



**MONASH**  
University

**2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
YEAR THREE**

**MONASH  
YOUTH POLICY  
AND EDUCATION  
PRACTICE**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice would like to thank Monash Education staff in the research, marketing, finance, and external relations teams for their outstanding professional support.

The Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice would also like to acknowledge the members of our Management Committee, Advisory Board, and Youth Reference Group for their continued guidance, advice and insights.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Katrina Reynen OAM  
Chair, CYPEP Advisory Board

As chair of CYPEP's advisory board, I am delighted to have been part of another big year for CYPEP. On behalf of the board, I reflect the board's pride in the achievements of the CYPEP team and celebrate the impact of their work on many aspects of critical importance to the wider community. The team has gone from strength to strength, demonstrated in its research, engagement, translation and burgeoning impact. A particularly remarkable feature of 2023 has been the collaborative work of the centre.

This year, as many Australians are feeling the pressures of rising costs of living, CYPEP research shows that young people are also experiencing the same challenges – only more acutely.

Take these findings from the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer: one in five young people experienced food insecurity. Just over one-quarter rated their mental health as poor or very poor. And while 59% thought it was likely or extremely likely that they will work in a job they like in the future, what of the rest? Are we doing enough to support them through education and training? Only 52% felt that their education is preparing them for the future.

These figures continue to highlight the urgency of CYPEP's work. They demand more from all of us, as our stellar Youth Reference Group urged in their introduction to the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer, to at least 'meet young people half way.' I would argue that we need to be doing more to work with them to address the pressing challenges of our times. Housing, employment opportunities for young people and climate change were the top three areas nominated by young Australians for immediate action.

**It is inspiring to see that young people are taking action.**

The Barometer shows that they see themselves as politically engaged, but in more personal – and perhaps less visible – forms than through formal politics. Just under three-quarters of respondents volunteered in organised activities at least once in the last year, such as in environment-related and welfare-related activities.

But regrettably, there is evidence that they are losing hope. Only 31% believe it is likely or extremely likely that climate change will be combated in the future. This has to change. Our collective future depends on it. This is why CYPEP's work continues to be important as it builds on the foundational efforts of the CYPEP team year on year.

Informed by its mission and vision, CYPEP continues to conduct and publish leading, widely read and ultimately impactful research. This work is fundamentally collaborative in nature. CYPEP worked closely with Monash's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences on food insecurity, and with the Faculty of Arts and the University of Birmingham in the UK on fostering civility and belonging. CYPEP researchers are also exploring youth radicalisation with scholars from the University of Adelaide. Stay tuned as CYPEP explores youth frontiers of social cohesion and educational responses to emerging challenges.

In 2023, we saw CYPEP release numerous outstanding publications, from the scholarly and practical to public commentary and concrete government measures, and, of course, the third annual Australian Youth Barometer. The centre has built a formidable repository of knowledge through innovative, interdisciplinary research on the political, social and economic factors that affect young people's lives. Reports have explored cutting edge issues such as international students' experiences of food insecurity, young people working in the gig economy and precarious employment, and how to improve careers education. Scholarly articles have been published on young First Nations peoples' negotiation of empowerment, belonging and identity across education spaces and young people negotiating troubled transitions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Next, CYPEP will publish a ground-breaking study of the role of social media in how young people express their political and civic identities in relation to School Strikes 4 Climate.

The impact goes beyond the printed word. CYPEP members have presented research at conferences in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. CYPEP director Lucas Walsh was invited to present to the Australian Parliament's Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training in May, following CYPEP's 2022 submission to the inquiry into the perceptions and status of vocational education and

training. Professor Walsh provided advice about improving vocational education and training pathways to the committee, which included MPs Lisa Chesters, Terry Young, Zoe Daniel, Cassandra Fernando, Carina Garland, Zoe McKenzie, Gavin Pearce, Joanne Ryan, Sally Sitou and Anne Stanley. CYPEP also provided a submission to the Office for Youth's consultation for the federal youth strategy that, for the first time, brought together data from all three Australian Youth Barometers. This was a particularly proud moment for the CYPEP team.

A centrepiece of 2023 was CYPEP's work for the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, in collaboration with Mecca Medialight. This work focused on informing the measurement and reporting framework for the outcomes of the Victorian youth strategy. This is an excellent example of the centre's ambition to work with those seeking to measure and improve the life-outcomes of young people.

**CYPEP is moving from understanding to improving.**

The CYPEP team has briefed members of parliament and participated in seminars organised by The Smith Family and the Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations. The Australian Youth Barometer has been cited in the Australian parliament by members of both major parties.

CYPEP has also provided reports and presentations on how to build student belonging to Monash University and on students' financial insecurity to the university's Standing Committee on Mental Health.

The Australian Youth Barometer remains the flagship publication of the centre. I was delighted to see CYPEP team up with the prestigious Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) to hold a multi-stakeholder youth policy roundtable at Old Parliament House in Canberra in November which featured contributions from Professor Patrick McGorry, Professor Lucas Walsh, Joanna Siejka Rostami, CEO of AYAC, and other youth advocates.

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Youth, launched CYPEP's Australian Youth Barometer at Parliament House. The event was attended by MPs Rebekha Sharkie and Andrew Wilkie, leading youth researchers, the Academy of Social Sciences, young people who advise the Parliamentary Friends of Young People, and the CEOs of youth peak bodies from across Australia. Major media attention, combined with ministerial influence, paves a way to real impact.

I was also delighted to see CYPEP's Lucas Walsh elected to the Board of AYAC. This is an exciting period for AYAC under the inspiring new leadership of Joanna Siejka Rostami, positioned to make a real difference in the lives of young Australians. Lucas will serve alongside the wonderful Sarah Ramantanis from the CYPEP Advisory Board.

Efforts by the centre to translate and amplify its research continue to make news. This year the Barometer again received national attention, as did the centre's ongoing work to improve careers education. Its research continues to reach millions. Young people continue to take an active role in CYPEP'S work through surveys, interviews and via the Youth Reference Group.

## The breadth of work is staggering.

Thank you for engaging with CYPEP'S work and collaborating with its researchers. CYPEP's success could not have been achieved without you and the hard work of its amazing team, including Lorraine Wilks, Blake Cutler, Dr Cathy Waite, Dr Beatriz Gallo Cordoba, Dr Jo Gleeson, Agrata Mukherjee, Zihong Deng, Thuc Bao Huynh, Anna Bui, Nathan McMillan, and Lucas Walsh. Other scholars working with the centre need to be gratefully acknowledged, including Dr Matteo Bonotti, Dr Steve Zech, Associate Professor Kelly-Ann Allen, Associate Professor Libby Tudball, Dr Nathan Manning, Dr Djordje Stefanovic, Professor Vivienne Moore, Professor Andrew Peterson, Dr Sue Kleve and Dr Tammie Choi.

The generous support of Monash University, including its superb media and communications and government relations teams are also truly appreciated. Another key element of the success of the centre is the crucial involvement of the CYPEP Youth Reference Group, Management Committee and Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board, which I chair, reflects the ambitions of the centre. It comprises world leaders in research, policy and youth advocacy. We are deeply thankful to Katherine Ellis, who stepped down from the CYPEP Advisory Board when she left her role as CEO of the Youth Affairs Council, Victoria to take an exciting new position at Leadership Victoria. We greatly appreciate Katherine's superb advice to the Board over the past few years and her input was instrumental to the development of CYPEP's vision and mission. Former YRG delegate, Yuqi Lin, has also ended her role on the Advisory Board, but has continued to make major contributions to CYPEP research. We are grateful to Yuqi for her excellent work.

This work is clearly central to the purpose and values of government, the wider community and most importantly, young people. We are seeking to further amplify the work to date by partnering with more impactful organisations that rely on the high quality research data, valued political connections and community interest that CYPEP brings to the table.

The coming year will be a critical year for CYPEP, as current funding sources are winding down and the centre will need to be sustained through new partnerships. Please join CYPEP in its important mission and vision by reaching out to Professor Lucas Walsh with your research questions, guidance and ideas for partnership.

Collaboration is indeed key.



# ABOUT CYPEP

The Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice (CYPEP) is a multi-disciplinary research centre based in the Faculty of Education at Monash University. We undertake research into the social, political and economic factors, forces and trends that affect young people's lives. We believe education is a means to effect lasting change.

By focusing on issues that affect young people, and on developing policy and educational interventions to address youth disadvantage, CYPEP aims to identify the challenges to, and opportunities for, improved life outcomes for young people today and throughout their lives.

**OUR VISION** is for education that creates lifelong and life-wide opportunities for young people and enables them to thrive.

**OUR MISSION** is to connect youth research to policy and practice. We do this by working with policy-makers, educators and youth-focused organisations on research that addresses emerging needs, and that respects and includes young people. Working at the nexus of young people and policy, we raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people today and explore how education can harness the capacity of young people to contribute to thriving communities.

## OUR APPROACH



We build knowledge by undertaking innovative, interdisciplinary research on the political, social and economic factors that affect young people's lives.



We translate and amplify our research findings into recommendations for policy-makers and tools for educators so that data is easily accessible and supports good decision-making. We communicate the implications and impact of our work widely to increase understanding of what being young in Australia right now can tell us about wider society and about the future.



We seek surprising alliances between researchers, policy-makers, educators, training providers, employers and youth service organisations to ensure our research has broad practical applications and impact.



CYPEP's activities involve the meaningful participation of young people to ensure our work is informed by the identified needs of young people.

## OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

Our current work is structured around the following three pillars.

### 1. YOUNG PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- How can we **rethink civics and citizenship education** to foster young people's active participation politically, economically and socially?
- How can we **better understand and respond to challenging conversations about social disharmonies**, prejudice and radicalisation in schools and beyond?
- How can we **nurture and amplify youth issues**, participation and voice to ensure young people are better represented in political decision-making?

### 2. THE PURPOSE OF MASS EDUCATION

- To what extent is formal education **aligned to the needs and challenges of contemporary society**?
- How can we **involve young people** in decision-making related to their education, particularly those experiencing the intersection of multiple forms of disadvantage?
- How can we ensure decisions made by and for young people about their education and other needs are **informed by evidence**, and have used that evidence well?

### 3. FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

- How can we develop more **holistic educational approaches** to interconnected issues of belonging, citizenship, employment, and health and wellbeing?
- How can we help young people develop the capabilities (e.g. digital, financial, social and emotional) to successfully **navigate their worlds post-school**?
- How can we encourage the strengths of young people to **imagine and build thriving communities**?

# OUR TEAM

## CYPEP STAFF

**CENTRE DIRECTOR:** Professor Lucas Walsh

**RESEARCH FELLOWS:**

- Dr Zihong Deng
- Dr Beatriz Gallo Cordoba
- Dr Cathy Waite

**RESEARCHERS:**

- Mr Blake Cutler
- Dr Thuc Bao Huynh

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:**

- Mr Nathan McMillan
- Ms Yuqi Lin
- Ms Agrata Mukherjee

**CENTRE MANAGER:** Ms Lorenne Wilks

**ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR:** Ms Anna Bui

We gratefully acknowledge the following Faculty of Education colleagues for their valued collaborations and continued support. They have made significant contributions to our research and publications:

- Assoc. Professor Kelly-Ann Allen
- Dr Joanne Gleeson
- Assoc. Professor Libby Tudball

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**CHAIR:** Professor Mark Rickinson (Education)

- Professor Paula Gerber (Law)
- Professor Asad Islam (Business and Economics)
- Professor Lucas Walsh (CYPEP)
- Assoc. Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon (Arts)
- Ms Lorenne Wilks (CYPEP)

## ADVISORY BOARD

**CHAIR:** Ms Katrina Reynen OAM

- Professor Neil Selwyn (Deputy Dean, Research, Monash Education)
- Ms Katherine Ellis (former CEO Youth Affairs Council, Victoria)
- Professor Alan France (University of Auckland; international expert on youth research)
- Mr Stephen Fraser (Deputy Secretary, Victorian Department of Education)
- Professor Michael Mintrom (Monash University, Better Governance and Policy lead)
- Ms Sarah Ramantanis (Chair, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition)
- Ms Yuqi Lin (CYPEP Youth Reference Group)

## YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP

- STEPHEN BAHN
- ZARIN FARIHA
- ANDREW LEAP
- YUQI LIN
- ISOBEL THOMAS
- REBECCA WALTERS
- MARK YIN
- CANDICE ZHENG

If we want to change the conversation about young people's futures, young people need to be part of that conversation. At CYPEP, we are committed to genuine and authentic engagement with young people and our Youth Reference Group (YRG) is involved in all aspects of our operations.

In 2023, we held five online meetings with the group. The YRG provided critical advice on our collaboration with the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, testing and improving the final output. Members of the YRG also wrote the introduction to the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer. This thoughtful and insightful essay was included in our briefing paper to government representatives prior to the Barometer's launch. Members of the YRG contributed to a piece on careers advice published in The Conversation and have led a research project that is scheduled for publication in 2024.



Above (Top-Bottom L-R): Professor Lucas Walsh, Dr Beatriz Gallo Cordoba, Dr Cathy Waite, Mr Blake Cutler, Ms Anna Bui, Dr Bao Huynh, Dr Zihong Deng, Professor Mark Rickinson, Professor Paula Gerber, Professor Asad Islam, Mr Stephen Fraser, Professor Michael Mintrom, Ms Sarah Ramantanis, Ms Yuqi Lin, Ms Katherine Ellis, Professor Alan France, Assoc. Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon, Professor Neil Selwyn, Mr Stephen Bahn, Ms Zarin Fariha, Ms Rebecca Walters, Mr Andrew Leap, Mr Mark Yin, Ms Katrina Reynen OAM and Ms Candice Zheng.

# 2023 AT A GLANCE

**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

The problem of empowerment: the social ecologies of indigenous youth leadership. *Pedagogy, Culture and Society*

**APRIL**

**JUNE**

Food insecurity hits international students as the cost of living bites hard. *The Conversation*

Careers education is failing our students. *Education into the 2030s: The big education challenges of our times*

Meeting with Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations, Parliament House, Canberra

Dark optimism: Young people navigating work and digital technologies. Youth + Work Symposium

**AUGUST**

Meeting with Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations, Parliament House, Canberra

Presentation to Monash University Standing Committee on Mental Health

When you were young, did you know what you wanted to be? Lucas Walsh on Drive with Tom Elliott, 3AW

Managing career uncertainty and anxiety. Questionnaire and guide for young people. myFuture Insights

Submission to Australian Government's Office for Youth: Findings from the Australian Youth Barometer

Just getting by or getting ahead? The Smith Family forum on post-school pathways



**NOVEMBER**

**CYPEP REPORT: The 2023 Australian Youth Barometer: Understanding young people in Australia today**

Australian Youth Barometer launch and presentation on the state of youth policy in Australia. Shaping the Future forum, Parliament House, Canberra

What are young Australians most worried about? Finding affordable housing, they told us. *The Conversation*

The data is in: a generational shift of wealth is under way in Australia. *The Guardian*

Building engagement and impact. Monash Research Week presentation

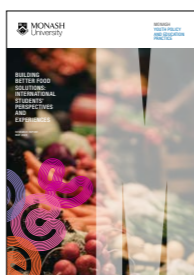
Career uncertainty and anxiety. Australian Association for Research in Education

Younger Australians feel the brunt of cost-of-living crisis. Lucas Walsh features on *The Drum*, ABC TV

Submission to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training inquiry into the perceptions and status of vocational education and training (VET)

The Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Youth, cites 2022 Australian Youth Barometer in speech to parliament

**MARCH**



**CYPEP REPORT: Building better food solutions: International students' perspectives and experiences**

**CYPEP REPORT: Guidelines for student belonging at Monash University**

Negotiating senses of belonging and identity across education spaces. *The Australian Education Researcher*

Presentation to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training

YRG members Rebecca and Andrew attend Parliament of Victoria Youth Forum: State of the Future

**MAY**

Delivery of measurement and reporting framework for outcomes of Victorian Youth Strategy, Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

**JULY**

Misguided by others? Unpacking young women's career aspirations. British Educational Research Association (BERA) annual conference

Elevating queer research. Poster exhibition for 2023 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Week

**SEPTEMBER**



**CYPEP REPORT: Young people navigating working life in and beyond the gig economy**

The digital mediation of everyday lives in the city: Young people negotiating troubled transitions during COVID-19. *Sociological Research and Urban Children and Youth*

Gig work: Side hustle or modern staple? *The Canberra Times*

Young people and work: Values, recruitment and retention. Keynote presentation to Police Federation of Australia Recruitment and Retention Summit

**OCTOBER**

Lucas Walsh appointed to board of Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)

**DECEMBER**

# FEATURED RESEARCH

## BUILDING BETTER FOOD SOLUTIONS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

Before COVID-19, up to 48% of Australian university students did not know where their next meal was coming from. The pandemic exacerbated this struggle to access nutritious and culturally appropriate food, particularly among international students. Such food insecurity can have significant negative impacts on physical and mental health, wellbeing, and educational attainment.

In May, CYPEP released its report on international students' experiences of food insecurity. More than 60 international students responded to our survey and we interviewed 22 in-depth about their experiences accessing nutritious and culturally appropriate foods. Even though international students represent almost 40% of all university students in Victoria, not enough is understood about their experiences of food insecurity and how they can be better supported.

Led by CYPEP researchers Cathy Waite and Beatriz Gallo Cordoba, a team including CYPEP staff Lucas Walsh and Agrata Mukherjee along with Sue Kleve and Tammie Choi from Monash's Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food, explored international students' experiences of eating and accessing food during the pandemic.

Melbourne-based international students were surveyed about their living and working arrangements, access to food that they want to eat, availability of culturally appropriate food, and sources of help and support. Selected survey participants were then interviewed to gain a deeper understanding of their experiences.

### FINDINGS

- Participants relied on public transport and walking to get around and find food. However, the cost of public transport was prohibitive to some and walking to get groceries meant that only small amounts could be purchased at any one time.
- Culturally familiar foods were associated with meaning and connection with culture and community, but barriers to accessing such foods were numerous, including lack of availability, inconvenience and expense.
- Food insecurity experiences varied in severity but were often related to limited time to source and cook food due to study and work commitments, having to opt for less nutritious foods, and not knowing where to source suitable food in the early months of living in a new city.
- Common strategies used by students to cope with food insecurity included accessing food relief, choosing cheaper, less nutritious food, and seeking support from friends and family.
- Participants' suggestions for improved support for international students included food relief, financial support, assistance with employment, vouchers and scholarships.

### WHERE TO NEXT?

The results will help universities, food-aid agencies and policymakers in health and education to understand the specific experiences of international students in Melbourne and put support measures in place to better meet students' needs. Although the project has so far focused on Melbourne-based students, findings will be applicable to other cities.

► [Download the report](#)





# THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BAROMETER

The third edition of the Australian Youth Barometer was released in November 2023.

The 2023 Australian Youth Barometer again surveyed over 500 young Australians, aged 18 to 24 on a variety of topics covering education, employment, health and wellbeing, housing, money, civic participation, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. A further 30 young people participated in in-depth interviews

The 2023 findings paint an often-troubling picture of young Australians today – many of whom are struggling with cost of living pressures. The top three areas nominated by young Australians for immediate action were housing, employment opportunities for young people and climate change.

This year, the Barometer was launched at Parliament House, Canberra, by the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Youth, at a policy roundtable co-hosted by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. (See Community and Professional Engagement, page 20 for details of the event.) The launch by the minister and subsequent references to the Barometer in parliament is the culmination of three years of outstanding work by CYPEP's director and research team to build the profile and impact of the Australian Youth Barometer. CYPEP's original objective was to change the conversation about young people. We have met that objective and made an impact on those who are leading that conversation.

## 61%

OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS THINK THEY WILL BE WORSE OFF FINANCIALLY THAN THEIR PARENTS. 52% OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS THINK IT LIKELY OR EXTREMELY LIKELY THAT THEY WILL ACHIEVE FINANCIAL SECURITY IN THE FUTURE.

## 83%

HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE EXTRA ACTIVITIES WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING THEIR CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB.

## 70%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE RATE LOCATION AS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WHEN THINKING ABOUT THE TYPE OF WORK THEY WANT TO UNDERTAKE; 68% NOMINATE A HIGH SALARY AS IMPORTANT, AND 67% NOMINATE LONG-TERM SECURITY.

## 71%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SOME FORM OF INFORMAL ONLINE CLASSES.

## 26%

OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS RATE THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AS POOR OR VERY POOR. 36% RATE IT AS GOOD OR EXCELLENT.

## 73%

OF YOUNG AUSTRALIANS VOLUNTEERED IN ORGANISED ACTIVITIES AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST YEAR, MOST COMMONLY IN ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT-RELATED AND WELFARE-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

## 31%

BELIEVE IT LIKELY OR EXTREMELY LIKELY THAT CLIMATE CHANGE WILL BE COMBATED IN THE FUTURE.

Data collected for the Australian Youth Barometer forms the foundation of CYPEP's research program. In 2023, our deep dives into the Youth Barometer data examined the experiences of young people in precarious labour markets and international students' experiences of food insecurity. We will continue to examine the new data to produce insights on under-reported issues such as young people's civic and political participation.

*"Young people today face vastly different structural pressures compared with previous generations ... Given the precarious and high-stakes circumstances of young Australians today, demonstrated throughout this Barometer, a range of bold and innovative solutions are needed."*

**Mark Yin, Rebecca Walters, Andrew Leap and Yuqi Lin, CYPEP Youth Reference Group.**



### WHAT MAKES THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BAROMETER UNIQUE?

- The combination of an exhaustive review of existing research data with a new survey of over 500 young Australians aged 18 to 24 from all states and territories ensures an accurate snapshot of how young people are faring today, which can be compared and contrasted with previous years.
- Additional in-depth interviews conducted by CYPEP researchers enable us to identify what really matters to young people and to report with greater nuance on the issues that affect them.
- The Australian Youth Barometer is informed by CYPEP's Youth Reference Group, a diverse group of young Australians who ensure that CYPEP's work includes the voices of young people.
- The Australian Youth Barometer is produced by Monash University researchers, whose expertise in research design and analysis, and comprehensive knowledge of youth research, offer deep insights into young people today and into future trends.
- This data on being young in Australia right now can tell us about wider society and about our future.
- The Australian Youth Barometer has received widespread national exposure. To date, the three editions have been viewed over 35,000 times and been downloaded over 3,100 times. News reports on the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer had a potential reach of over 92.6 million views. But the real power of the Australian Youth Barometer will be realised as it becomes a longitudinal study. The Australian Youth Barometer is an annual report with new cohorts surveyed each year, and will provide a picture of how issues of importance to young people shift over time.

▶ [Download the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer](#)

# OUR RESEARCH

Through our research, we build understanding about the social, political and economic factors, forces and trends that affect young people's lives. This is fundamental to our vision and mission.

In 2023, alongside preparing the third edition of the Australian Youth Barometer, we re-examined 2022 data to present a detailed insight report into young people's experiences of insecure work. We published a resource on careers conversations, building on our 2022 discussion paper, Young women choosing careers: who decides? and worked with colleagues across the university on shared interests.

## PUBLISHED REPORTS

### BUILDING BETTER FOOD SOLUTIONS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

CYPEP researchers Cathy Waite, Beatriz Gallo Cordoba, Lucas Walsh and Agrata Mukherjee teamed with Sue Kleve and Tammie Choi from Monash's Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food, to explore international students' experiences of eating and accessing food in Melbourne during the pandemic. This report has been downloaded 186 times.

► [Download the report](#)

### YOUNG PEOPLE NAVIGATING WORKING LIFE IN AND BEYOND THE GIG ECONOMY

This report explores the link between insecure work and how young Australians are navigating post-school pathways such as employment, income and housing. Drawing on a new analysis of published and unpublished data collected for the 2022 Australian Youth Barometer, researchers found that young people are experiencing difficulties as a result of these disruptions when navigating many post-school pathways in life. This report received major news coverage, including the Canberra Times, which was syndicated across a further 11 publications. It also featured on 3AW and a number of national publications including Yahoo! Finance, news.com.au, the Herald Sun and the West Australian. In the two months since it was released, the report has been downloaded 150 times.

► [Download the report](#)

### GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BELONGING FOR MONASH UNIVERSITY

A student's sense of belonging at university is a critical component of positive student experiences and a core driver of student satisfaction, retention, and academic outcomes. Research into student belonging in higher education has amassed a strong empirical evidence-base that demonstrates benefits for physical and psychological health and wellbeing. Following a workshop on belonging for Monash staff hosted by the CYPEP in late 2021 and led by colleague Kelly-Ann Allen, guidelines to foster students' sense of belonging within their various learning environments at Monash were developed and a report presented to Monash University's executive leadership group.

### THE 2023 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BAROMETER: UNDERSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA TODAY

The third edition of the Australian Youth Barometer ([see our feature on page 13](#)) again surveyed over 500 young Australians aged 18 to 24 on a variety of topics covering education, employment, health and wellbeing, housing, money, civic participation, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. A further 30 young people participated in in-depth interviews. In 2023, affordable housing, employment opportunities and climate change were the top issues that concerned young people. In the 10 weeks following its release on 13 November, it was downloaded more than 550 times.

► [Download the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer](#)

## FUNDED PROJECTS

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK FOR THE OUTCOMES OF THE VICTORIAN YOUTH STRATEGY

CYPEP provided the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) with data and analysis to serve as a baseline for monitoring and reporting on the performance of Victoria's new youth strategy. This involved undertaking research on available sources of data about young people relevant to each of the 22 indicators listed in the youth strategy, analysing the data to determine its context, relevance and quality, and manipulating and standardising data to allow for appropriate comparisons. A descriptive analysis and representation of baseline data was provided in the form of an online dashboard, designed in partnership with Mecca Medialight, that will enable DFFH to monitor and report outcomes of the youth strategy over time.

### FOOD INSECURITY AMONG INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN MELBOURNE

COVID-19 has highlighted international students' struggle to access culturally appropriate and nutritious food. Before COVID-19, up to 48% of Australian university students did not know where their next meal was coming from. Such struggle has significant negative impacts on mental health, wellbeing and educational attainment. The impacts of food insecurity are preventable. International students represent almost 40% of all university students in Victoria, but their experience of food insecurity, and how they can be better supported, is not well understood. This project examined the role that socio-cultural and environmental factors play in students' ability to access sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food, and the strategies that students adopt to cope with food insecurity. The project identified multilateral wrap-around solutions that draw on the experiences of international students themselves. Funded by the Monash Large Grants scheme in collaboration with colleagues from the Monash Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food. ([See Featured Research, page 11](#)).

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S USE OF TWITTER FOR POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Using a novel deep learning system to infer demographic characteristics for a dataset of Tweets containing popular political and environmental hashtags in Australia, this project investigated young people's 'ecologies of influence' when engaging in environmentally-focused political discussions on Twitter (now X). Data analysis continued in 2023 and a report and journal article will be published in 2024. This research developed from a project funded through the Monash University Collaboration Development Fund.



## WORK IN PROGRESS

### CAREER IDENTITY OF AUSTRALIAN ADOLESCENTS

**RESEARCHERS:** Dr Jo Gleeson and Professor Lucas Walsh

Young Australians continue to leave school unprepared for career challenges in contemporary labour markets. A focus on career identity development helps students have more positive perceptions of their future employability, and less career distress and self-doubt. This ongoing project is gathering quantitative data about students' career identity, along with quantitative and qualitative data about students' career aspirations and post-school education, training and work intentions. In work undertaken so far, we have validated a 27-item multi-construct instrument of career identity that measures students' future career orientation, career uncertainty and anxiety, career networks, relationships and connections, and career confidence. The aim is to understand the career identity of Victorian school students and compare findings over time.

### AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO FOSTERING CIVILITY

**RESEARCHERS:** Professor Lucas Walsh, Associate Professor Kelly-Ann Allen, Dr Matteo Bonotti, Dr Steven Zech and Professor Andrew Peterson (University of Birmingham)

Uncivil speech and behaviour permeate Australian secondary schools, but teaching about civility is notably absent from the Australian curriculum. This project will address this gap by exploring what civility means to teachers and young people and how civility could be taught in schools. By taking an interdisciplinary approach, the project will build our understanding about teaching civility as a public virtue. It will develop a conceptual framework and resources to teach reimagined forms of civility. Anticipated benefits include improved civics and citizenship education, belonging and social cohesion.

### A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF DRIVERS OF YOUTH PREJUDICE AND RADICALISATION

**RESEARCHERS:** Dr Nathan McMillan, Dr Djordje Stefanovic, Professor Vivienne Moore (University of Adelaide) and Professor Lucas Walsh

This project, in collaboration with the University of Adelaide, is developing a multi-context and multi-method longitudinal study to identify risk factors and protective factors for youth prejudice and radicalisation, as well as strategies to overcome family conflicts caused by political polarisation.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERING AND WELLBEING

**RESEARCHERS:** Dr Zihong Deng, Dr Thuc Bao Huynh, Blake Cutler, and Professor Lucas Walsh

This project draws on data from the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer to examine the direct and indirect associations between anxiety, volunteering and wellbeing, how young Australians benefit from volunteering, and the barriers that prevent them from participating in volunteering.

### THE PANDEMIC YEARS AND THEIR IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA

**RESEARCHERS:** Professor Lucas Walsh, Dr Thuc Bao Huynh, Blake Cutler, Dr Zihong Deng

This project aims to illustrate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on different areas of young people's lives in New South Wales and Victoria, which experienced the longest lock-downs in Australia. Using data from the past three Australian Youth Barometers, this project will identify changes in different areas and provide empirical evidence for policy and practice.

## SCHOLARSHIP

CYPEP team members continue to publish their research in scholarly outlets and present their work at international academic conferences and symposia. Here is just a selection of relevant work.

## PUBLICATIONS

Allen, K-A., **Walsh, L.**, Chan, T., McGlinchey, C., Wong, D., Lu, Y., & Keller, M. (2023). Putting the "we" in wellbeing through belonging research. In M. A. White, F. McCallum, & C. Boyle (Eds.), *New Research and Possibilities in Wellbeing Education*, pp. 341–369. Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-5609-8\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-5609-8_16)

**Walsh, L.**, Gleeson, J. & Gallo Cordoba, B., (2023). Careers education is failing our students. *Education into the 2030s: The big education challenges of our times*. Faculty of Education Working Paper #2, pp. 13–15. Monash University. <https://doi.org/10.26180/19689220>

Johnson, R.G., Allen, K-A. & **Gallo Cordoba, B.** (2023) Where does culture belong at school? Exploring the role of individualism and power distance in school belonging across cultures. *Current Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-05280-y>

Longmuir, F., Phillips, M., **Gallo Cordoba, B.**, & Allen, K.-A. (2023). What leaders need to know about teachers' perceptions of their work. *Australian Educational Leader*, 45(2), pp. 16–21. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.108320741141358>

Roberts, S., Lyall, B., Trott, V., Foeken, E., Smith, J., Robards, B., Genat, A., Graf, D., Jones, C., Marple, P., **Waite, C.**, & Wright, B. (2023). Young Australians navigating the 'careers information ecology'. *Youth*, 3(1), pp. 300–320. <https://doi.org/10.3390/youth3010020>

**Waite, C., Walsh, L.**, & Black, R. (2023). Negotiating senses of belonging and identity across education spaces. *The Australian Educational Researcher*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13384-023-00633-9>

**Walsh, L.**, & Black, R. (2023). The problem of empowerment: the social ecologies of indigenous youth leadership. *Pedagogy Culture and Society*, 31(1), pp. 147–164. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681366.2021.1891451>

**Walsh, L.** & Gleeson, J. (2024). Theorising and preparing students for precarity: How can leaders and educators better prepare students to enter an increasingly insecure workforce? In A. Heffernan and J. Wilkinson (eds) *Educational Leadership and Policy in a Time of Precarity*. pp. 7–19. Routledge.

**Walsh, L., Waite, C., Gallo Cordoba, B., & Mikola, M.** (2023). The Digital Mediation of Everyday Lives in the City: Young People Negotiating Troubled Transitions During COVID-19 in Berman, R., Albanese, P., & Chen, X. (Eds) *Sociological Research and Urban Children and Youth*, 32, pp. 47–64. Emerald Publishing Limited.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Walsh, L., Gallo Cordoba, B., & Cutler, B.** (2023). Dark optimism: young people navigating work and digital technologies. Youth + Work symposium 2023, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

**Gleeson, J. & Walsh, L.** (2023). Career Uncertainty and Anxiety. 2023 Australian Association for Research in Education. University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria.

**Walsh, L., Gleeson, J., Gallo Cordoba, B., & Cutler, B.** (2023). Misguided by others? Unpacking young women's career aspirations. British Educational Research Association Annual Conference 2023, Birmingham, United Kingdom. <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/3540/submission/271>

# COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The centre was involved in a number of outreach activities in 2023. These included submissions to parliamentary inquiries, presentations to peak bodies, and participation in panels for the Monash community.

## SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING INQUIRY INTO THE PERCEPTIONS AND STATUS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET): 10 MARCH

Drawing on CYPEP research on young people's career choices, this [submission to the Australian Parliament's Standing Committee](#) on Employment Education and Training argued for fostering greater awareness of the challenges involved in career decision-making and the many factors that can influence young people's career uncertainty and indecision. Young people are often getting poor quality and biased information from private and public careers advisors within schools and from parents and carers outside of schools. They then struggle to reconcile this information with their own career preferences. Our submission argued that addressing these conditions is a precursor to improving knowledge of, and feelings toward VET as viable and desirable to young people. Changing people's perceptions and the status of VET begins in schools and at home and other spaces where young people live and learn. Lucas Walsh was subsequently invited to present to the Standing Committee.

## PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA YOUTH FORUM: STATE OF THE FUTURE: 10 MAY

CYPEP Youth Reference Group members Andrew Leap and Rebecca Walters joined 60 young people from across Victoria at a one-day forum at Parliament House in Melbourne. The forum was hosted by Victorian Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman MP. Lucas Walsh went along to the report-back session, which was attended by more than 20 MPs and key representatives from Victorian youth peak bodies, including Katherine Ellis, CEO of YACVic and member of CYPEP's Advisory Board. The session was superbly co-facilitated by Sarah Ramantanis, who is also a member of CYPEP's Advisory Board.

Young people at the forum spoke about the issues that matter to them and suggested ways that parliamentarians can best engage with them. Their recommendations were wide-ranging and practical. Key issues raised by participants echo those that have emerged in our research, including housing, climate change, inclusivity, and mental health.

## AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING: 31 MAY

Lucas Walsh was invited to speak to the Australian Parliament's Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training. Drawing on CYPEP's [discussion paper](#) 'Young women choosing careers: Who decides?' and its [submission](#) to the parliamentary inquiry into the perceptions and status of vocational education and training. Professor Walsh provided advice about improving vocational education and training pathways to the Committee, which included MPs Lisa Chesters, Terry Young, Zoe Daniel, Cassandra Fernando, Carina Garland, Zoe McKenzie, Gavin Pearce, Joanne Ryan, Sally Sitou and Anne Stanley.

## MANAGING CAREER UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY: THE POWER OF CAREER CONVERSATIONS: 2 AUGUST

As transitions from school to work become more unpredictable and employment markets more competitive and fluid, career uncertainty in young people is increasing. Based on their research on young people's career choices, Jo Gleeson and Lucas Walsh developed a questionnaire to help teenagers identify their feelings about career decision-making and facilitate productive conversations with carers and career advisors. The questionnaire and guidelines were published as a [MyFuture Insights](#) paper by Education Services Australia.

## AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS: 14 JUNE AND 25 AUGUST

On 14 June, Lucas Walsh was invited to participate in meetings of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations at Parliament House in Canberra. The Australian Parliamentary Group for Future Generations is a collective of more than 20 representatives from both houses of parliament, co-chaired by MPs Bridget Archer, Zaneta Mascarenhas and Sophie Scamps. The group brings MPs together with representatives from the private, public and social sectors to hold constructive dialogues on Australia's national agenda for protecting the interests of future generations. Participants at the first meeting explored the economic rationales for future generations' policy, including the practical application of future generations policy across climate risks, pandemic preparedness and AI policy. The second meeting focused on policy in practice.

## THE SMITH FAMILY: JUST GETTING BY OR GETTING AHEAD? 30 AUGUST

Lucas Walsh was invited by The Smith Family to speak as one of a panel of experts at an online symposium discussing their latest report, [Pathways, engagement and transitions: Dynamic post-school pathways of young people experiencing disadvantage](#). The symposium, chaired by Smith Family CEO Doug Taylor, explored what the evidence is telling us about the post-school pathways of young people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage.

*"The contemporary, high quality, multi-disciplinary research undertaken by the Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice is directly relevant to The Smith Family's purpose – overcoming educational inequality caused by poverty. The centre's work is accessible and policy – and practice- relevant, so is making a direct contribution to improving the lives of young Australians. Collaborative and generous partnerships are the hallmark of the way the centre works."*

**Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy, The Smith Family**



**SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S OFFICE FOR YOUTH STRATEGY CONSULTATION: 30 AUGUST**

The Office for Youth seeks to achieve tangible outcomes for young people and identify issues that are important to them and those who work with them. CYPEP provided findings from the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Australian Youth Barometer.

**POLICE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION SUMMIT: 27 OCTOBER**

Lucas Walsh and Jo Gleeson were invited to present a keynote speech titled 'Young People & Work: Values, Recruitment and Retention' at the Police Federation of Australia's Recruitment and Retention Summit in Melbourne. They drew from CYPEP research to present to senior staff from police forces throughout Australia. The event was opened by Attorney General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP.

*"The research presented by Professor Walsh and Dr Gleeson represented the tipping point in our summit. After their presentation the sparks of creativity flowed through our delegates. Research is vitally important to understanding the big challenges, it is essential however that research can be translated into easy to understand language. Both Professor Walsh and Dr Gleeson did a wonderful job at reaching our audience and translating their research into concepts and considerations that informed our event."*

**Luke Moore, Project and Policy Officer, Queensland Police Union of Employees**

**SHAPING THE FUTURE: A NEW APPROACH TO POLICY THAT WORKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LAUNCH OF THE 2023 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BAROMETER: 15 NOVEMBER**

On 15 November 2023, the Minister for Youth, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, launched the third annual Australian Youth Barometer at Parliament House, Canberra. The launch followed a symposium at Old Parliament House, hosted by the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, to discuss the pressing issues that are currently facing young Australians. Titled 'Shaping the Future: A new approach to policy that works for young people', the event format was a policy roundtable, which has started a national conversation about shaping the future with young people and exploring new approaches to policy. Lucas Walsh and Blake Cutler presented key findings from the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer.

Also present at the roundtable and launch event were MPs Rebekah Sharkey and Andrew Wilkie, leading youth researchers such as former Australian of the Year, Professor Patrick McGorry, CEOs of youth peak bodies from across Australia, and young people who advise the Parliamentary Friends of Young People. Following the launch, the Australian Youth Barometer was referenced in parliament and copies were distributed to other MPs.

The launch by the Minister for Youth ensured extensive national exposure for the Australian Youth Barometer this year. It featured nationally on 10News, the Drum, ABC News, the Guardian, the Canberra Times, the Daily AUS (a news outlet popular among young people) plus more than 130 other media outlets.



**SUPPORTING OUR MONASH COMMUNITY**

In addition to external engagement, we participate in university events and activities to support our Monash colleagues.

**MONASH UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH: 3 AUGUST**

Lucas Walsh presented CYPEP's research on young people, in particular financial insecurity and food insecurity, to Monash University's Standing Committee on Mental Health, chaired by Professor David Copolov, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Major Campuses and Student Engagement).

**CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT: 5 SEPTEMBER**

Lucas Walsh was invited to speak to early-career education researchers about securing external research funding. The aim of this series of events was to stimulate honest conversations about the ups and downs of developing research and sharing experiences, struggles, successes and learnings.

**ELEVATING QUEER RESEARCH: POSTER EXHIBITION: 4-15 SEPTEMBER**

CYPEP researchers Blake Cutler, Beatriz Gallo Cordoba and Lucas Walsh presented findings from the Australian Youth Barometer on the pressures on being queer and young in a poster at the Elevating Queer Research exhibition as part of Monash University's celebration of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Week in September.

**BUILDING ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT: 22 NOVEMBER**

For Monash University's inaugural Research Week, Lucas Walsh presented on the Australian Youth Barometer and how CYPEP has used the barometer strategically to build engagement with key policy makers in state and commonwealth governments.

**The Pressures of Being Queer & Young: The Australian Youth Barometer**  
 Blake Cutler, Beatriz Gallo Cordoba & Lucas Walsh  
 Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice (CYPEP)  
 Blake.cutler@monash.edu

**About the study**

- Ongoing study of Young Australians and the pressures they face across:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Wellbeing
  - Finances
  - Housing
  - Civic Participation
  - COVID-19
- Involved 30 in-depth interviews and a survey of a nationally-representative sample of 505 Australians aged 18-24.
- 1 in 5 young people identified as queer.

**Why was the study important?**

- Research illustrates the challenges queer young people face across:
  - Education (19%)
  - Wellbeing (15%)
  - Access to health care (9%)
- We sought to measure these experiences:
  - Across against new domains of work, civic participation, etc.
  - In light of the broader challenges that young Australians report.
- We aimed to highlight the **systemic influences which impose disproportionate challenges** on queer young Australians' lives.

**Education and Belonging**

**Regular experiences of significant stress about:**

- Interacting with students: Queer youth 19%, Cis-het youth 11%
- Interacting with educators: Queer youth 46%, Cis-het youth 34%

**Reported feelings of belonging at school:**

- Queer youth 34%, Cis-het youth 54%

**Views that the Government should provide greater social support:**

- Queer youth 74%, Cis-het youth 62%

**Work and Finances**

**Reports of precarious/casual employment:**

- Queer youth 25%, Cis-het youth 19%

**Regular financial difficulties in past two years:**

- Queer youth 34%, Cis-het youth 25%

**Wellbeing**

**Seeking and receiving mental health support in past two years:**

- Queer youth 41%, Cis-het youth 30%

**Seeking but not receiving mental health support in past two years:**

- Queer youth 18%, Cis-het youth 15%

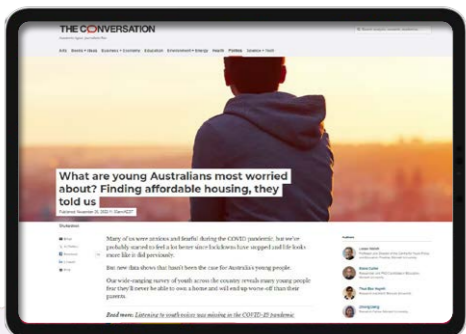
**Recommendations & Resources**

- The onus for addressing these pressures **does not rest with queer young people**.
- We must all work collectively to address these systemic issues.
- For Educators and Workplaces:**
  - Implement **evidence-based policies** to support queer young people in these settings.
  - Engage with inclusive **environment training** and **queer-inclusive practice resources**.
- For Government:**
  - Actively **involve queer young people** in consultation processes, including the **Australian census**.
- For Healthcare Providers:**
  - Audit your ability to **deliver inclusive services** and access support resources, such as the **Rainbow Tick Framework**.
- For Everyone:**
  - Familiarise yourself with **inclusive language** practices and **learns to intervene** when marginalising language is used.
  - Engage with **ally guidelines** produced by youth-focused queer organisations, such as **Minus 18 & The Rainbow Owl**.

**Scan here for the:**

- References
- Full report
- Resource links
- More about our work

# IN THE NEWS



CYPEP's work featured in various media throughout 2023. An important goal for CYPEP is to engage with stakeholders, partners and the general public and translate our scholarly work into articles and reports that will reach a wide audience.

Significant outlets that reported on our research in 2023 included the Herald-Sun and the Sydney Morning Herald (along with their respective syndicated publications), online publications such as the Conversation, local and national radio including Drive with Tom Elliott on 3AW, Mornings with Virginia Trioli on ABC Melbourne, and SBS. We were also published in professional publications such as EducationHQ and The Educator Australia. This range of outlets ensures our research is reaching our target audiences of influential educators and policymakers, as well as other important stakeholders such as providers of youth services. We were especially pleased to see CYPEP's work being reported by youth outlets such as Youth Jam Radio and the Daily Aus this year.

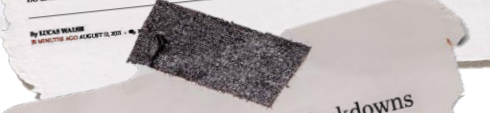
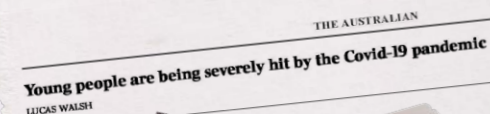
Our combined media mentions in 2023 had a potential reach of over 220 million views, and an estimated advertising value equivalency of over \$3.25M.

Below is a selection of news articles, authored opinions and other commentary on a wide variety of topics that featured CYPEP research.

- 'Resilient but hurting: How young Australians feel' *School News Australia*, 6 February 2023
- 'Lack of career confidence a warning sign for schools' *EducationHQ*, 31 March 2023
- 'Young people post-pandemic: Are the kids still alright?' *Work Work Work* (podcast), 13 June 2023
- 'More students choose insecure work over study as cost of living bites' *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 July 2023
- 'The pessimistic view more than half of young people have about their financial prospects' *Drive with Tom Elliott, 3AW*, 17 October 2023
- 'Fault lines, resilience for young after COVID' *The Age*, 3 November 2023

## A 'career convo' is important to have

Parents are being encouraged to have a career conversation with their children as a way of avoiding uncertainty and a feeling of helplessness. Latest research from Monash becomes curious by direct career pathways," Riana said. "I took an extended time to decide what I was going to do with the well-



Targeted media campaigns for our published reports drew significant attention.

## BUILDING BETTER FOOD SOLUTIONS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

This release of this report was featured in domestic and international publications. Highlights include:

- 'At the brink': International students in Australia are ending up homeless and hungry' *The Guardian*, 23 May 2023
- 'Monash report shows international students struggling with the increasing cost of living' *India Education Daily*, 5 June 2023
- 'Food insecurity hits international students as the cost of living bites hard' *The Conversation*, 9 June 2023

## MANAGING CAREER UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY: THE POWER OF CAREER CONVERSATIONS

The publication of this resource coincided with the release of a Faculty of Education working paper on the big education challenges of our times, which included a contribution from Lucas Walsh and Jo Gleeson based on their work on careers education. Together, these publications saw renewed media attention, including:

- 'When you were young, did you know what you wanted to be?' *Drive with Tom Elliott, 3AW*, 2 August 2023
- 'Helping school leavers with career choices' *RNZ Nights (Radio New Zealand)*, 29 August 2023
- 'Student anxieties, uncertain futures' *Teachers' Education Review* (podcast), 25 October 2023

## YOUNG PEOPLE NAVIGATING WORKING LIFE IN AND BEYOND THE GIG ECONOMY

This report drew on data from the 2022 Australian Youth Barometer and received coverage in nationally syndicated press and radio. Media reports had a combined potential audience reach of over 45 million views. Highlights include:

- 'Young Australians report 'bleaker outlook' on work, money, new research finds' *The Herald Sun*, 19 October 2023
- 'Gig work: Side hustle or modern staple?' *The Canberra Times*, 23 October 2023
- 'Young people increasingly finding post-school life difficult' *Youth Jam Radio*, 19 October 2023

## THE 2023 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH BAROMETER

Following its launch in Canberra, the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer drew widespread media attention this year. Its release was announced on Ten News and ABC News, and lead author Lucas Walsh appeared as a guest on *The Drum* (ABC television) to discuss the findings. The Barometer was featured in three separate articles in *The Guardian* and its release was reported in more than 130 media outlets. These media reports had a combined potential audience reach of nearly 148 million views. Highlights include:

- 'Young people feeling pessimistic' *ABC Radio*, 13 November 2023
- 'Younger Australians feel the brunt of cost-of-living crisis, report shows' *The Drum, ABC TV*, 14 November 2023
- 'Young people seek security. They need help from the rest of us' *The Canberra Times*, 16 November 2023
- 'The data is in: a generational shift of wealth is under way in Australia' *The Guardian*, 25 November 2023
- '澳大利亚年轻人最担心什么?' (What are young Australians most worried about?) *SBS Chinese Radio*, 18 December 2023



REPRESENTATIVES  
SERIAL STATEMENTS  
Wealth Year of Youth  
SPEECH  
Wednesday, 29 March 2023  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# PROGRESS AGAINST OUR GOALS

The following table summarises the centre’s achievements against key performance indicators set for 2023.

KPI	MEASURE	2023 TARGET	2023 ACTUAL
Research Income	Submit application for external grant as lead	1	1
	Secure external funds from govt, business or philanthropic sources	✓	✓
Research Outputs	Discussion Paper	1	1
	Youth Barometer	1	1
	Submission of article to quality journal	2	6
Community Engagement	Translation in non-scholarly outlets		72

# 2024 AND BEYOND

In 2024, the centre will continue to pursue our overarching goals of building knowledge, translating research findings, building alliances across sectors, and promoting youth voices.

The theme for 2024 is young people’s social and economic participation: challenges and opportunities. We have a suite of publications planned – final reports from projects currently underway, more in the Insights series from the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer, discussion papers on young people’s use of social media, civility and the relationship between volunteering and wellbeing, as well as the next edition of the Australian Youth Barometer. We will start to trace trends as they emerge from four years of the Barometer to provide insight into young Australians’ attitudes and experiences.

Another focus for 2024 will be securing the financial future of CYPEP through research funding and sponsorship of the Australian Youth Barometer. CYPEP is seeking strong, durable partnerships and surprising alliances to focus our efforts on responding to the key issues and challenges that face young people today. Please email us for a copy of our prospectus.

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