

Welcome and thank you for participating

The youth justice system responds to young people aged 10 to 21 years who have been involved in serious crime.

The Victorian Government is reviewing youth support, youth diversion and youth justice services to improve the outcomes for young people who come into contact with these services.

We would like to hear from you, and other young people aged 13 to 21 about your thoughts on issues to do with young people and crime.

This survey is being conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services to understand what issues are important to you and what you think about crime and the ways we can address youth offending. Results of the survey may be used to inform the department's response to youth offending. Results may be published as part of the final youth justice review. Data will be stored electronically and may be used by future review teams.

Everything you say in the survey is completely confidential and we are not asking for any information that is personal or that will identify you. You will remain completely anonymous when we analyse the results.

We do not ask for any details of crimes you may be aware of or that you might have committed. If you do disclose any details of a specific offence, such as names of people involved, the review team will pass them on to Crime Stoppers.

Following this survey, if you feel you would like to report a crime, you can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit the Crime Stoppers [website](#)

This survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

Please complete the survey by Monday February 20, 2017

If you would like to know more about the review into youth justice, further information is available [here](#)

If you would like to find support or need to speak to a counsellor we encourage you to call Kids Helpline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 55 1800 or visit the Kids Helpline [website](#)

Thank you for participating in the survey, your input is important to us.

* 1. To start out with, how old are you?

12 and under

13 to 14

15 to 17

18 to 21

Over 21

This section asks what it is like being a young person in Victoria today.

If a question does not apply to you please select 'not applicable' and move to the next question.

2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
If I urgently needed money I could get it legally (either through family, finding work or Centrelink)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people can easily find work or ways to earn enough money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I worry about getting the essential things I need to survive such as food, clothing, getting to school or work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can get the things I want in life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about finding your place in society?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel like I am part of my local community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are places I can go, near where I live, where I can be myself and not be judged.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are places online where I can be myself and not be judged.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people find it difficult to find a group of people that they fit into.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people who don't have a good community or group to fit in with are more easily encouraged to commit crime	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people can be encouraged to commit crimes by friends and people they know.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people can be encouraged to commit crime through social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 4. Now think about the support and advice available to you in the community. How strongly would you agree or disagree that 'If I needed advice and support I would feel comfortable...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
... talking to someone in my community (like a parent, carer or teacher)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... talking to a professional (like a counsellor, social worker or psychologist)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... finding support online (like support forums)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 5. How strongly would you agree or disagree that young people learn about the law such as what is legal and illegal from...

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
... their parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... their friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... school and mainstream media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... articles, discussion and comments on social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

This next section asks you how worried you are about crime committed by young people and why you think some young people offend. We are also interested in what can be done when a young person who offends is caught to prevent them committing more crimes.

Please note we are only asking about your general thoughts. We are not asking if you have personally committed or been suspected of a crime, or to identify any other person. The survey is entirely unidentified which means we do not know who you are when you fill out the survey.

If you do mention details of a specific offence such as names of people involved, this information will be forwarded to Crime Stoppers.

If you feel you would like to report a crime, you can contact crime stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit

<https://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime>

* 6. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about crime committed by young people.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Violent crime committed by young people is a major problem for the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most young people do not break the law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people who start committing serious and violent crime will naturally stop as they get older	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people who commit violent and serious crimes need to be punished to make them stop offending.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Young people who commit violent and serious crime need support to help them stop.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults think youth crime is worse than it really is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 7. Thinking about your community, how often do you think the following crimes are committed by young people?

When talking about 'your community' this includes young people in your area or connected to people from school, sporting clubs or other interest groups.

	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always	Never
Property crimes like theft, shoplifting and breaking into houses or buildings	<input type="radio"/>				
Public order crimes like vandalism and graffiti	<input type="radio"/>				
Driving and motor offences like joyriding, drink driving or dangerous driving	<input type="radio"/>				
Drug related offences like using and dealing drugs	<input type="radio"/>				
Violent offences where people are injured	<input type="radio"/>				
Violent offences where strangers are injured	<input type="radio"/>				

* 8. How important do you think the following reasons are for young people who offend?

	Very Important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
They do it to impress to their friends or other people	<input type="radio"/>				
Peer pressure from friends they hang out with	<input type="radio"/>				
Peer pressure through social media	<input type="radio"/>				
Immaturity (and they will grow out of it)	<input type="radio"/>				
Family members who break the law themselves	<input type="radio"/>				
Personal issues like bad relationships	<input type="radio"/>				
Because they feel like they don't fit in	<input type="radio"/>				
Not at school and/or are unemployed	<input type="radio"/>				
Lack of positive things to do for fun (eg. hobby, sports team)	<input type="radio"/>				
Drugs or alcohol	<input type="radio"/>				
For material gain like money or to have nice things	<input type="radio"/>				
They do not understand or care about the impact of crime on victims	<input type="radio"/>				
Mental health problems	<input type="radio"/>				
They do not think they will be caught	<input type="radio"/>				
They do not care about being caught	<input type="radio"/>				
They don't live with family	<input type="radio"/>				
They feel unfairly treated by society or authority figures	<input type="radio"/>				

	Very Important	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Personal issues with the victim	<input type="radio"/>				
They have a disability	<input type="radio"/>				
Homelessness	<input type="radio"/>				

9. Thinking about the reasons for offending, do you think they are the same for young people who offend in groups compared to those who offend alone?

No

Don't know

Yes (please write in a few words why)

10. Thinking about the young people who commit **violent and serious** crimes like assaults and car jacking, do you have any thoughts about what can be done to make them stop offending?

* 11. Thinking about what you would like from the department's youth justice programs when they work with young people who offend, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:

'The purpose of youth justice should be to...'

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
... punish a young person for their crimes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... support the young person and solve the problems which cause them to offend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... give victims the chance to tell offenders about the pain or damage they caused	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 12. Thinking about the young people who commit **serious and violent crimes**, how effective do you think the following options might be in making them stop?

	Very effective	Effective	Not very effective	Not at all effective
Hearing from their victims about the impact it had on them such as causing pain, fear or loss of property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having to repay victims for their crime through raising money and making apologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Catching the young person the first time they offend and giving them a warning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Punishing the offender the moment they are caught	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educating young offenders about the law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using social media advertising to remind young people about the impact of crime on victims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sending young people to youth custody as punishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing young offenders with counselling around the reasons they offend and providing other support if they need it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using community service as a punishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enforcing curfews so young offenders are not out at night	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stopping young offenders from spending time with other people who offend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Very effective

Effective

Not very effective

Not at all effective

Ordering them to attend
school or training if they
are not attending or
employed

These questions deal with responsibility. We are interested in knowing if you think a persons age should play a role in how much someone is held responsible.

* 13. Do you think it is reasonable to expect most young people in each of the following age groups would understand what activities are legal or illegal?

	Yes	Maybe	No
10 to 12	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13 to 14	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15 to 16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17 to 18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19 to 21	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 14. How strongly would you agree or disagree with the following statements about young adults aged 18 to 20?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
People aged 18 to 20 should be more accountable for breaking the law than someone aged under 18	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People aged 18 to 20 who offend should be given the same support as under 18's if it will help them stop offending	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 15. Imagine that you found out a friend or young person you know had been to court, found guilty and punished for a number of offences including property damage and theft. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the way you would react?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My feelings towards them would not change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would approve of their actions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would have less respect for them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would want to know more about what they did and why	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would try to support them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would want to have less contact with them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My parents would not want me spending time with them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My other friends would not approve of me spending time with them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Now think about the majority of young people who **do not** offend. Out of the following options, please select what you think are the most important reasons that so many young people **do not** break the law

- They simply would not think of committing a crime
- They know it is wrong
- There are Police, security and other adults around and watching at the time
- The fear of being caught
- They have plenty of good things to do with their time
- The legal consequences
- It would affect later life like being kicked out of school, losing their job or not being able to find work
- There is nothing to gain from it
- Their friends would not approved
- The way their parents would react if they found out
- The way other adults would react such as the parents of their friends, teachers, sports coach, role models or employers
- They would feel guilty about the impact on victims of crime

17. Do you have anything else you would like to add about the topics we have discussed?

Finally a few questions about you. Please note we do not ask for anything which might identify you personally.

* 18. Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?

Yes

No

* 19. Which gender do you identify with?

Male

Female

Other (please specify)

* 20. Were you born in Australia?

Yes

No

* 21. What is the main language spoken at home?

English

Language other than English

Mixture of English and another language

* 22. Which of the following activities are you currently undertaking?

You can select more than one option if this best describes you.

- Studying full time at school
- Studying full time at TAFE, University or similar
- Studying part time at TAFE, University or similar
- Doing an apprenticeship
- Working part-time
- Working full-time
- Looking for work
- Caring for a child, relative or friend
- Other (please specify)

* 23. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Primary school
- Year 7 or 8
- Year 9
- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 12 or equivalent
- TAFE Certificate
- University Degree
- Other (please specify)

24. If you have an income, please select which best describes you

- I work for an employer
- Self-employed- making money online
- Self-employed- running or setting up a small business
- Self-employed- freelancing
- Self employed- other
- I receive income support from Centrelink
- I receive pocket money
- I receive money for doing chores and work at home
- I do not receive an income

25. What is your postcode?

26. Please indicate if you or anyone you know been in contact with the following parts of the justice system for breaking the law.

Please note we are not asking for details of any particular crimes, we simply want to understand how aware you are of the youth justice system

- Authorised officers or Protective Service Officers (PSO) on public transport
- Police
- Court
- Youth Justice
- Diversion programs
- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer