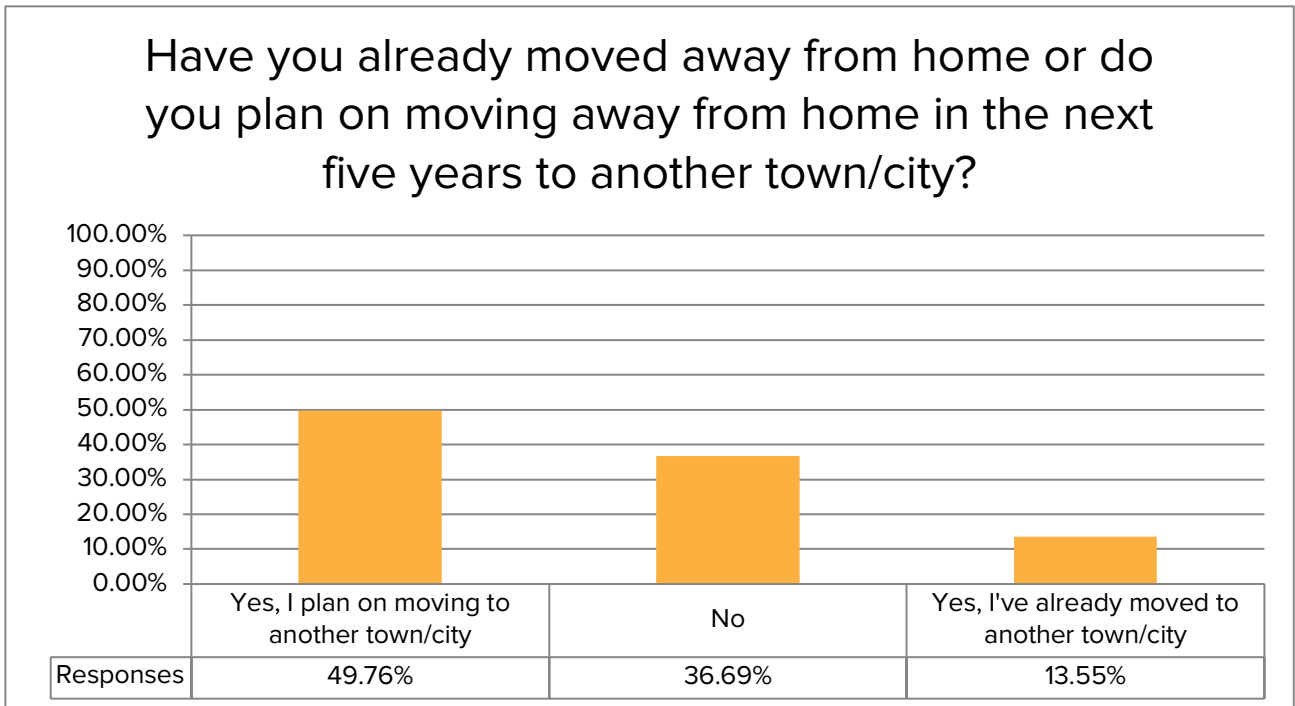
## What more do you believe could be done to stop young people from leaving regional and rural areas? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Greater diversity of post-school education courses and providers	65.32%	59.51%	47.83%
Better access to student support services	34.58%	35.58%	60.87%
Better access to student accommodation	33.20%	27.91%	21.74%
Better access to healthcare	25.30%	23.01%	39.13%
Better access to mental health services	32.71%	29.45%	34.78%
Better access to fast and reliable internet	36.36%	37.12%	30.43%
Better overall employment opportunities	77.47%	70.86%	52.17%
Greater diversity of jobs	62.55%	65.34%	65.22%
Other (please specify)	4.64%	7.67%	8.70%

■ Greater diversity of post-school education courses and providers
 ■ Better access to student support services
 ■ Better access to student accommodation
 ■ Better access to healthcare
 ■ Better access to mental health services
 ■ Better access to fast and reliable internet
 ■ Better overall employment opportunities
 ■ Greater diversity of jobs
 ■ Other (please specify)

**Q10. Have you already moved away from home or do you plan on moving away from home in the next five years to another town/city?**

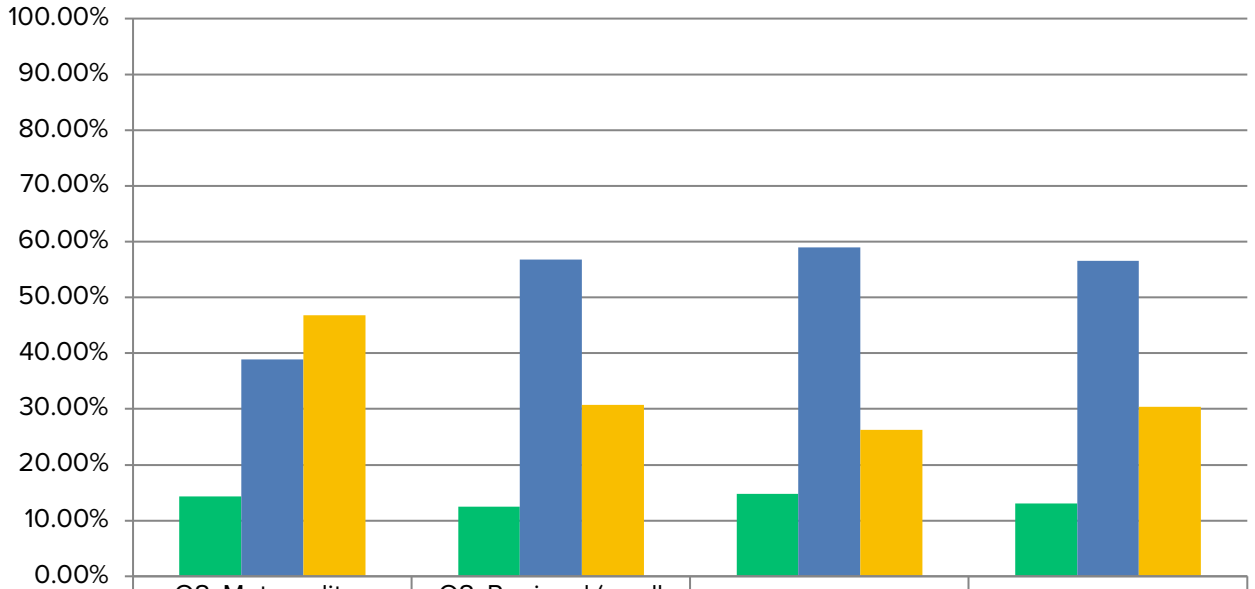


Overall 50% of respondents said they planned on moving away from home to another town or city in the next five years, while 14% said they'd already moved and 37% said they would not move. The results show young people living in rural areas are most likely to want to move away to another town or city, followed by those from regional areas and then remote. Young people from metropolitan areas are least likely to want to move to another town or city.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found (see chart next page):

- Of those from metropolitan areas, 14% said they'd already moved to another town or city, 39% said they were planning on moving while 47% said they wouldn't move.
- Of those from regional areas, 12% said they had already moved to another town or city, 57% said they were planning on moving while 31% said they wouldn't move.
- Of those from rural areas, 15% said they had already moved to another town or city, 59% said they were planning on moving while 26% said they wouldn't move.
- Of those living in remote areas, 13% said they had already moved to another town or city, 57% said they were planning on moving while 30% said they wouldn't move.

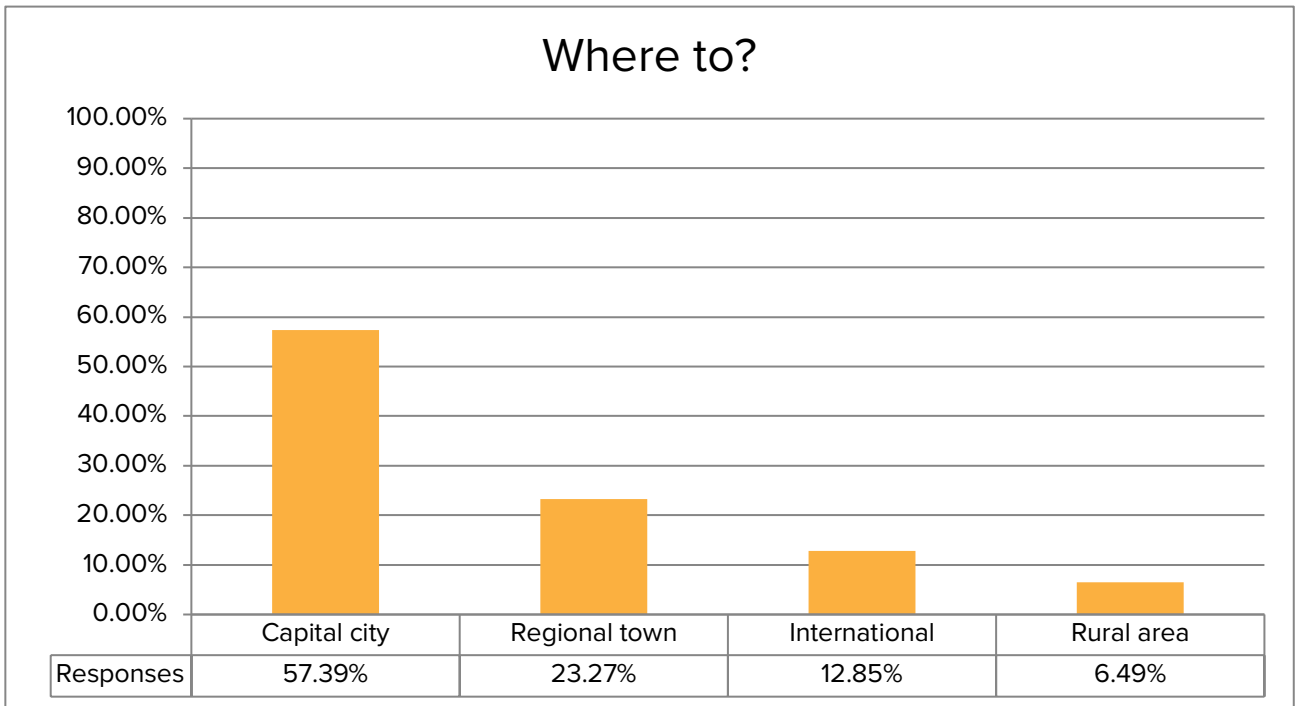
### Have you already moved away from home or do you plan on moving away from home in the next five years to another town/city?



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Yes, I've already moved to another town/city	14.29%	12.46%	14.81%	13.04%
Yes, I plan on moving to another town/city	38.94%	56.83%	58.95%	56.52%
No	46.77%	30.71%	26.23%	30.43%

■ Yes, I've already moved to another town/city
 ■ Yes, I plan on moving to another town/city
 ■ No

Q11. Where to?

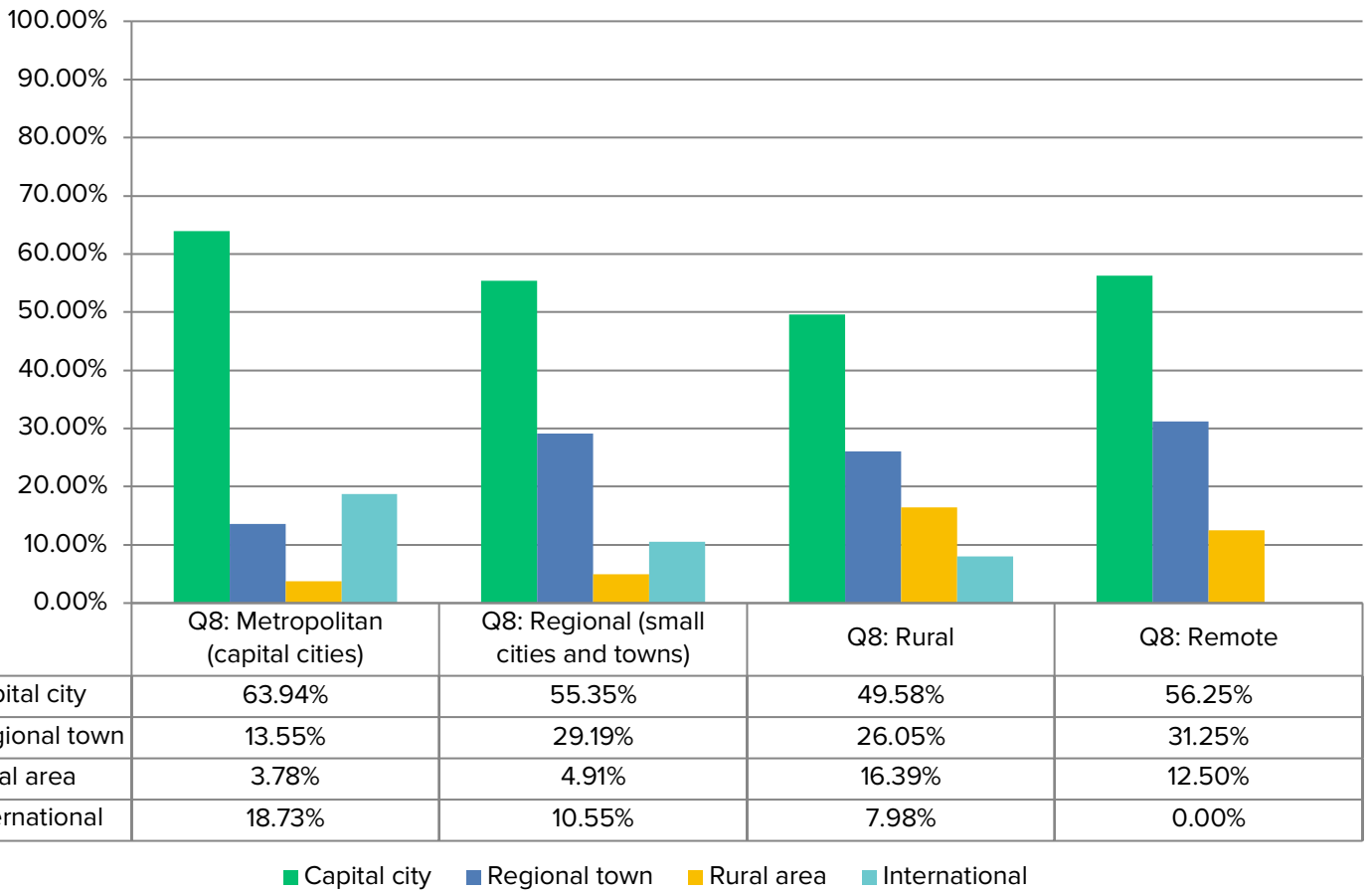


This question was only able to be answered by those in Q10 who said they had already moved or were planning on moving in the next five years. The majority (57%) said a capital city was their destination, compared to 23% to a regional town, 13% to an international destination and 6% to a rural area. The results show that capital cities are the most popular destination of choice for young people moving away from their town or city. 50% or more of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas who had already moved or were planning on moving said that a capital city was their destination.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found (see chart next page):

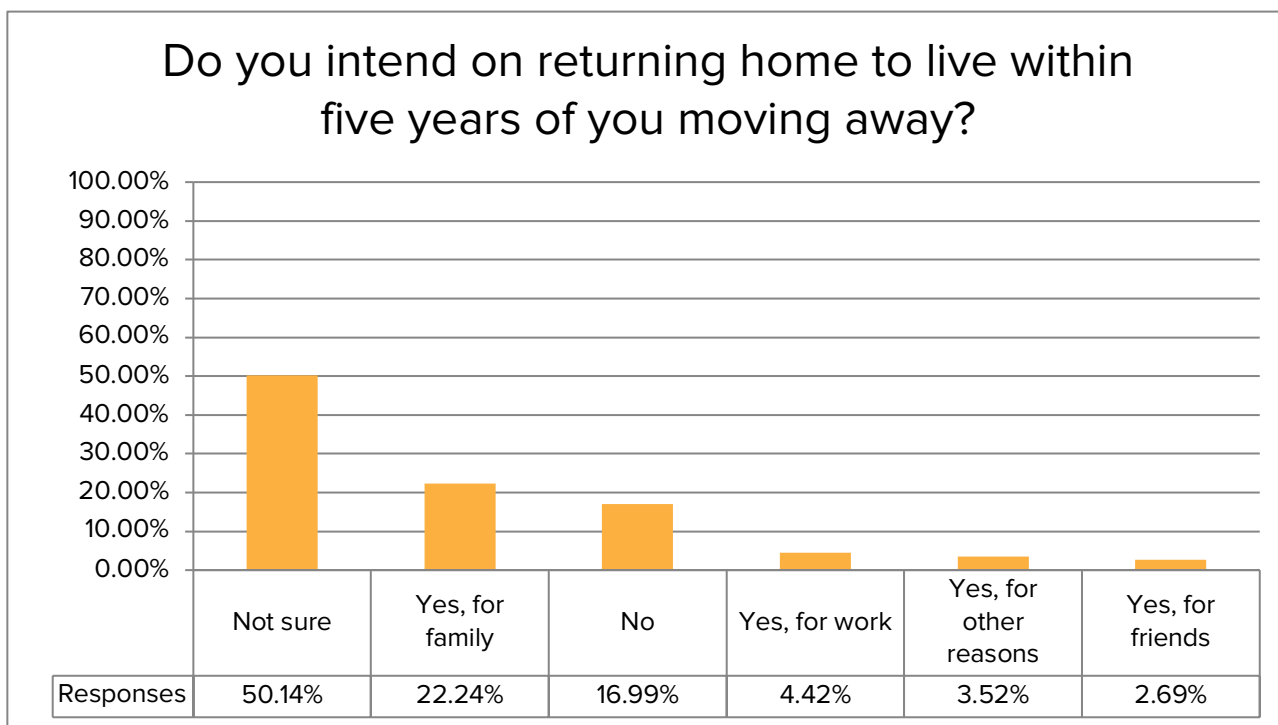
- Of those from metropolitan areas, 64% said their destination was a capital city, 14% a regional town, 4% a rural area and 19% an international destination.
- Of those from regional areas, 55% said their destination was a capital city, 29% a regional town, 5% a rural area and 11% an international destination.
- Of those from rural areas, 50% said their destination was a capital city, 26% a regional town, 16% a rural area and 8% an international destination.
- Of those from remote areas, 56% said their destination was a capital city, 31% a regional town, 13% a rural area with none choosing international.

### Where to?





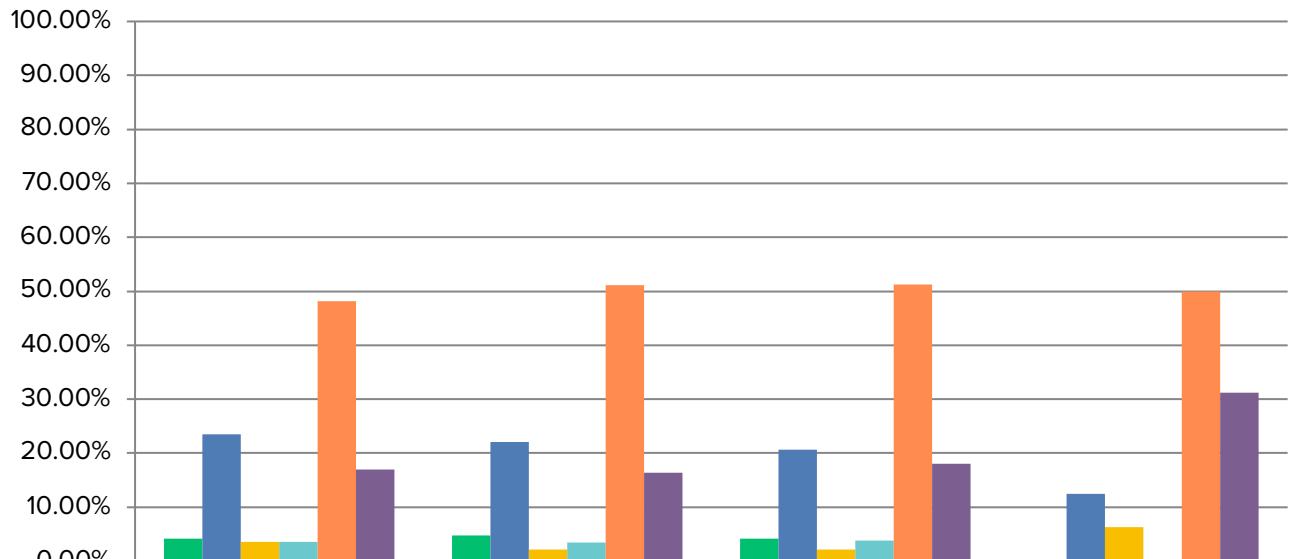
**Q12. Do you intend on returning home to live within five years of you moving away?**



This question was only able to be answered by those in Q10 who said they had already moved or were planning on moving in the next five years. Half of respondents (50%) said they were not sure if they would return home within five years of them moving away while 17% said they would not. Overall, a third of respondents said they would return home. With the option to choose what their main motivation for moving home was it was found that 22% said they would return for family, 4% for work, 3% for friends and 4% for other reasons.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the results were consistent with the overall results. The main difference was found with young people from remote areas, with 31% saying they didn't intend to return home compared to 17% overall (see chart next page).

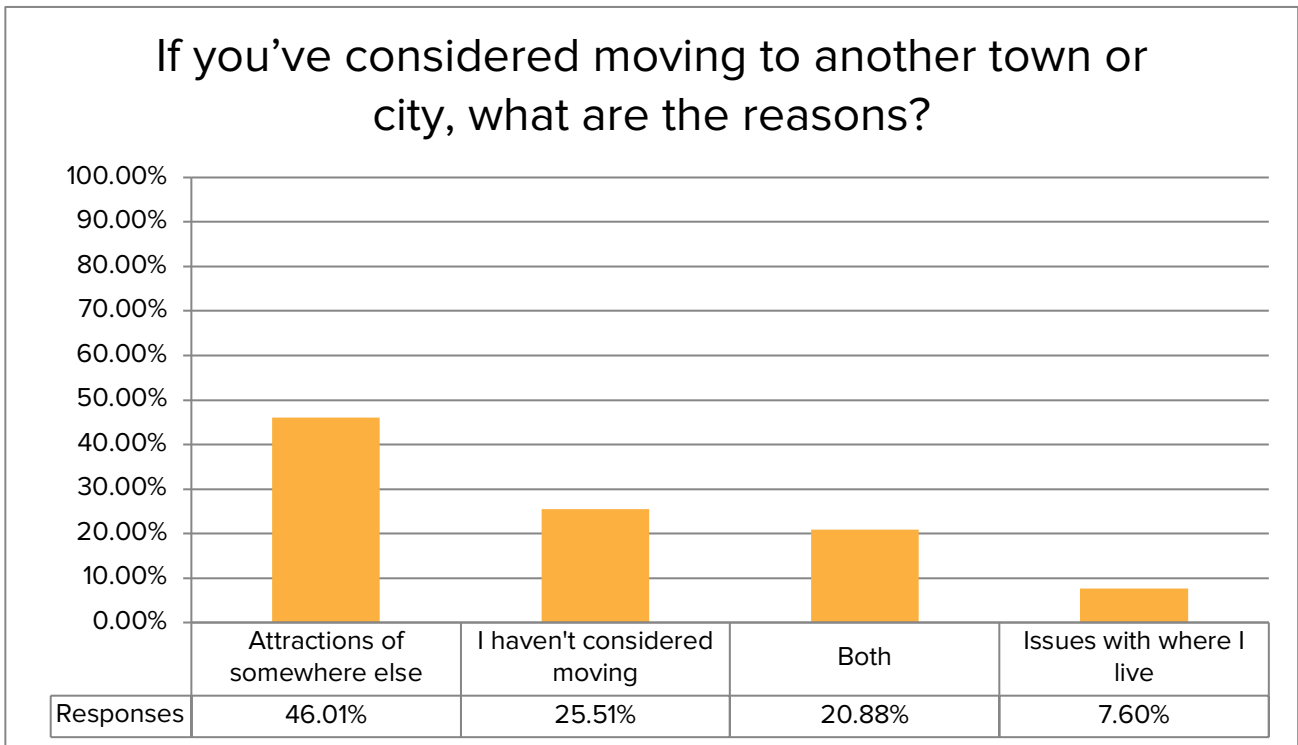
## Do you intend on returning home to live within five years of you moving away?



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Yes, for work	4.18%	4.77%	4.20%	0.00%
Yes, for family	23.51%	22.11%	20.59%	12.50%
Yes, for friends	3.59%	2.17%	2.10%	6.25%
Yes, for other reasons	3.59%	3.47%	3.78%	0.00%
Not sure	48.21%	51.16%	51.26%	50.00%
No	16.93%	16.33%	18.07%	31.25%

■ Yes, for work  
 ■ Yes, for family  
 ■ Yes, for friends  
 ■ Yes, for other reasons  
 ■ Not sure  
 ■ No

**Q13. If you've considered moving to another town or city, what are the reasons?**

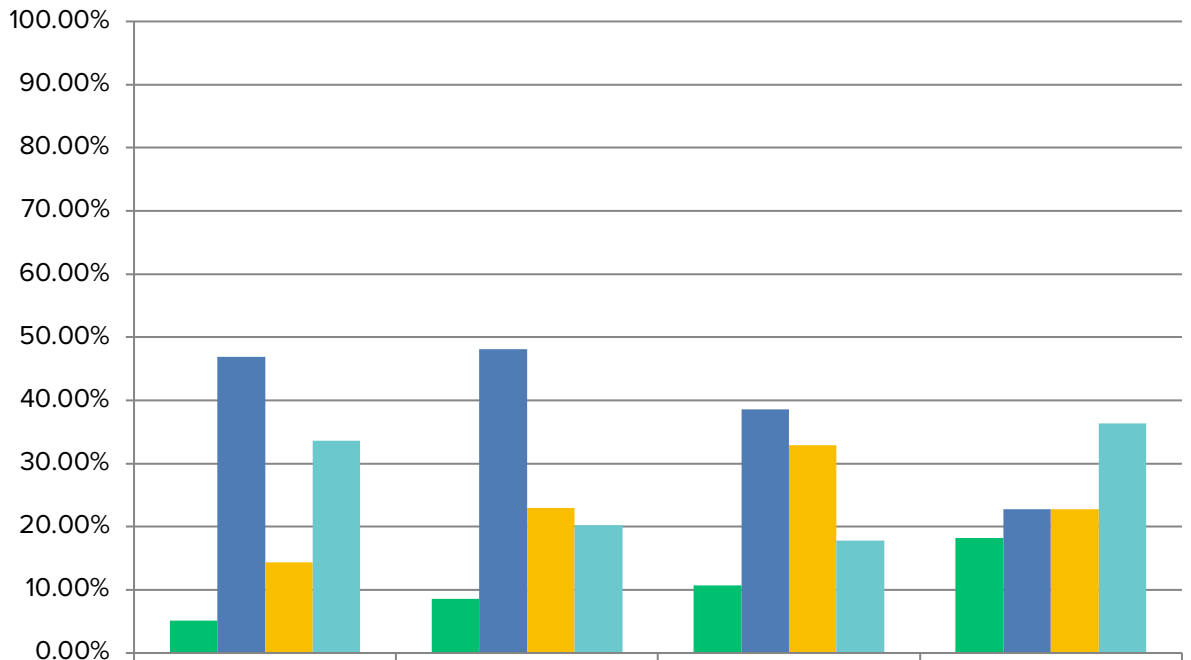


This question was for all respondents. Overall, 46% of young people said that just the 'Attractions of somewhere else' had made them consider moving, while 8% said it was just due to 'Issues with where I live'. 21% said 'Both' meaning it was a mixture of issues with where they live and the attractions of somewhere else which had made them consider moving. 26% said they'd never considered moving to another town or city. The findings show that pull factors are stronger than push factors in making young people want to move away from their town or city.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the further a young person lives from a metropolitan area, the more likely they are to cite issues with where they live as a reason for moving. This was most pronounced for young people in remote areas, followed by rural and then regional (see chart next page).

- Of young people from metropolitan areas, 5% said it was due to issues with where they live, 47% because of the attractions of somewhere else, 14% due to both while 34% said that they haven't considered moving.
- Of young people from regional areas, 9% said it was due to issues with where they live, 48% because of the attractions of somewhere else, 23% due to both while 20% said that they haven't considered moving.
- Of young people from rural areas, 11% said it was due to issues with where they live, 39% because of the attractions of somewhere else, 33% due to both while 18% said that they haven't considered moving.
- Of young people from remote areas, 18% said it was due to issues with where they live, 23% because of the attractions of somewhere else, 23% due to both while 37% said that they haven't considered moving.

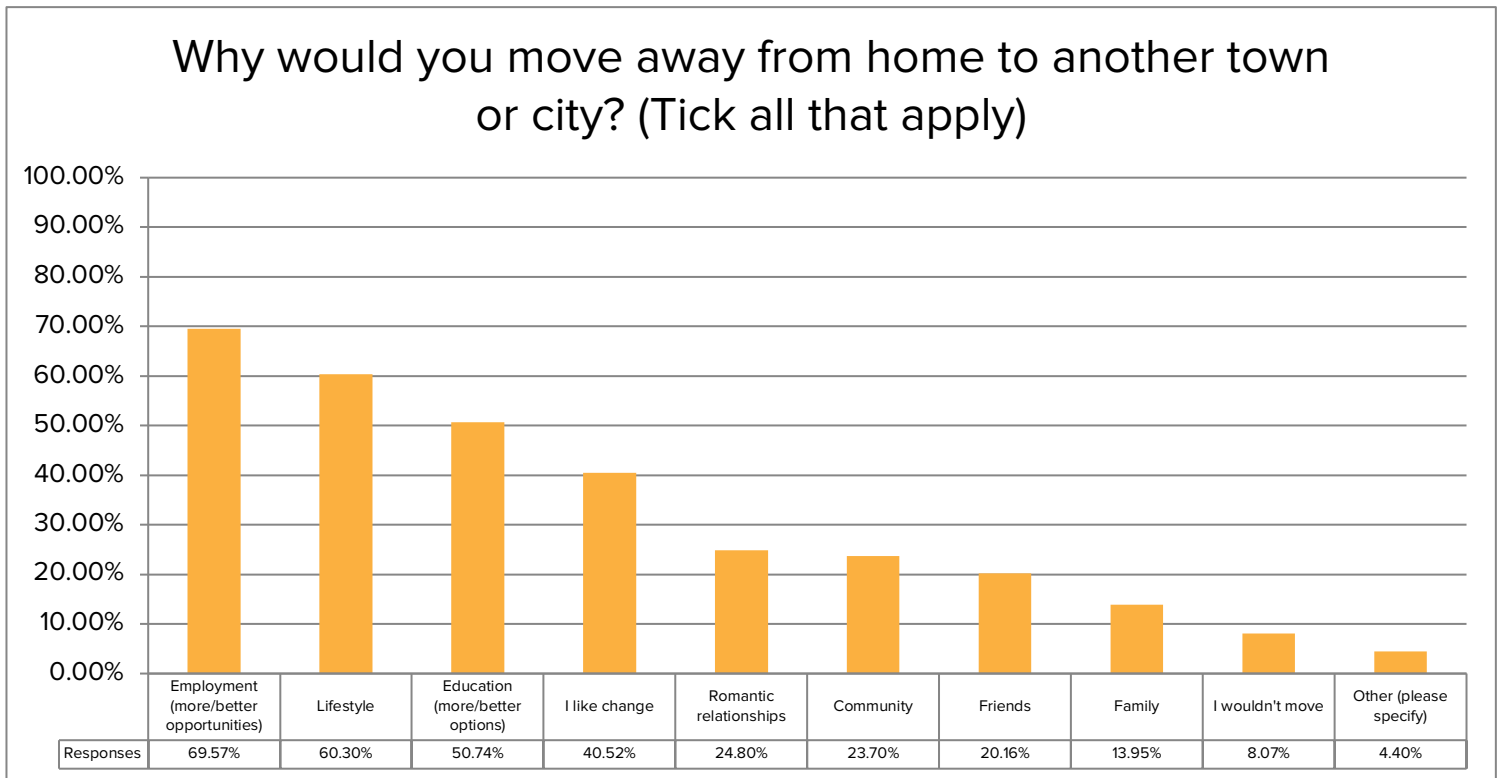
## If you've considered moving to another town or city, what are the reasons?



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Issues with where I live	5.15%	8.61%	10.74%	18.18%
Attractions of somewhere else	46.90%	48.15%	38.59%	22.73%
Both	14.39%	22.98%	32.89%	22.73%
I haven't considered moving	33.57%	20.26%	17.79%	36.36%

■ Issues with where I live    
 ■ Attractions of somewhere else    
 ■ Both    
 ■ I haven't considered moving

**Q14. Why would you move away from home to another town or city for? (Tick all that apply)**

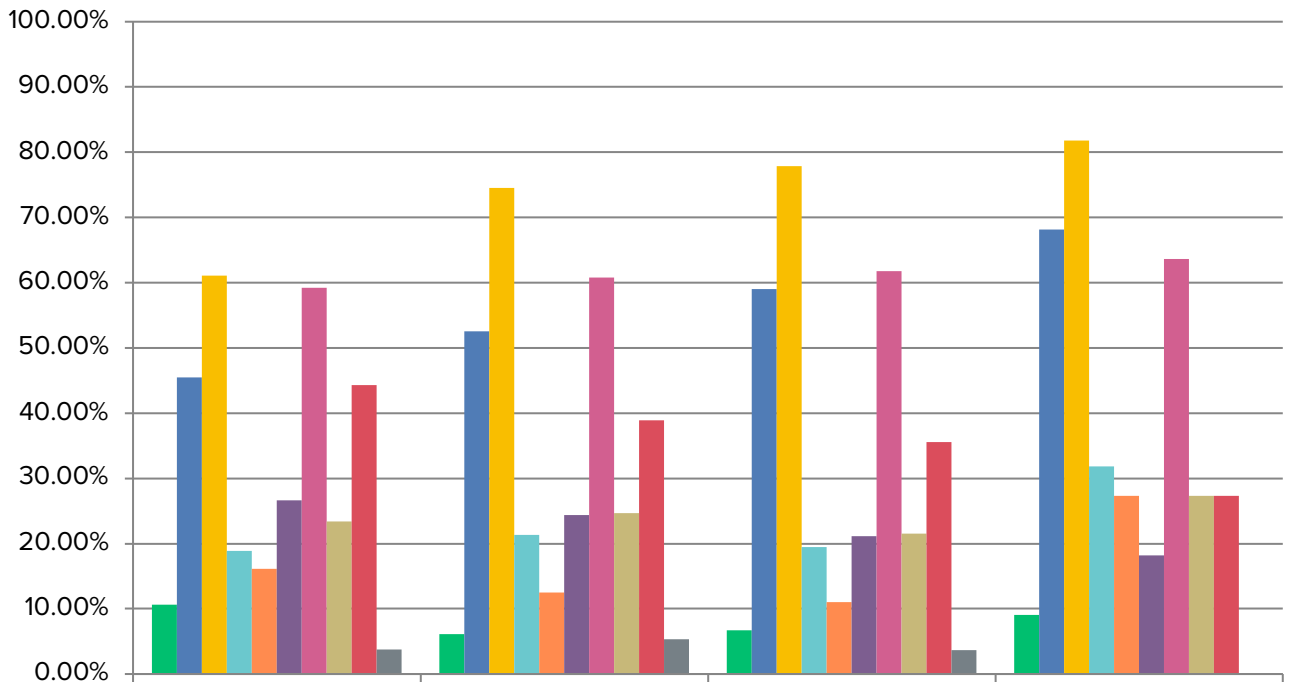


Overall, young people said employment was what would most make them move to another town or city with 70% choosing ‘Employment (more/better opportunities)’. Lifestyle, chosen by 60% of respondents, was shown to be the second most important factor. 51% said they would move to another town or city for ‘Education (more/better options)’, rounding out the top three responses. As well, 41% said they would move to another town or city because ‘I like change’. All other responses received 25% or less indicating they are minority factors compared to employment, lifestyle and education. These included ‘Romantic relationships’ (25%), ‘Community’ (24%), ‘Friends’ (20%) and ‘Family’ (14%). Just 8% of young people said ‘I wouldn’t move’ showing that with the right factors, the majority of young people are open to moving to another town or city. Of the 4% who chose ‘Other’, responses included to find cheaper housing, to escape high crime rates, to discover a new culture and learn another language, volunteer opportunities and because of a bad situation at home.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the further from the capital cities a young person lives, the more likely they are to move away from home for education or employment (see chart next page).

- Of those from metropolitan areas, 46% said they would move to another town or city for education and 61% for employment.
- Of those from regional areas, 53% said they would move to another town or city for education and 75% for employment.
- Of those from rural areas, 59% said they would move to another town or city for education and 78% for employment.
- Of those from remote areas, 68% said they would move to another town or city for education and 82% for employment.

## Why would you move away from home to another town or city? (Tick all that apply)

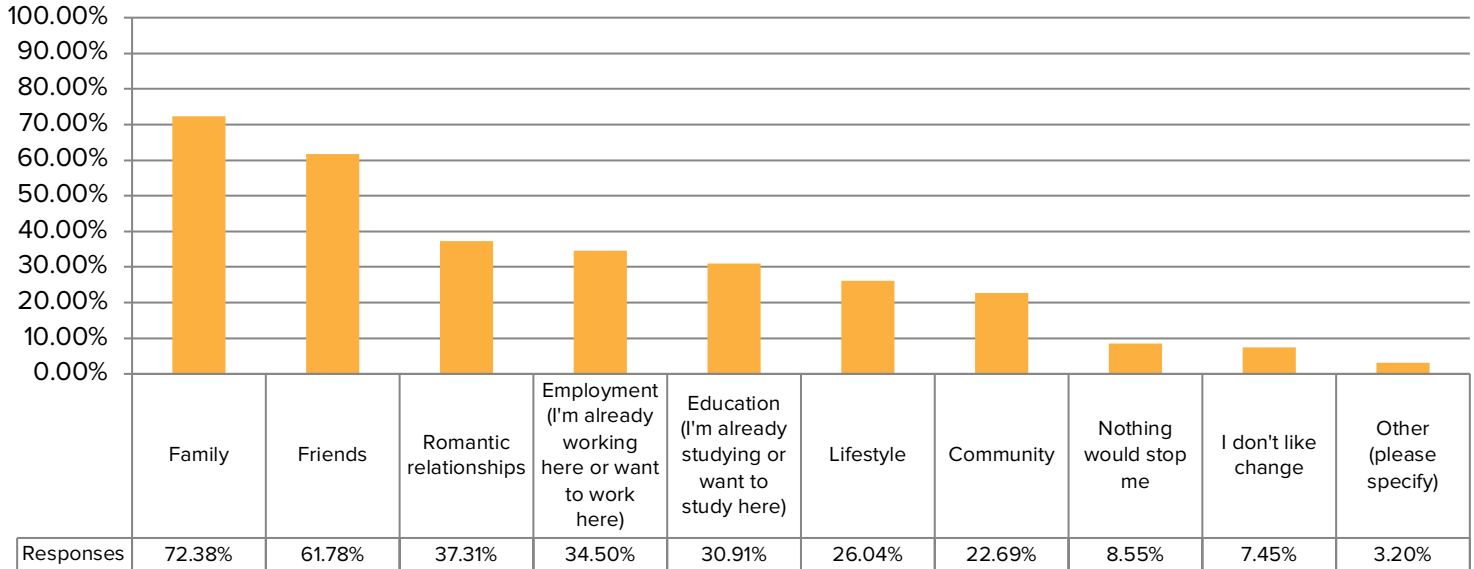


	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
I wouldn't move	10.64%	6.10%	6.71%	9.09%
Education (more/better options)	45.50%	52.51%	59.06%	68.18%
Employment (more/better opportunities)	61.05%	74.51%	77.85%	81.82%
Friends	18.83%	21.35%	19.46%	31.82%
Family	16.14%	12.53%	11.07%	27.27%
Romantic relationships	26.67%	24.40%	21.14%	18.18%
Lifestyle	59.18%	60.78%	61.74%	63.64%
Community	23.39%	24.62%	21.48%	27.27%
I like change	44.33%	38.89%	35.57%	27.27%
Other (please specify)	3.74%	5.34%	3.69%	0.00%

- I wouldn't move
- Education (more/better options)
- Employment (more/better opportunities)
- Friends
- Family
- Romantic relationships
- Lifestyle
- Community
- I like change
- Other (please specify)

**Q15. What would stop you moving away from home to another town or city? (Tick all that apply)**

What would stop you moving away from home to another town or city? (Tick all that apply)

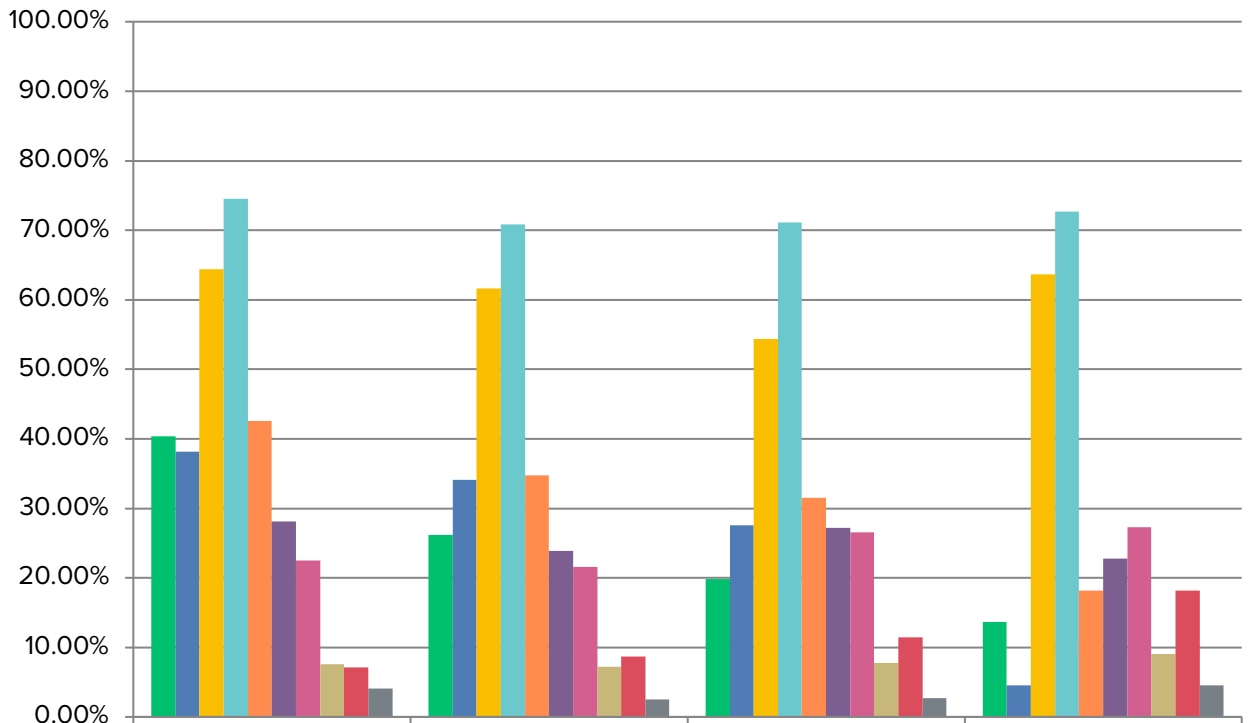


Overall, 'Family' was found to be the top reason stopping young people from moving to another town or city with 72% choosing this. 62% also said 'Friends' and 37% 'Romantic relationships'. These top three responses show the importance of interpersonal relationships in young people's lives and how they act as the greatest anchor to home. 35% said 'Employment (I'm already working here or want to work here)' while 31% said 'Education (I'm already studying or want to study here)' would stop them moving away. While education and employment were in the top three factors to attract young people to somewhere else, they don't appear to be as important when it comes to keeping them in their hometown or city. Similarly, while 'Lifestyle' was a strong attractor to a new town or city, it was only chosen by 26% of respondents as something which would keep them from moving away from home. As well, 23% said 'Community' and 7% 'I don't like change'. Just 9% said 'Nothing would stop me'. Of the 3% who chose 'Other', the majority said because of financial reasons.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the further they live away from a capital city, the less likely they are to have an education or employment option keeping them from moving away. This is consistent with Q14's findings which show how the further young people live away from a capital city, the more likely they are to be looking for education or employment options somewhere else (see chart next page).

- Of those from metropolitan areas, 40% said they would be stopped from moving to another town or city due to education and 38% due to employment.
- Of those from regional areas, 26% said they would be stopped from moving to another town or city due to education and 34% due to employment.
- Of those from rural areas, 20% said they would be stopped from moving to another town or city due to education and 28% due to employment.
- Of those from remote areas, 14% said they would be stopped from moving to another town or city due to education and 5% due to employment.

## What would stop you moving away from home to another town or city? (Tick all that apply)



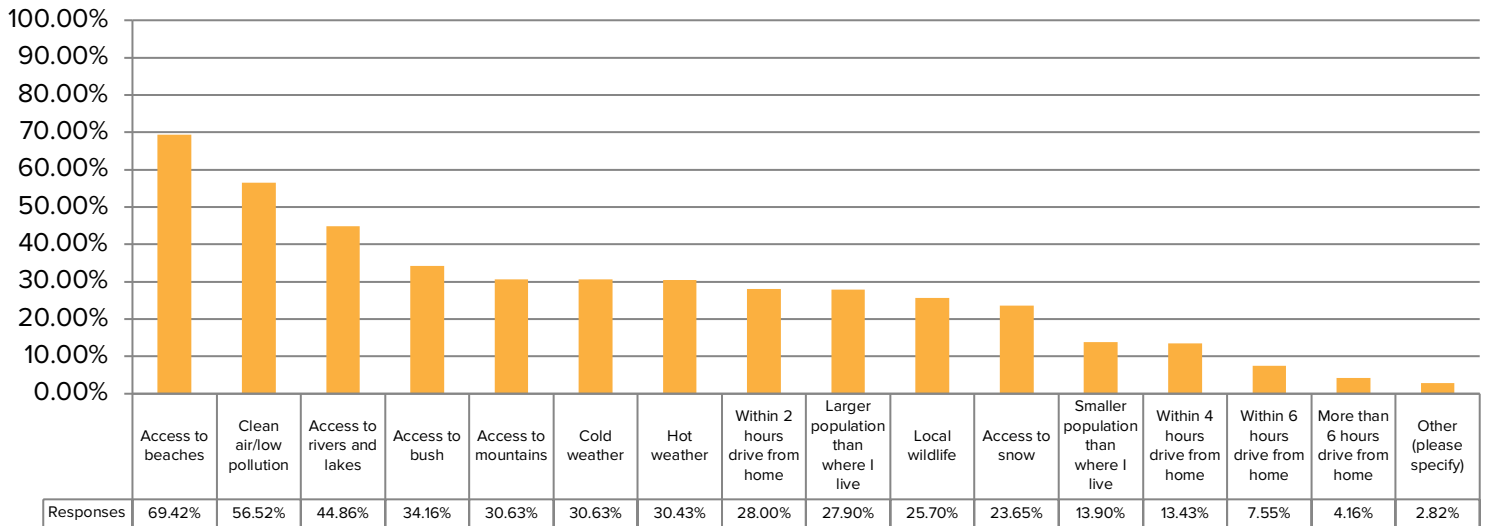
	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Education (I'm already studying or want to study here)	40.35%	26.14%	19.80%	13.64%
Employment (I'm already working here or want to work here)	38.13%	34.10%	27.52%	4.55%
Friends	64.44%	61.66%	54.36%	63.64%
Family	74.50%	70.81%	71.14%	72.73%
Romantic relationships	42.57%	34.75%	31.54%	18.18%
Lifestyle	28.07%	23.86%	27.18%	22.73%
Community	22.46%	21.57%	26.51%	27.27%
I don't like change	7.60%	7.19%	7.72%	9.09%
Nothing would stop me	7.13%	8.71%	11.41%	18.18%
Other (please specify)	4.09%	2.51%	2.68%	4.55%

- Education (I'm already studying or want to study here)
- Employment (I'm already working here or want to work here)
- Friends
- Family
- Romantic relationships
- Lifestyle
- Community
- I don't like change
- Nothing would stop me
- Other (please specify)



**Q16. If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what geographical /environmental factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)**

If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what geographical/environmental factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)



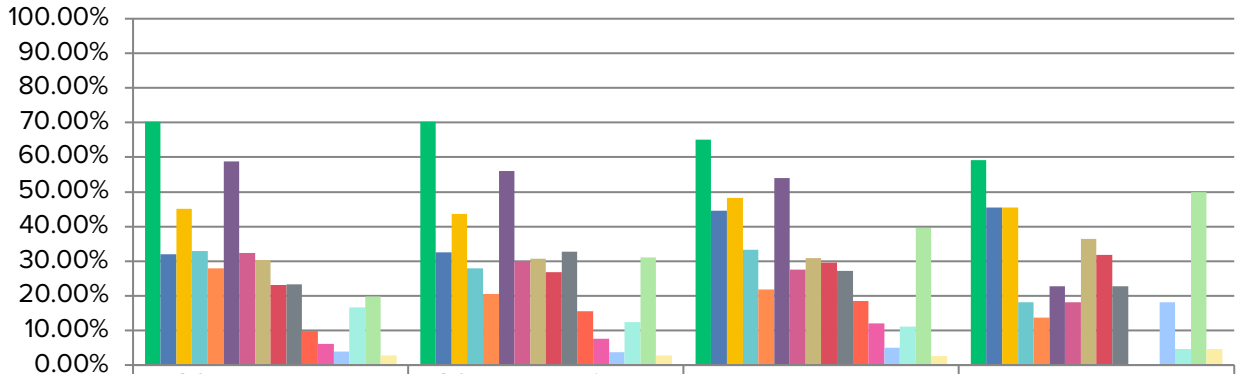
Beaches have been found to be strongest geographical/environmental factor for drawing young people to move to a new town or city with 69% saying ‘Access to beaches’ would make a destination attractive for them. ‘Clean air/low pollution’ was the second most important factor with 57% choosing it. All other responses received less than 50% showing that a combination of beaches and clean air is a major drawcard for the majority of young Australians. 45% said ‘Access to rivers and lakes’, 34% ‘Access to bush’ and 31% ‘Access to mountains’ would make a destination attractive to them. Cold weather (31%) and hot weather (30%) were found to be virtually equal in their level of attractiveness.

28% said they would like another town or city to be ‘Within 2 hours drive from home’, while the same amount said for it to have a ‘Larger population than where I live’. ‘Local wildlife’ was chosen by 26% of respondents as being important, while 24% said ‘Access to snow’. Just 14% said a ‘Smaller population than where I live’ would make a new town or city attractive. And being further away from home was shown to generally not be an attractive option to young people with 13% wanting to be ‘Within 4 hours drive from home’, 8% ‘Within 6 hours drive from home’ and just 4% ‘More than 6 hours drive from home’. Of the 3% who chose ‘Other’, less light pollution and being closer to other international cities were some of the reasons offered.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the results were largely consistent. Some differences included (see chart next page):

- Access to bush (remote 45%, rural 65%, regional 70%, metropolitan 70%)
- Larger population than where I live (remote 50%, rural 40%, regional 31%, metropolitan 20%)

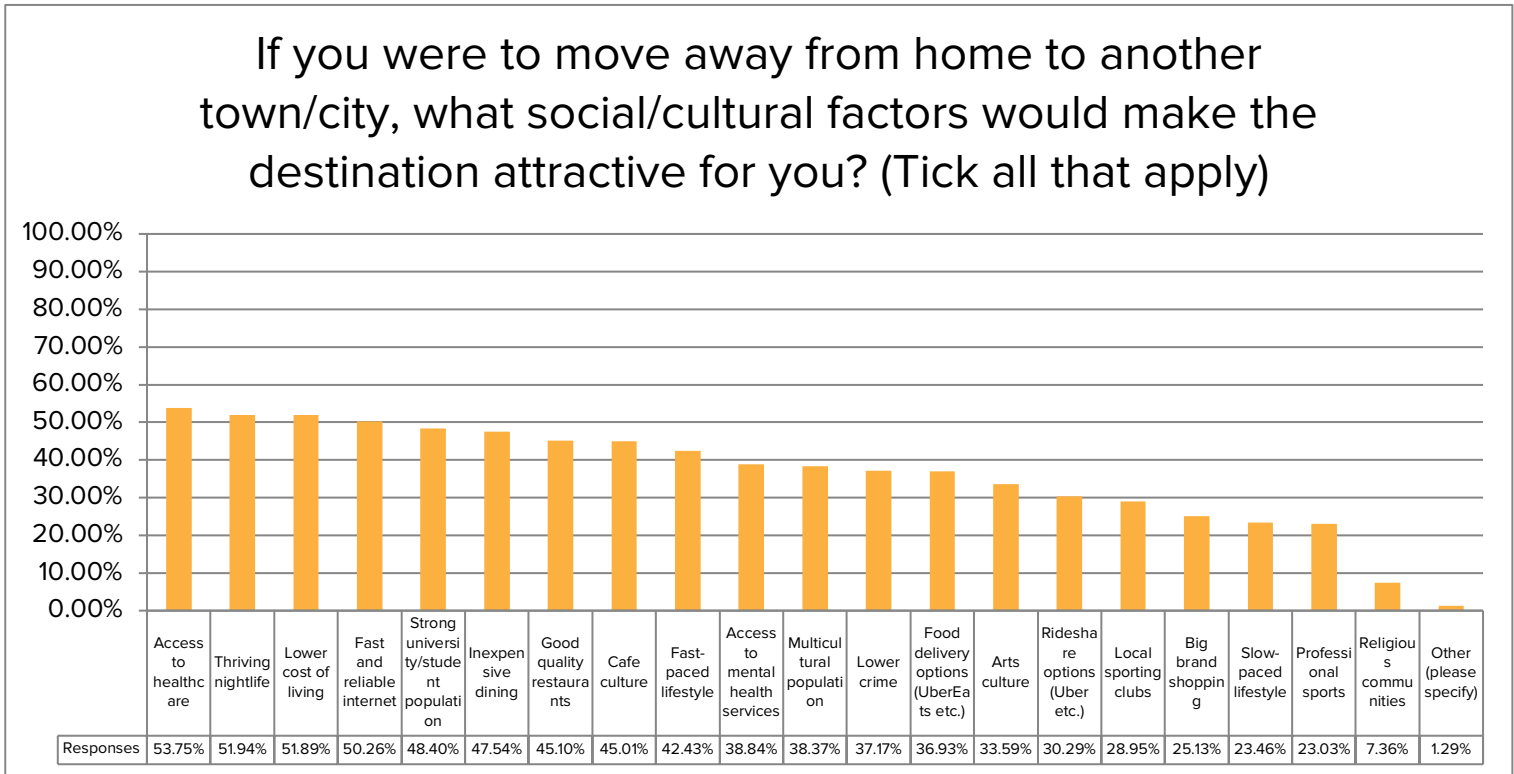
If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what geographical/environmental factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Access to beaches	70.29%	70.26%	65.10%	59.09%
Access to bush	32.05%	32.46%	44.63%	45.45%
Access to rivers and lakes	45.03%	43.57%	48.32%	45.45%
Access to mountains	32.98%	27.89%	33.22%	18.18%
Access to snow	27.95%	20.48%	21.81%	13.64%
Clean air/low pollution	58.83%	55.99%	54.03%	22.73%
Hot weather	32.28%	29.96%	27.52%	18.18%
Cold weather	30.41%	30.61%	30.87%	36.36%
Local wildlife	23.04%	26.80%	29.53%	31.82%
Within 2 hours drive from home	23.27%	32.79%	27.18%	22.73%
Within 4 hours drive from home	9.82%	15.47%	18.46%	0.00%
Within 6 hours drive from home	6.20%	7.52%	12.08%	0.00%
More than 6 hours drive from home	3.98%	3.70%	5.03%	18.18%
Smaller population than where I live	16.73%	12.42%	11.07%	4.55%
Larger population than where I live	19.88%	31.05%	39.60%	50.00%
Other (please specify)	2.81%	2.83%	2.68%	4.55%

- Access to beaches
- Access to bush
- Access to rivers and lakes
- Access to mountains
- Access to snow
- Clean air/low pollution
- Hot weather
- Cold weather
- Local wildlife
- Within 2 hours drive from home
- Within 4 hours drive from home
- Within 6 hours drive from home
- More than 6 hours drive from home
- Smaller population than where I live
- Larger population than where I live
- Other (please specify)

**Q17. If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what social/cultural factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)**



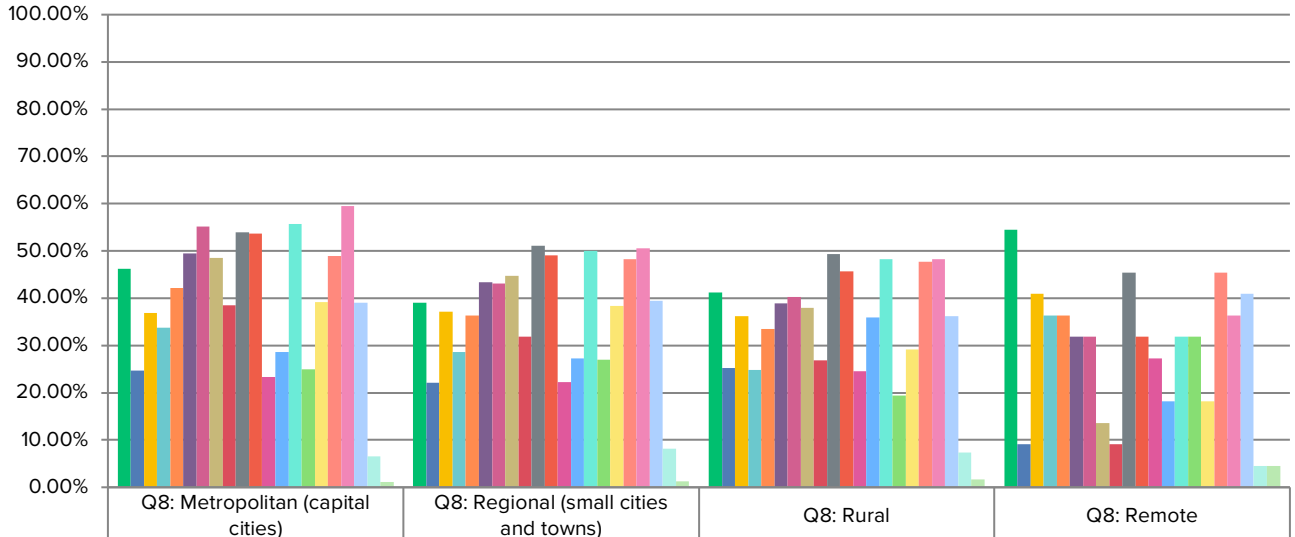
‘Access to healthcare’ (54%) was the most important social/cultural factor for making a town or city attractive for young people to move to. It was followed by ‘Thriving nightlife’ (52%), ‘Lower cost of living’ (52%) and ‘Access to fast and reliable internet’ (50%). All other responses were chosen by less than half of respondents. A ‘Strong university/student population’ and ‘Inexpensive dining’ were both selected by 48% of young people. 45% of survey respondents also said ‘Good quality restaurants’ and ‘Cafe culture’, while 42% said a ‘Fast-paced lifestyle’ was attractive.

‘Access to mental health services’ (39%), ‘Multicultural population’ (38%), ‘Lower crime’ (37%), ‘Food delivery options’ (37%), ‘Arts culture’ (34%) and ‘Ride-share options’ (30%) were all chosen by roughly a third of respondents. Just 29% said ‘Local sporting clubs’ would attract them to another town or city, with even less citing ‘Big brand shopping’ (25%), ‘Slow-paced lifestyle’ (23%) and ‘Professional sports’ (23%) as being important. Of least importance were ‘Religious communities’, chosen by 7% of young people. Of the 1% who chose ‘Other’, responses included an LGBTQI community, vegan restaurants and less technology.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the results were largely consistent. Some differences included (see chart next page):

- Good quality restaurants (remote 32%, rural 39%, regional 43%, metropolitan 49%)
- Inexpensive dining (remote 32%, rural 40%, regional 43%, metropolitan 55%)
- Cafe culture (remote 14%, rural 38%, regional 45%, metropolitan 49%)
- Arts culture (remote 9%, rural 27%, regional 32%, metropolitan 38%)
- Access to healthcare (remote 36%, rural 48%, regional 51%, metropolitan 60%)

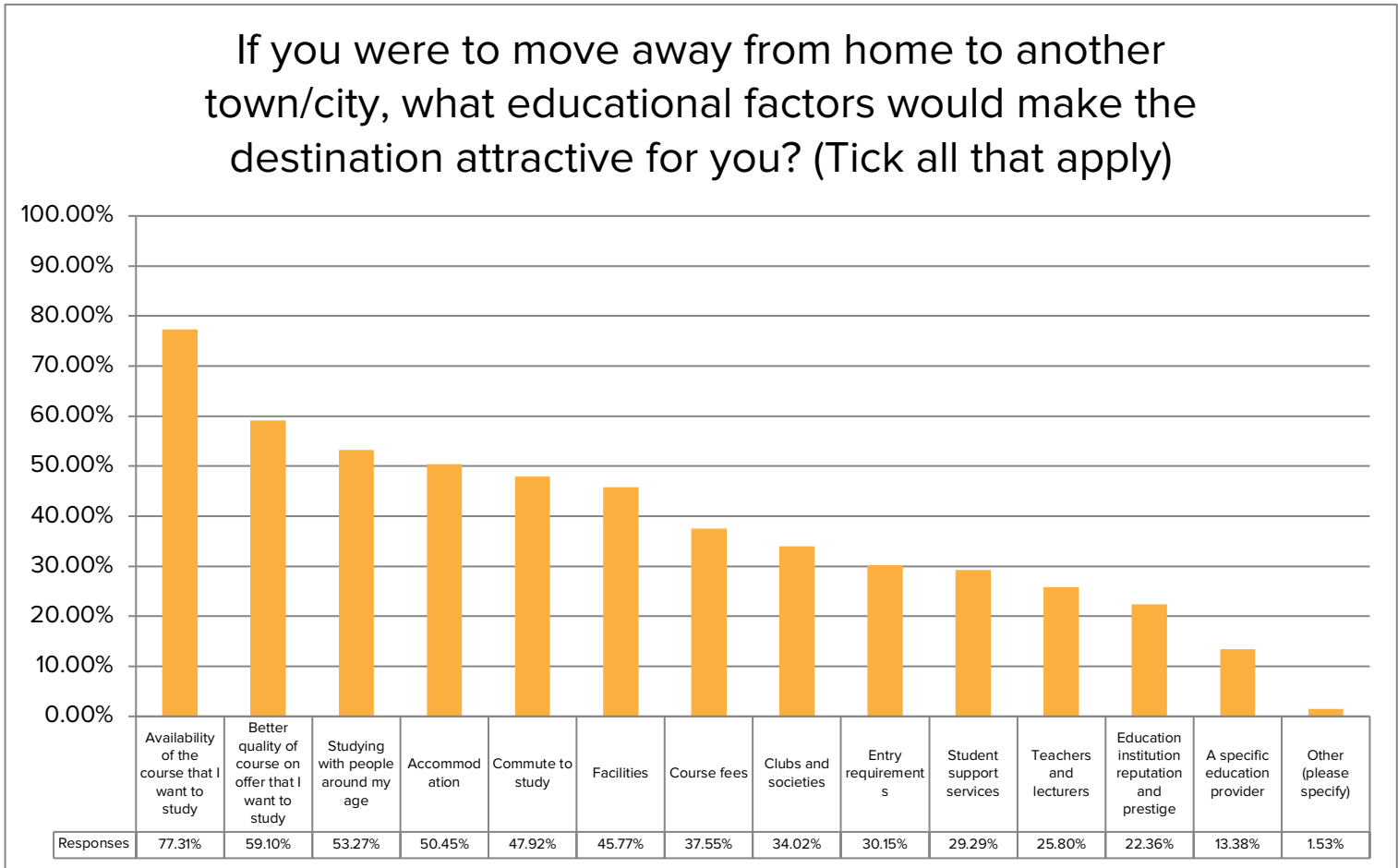
## If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what social/cultural factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Fast-paced lifestyle	46.20%	39.00%	41.28%	54.55%
Slow-paced lifestyle	24.68%	22.11%	25.17%	9.09%
Food delivery options	36.84%	37.15%	36.24%	40.91%
Rideshare options	33.80%	28.65%	24.83%	36.36%
Multicultural population	42.22%	36.38%	33.56%	36.36%
Good quality restaurants	49.47%	43.36%	38.93%	31.82%
Inexpensive dining	55.20%	43.14%	40.27%	31.82%
Cafe culture	48.54%	44.77%	37.92%	13.64%
Arts culture	38.48%	31.81%	26.85%	9.09%
Thriving nightlife	53.92%	51.09%	49.33%	45.45%
Fast and reliable internet	53.68%	49.02%	45.64%	31.82%
Professional sports	23.27%	22.22%	24.50%	27.27%
Local sporting clubs	28.65%	27.23%	35.91%	18.18%
Lower cost of living	55.67%	50.00%	48.32%	31.82%
Big brand shopping	24.91%	27.02%	19.46%	31.82%
Lower crime	39.18%	38.34%	29.19%	18.18%
Strong university/ student population	48.89%	48.26%	47.65%	45.45%
Access to healthcare	59.53%	50.54%	48.32%	36.36%
Access to mental health services	39.06%	39.43%	36.24%	40.91%
Religious communities	6.55%	8.17%	7.38%	4.55%
Other (please specify)	1.17%	1.20%	1.68%	4.55%

- Fast-paced lifestyle      ■ Slow-paced lifestyle      ■ Food delivery options      ■ Rideshare options      ■ Multicultural population
- Good quality restaurants      ■ Inexpensive dining      ■ Cafe culture      ■ Arts culture      ■ Thriving nightlife
- Fast and reliable internet      ■ Professional sports      ■ Local sporting clubs      ■ Lower cost of living      ■ Big brand shopping
- Lower crime      ■ Strong university/ student population      ■ Access to healthcare      ■ Access to mental health services      ■ Religious communities
- Other (please specify)

**Q18. If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what educational factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)**



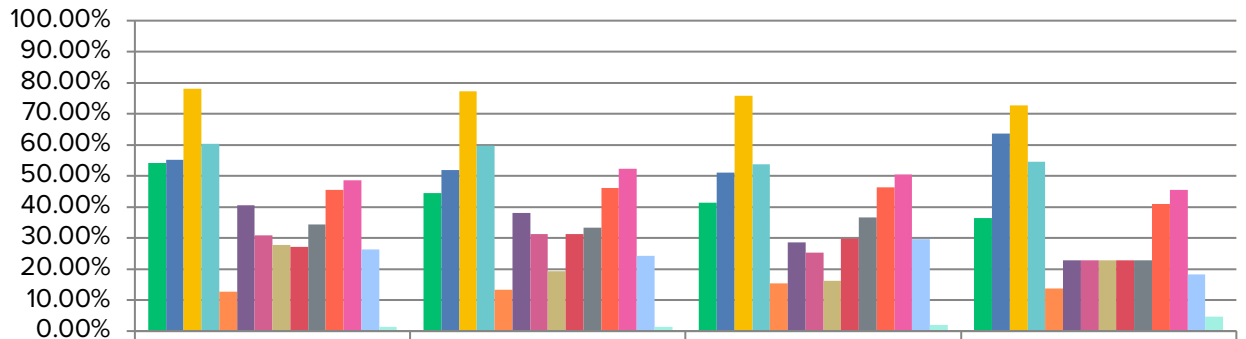
‘Availability of the course I want to study’ (77%) was the most important educational factor for making a town or city attractive for young people to move to. As well, 59% said a ‘Better quality of course on offer that I want to study’. ‘Studying with people around my own age’ was chosen by 53% of respondents while 50% said ‘Accommodation’. All other responses were chosen by less than half of respondents. ‘Commute to study’ was cited as important by 48% of young people, with slightly less saying ‘Facilities’ (46%) were important.

‘Course fees’ (38%), ‘Clubs and societies’ (34%) and ‘Entry requirements’ (30%) were next. Just 29% of young people said ‘Student services’ would make a new town or city attractive for them, followed by ‘Teachers and lecturers’ (26%) and ‘Education institution reputation and prestige’ (22%). Of least importance was ‘A specific education provider’, chosen by just 14% of respondents. Of the 2% who chose ‘Other’, responses included scholarships and access to online studies.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the results were largely consistent. Some differences included (see chart next page):

- Commute to study (remote 36%, rural 41%, regional 45%, metropolitan 54%)
- Education institution reputation and prestige (remote 23%, rural 16%, regional 19%, metropolitan 28%)
- Course fees (remote 23%, rural 29%, regional 38%, metropolitan 41%)

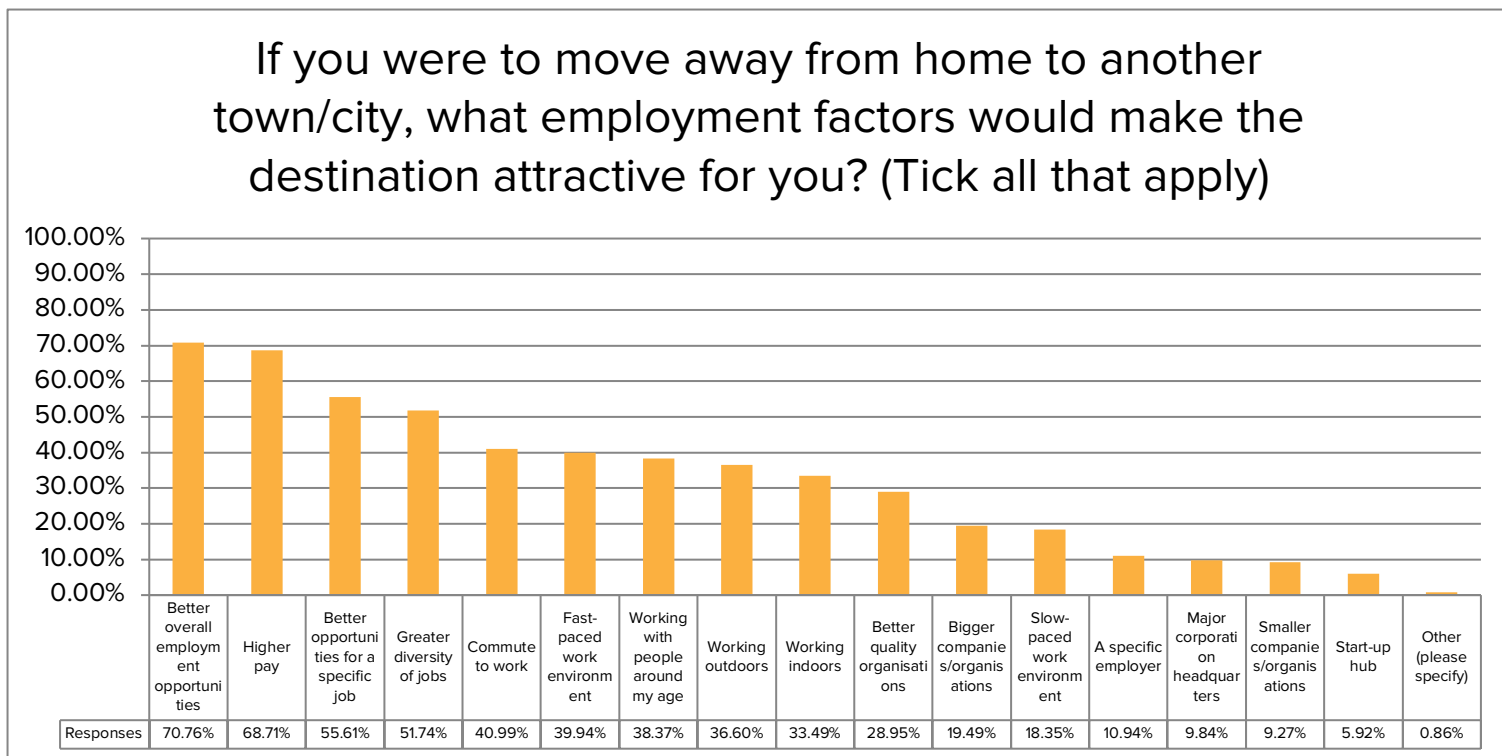
If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what educational factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Commute to study	54.15%	44.55%	41.28%	36.36%
Studying with people around my age	55.20%	51.96%	51.01%	63.64%
Availability of the course that I want to study	78.01%	77.23%	75.84%	72.73%
Better quality of course on offer that I want to study	60.35%	59.80%	53.69%	54.55%
A specific education provider	12.63%	13.40%	15.44%	13.64%
Course fees	40.58%	38.02%	28.52%	22.73%
Entry requirements	30.88%	31.26%	25.17%	22.73%
Education institution reputation & prestige	27.72%	19.39%	16.11%	22.73%
Student support services	27.13%	31.26%	29.87%	22.73%
Clubs and societies	34.27%	33.22%	36.58%	22.73%
Facilities	45.38%	46.08%	46.31%	40.91%
Accommodation	48.65%	52.29%	50.34%	45.45%
Teachers & lecturers	26.32%	24.29%	29.53%	18.18%
Other (please specify)	1.40%	1.42%	2.01%	4.55%

- Commute to study
- Studying with people around my age
- Availability of the course that I want to study
- Better quality of course on offer that I want to study
- A specific education provider
- Course fees
- Entry requirements
- Education institution reputation & prestige
- Student support services
- Clubs and societies
- Facilities
- Accommodation
- Teachers & lecturers
- Other (please specify)

**Q19. If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what employment factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)**



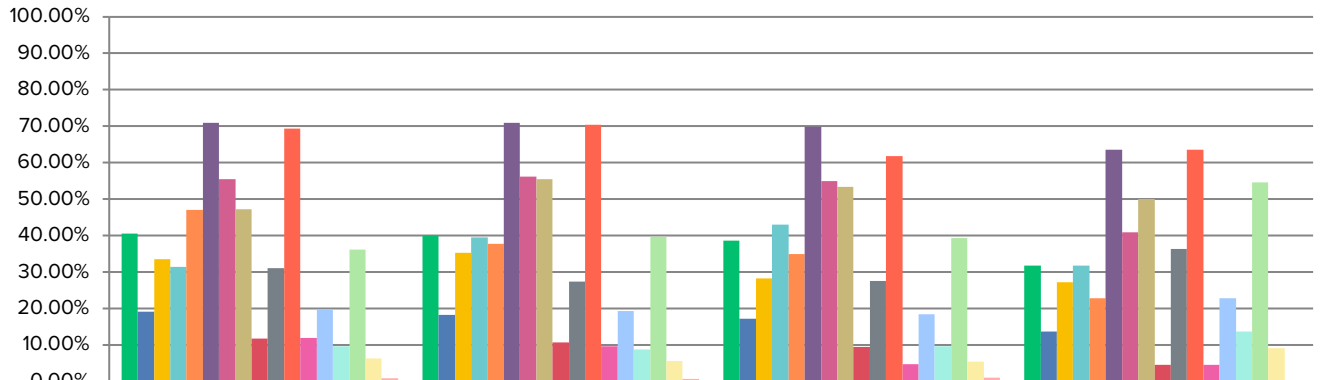
‘Better overall employment opportunities’ (71%) was the most important employment factor for making a town or city attractive for young people to move to. Close behind was ‘Higher pay’, chosen by 69% of respondents. ‘Better opportunities for a specific job’ (56%) and ‘Greater diversity of jobs’ (52%) were the final two responses which were chosen by over half of young people. 41% of respondents said the ‘Commute to work’ factored into their employment attraction, while slightly less indicated a ‘Fast-paced work environment’ (40%) was important to them. 38% of young people also said it’s important that they’re ‘Working with people my own age’.

‘Working outdoors’ (37%) and ‘Working indoors’ (33%) were both of similar attraction. ‘Better quality organisations’ was chosen by 29% of respondents, while 19% said they wanted ‘Bigger companies/organisations’. Just 18% said a ‘Slow-paced work environment’ was attractive to them. At the lower end of the list ‘A specific employer’ was chosen by 11%, alongside ‘Major corporation headquarters’ (10%) and ‘Smaller companies/organisations’ (9%). Of least importance was ‘Start-up hub’, chosen by just 6% of respondents. Of the 1% who chose ‘Other’, responses included a workplace that makes them feel comfortable and where they get along with their coworkers.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found the results were largely consistent. Some differences included (see chart next page):

- Working outdoors (remote 32%, rural 43%, regional 40%, metropolitan 31%)
- Commute to work (remote 23%, rural 35%, regional 38%, metropolitan 47%)
- Greater diversity of jobs (remote 50%, rural 53%, regional 55%, metropolitan 47%)
- Higher pay (remote 64%, rural 62%, regional 70%, metropolitan 69%)

## If you were to move away from home to another town/city, what employment factors would make the destination attractive for you? (Tick all that apply)

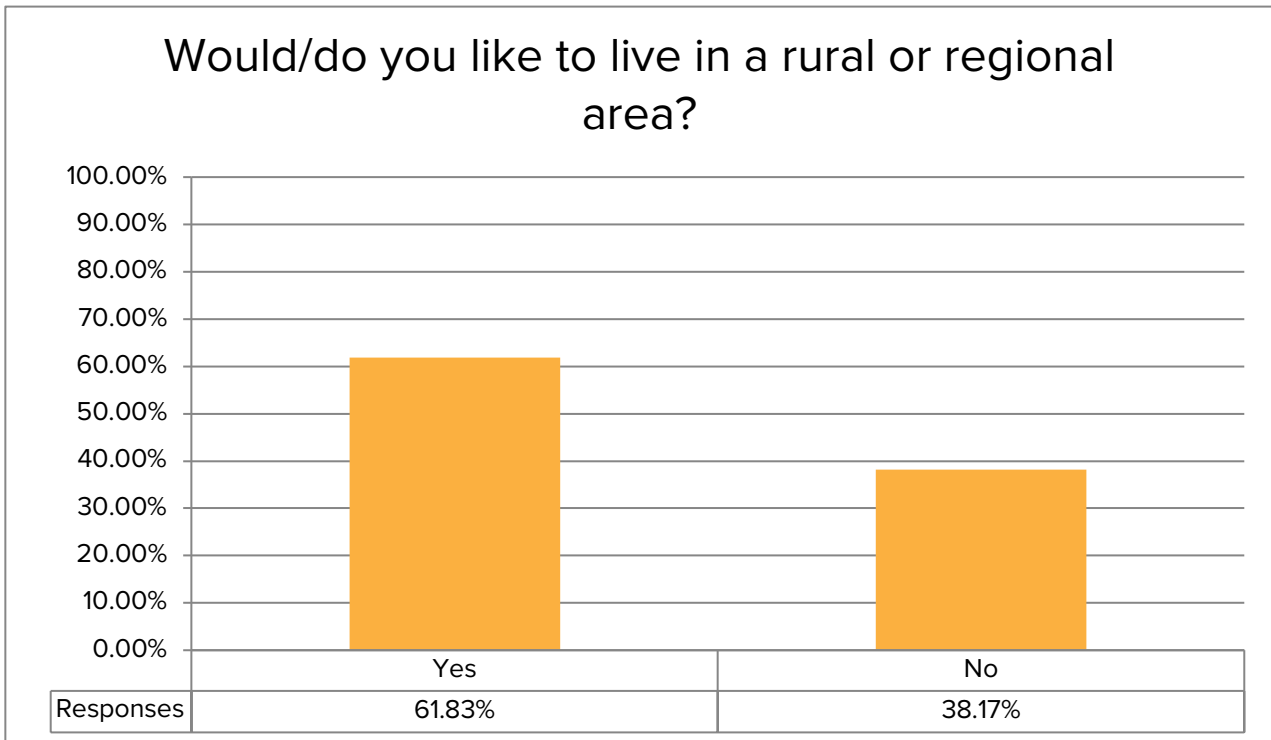


	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Fast-paced work environment	40.47%	40.09%	38.59%	31.82%
Slow-paced work environment	19.06%	18.19%	17.11%	13.64%
Working indoors	33.57%	35.29%	28.19%	27.27%
Working outdoors	31.35%	39.54%	42.95%	31.82%
Commute to work	47.02%	37.80%	34.90%	22.73%
Better overall employment opportunities	70.99%	71.02%	69.80%	63.64%
Better opportunities for a specific job	55.56%	56.21%	55.03%	40.91%
Greater diversity of jobs	47.25%	55.45%	53.36%	50.00%
A specific employer	11.81%	10.78%	9.40%	4.55%
Better quality organisations	30.99%	27.34%	27.52%	36.36%
Higher pay	69.36%	70.48%	61.74%	63.64%
Major corporation headquarters	11.93%	9.69%	4.70%	4.55%
Bigger companies/ organisations	19.88%	19.39%	18.46%	22.73%
Smaller companies/ organisations	9.59%	8.71%	9.73%	13.64%
Working with people around my age	36.14%	39.76%	39.26%	54.55%
Start-up hub	6.32%	5.66%	5.37%	9.09%
Other (please specify)	0.94%	0.76%	1.01%	0.00%

- Fast-paced work environment
- Slow-paced work environment
- Working indoors
- Working outdoors
- Commute to work
- Better overall employment opportunities
- Better opportunities for a specific job
- Greater diversity of jobs
- A specific employer
- Better quality organisations
- Higher pay
- Major corporation headquarters
- Bigger companies/ organisations
- Smaller companies/ organisations
- Working with people around my age
- Start-up hub
- Other (please specify)

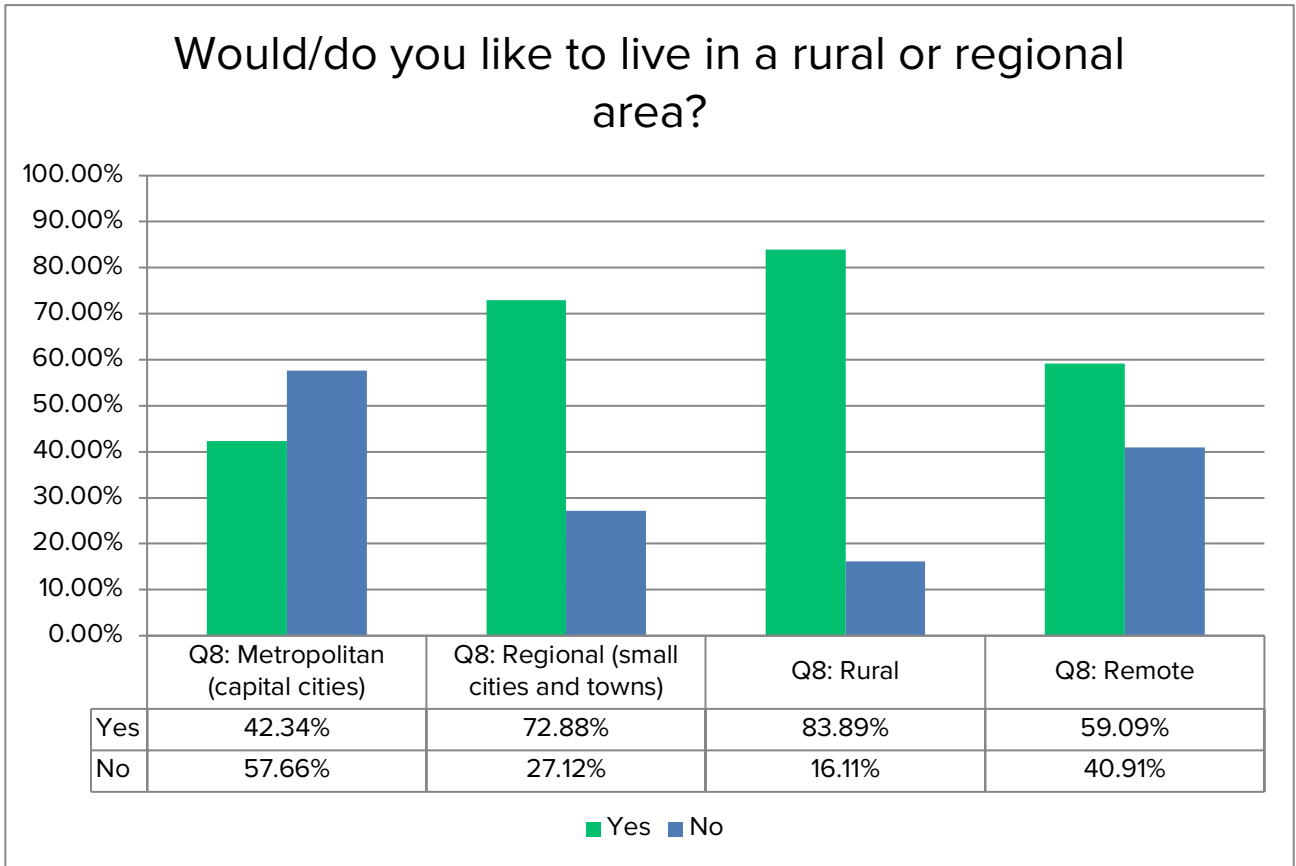


**Q20. Would/do you like to live in a rural or regional area?**

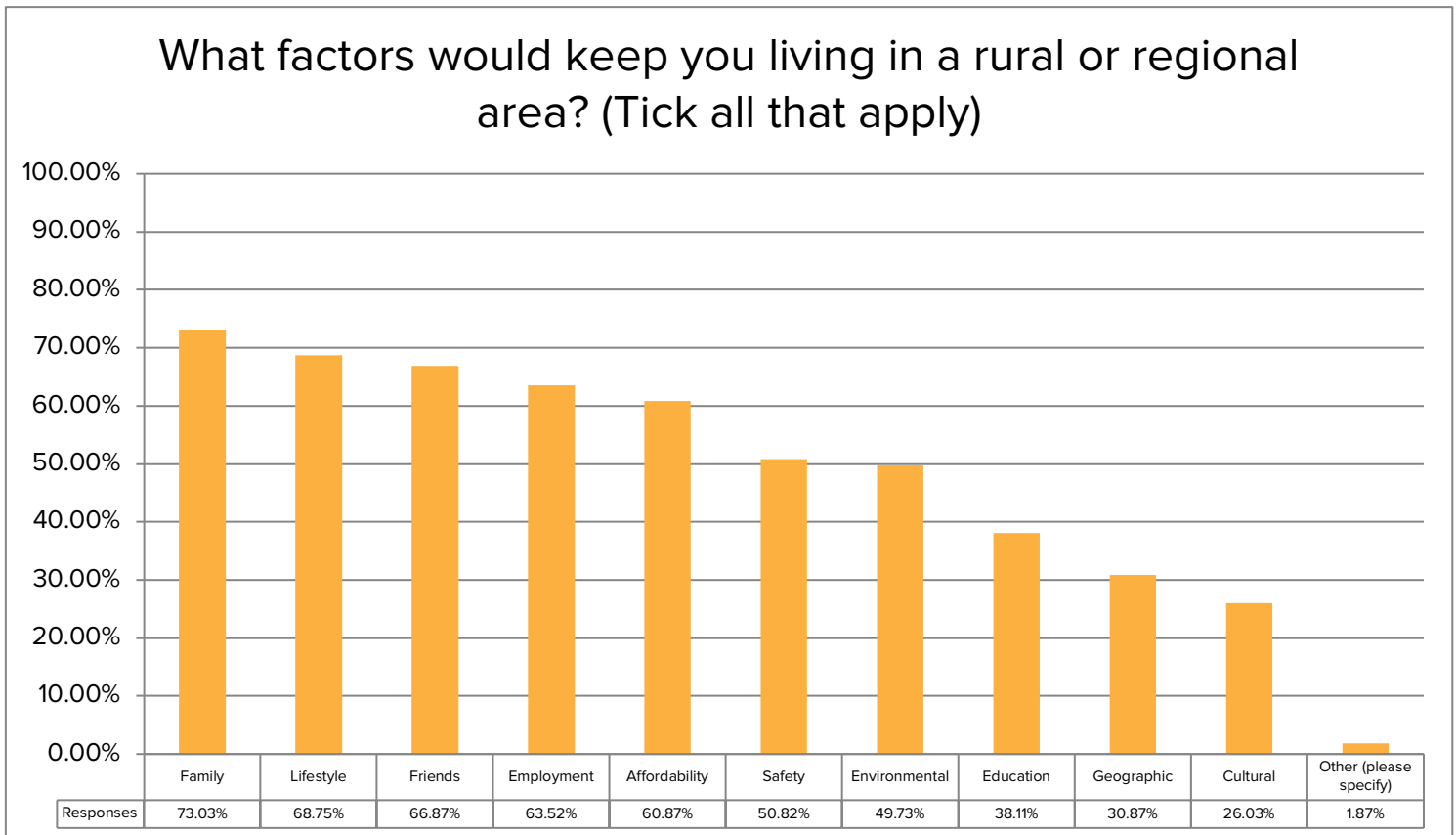


62% of respondents said they like or would like to live in a regional or rural area while 38% said they would not. A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found that young people from metropolitan areas are significantly less likely to want to live in a regional or rural area than those from these areas. Of those from regional and rural areas the clear majority do like to live in these areas, with young people from rural areas the strongest in their support for where they're from. However, young people from remote areas didn't share this same level of attraction for living in regional and rural areas, although more than half of them still said they would like to live in these areas (see chart next page).

- Of those from metropolitan areas, 42% said they would like to live in a regional or rural area while 57% said they would not.
- Of those from regional areas, 73% said they would like to live in a regional or rural area while 27% said they would not.
- Of those from rural areas, 84% said they would like to live in a regional or rural area while 16% said they would not.
- Of those from remote areas, 59% said they would like to live in a regional or rural area while 41% said they would not.



**Q21. What factors would keep you living in a rural or regional area? (Tick all that apply)**

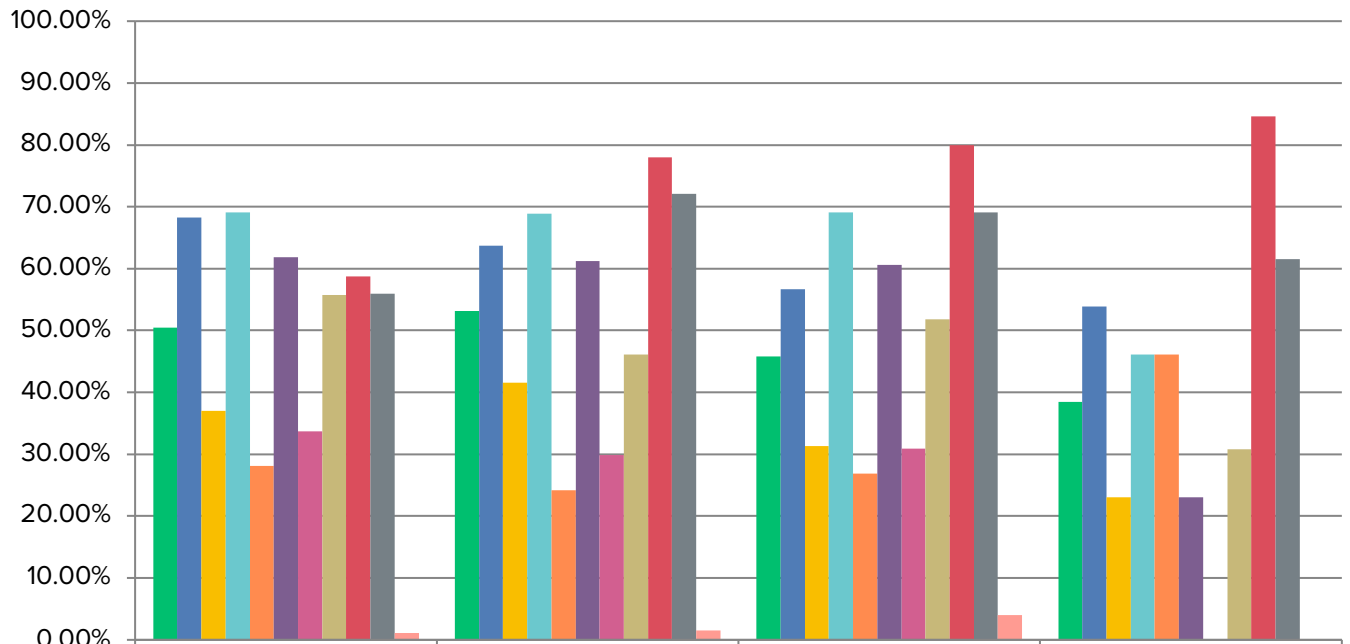


This question was only able to be answered by survey respondents who in Q20 said they like or would like to live in a regional or rural area. Of these respondents the most popular answer for what would keep them living in a regional or rural area was family (73%). ‘Lifestyle’, chosen by 69% of respondents, was the second most chosen reason, followed by ‘Friends’ (67%) and ‘Employment’ (64%). Another popular reason for living in regional and rural areas was ‘Affordability’, chosen by 61% of young people. ‘Safety’ (51%) and ‘Environmental’ (50%) were two factors chosen by half of respondents as making regional and rural areas attractive. ‘Education’ (38%) and ‘Geographic’ (31%) factors were found to be of lower importance to why young people like these areas. ‘Cultural’, chosen by 26% of respondents, was the factor least cited by young people for why they like or would like to live in a regional or rural area.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found about half the responses were consistent while the remainder presented some differences. These differences included (see chart next page):

- Employment (remote 54%, rural 57%, regional 64% metropolitan 68%)
- Education (remote 23%, rural 31%, regional 42% metropolitan 37%)
- Family (remote 85%, rural 80%, regional 78% metropolitan 59%)
- Friends (remote 62%, rural 69%, regional 72% metropolitan 56%)

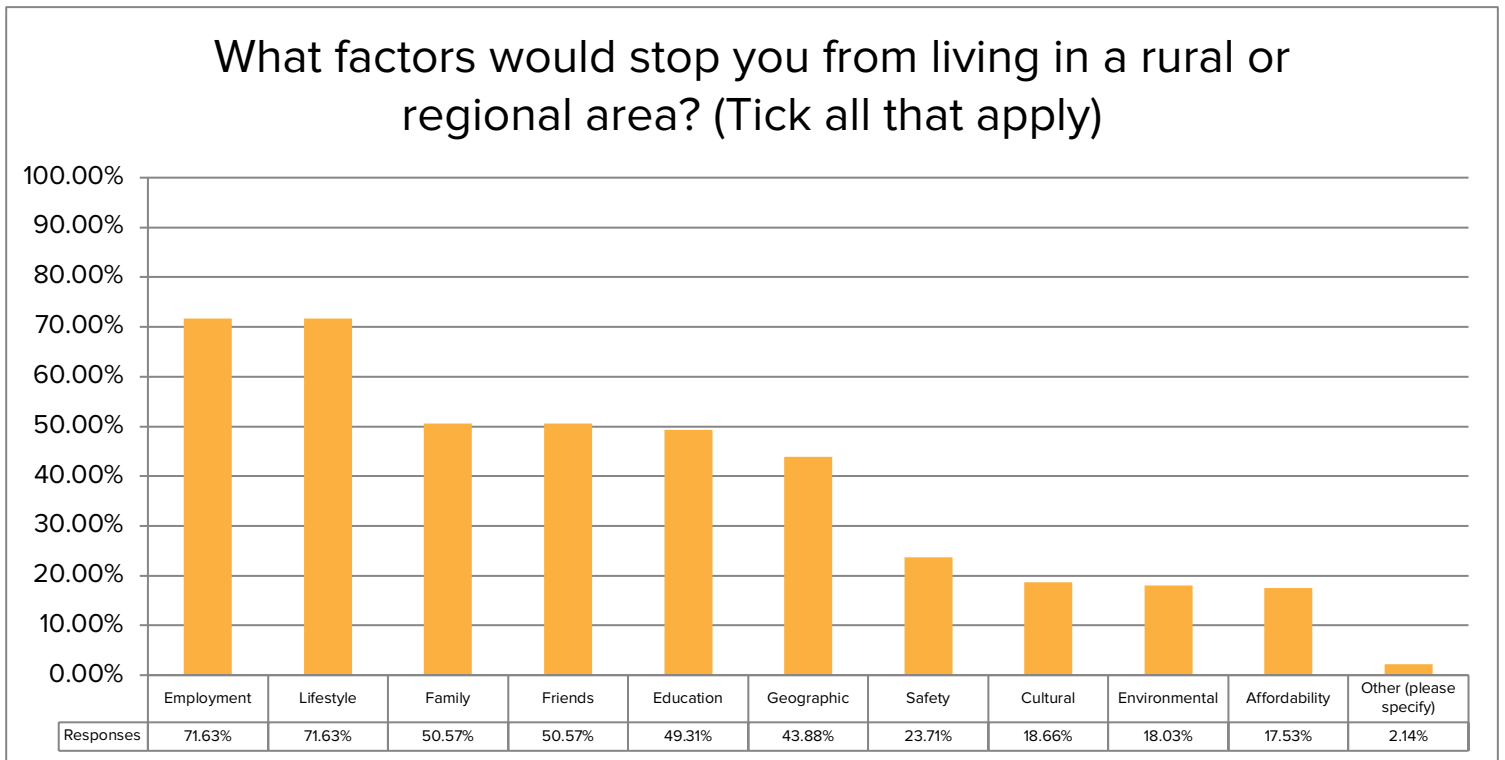
### What factors would keep you living in a rural or regional area? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Safety	50.42%	53.17%	45.78%	38.46%
Employment	68.25%	63.75%	56.63%	53.85%
Education	37.05%	41.54%	31.33%	23.08%
Lifestyle	69.08%	68.88%	69.08%	46.15%
Cultural	28.13%	24.17%	26.91%	46.15%
Affordability	61.84%	61.18%	60.64%	23.08%
Geographic	33.70%	29.91%	30.92%	0.00%
Environmental	55.71%	46.07%	51.81%	30.77%
Family	58.77%	77.95%	79.92%	84.62%
Friends	55.99%	72.05%	69.08%	61.54%
Other (please specify)	1.11%	1.51%	4.02%	0.00%

- Safety
- Employment
- Education
- Lifestyle
- Cultural
- Affordability
- Geographic
- Environmental
- Family
- Friends
- Other (please specify)

**Q22. What factors would stop you from living in a rural or regional area? (Tick all that apply)**

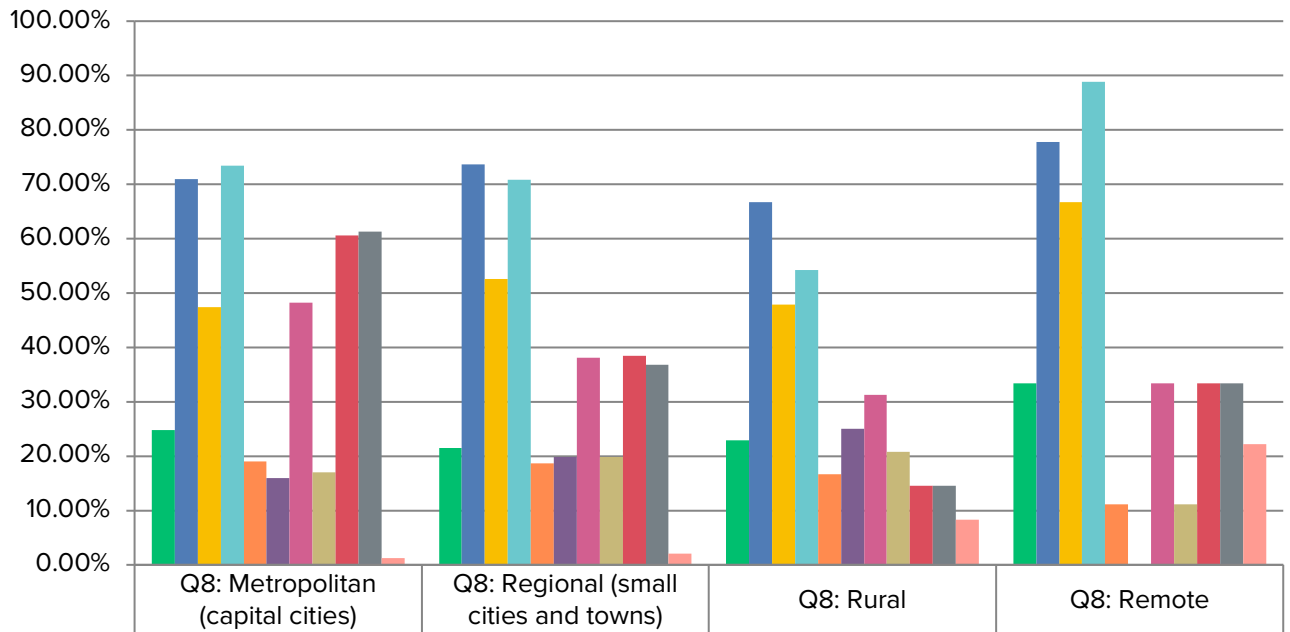


This question was only able to be answered by survey respondents who in Q20 said they don't like or wouldn't like to live in a regional or rural area. Of these respondents the most cited factors for not wanting to live in a regional or rural area were 'Employment' (72%) and 'Lifestyle' (72%), with these being the clear standout factors. 'Family' and 'Friends' were both chosen by 51% of respondents making them the equal second most critical factors for keeping young people from wanting to live regionally and rurally. 49% of respondents said 'Education' while 44% cited 'Geographic' factors. 'Safety' (24%), 'Cultural' (19%), 'Environmental' (18%) and 'Affordability' (18%) were the factors which least came into consideration for making young people not want to live in a regional or rural area.

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found about half the responses were consistent while the remainder presented some differences. These differences included (see chart next page):

- Lifestyle (remote 89%, rural 54%, regional 71%, metropolitan 73%)
- Geographic (remote 33%, rural 31%, regional 38%, metropolitan 48%)
- Family (remote 33%, rural 15%, regional 38%, metropolitan 61%)
- Friends (remote 33%, rural 15%, regional 37%, metropolitan 61%)

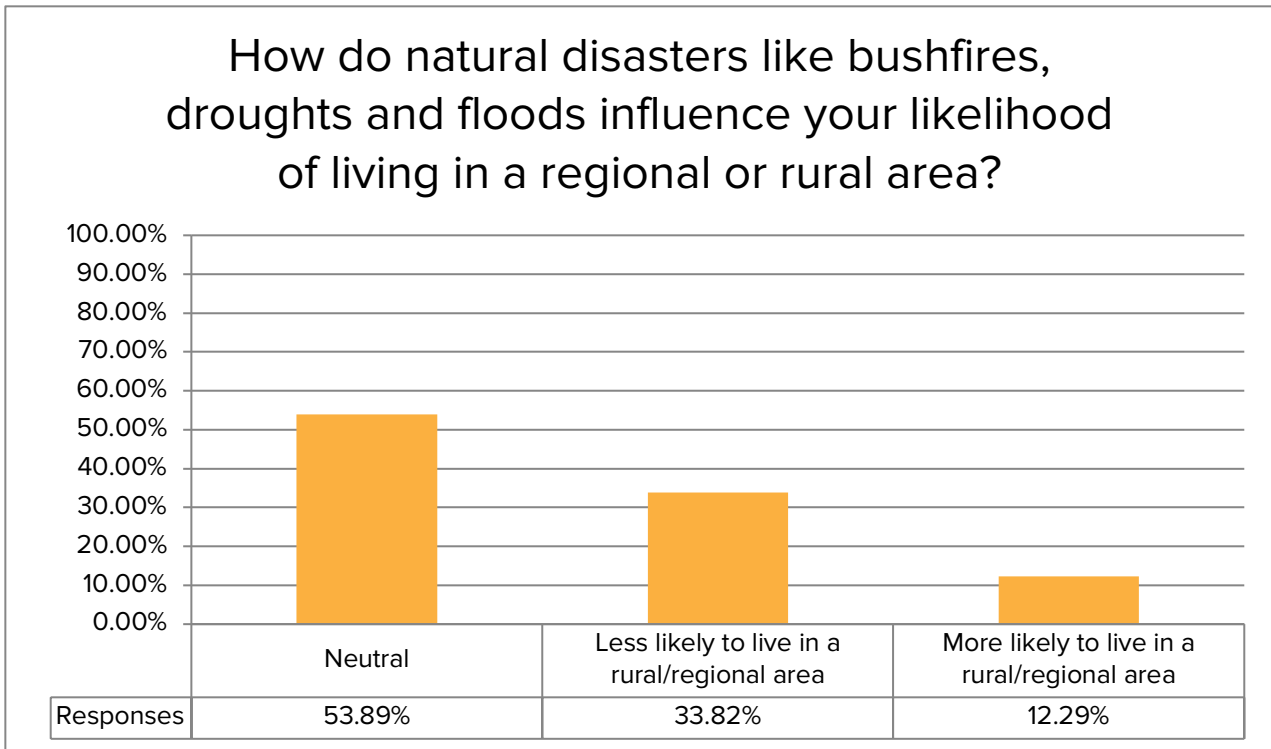
### What factors would stop you from living in a rural or regional area? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Safety	24.74%	21.46%	22.92%	33.33%
Employment	70.96%	73.68%	66.67%	77.78%
Education	47.44%	52.63%	47.92%	66.67%
Lifestyle	73.42%	70.85%	54.17%	88.89%
Cultural	19.02%	18.62%	16.67%	11.11%
Affordability	15.95%	19.84%	25.00%	0.00%
Geographic	48.26%	38.06%	31.25%	33.33%
Environmental	16.97%	19.84%	20.83%	11.11%
Family	60.53%	38.46%	14.58%	33.33%
Friends	61.35%	36.84%	14.58%	33.33%
Other (please specify)	1.23%	2.02%	8.33%	22.22%

- Safety
- Employment
- Education
- Lifestyle
- Cultural
- Affordability
- Geographic
- Environmental
- Family
- Friends
- Other (please specify)

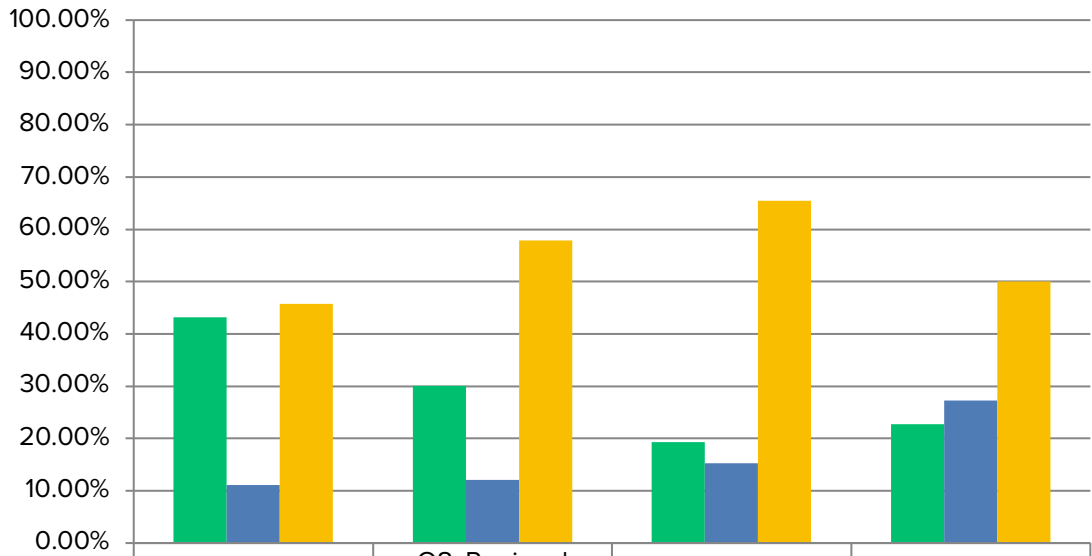
**Q23. How do natural disasters like bushfires, droughts and floods influence your likelihood of living in a regional or rural area?**



54% of respondents said natural disasters had a neutral effect on their likelihood of living in regional or rural areas. 34% said it made them less likely while 12% said it made them more likely to want to live in a regional or rural area. A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found those from metropolitan areas were less likely to want to live in regional and rural areas due to these issues (see chart next page).

- Of those from metropolitan areas, 43% said natural disasters made them less likely to live in a regional or rural area while, 11% more likely while 46% were neutral.
- Of those from regional areas, 30% said natural disasters made them less likely to live in a regional or rural area while, 12% more likely while 58% were neutral.
- Of those from rural areas, 19% said natural disasters made them less likely to live in a regional or rural area while, 15% more likely while 65% were neutral.
- Of those from remote areas, 23% said natural disasters made them less likely to live in a regional or rural area while, 27% more likely while 50% were neutral.

### How do natural disasters like bushfires, droughts and floods influence your likelihood of living in a regional or rural area?

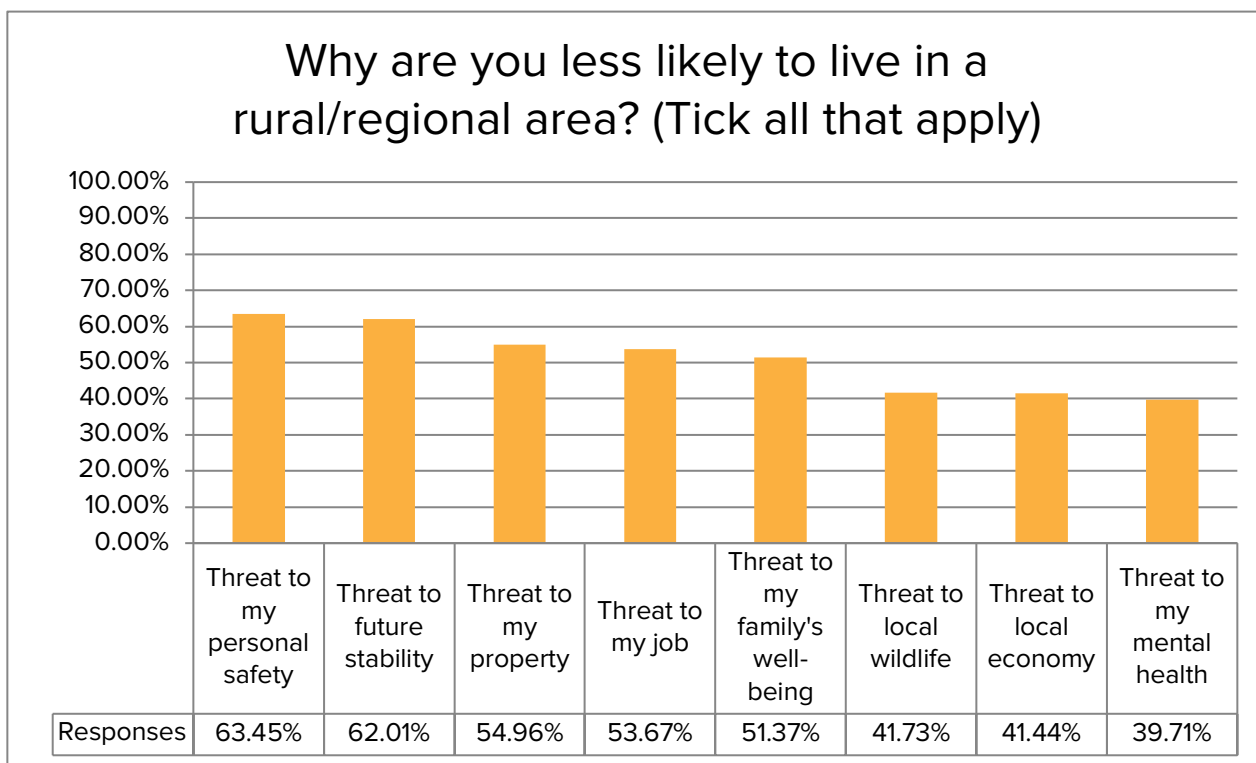


	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Less likely to live in a rural/regional area	43.21%	30.08%	19.32%	22.73%
More likely to live in a rural/regional area	11.07%	12.10%	15.25%	27.27%
Neutral	45.71%	57.82%	65.42%	50.00%

■ Less likely to live in a rural/regional area    
 ■ More likely to live in a rural/regional area    
 ■ Neutral



**Q24. Why are you less likely to live in a rural/regional area? (Tick all that apply)**

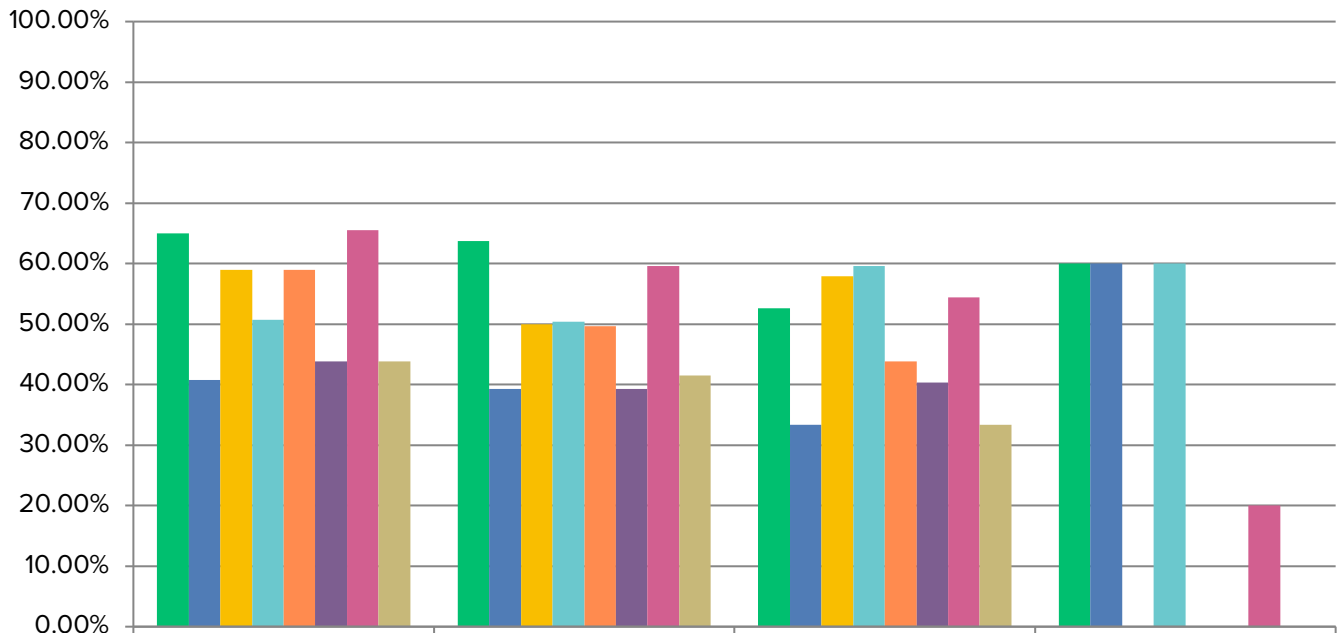


This question was only able to be answered by survey respondents who in Q23 said they would be less likely to live in a regional or rural area because of natural disasters like bushfires, droughts and floods. The most chosen response for why this was the case was because of a ‘Threat to my personal safety’ (64%). The second most chosen response because it was a ‘Threat to my future stability’. A similar number of respondents cited a ‘Threat to my property’ (55%), a ‘Threat to my job’ (54%) and a ‘Threat to my family’s wellbeing’ (51%) as being the reasons why. At the bottom of the list were a ‘Threat to local wildlife’ (42%), ‘Threat to local economy’ (41%) and ‘Threat to my mental health’ (40%).

A breakdown of young people from metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas found about half the responses were consistent while the remainder presented some differences. These differences included (see chart next page):

- Threat to my personal safety (remote 60%, rural 53%, regional 64%, metropolitan 65%)
- Threat to my job (remote 0%, rural 44%, regional 50%, metropolitan 59%)
- Threat to my future stability (remote 20%, rural 54%, regional 60%, metropolitan 66%)

## Why are you less likely to live in a rural/regional area? (Tick all that apply)



	Q8: Metropolitan (capital cities)	Q8: Regional (small cities and towns)	Q8: Rural	Q8: Remote
Threat to my personal safety	65.01%	63.70%	52.63%	60.00%
Threat to my mental health	40.77%	39.26%	33.33%	60.00%
Threat to my property	58.95%	50.00%	57.89%	0.00%
Threat to my family's well-being	50.69%	50.37%	59.65%	60.00%
Threat to my job	58.95%	49.63%	43.86%	0.00%
Threat to local economy	43.80%	39.26%	40.35%	0.00%
Threat to future stability	65.56%	59.63%	54.39%	20.00%
Threat to local wildlife	43.80%	41.48%	33.33%	0.00%

- Threat to my personal safety
- Threat to my mental health
- Threat to my property
- Threat to my family's well-being
- Threat to my job
- Threat to local economy
- Threat to future stability
- Threat to local wildlife

**Q25. Why are you more likely to live in a rural/regional area?**

This question was only able to be answered by survey respondents who in Q23 said they would be more likely to live in a regional or rural area because of natural disasters like bushfires, droughts and floods. This was answered with a short response which have been provided separately to this report. A selection of these included 'Because it is what I am used to', 'I believe that I can give back to my community in various ways', 'Don't like places with heaps of people', 'I recognise that for a rural/regional area to grow, there needs to be people actively working and spending money to grow the economy' and 'I guess when you get older you seem to appreciate the more rural areas more because of how free and untouched it is'.

**Q26. Tell us in your own words what would attract you to living in rural or regional Australia and what's holding you back? Are there things that can be changed or improved or strengths and benefits that can be better highlighted to living in regional and rural Australia?**

This question was answered with an extended response which have been provided separately to this report.

## Qualitative survey responses

Age: 17

Gender: Female

Location: Coolamon, NSW

### **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

I like that it is a small community so I know most of the people, I can walk down the street and everyone I see I'll know or they'll know me and when I go to work you can just always have a good chat because you know who you are seeing. I like that aspect. I am very excited to be able to leave this small town, so I'm trying to think of what else is great about it.

### **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

Well, kind of the same thing. You do know everyone, so it gets kind of boring. Not boring, but it's the same thing. You see the same people, everyone's doing the same thing and because it's such a small community, everyone knows what everyone else is doing. So you can't really like get away from that. It's just so far away from everything. So I didn't mind it as a kid, but as I got older you get a bit bored because there's not that many things to do. I'm pretty lucky I still go to a good school, so I wouldn't say that I would miss out on education. I think I would miss out on probably just life skills such as having to meet new people, just experiencing things that are different. Everything is very routine, very similar each day so change would be a hard thing, I think.

### **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

This is my last year of school, so I'm hoping to go on a gap year and then I'll be traveling, so I'll be all over the place, but after that I want to go to uni and at the moment, Sydney or Wollongong looks like my best options. I want to go out that way. Where I live it's very dry and just, I'm very sick of the environment, so I want to move away to like the coast, to the beach, somewhere a bit different. I'm not 100% sure on what I want to study yet. I am interested in law, but I don't, I'm not 100% sure yet. But Sydney, Wollongong, well they're not too far away, but they're far enough. It's a nice location and quite a few people from this area still go there so I'll still have people I know and connections. When I move away because everything will be different, so it'll be nice to have a bit of familiarity around.

### **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

I think I would stay in that Sydney area. I don't think I'd come back. I don't know if I'd definitely live in Sydney, but I would not like to come back. I think it's been nice growing up here, but I would like to move away. I think it's just so I get to experience a different kind of life, having to meet new people and do things differently and just be in a different kind of location. It'll be just nice to get away from everything that I know. There's definitely no law degrees available at Wagga and I'm not sure about Aubrey but yeah, I'd definitely have to travel no matter what if I want to do law. I wouldn't be interested in doing just like the small local court work that I would have the opportunity here. I'd rather go somewhere else where there's a lot more opportunity. I just want to make sure I have as many opportunities and different paths I can go on as possible. If I was to stay here that would be more limited.

Age: 16

Gender: Female

Location: Castlemaine, VIC

## **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

I like how Castlemaine's a really environmental town. It's really got outdoors, reuse, recycle and stuff like that. It's a really good community kind of place. Everyone helps each other. The Stop Adani thing started in Castlemaine. I don't know, it's just a nice place to be.

## **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

We're pretty far away from Melbourne. An hour and a half. The closest big town is Bendigo so if you need to go and do anything, you'd have to travel outside the town. There's only one high school so a lot of people also travel outside to go to high school, if they don't like the high school in Castlemaine. That's the couple of things that come to my mind that I don't really like. I don't know. We can't participate in as many things. If we wanted to go to Melbourne to go to a festival or go to some workshop or something like that, we have to factor in the travel time and wake up earlier, if we wanted to go. It's annoying.

## **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

I'll probably be planning on moving to Melbourne for uni after Year 12 for a couple of years. There is a university in La Trobe, in Bendigo, but it's just a small one and it's only one of them. There's more study options and bigger opportunities down in Melbourne, I want to study Science at Melbourne Uni. There's a lot of people from Castlemaine that do nursing up there most of the time at La Trobe in Bendigo. It's not really spoken about to get a science degree or anything. Independence away from my family, I'm looking forward to that. I've got a couple of friends down there so I can see them a bit more often. And just a bigger city. More things to do and see. Festivals, having a cinema there that's open late at night. That's pretty good. Just having stuff to do that you haven't done before. Yeah. I've already done all the activities you can do in Castlemaine.

## **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

Maybe return. I don't know because property in Melbourne's pretty expensive but in Castlemaine it's a bit cheaper. It's a nice community to settle down in. So probably study in Melbourne and then come back to Castlemaine. Yeah, it'd be nice to come to, if it's not Castlemaine, another small town or something in the area.

Age: 20

Gender: Male

Location: Sale, VIC

## **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

I think for me, growing up in the country has been really good. I think gives you a lot of different sort of opportunities than what you would get in the city. I think there's a lot more, I think independence, but you would get that probably in the city in a certain way, to do with maybe public transport, moving around a lot more, whereas in the country I think you've got to be able to think on your feet or be able to sustain yourself, if you will. There's not necessarily as many opportunities or resources as readily available, and so it means that you develop to be a bit more self-sufficient, and I think there's that certainly is one part of it. I think the real sense of community you get; I think you probably go to any country town and that's probably going to be something that a lot of people would touch on. It's a very enjoyable experience to grow up with. It's a really connected sort of feeling. I know for me, for example, on really good terms with the neighbours on both sides of us. Whereas I know in the city, that's something that may not be as prevalent. But I think it's a very safe sort of feeling as well, whereas I think in the city, perhaps you may think twice about going for that walk on your own at 8:00 at night or something or other, whereas growing up in the country, you don't really bat an eyelid, you know? Even things like locking the door's sort of an optional extra, if you will.

## **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

I think probably similar to what I touched on, just before, the resources and opportunities. There's less to begin with in the country, and then the ones that do come along, it's more of a challenge to make the most of. I think you look at it from say an academic perspective, I think we've got, Sale's probably an anomaly, certainly locally, but regionally we've got three high schools. But even those, the resources that you have there and the opportunities to try and progress yourself and not as clear paths as what it may be in the city, or likewise, for employment or further study, those opportunities there's not as many. I think that's probably one part of it. I think the opportunities and resources are just not, there's just not as many people, not as many, and subsequently those resources aren't necessarily as readily available, and so it is a bit of a challenge at times, but I think it is something that you learn to work with and around, but yeah, it's certainly not as many or as prevalent as it would be in the city. I think for me, taking a gap year, graduated 2018, so took a gap year, I think that showed firstly for me, managing to get a job for the year was not a straightforward sort of a process, talking about those limited opportunities that you will, getting something that was a bit of a challenge and that is the first bit of a taste of the real world. It's, "Oh okay, things aren't going to be just presented to you as they were in school" or if you don't meet the deadlines and get your resume in, or make it to your interview on time, people aren't going to hold your hand the whole way. You get a real taste of the real world, and then working for a year, I think it gave me the perspective that okay, this is what is good about living here, but likewise, this isn't what I'm going to want to do because being in an agricultural centre, the drought that is going on is meaning that those opportunities and resources continuously are dwindling. There's fewer and fewer businesses are able to continue to operate and the ones that do are doing it on a reduced capacity. It really showed to me that this was a great place to have a foundation, but it wasn't going to be a sustainable sort of place for me to be long term.

## **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

I moved to Canberra and am doing a double degree in health science, human movement, and nutrition. There's a few reasons. The first is in terms of tertiary or further education, we've got some options in terms of a TAFE or partners in training in and around the local area, but if you're wanting

to pursue university qualifications, the closest is about an hour away, which is not terrible, but it's a limited capacity in what you can and can't study there. For me, and really anyone that's from here that wants to pursue university study, Melbourne is quite common. The majority of people that will study will go to Melbourne and they'll go Monash or Melbourne, or Deakin or wherever. Really, if you're wanting to pursue that, travel is not... It's just a necessity, because you will have to relocate to pursue those sort of things. And then for me, it was just a matter of where I could get that degree done, and at the time of applying to universities, the closest for me was either Canberra or Adelaide were the only options that I could find doing that type of double. I think for me, Sale doesn't have much of a nightlife. There's not necessarily a lot to do as a young person. It's one of those things. You do have to travel to Melbourne really, if you want that. Going to a city that is certainly something that is more available to you, but yeah, I think the relocation, there was a number of things. I think Canberra presented itself as a happy medium. Growing up in the country, going to a city is something you can do for a period of time, but it wasn't something I was really super keen on living there for three, four, five years. So, Canberra has that almost a big country town sort of feel. Like a Geelong or a Bendigo sort of thing, that it's got everything you need, but it doesn't quite have that same sort of hustle and bustle. Just yeah, presents itself as a good happy medium with more social opportunities but more academic, more just sporting, just more opportunities in general.

### **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

Realistically for me, I think doing a sports and health science degree, there's not really going to be any employment opportunities within Sale. Moving forward within the next five years, Sale would be a place to visit or stay for maybe a month or so where my family is. But no, realistically employment wise Sale is not an option. It would be either staying in Canberra with some of the connections that potentially the university has, or yeah, relocating further afield. Whether that is in a different capital city, whether it's Melbourne or Sydney, or wherever, but yeah, no, Sale wouldn't be an opportunity unfortunately.



Age: 17

Gender: Female

Location: Ocean Shores, NSW

## **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

I think the thing I like most is just being able to know so many local people. Around school-wise, I think I've just got a better relationship with all my teachers. I feel like I'm a lot closer to them than probably people in the cities would be, because there's so many kids. I just feel like my teachers are my good friends, almost. I don't know. I guess because we're on the online now, when we do the online classes, the teachers, they're just happy to see our faces all the time. And they're making sure they're really there to help us. Like every day. Like we can have one-on-one lessons if we need to. You don't get that in a bigger school or in the city necessarily. I don't know. I don't know if this is going to be right, but I don't know, you just belong. Just the sense of belonging. Like our teacher says, "We're good people because we're Mullum' people."

## **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

I think with doing the HSC we have like limited access to art galleries. Because I'm doing an art major, like I can't just go for a walk in the city and go to the art gallery. There's nothing big around. The closest one was the GOMA in Brisbane. That's a two-hour drive. But yeah, I just think not having access to the bigger, I don't know what you'd call them, just like the art galleries. But with public transport I can't just go somewhere quickly. I think just accessing services is more difficult in a rural area, for sure. Well before I got my license, the bus only comes every three hours or something. So if I want to go anywhere with my friends, you have to wait for the bus to come, and then it'd be \$5 just to drive half an hour. It did a whole loop around the whole of Ocean Shores just to get to Brunswick, which it could take the same amount of time to walk.

## **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

Probably. My plan is to work and travel next year, and then for a couple of years I've been planning to go to Sydney. That came from my friend because she moved to Sydney and I just thought that was cool. I would study education. Because I know so many people, I think it would be nice to go somewhere where I don't know anyone and just start over. I think I could make some new friends pretty quickly. I could also study at Lismore, which is like 40 minutes away I think, maybe a bit longer. They have a pretty good education course there at Southern Cross. Or I could go to the Gold Coast, but they're not really that close. I think it would probably be easy because I could live at home, but I just want the full new experience.

## **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

That is tough. It could go either way, but I probably would come back. I think really, looking forward, I would want to come back here to live permanently after I've done all my travel and got my education sorted. Just the community, I guess. I think that's the biggest thing. Yeah. And the whole vibe.

Age: 18

Gender: Female

Location: Dunsborough, WA

## **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

I live on an amazing area. I'm right near the beach, but also right near heaps of bush. So we're constantly going on little adventures everywhere, we're so in nature. And our small town, it's such a good community vibe. It's a bit far from places, but it's nice to always come home. It's a very homely feel. If anyone's super sick, like we had a couple of people in town who got really sick with cancer, and then the whole town came together, and we did a big fundraiser at the playing fields, and raised heaps of money for them, and cancer foundations. With the bushfires over east, all our firey's went over to help. And then when they got home, the whole town was in town, waiting for them to drive back in, and applauded and everything.

## **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

I mean, we're so far away from decent healthcare. I've had to go to Bunbury, and to Perth, a fair bit, and I've just got low iron, which is a really common thing. But we have to go so far for healthcare, and it's kind of relevant at the moment. But pre Covid-19 that was one thing. Finding jobs is hard. Because there's so many young people, and we're all trying to find jobs, and jobs are all just casual. And we're very seasonal. We're a tourist town, so peak season everyone's working flat out 100%, but then you go to winter and you're barely getting enough hours to live by. We haven't just got a steady workflow through the year.

## **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

I graduated in October last year. This was meant to be my gap year. But I'm starting at University of Notre Dame, studying secondary teaching next year, semester one. So I'm going to have to move to Perth. So, three hours from home. And either live in student accommodation, or a share house, up there. I'm lucky that there's a fair few of us, obviously having to move from home. So we're looking to get a share house as a group, that we do know the people. Because that's a huge daunting thing, in a regional town everyone knows everyone, you're not super big on having to make new friends all the time. So, that's a pretty daunting thought. So I'm going to have to be away from home. Hopefully try and find a new job up there. I pretty much, I just can't do it down here. The courses that I have an interest in aren't done fully online. And yeah, doing a three-hour drive regularly, it's not practical. I pretty much have no choice, if I want to study and pursue the things that I want to, then yeah, I pretty much have to move.

## **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

Ideally with a teaching degree, I'd like it to be able to take me places overseas or interstate, just traveling a bit. But in the long-term I do want to come back to my hometown. Big life plan, long-term views, but I'd want to come home and raise a family down here, because I have absolutely loved being raised down here. I wouldn't want it any different. But yeah, I think I need to get out and explore, because there's so much more than just my little town. But yeah, I do want to come home in the long-term.

Age: 18

Gender: Male

Location: Traralgon South, VIC

### **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

It's just not super busy and it's just more open. You're not fully closed in by everything and all the buildings and that, and there's just bush and that around here, and it's just good. They're mostly good people here.

### **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

I had to travel a bit for sport and that, like go into Melbourne and stuff still. So, that was a bit of a pain. A lot of the traveling to different facilities and stuff like that. You don't have the same variety of shops and that too. Well, because we're a small town, that's just 15 minutes out of the bigger town, so we've got to go into town for the supermarket and all that stuff too. There's not much public transport really. They've put a bus in for into town for us recently, but it only runs weekdays and through the middle of the day. There's just not really the variety of shops. You've got Ozmosis and that's about it really. I would like a Platypus or a Hype or something like that.

### **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

Yeah, so I had moved down to Clayton, on campus for university, but I've just moved back home with coronavirus and all that. I wanted to go to Monash, so I had to move to be able to do the course because I've got classes for five days a week, so I can't commute that really. I study engineering. There's a Federation University in Churchill, which is not too far away, but I'm not even sure if they offer it or not, but it's below the standard that I was aiming for. It was really Monash or MIT that I wanted to go to, but definitely Monash that I preferred, it's the peak. It's a different environment and that, which is good to experience, but yeah, obviously it's costs a lot more money and that sort of stuff too.

### **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

It's possible, but really, with what I'm wanting to do, I'm more likely to end up staying in Melbourne or moving overseas or something. I want to work in the automotive, probably electric car industry.

Age: 18

Gender: Female

Location: Hadspen, TAS

## **What do you like about living in your hometown?**

Probably this is just Tassie in general, but the best thing is there's heaps of nice places you can go out. Even just in Hadspen, along the river here, which is really nice. Anywhere in Tassie, it's not too far of a drive to the beach or if you want to go bush walking or whatever. I reckon that's definitely the best thing rather than if you live in the middle of Melbourne. It's city everywhere. You can't really just get out and have those kind of opportunities. Yeah, exactly. The access to that and being able to have so much greenery and the outdoors right on your doorstep kind of thing. Well, I don't know. I've just always liked the outdoors and stuff, so it just makes you happy being able to go out and stuff. It's a pretty nice community in Hadspen. It's not that typical big-city thing where you don't know everyone. Everyone here is pretty friendly. We've got two shops here, but it's really nice. The post office. The guys there, the family runs it, they know us. It's a nice little neighbourhood and you just have that friendliness kind of thing.

## **What don't you like about living in your hometown?**

There's a few things. Probably the main two things that come to mind is, firstly, access to shops and stuff. There's not many shops here, depending on if you want to go to clothes shopping or whatever you want to shop for. On top of that, if you want to buy stuff online... With the whole COVID-19, I've been thinking, "Oh, maybe I should just buy stuff online so I don't have to go to the shops." But it would take two weeks to get here. It's not like you can just order it and it'll be here the next day or in two business days. It takes forever to get here. The other thing is educational and working opportunities. There's only one university in Tasmania. There's just certain courses that you just can't do. There's only so many things you can study here. It's not like you can be like, "Oh, I'll just go an hour to another university." You have to go inter-state. So it's like your options are this small amount of course that you have here or move literally an ocean away. It's quite limiting in that way. Same thing with jobs. There's certain industries that just don't exist in Tasmania. If you want to study to be, I don't know... Certain things just don't exist here at all basically.

## **Are you planning on moving to another town or city in the next five years?**

I stayed in Tassie to study. I moved to Hobart briefly after finishing year 12 to study a course in a university in Hobart because they didn't offer it in Launceston. But I've since moved back to Launceston to study a different course after changing courses, because luckily they offered the course I wanted here. I did pharmacy for six months and now I'm in a Bachelor of Social Work. I think I'd like to move to the mainland. I'm not sure at what point. It would just be a matter of what opportunities come up and stuff. Again, there's just so many more opportunities on the mainland. A lot of people move there. A lot of people from my graduating year moved to the mainland, probably half or a third of my graduating year moved to the mainland to study. There's just more opportunities there really. It's a big influx of people who move away. There's just more opportunities and having more experiences. Just the things I mentioned. Tassies' pretty small. You've seen it all. The opportunity to live in a new town and have access to more of those things, as I said earlier. More shops, more festivals, that kind of stuff.

## **Do you plan on returning to your hometown within five years of you moving?**

I would have to see what opportunities come up.