



Hawkesbury City Council

attachment 1
to
item 92

Hawkesbury Youth Summit

date of meeting: 30 May 2017
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.



HAWKESBURY
youth
Summit

2017 Outcomes

Get involved, be heard, and make a difference



Executive Summary, Key Findings and Recommendations

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In response to the recommendations presented to a Council meeting by young people following the 2015 Youth Summit, another forum was held in April 2017 to continue the dialogue between Council and Young People.
- 1.2 On Wednesday 5 April, 118 young people from across the Hawkesbury met together for the 2017 Hawkesbury Youth Summit. Participants represented six Hawkesbury high schools and two non-mainstream education providers including: Arndell Christian College, Bede Polding College, Colo High School, Eagle Arts & Vocational College, Kuyper Christian School, Richmond High School, Western Sydney Training & Education Centre (WSTEC), and Windsor High School.
- 1.3 The Summit was designed to be an opportunity for young people to raise with Councillors and Council staff issues of importance to them and to begin to offer ideas and solutions to these issues.
- 1.4 Council engaged a group of interested young people to form the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Planning Group. The Summit was a success in large part due to the commitment and interest from this group. Their involvement and insight in the lead up to the Summit was crucial to the meaningful engagement of young people.
- 1.5 The access to a Youth Participation Officer Facebook page continued to assist in the planning of the 2017 Youth Summit.

2. Youth Summit Key Findings

- 2.1 Participants indicated that the primary issue young people are facing in the Hawkesbury is a lack of access to youth services.

This was followed by the top issues as shown below:

- A lack of public transport.
 - Mental Health and a lack of Mental Health services.
 - A lack of youth activities & facilities.
 - Alcohol & Drugs.
 - A desire to maintain the Hawkesbury's natural heritage.
 - Competitiveness in friendships.
 - Youth employment options.
 - Bullying.
 - A desire for more inter-school events.
- 2.2 A lack of public transport and youth transport options continues to be raised at the Youth Summit as major concerns for young people in the Hawkesbury. The feedback from young people indicated that a lack of transportation affects the ability of young people to engage in employment and youth services. The feedback from young people also indicated that the lack of transportation can lead to a sense of isolation and can have an effect on the Mental Health of young people in the Hawkesbury.
 - 2.3 Bullying continues to be raised at the Youth Summit as a major concern for young people in the Hawkesbury. Many young people indicated that they were aware of the anti-bullying programs provided by Council and consider these as quality programs; however they also indicated that these programs do not cater to enough young people to be sufficient in creating a meaningful impact to reverse bullying culture in the Hawkesbury.

- 2.4 Alcohol and drug use continues to be raised at the Youth Summit as a major concern for young people in the Hawkesbury. The feedback from young people indicated that there is not currently adequate service provision for young people facing these concerns in the Hawkesbury.
- 2.5 Young people indicated overwhelmingly that a lack of youth events, activities, and inter-school events, continues to be a concern for young people in the Hawkesbury. The feedback from young people indicated that there is a growing desire for more engaging youth events that can showcase local talent
- 2.6 Youth employment continues to be raised at the Youth Summit as a major concern for young people in the Hawkesbury. Feedback from young people indicated that there is not currently adequate service provision for young people looking for work in the Hawkesbury.
- 2.7 Protection of the Hawkesbury's natural and cultural heritage was raised as an issue for young people in the Hawkesbury.

3. Youth Summit Recommendations

- 3.1 As a lack of access to youth services was identified as an ongoing issue, Hawkesbury City Council to work with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Schools Partnership Group to promote, enhance, and improve access to, existing youth services.
- 3.2 As a lack of public transport and youth transport options were identified as ongoing issues, Hawkesbury City Council to continue to work with Peppercorn Services Inc. to support and enhance existing youth transport initiatives.
- 3.3 As bullying was identified as an ongoing issue, Hawkesbury City Council to investigate options for resourcing suitable anti-bullying programs for Hawkesbury high schools and non-mainstream education providers.
- 3.4 As youth employment was identified as an ongoing issue, Hawkesbury City Council to continue to work with Ability Options and the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to determine measures to support young people in accessing employment services or events.
- 3.5 As youth mental health was identified as an ongoing issue, Hawkesbury City Council to investigate options for resourcing a Youth Mental Health Forum based in the Hawkesbury.
- 3.6 As a lack of youth activities was identified as an ongoing issue, Youth Participation Officer to work with Council's Cultural Services Department and the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to investigate options for how new cultural and artistic events for young people can be created that showcase local talent.
- 3.7 As the protection of the Hawkesbury's natural and cultural heritage was raised as an issue, Hawkesbury City Council to investigate options to support and promote natural heritage initiatives and events for young people.
- 3.8 Contact to be maintained with young people to provide opportunities for young people to be involved in civic leadership and Council process. Youth Participation Officer to support Council staff by promoting opportunities for young people to have ongoing involvement with Council projects.

Background

4. Origin of Hawkesbury Youth Summit

- 4.1 The *Young People – Community Participation and Civic Leadership Report* was commissioned in response to a request from Council to identify options for supporting youth services and young people to plan and deliver events, programs and activities for young people, and to increase their involvement in Council's policy-making processes.

The report was prepared in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and documented the outcomes of focus groups and interviews held with young people and youth workers. The results of the consultations informed the eight recommendations in the Report which were adopted by Council in October 2008.

Three of the eight recommendations in the *Young People – Community Participation and Civic Leadership Report* related to the staging and funding of a regular youth summit. The Hawkesbury Youth Summit was initially held on 24 November 2009, and was subsequently held on 29 March 2012 and 31 March 2015, and in response to the recommendations in the 2015 report and to continue the dialogue between Council and Young People, a Youth Summit was held on 5 April 2017. This report details the outcomes of the Youth Summit held 5 April 2017.

5. Elements of Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017

- 5.1 The 2017 Hawkesbury Youth Summit was planned and created in partnership with: Hawkesbury City Council, The Youth Summit Planning Group, Wesley Mission, North Richmond Community Centre, and Richmond High School.
- 5.1 The Youth Summit was held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at Richmond High School.
- 5.2 The Youth Summit was attended by 118 young people representing six Hawkesbury high schools and two non-mainstream education providers including: Arndell Christian College, Bede Polding College, Colo High School, Eagle Arts & Vocational College, Kuyper Christian School, Richmond High School, Western Sydney Training & Education Centre (WSTEC), and Windsor High School.
- 5.3 The Summit was attended by 10 Hawkesbury Youth Service Providers including: Wesley Mission, Hawkesbury Community Outreach Services, NSW Police – Windsor Local Area Command, Bligh Park Youth Project, North Richmond Community Centre, Family Planning NSW, headspace, Youth Action, Wentworth Community Housing, and Peppercorn Services Inc.
- 5.4 The Youth Summit was attended by two Council departments including: Cultural Services (with exhibits from the Library and Gallery) and the Community Services Department (with an exhibit from the Youth Participation Officer).
- 5.6 The Youth Summit was facilitated by Burn Bright and The Human Sound Project.
- 5.7 All Youth Summit participants were invited to respond to the Hawkesbury Youth Summit Online Survey, through the Council's 'Your Hawkesbury Your Say' page, prior to attending the Youth Summit.
- 5.8 The Youth Summit was catered by Richmond High School's student catering team.

- 5.9 All technical setup and operation for the Youth Summit was conducted by Richmond High School's student technician team.
- 5.10 Peppercorn Community Transport and Hawkesbury Community Outreach Services provided transportation for Youth Summit participants.
- 5.11 The Youth Summit program included:
- 9.30AM Start.
 - Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Mr Cliff Ralph – Principal Richmond High School – 10 mins.
 - Burn Bright introductions and morning program – 75 mins.
 - Human Sound Project Performance – 20 mins.
 - Morning break – 15 mins.
 - Hawkesbury City Council presentation and survey winners announced by Youth Participation Officer – 15 mins.
 - Burn Bright midday program around Hawkesbury youth issues – 60 mins.
 - Guest Speaker – Natasha Lay from Youth Action – 15 mins.
 - Lunch break and Youth Service Provider Expo – 40 mins.
 - Human Sound Project Workshop – 30 mins.
 - Burn Bright Afternoon workshop and young people presented findings – 45 mins.
 - 2.30PM Finish.

6. Youth Summit Planning Group

- 6.1 As part of the Youth Summit, Hawkesbury City Council brought together a group of young people from across the Hawkesbury to work with Council's Youth Participation Officer. This group met for five months prior to the event to act as a steering committee for all decisions that were made pertaining to the planning and content of the Youth Summit program.

The Youth Summit Planning Group was made up of a combination of local young people who expressed interest in being involved in youth activities and civic leadership. Invitations were extended to schools, youth centres, and contacts from the previous Youth Summit.

This group worked together to plan the details of the Youth Summit and were crucial to the success of the event.

7. Youth Summit Participants

- 7.1 The Youth Summit Planning Group determined to invite a diverse group of participants to the Youth Summit to ensure that a range of age groups and socio-economic backgrounds were represented at the Youth Summit. Invitations were extended to all Hawkesbury high school students, and, high school-aged students not engaged in mainstream education. Participants were then selected by the attending schools and non-mainstream education providers. The young people who attended ranged from 14-17 years of age, with a close to equal balance in gender.

8. Aims and Objectives

8.1 The main aim of the Hawkesbury Youth Summit was developed by the planning group in the early stages of planning for the 2017 Youth Summit. Their hope was for the Youth Summit to give young people a greater voice about the issues they face living, working, or studying in the Hawkesbury.

The above aim was to be achieved by:

- Participants will have opportunities provided at the Summit to be involved in facilitated activities to support their participation in raising key issues for young people living, working, or studying in the Hawkesbury.
- Participants will have opportunities provided at the Summit to be engaged and inspired through performances and creative workshops to support their participation in raising key issues for young people living, working, or studying in the Hawkesbury.
- Participants will have opportunities for their concerns to be raised and for them to offer workable solutions to these issues which Council will endeavour to action.

Other objectives included:

8.2 For young people to connect with Youth Service Providers and to find out more information about services available to them.

8.3 To build a sense of connectedness for participants by:

- Bringing together participants from as many Hawkesbury high schools and non-mainstream education providers as possible.
- Providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds raise and discuss common issues and concerns.

Youth Summit Methodology and Section Findings

(A) Students engaged in an activity where they were required to have conversations with different people regarding the following four questions:

1) What is the best memory you have had in the Hawkesbury?

2) If you were to survey people from the community, what do you think their response would be to: 'what are your top 3 favourite things about the Hawkesbury'?

3) Imagine you have a time machine, in 20 years' time, what does the Hawkesbury community look like? i.e. what are the services and facilities available to young people, what new community developments feature in the Hawkesbury?

4) What are some of the challenges you are currently facing in your friendships and what are some ways you are overcoming these challenges?

Students were given a worksheet to write down their answers and to return to the facilitators for collation. The below details the data collected from this activity:

What is the best memory you have had in the Hawkesbury?

- Hawkesbury Show
- The Yarramundi River
- Working at the Hawkesbury Show
- Playing netball for my community
- Recreational activities
- Going to the Hawkesbury library and reading
- Bike riding
- Water skiing
- Going to Church
- Cadets
- Flying
- Just hanging out with friends
- Going to Girl Guides
- Making new friends
- Duke of Edinburgh

The top three most common answers collected from question (1):

- 1) *The Hawkesbury Show*
- 2) *Engaging in recreational activities: community sport, the Yarramundi River etc.*
- 3) *Spending time with friends outside of school community*

If you were to survey people from the community, what do you think their response would be to: 'what are your top 3 favourite things about the Hawkesbury?'

- Access to sport
- Good schooling
- Plenty of schooling options
- The bushland and nature in our community
- The Hawkesbury Library
- Land for recreational activities
- Opportunity to house livestock
- Historic buildings
- Friendly locals / people in community
- Close community, you can get along with everyone
- Going to the movies
- The secluded nature of the area
- Sunday Markets
- Extracurricular activities available, drama, sport, music
- The scenery
- Local pools
- The easy lifestyle

The top three most common answers collected from question (2):

- 1) *The nature of the community, friendly and inclusive*
- 2) *The annual Hawkesbury Show*
- 3) *Facilities available i.e. Pool and Library*

Imagine you have a time machine, in 20 years' time, what does the Hawkesbury community look like? i.e. what are the services and facilities available to young people, what new community developments feature in the Hawkesbury?

- Better shopping centres
- More agriculture initiatives
- More markets available
- Go back to our country heritage, no more development
- There will be no more homelessness
- Greater transport options
- More sporting fields

- More parks for families
- Restart Horse Racing
- Recycling plants
- Greater health services
- Better roads
- Places for young people to hang out (that's not McDonalds)
- More community events
- Historical buildings still exist
- New Windsor Bridge
- A bigger library in Richmond
- More populated and filled with a mix of local and corporate businesses
- More advertising about things for young people
- More sufficient energy plants
- More community music initiatives
- Improved rail work and airport
- More restaurants for families and young people
- More establishments that help people not just sell stuff
- Another university option
- Drug free community
- No more smoking

The top three most common answers collected from question (3):

- 1) *More places / facilities for young people to gather*
- 2) *Greater access to public transport / more transport available*
- 3) *More community initiatives to build and engage community members*

What are some of the challenges you are currently facing in your friendships and what are some ways you are overcoming these challenges?

- I'm not having any challenges in my friendship groups currently
- My friends are great
- A lot of drama and tend to be over dramatic
- Competition in relationship status
- Ability to hang out outside of school without transport
- Competitiveness with appearance / generally
- Popularity defines personality
- Staying in contact with friends who have left
- Not sure how to resolve issues in friendships sometimes
- Trying to help friends who are struggling with mental health
- Bullying circle
- Body shaming
- Popularity competition

The top three most common answers collected from question (4):

- 1) *Trying to help friends who are struggling with Mental Health*
- 2) *High rate of competitiveness in friendships*
- 3) *Culture of bullying in friendship circles*

B) Students engaged in an activity where they were required to have conversations and brainstorm with students from different schools regarding the following topics:

- 1) What are some things, if introduced would make your life in the Hawkesbury even better?
- 2) What are some ways to build connections between schools?
- 3) What are the biggest needs for young people in the Hawkesbury Community?
- 4) What spaces / facilities would you like the Hawkesbury to offer to young people?

Students were asked to write down as many ideas as they could relating to the above topics; this activity worked on rotation, allowing each group to brainstorm their ideas for each topic.

What are some things, if introduced would make your life in the Hawkesbury even better:

- Music festivals for young people
- Having support services for people struggling and in need
- Pathways in semi-rural areas
- More facilities for young people
- More entertainment and local events
- No overcrowding on public buses
- Greater job availability for young people
- Greater support for young parents
- More developed shelter for animals
- Maintaining bushland
- Discounted Youth Gym

The top three most common answers collected from questions (1):

- 1) *More facilities for young people to access health professional help*
- 2) *More entertainment for young people and community engagement*
- 3) *Pathways and assistance for youth employment*

What are some ways to build connections between schools?

- More interschool events between public and private schools
- Young people of the Hawkesbury Facebook page
- Combined sporting events
- Multi school excursions
- Hawkesbury Young People community group that raise money for certain charities
- Community study groups for senior students
- Community SRC that organises community events with council

The top three most common answers collected from questions (2):

- 1) *Multi school excursions.*
- 2) *Combined school sporting events i.e. community gala day / colour run.*
- 3) *Greater cross connection between public and private schools.*

What are the biggest needs for young people in the Hawkesbury Community?

- Greater options to be hands on in the community i.e. volunteering
- Doctors that are open 24/7
- Opportunities for employment
- Less isolated area
- More parks and exercise equipment
- Healthier food stores
- Safety / safe zones
- Availability of different school subjects
- Mental health facilities for young people
- Teen pregnancy support
- Study facilitates

The top three most common answers collected from questions (3):

- 1) *Identified need for safe spaces for youth i.e. young parent refuges, homeless youth shelter.*
- 2) *Mental health facilities for young people.*
- 3) *Youth Employment support i.e. job seek.*

What spaces / facilities would you like the Hawkesbury to offer to young people?

- More counselling services for young people
- Greater access / transport services for young people
- Shopping centre i.e. Westfield
- Improved movie theatre
- Gymnasium for young people to use
- An art gallery for young people to submit art projects
- Community garden
- BMX track
- Designated graffiti wall to decrease vandalism
- Facilities that focus on LGBTI
- Safe houses if you can't go home
- Study areas that are not the library
- Youth drug rehabilitation facilities

The top three most common answers collected from questions (4):

- 1) Facilities for young people to seek professional help*
- 2) Greater spaces for young people to engage in recreational activities i.e gym, creative arts, sport.*
- 3) Greater access to public transport for young people*

C) Students engaged in an activity where they were required to form a sub group from their school. This activity featured three phases:

(1) Individually identify the following: (a) *The greatest issue facing young people in the Hawkesbury*
(b) *What is the ultimate thing you would like to see improved within the Hawkesbury.*

(2) In School Sub group discuss each point and identify common theme. Common theme is then to inform brainstorm and discussion around project/initiative or event that will provide a solution for above (a OR b)

(3) Brainstorm and create ideas for project > select which project idea is the top idea > formulate a pitch to present idea back to group.

Below are the projects / initiatives created from the participating school groups:

Arndell Christian College / Kuyper High School:

A community engagement festival that features food stalls and music. Youth led, which features young musicians from the Hawkesbury community.

Colo High School / WSTEC:

Project to implement street lights into community streets that currently don't feature these. Identified issue of road damage i.e. pot holes and mention of fences being structured for needed areas.

Richmond High School / Windsor High School:

(1) Youth Chats – a space where young people can go to chat with professionals about anything on their mind.

(2) Lack of entertainment for young people: *development of the local Richmond Skate Park and option to have development of Rock Climbing hub.*

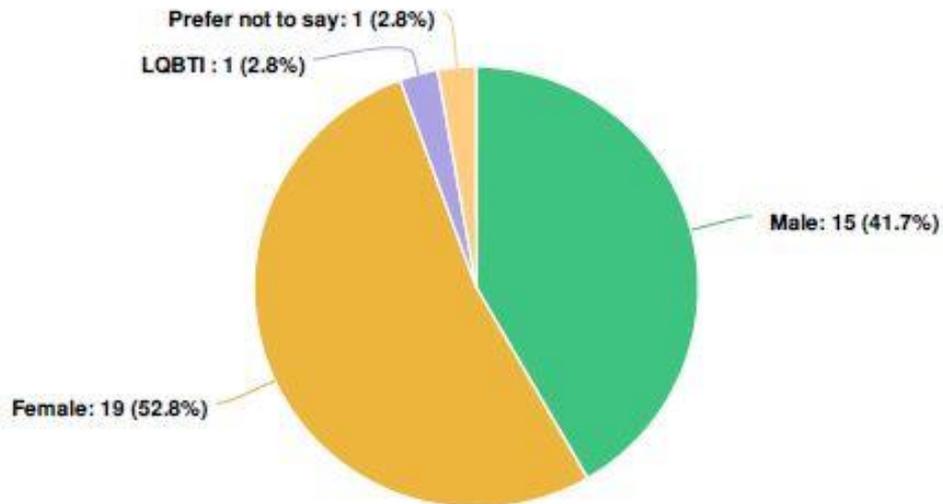
(3) Develop a community vegetable garden where people can plant vegetables, and build community.

Bede Polding High School / Eagle Arts:

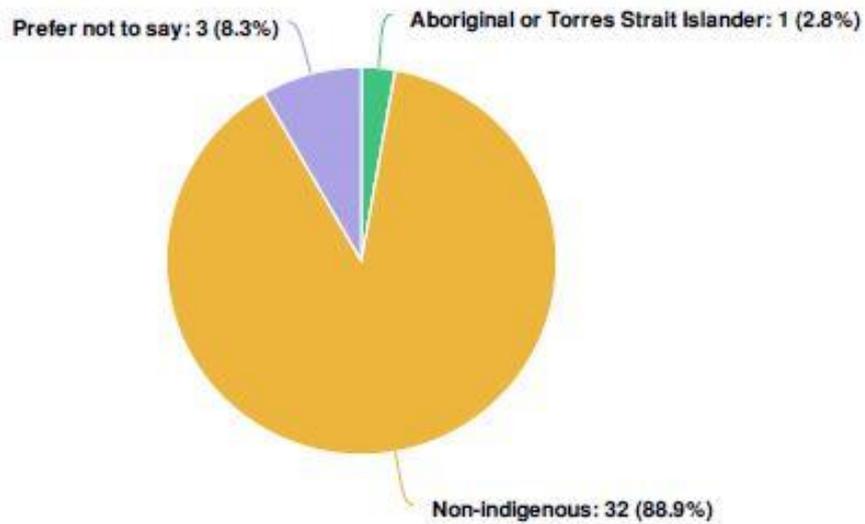
Project to develop greater access to transport for people in rural areas. Identified an issue of people not tapping on and off when using public transport. Suggestion of bus maps that is easier to read.

Hawkesbury Youth Summit Online Survey

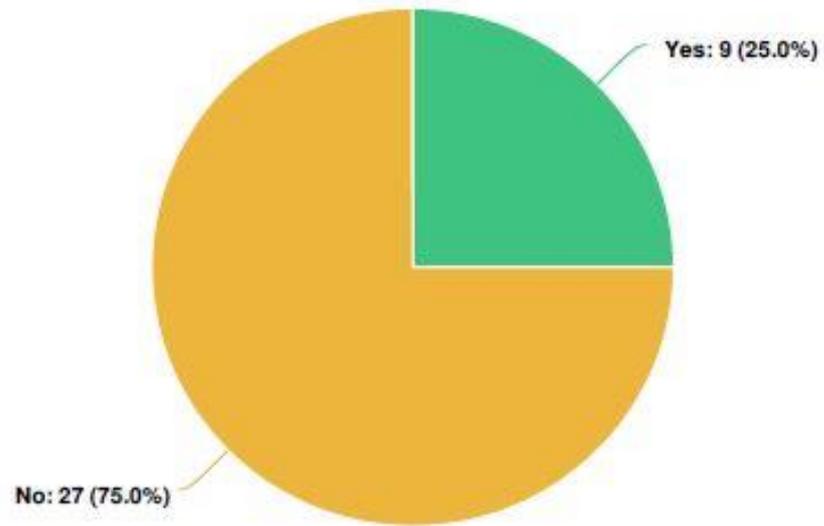
Do you identify as:



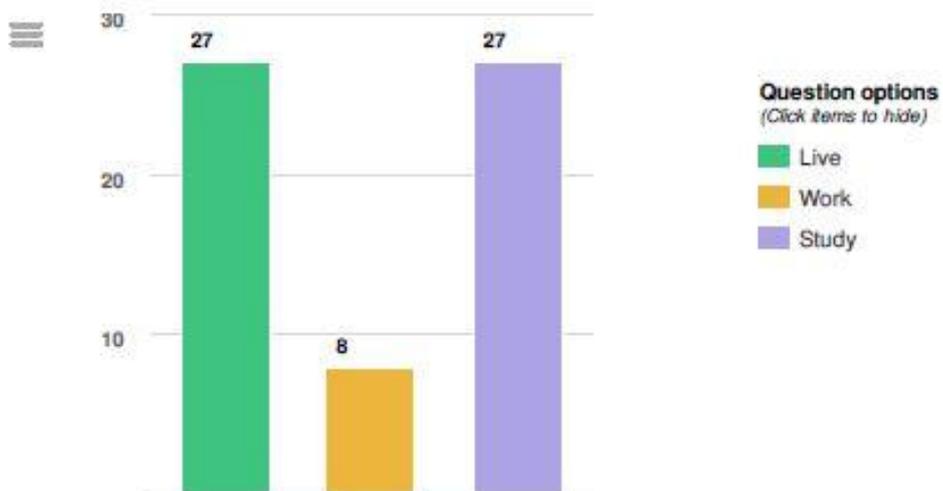
Do you identify as



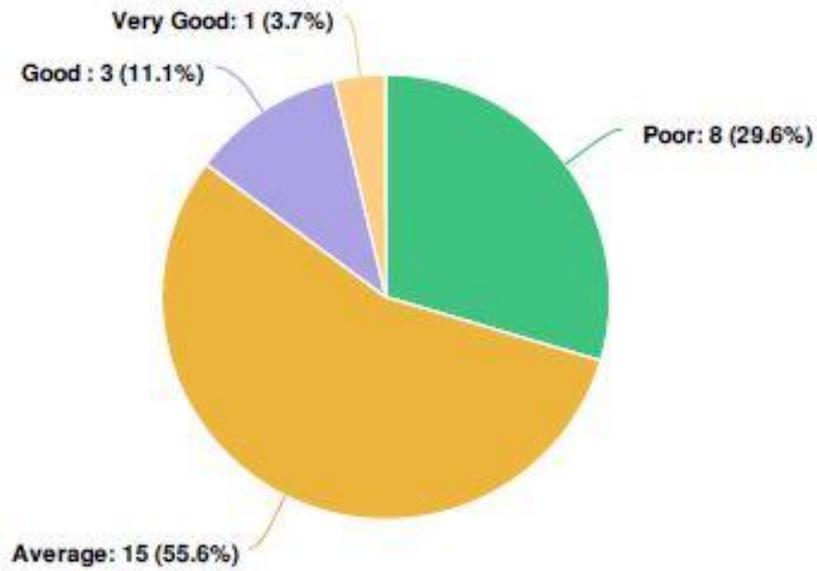
Do you identify as having a Culturally & Linguistically Diverse background?



Do you live, work, or study in the Hawkesbury?

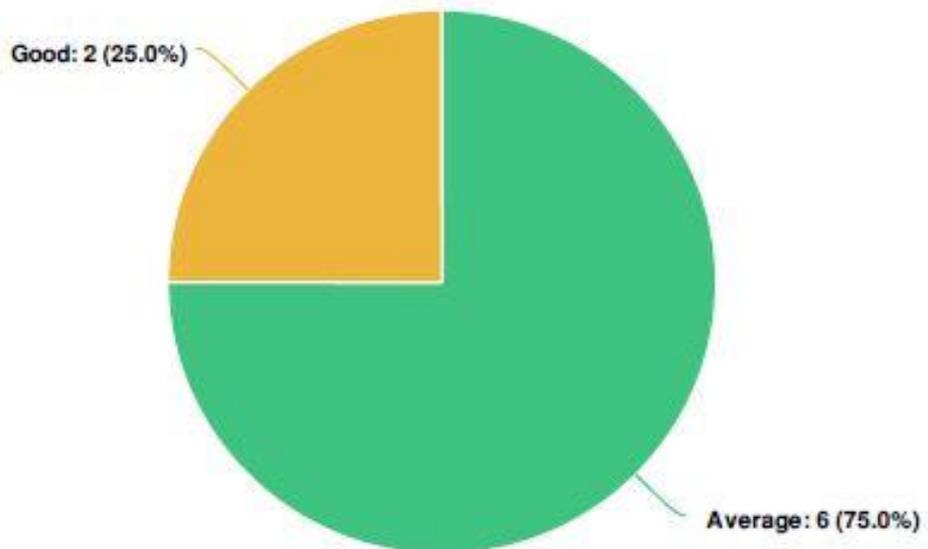


How would you best describe the quality of the roads in the Hawkesbury in your home suburb?



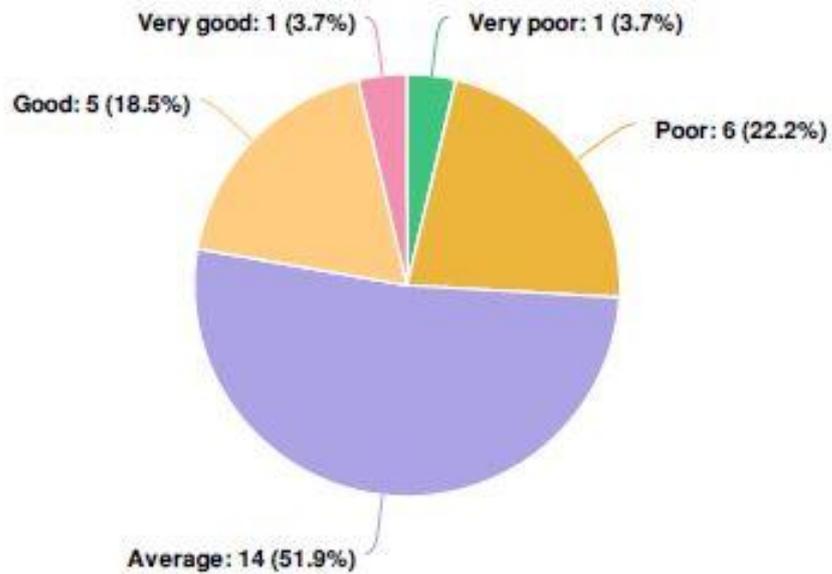
How would you best describe the quality of the roads in the Hawkesbury in your place of work?

Optional question

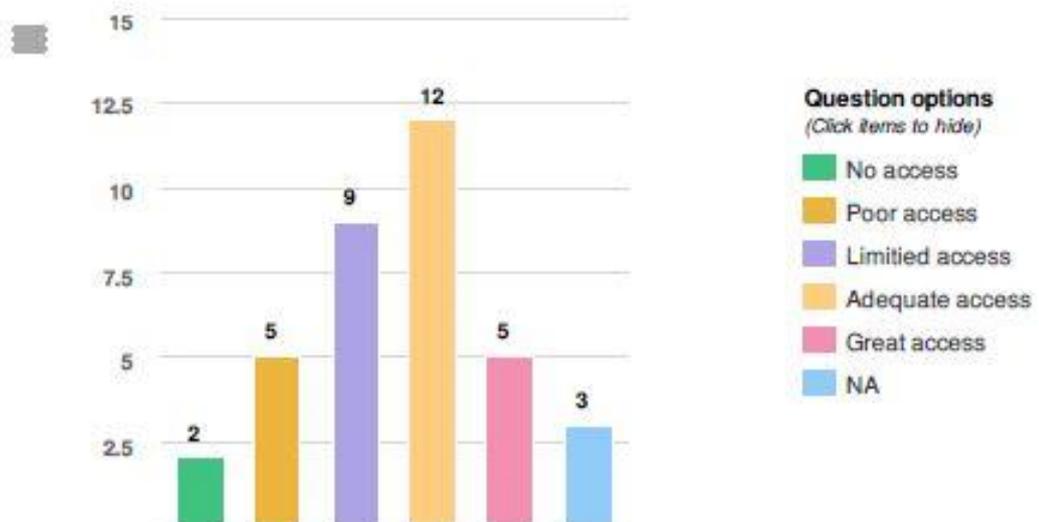


How would you best describe the quality of the roads in the Hawkesbury in your place of study?

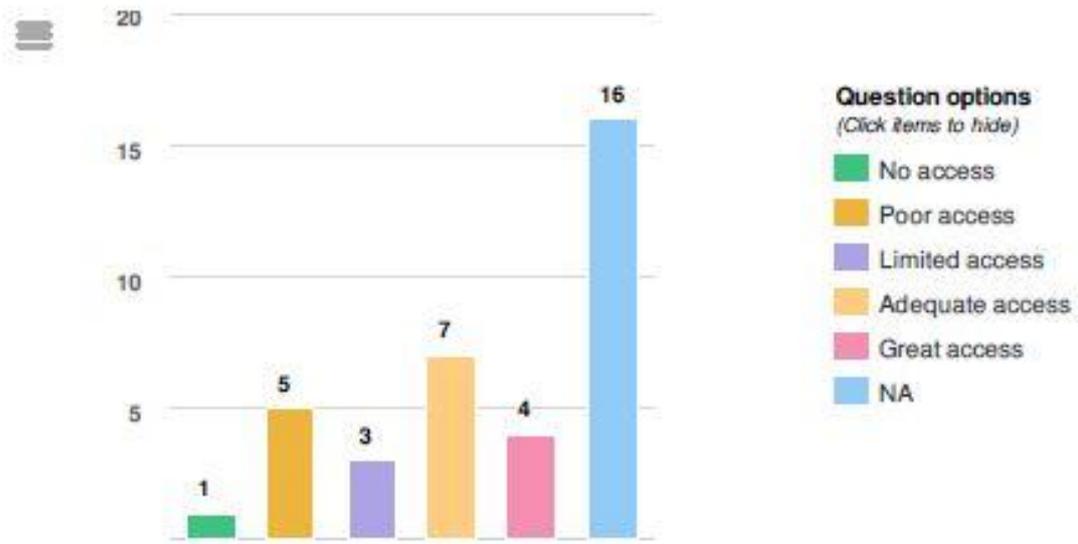
Optional question



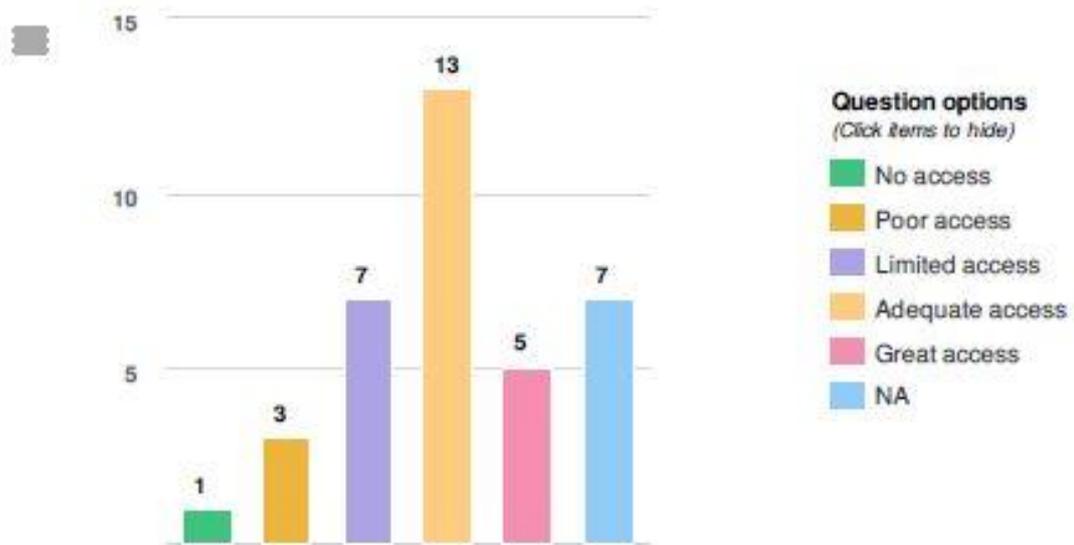
Which level of access to public transport do you have from home?



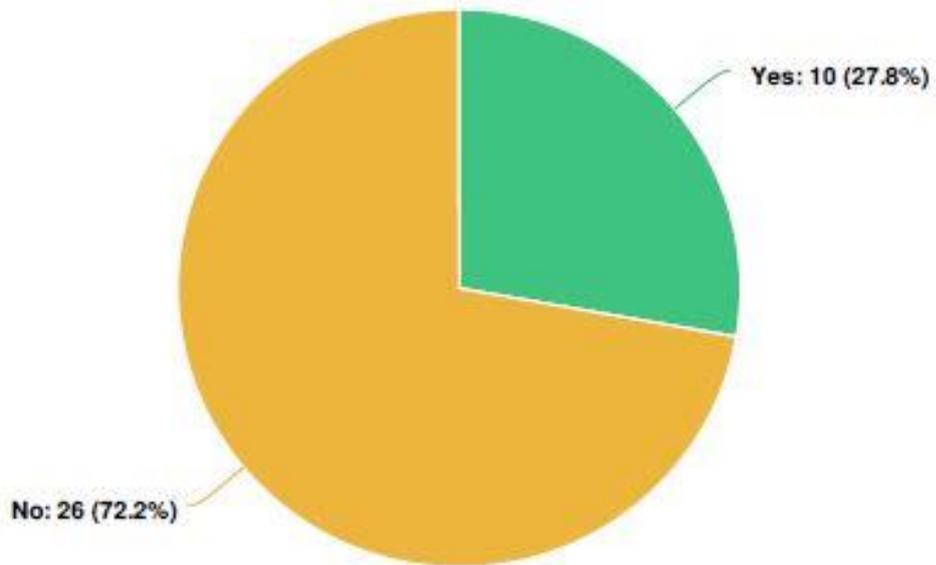
Which level of access to public transport do you have to and from place of work?



Which level of access to public transport do you have to and from place of study?

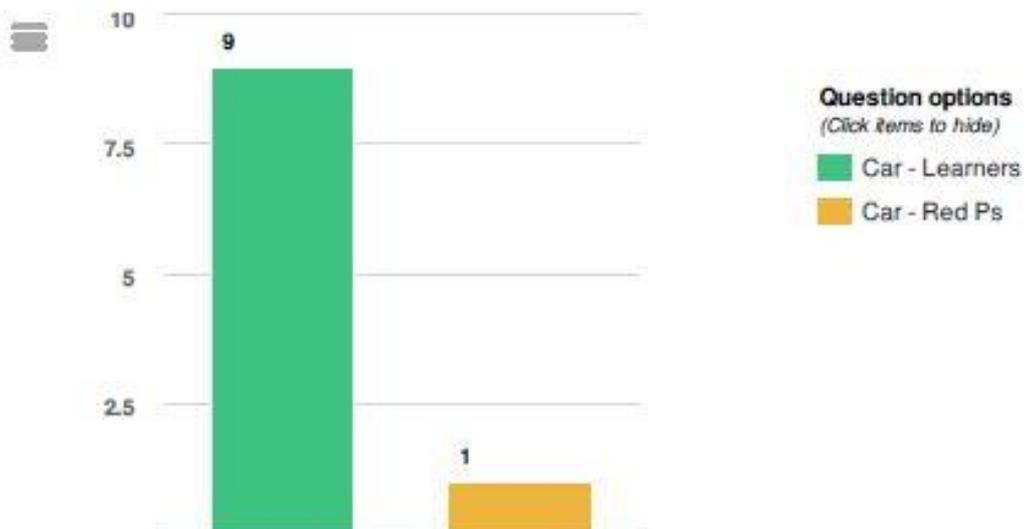


Do you have a drivers licence?

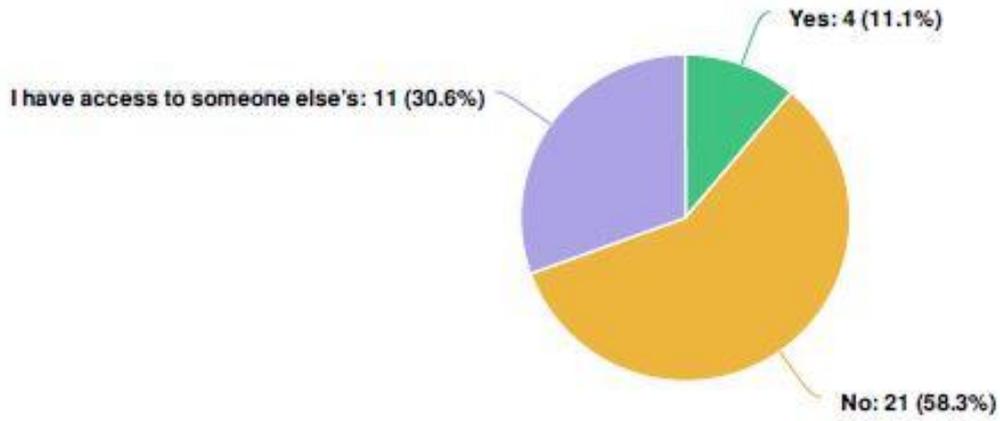


What type of licence(s) do you have?

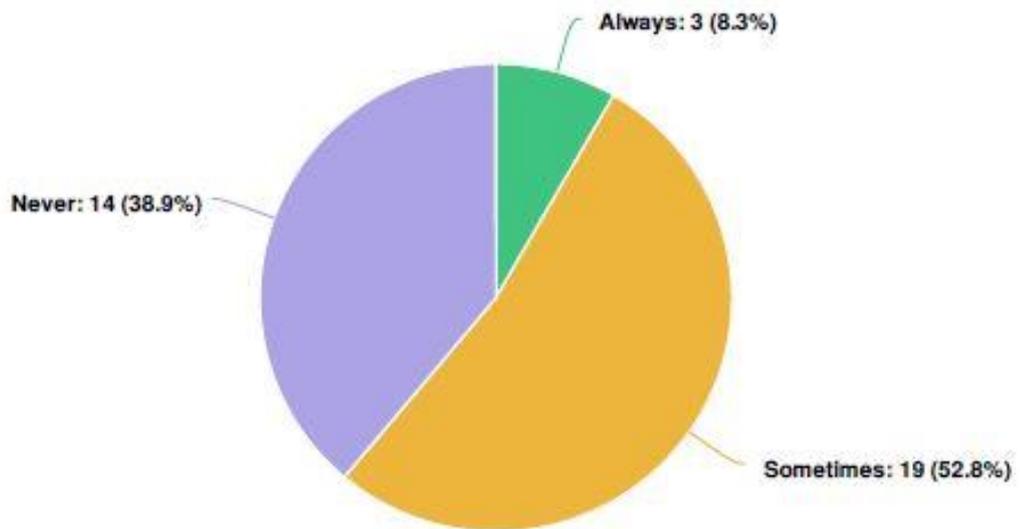
Optional question



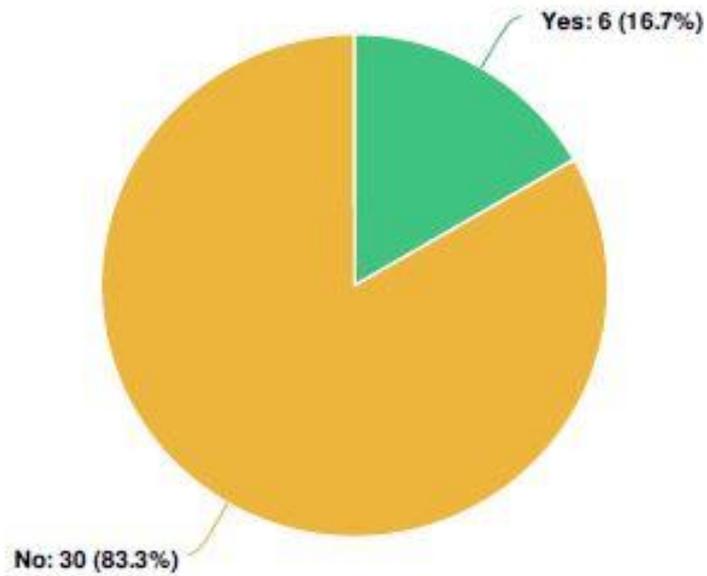
Do you have your own vehicle?



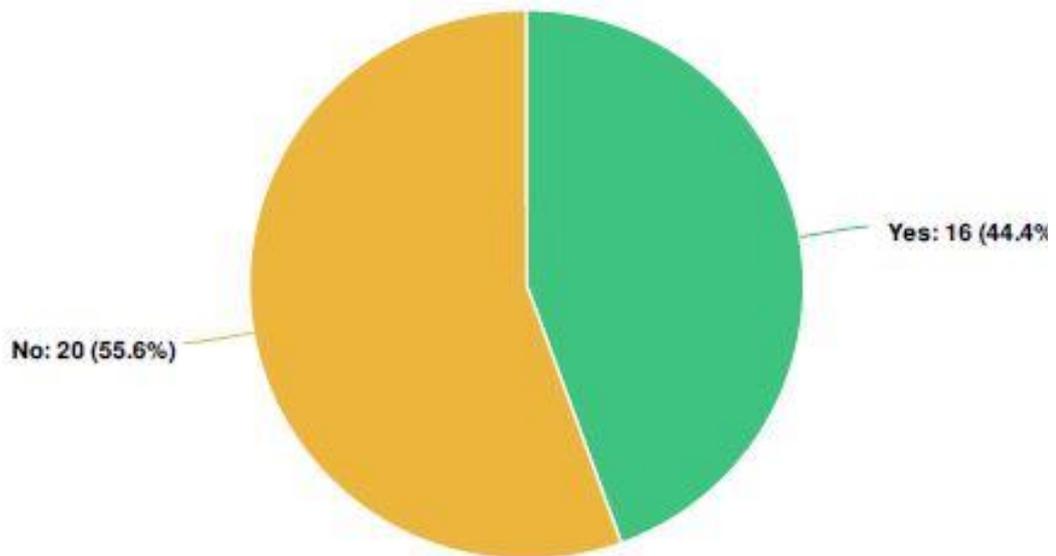
Do you ever feel isolated because of where you live and your ability to get around?



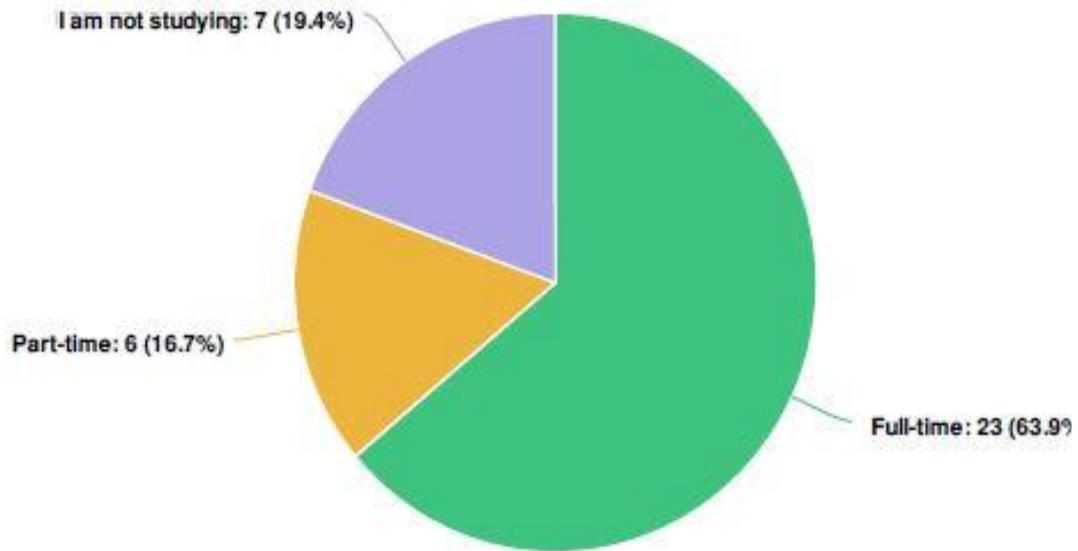
Did you know that all young people (aged 12-25) have access to free Community Transport options to assist them in getting to and from important appointments?



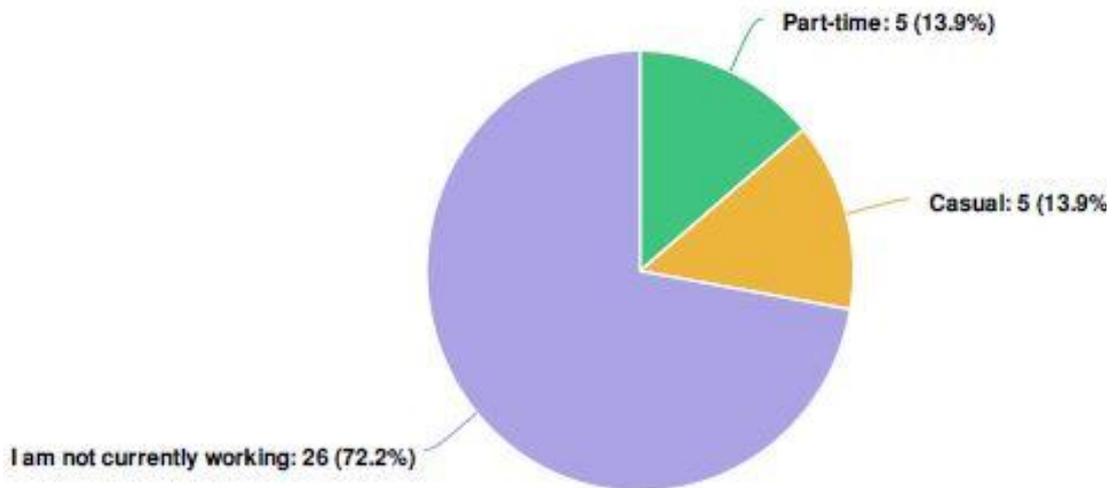
Would you like more information about Community Transport options?



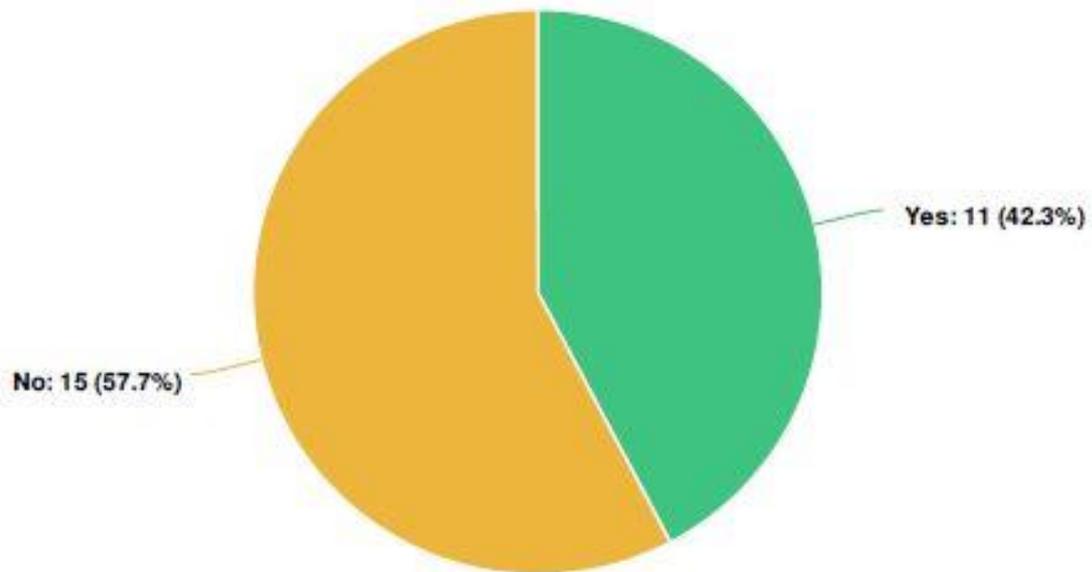
Are you currently studying:



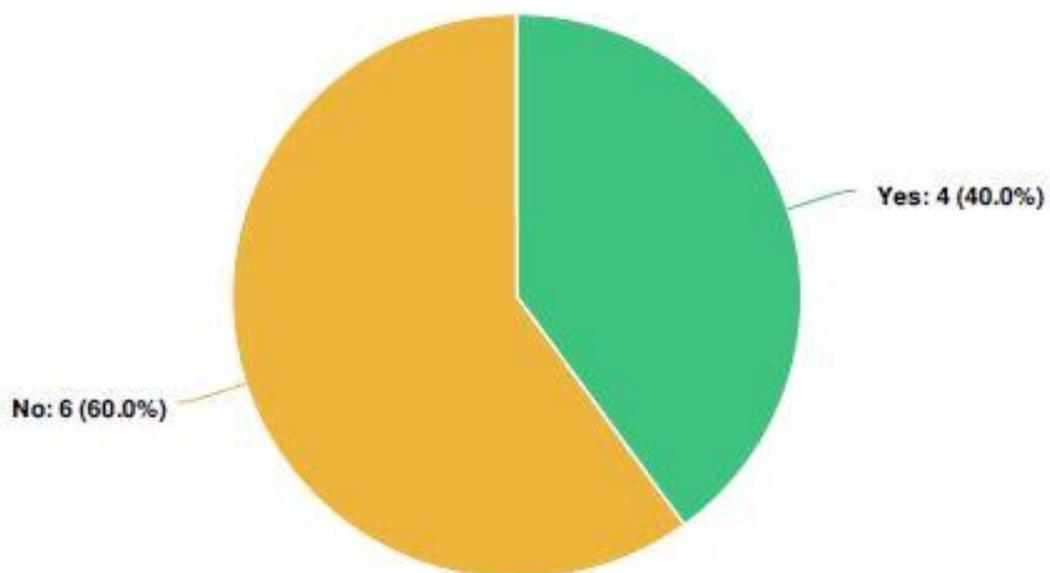
Are you currently working:



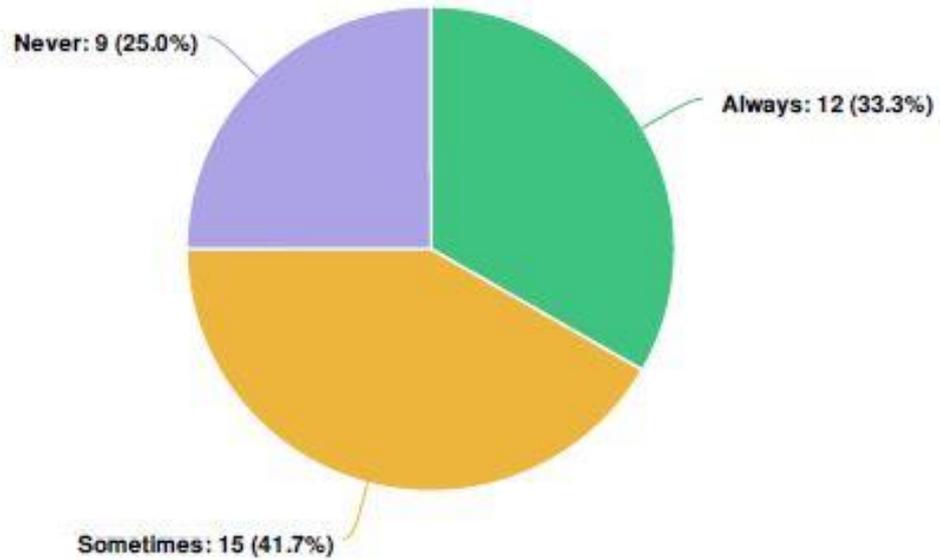
Are you looking for work?



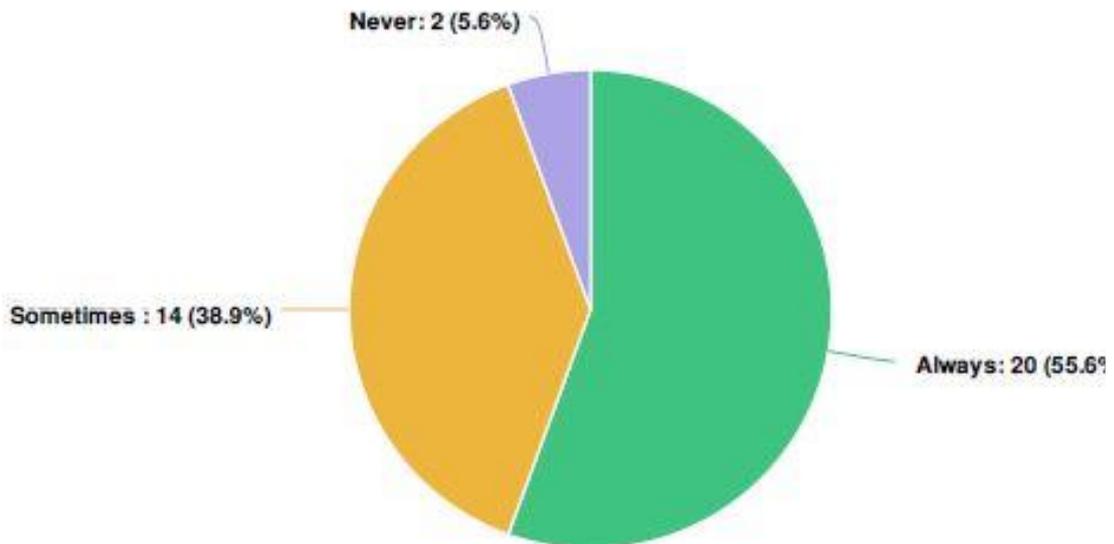
Are you looking for more work?



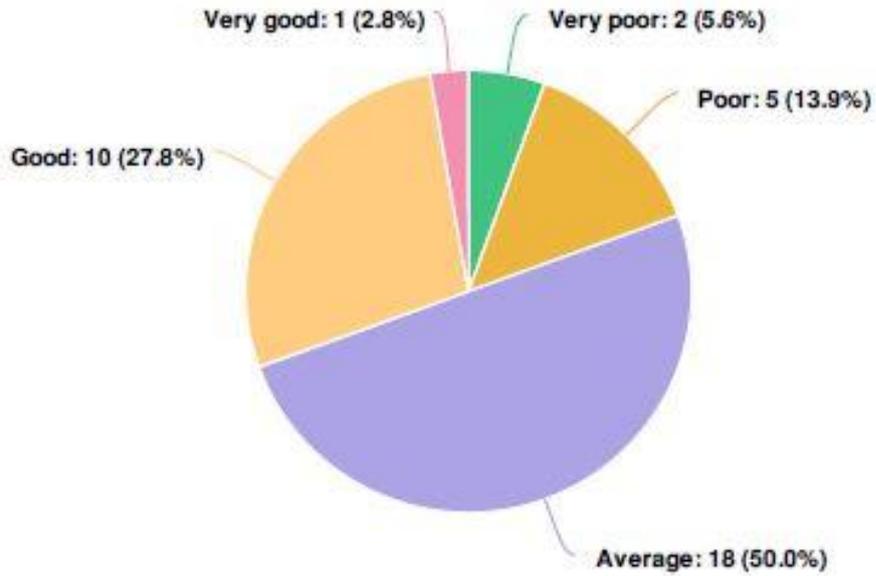
Are you happy with your current work situation?



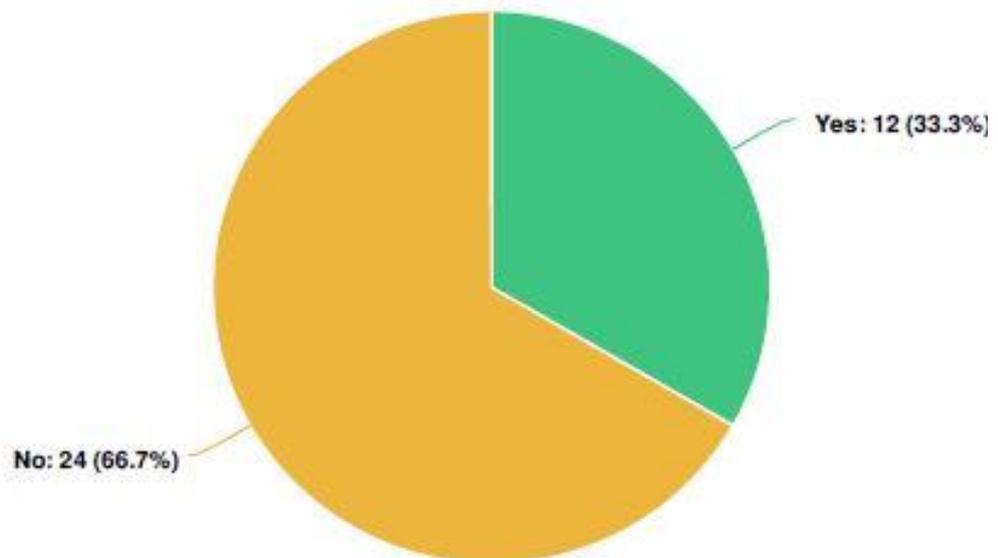
Are you happy with your current study situation?



How would you best describe your level of access to quality employment options?

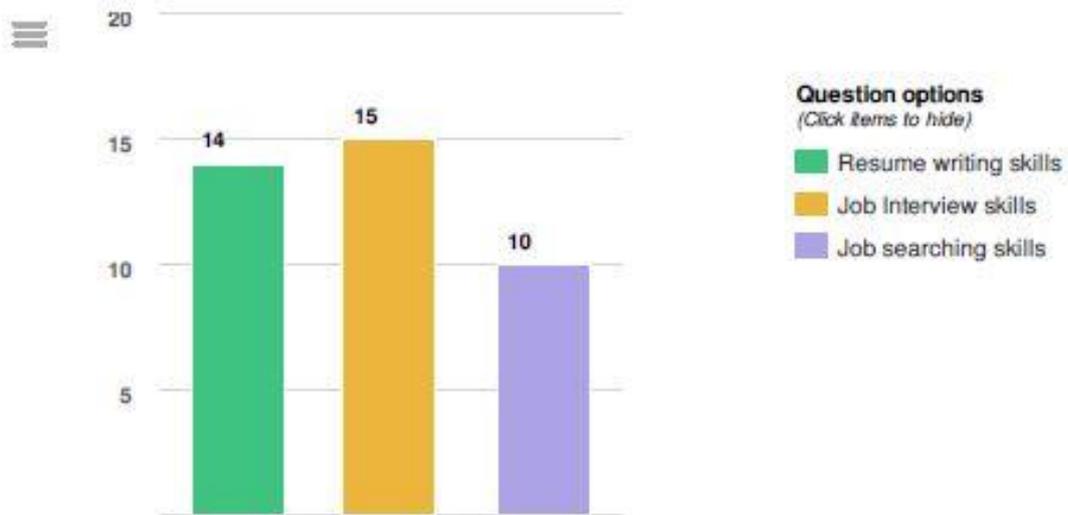


Did you know that there are a range of free services to assist young people in accessing quality employment options?

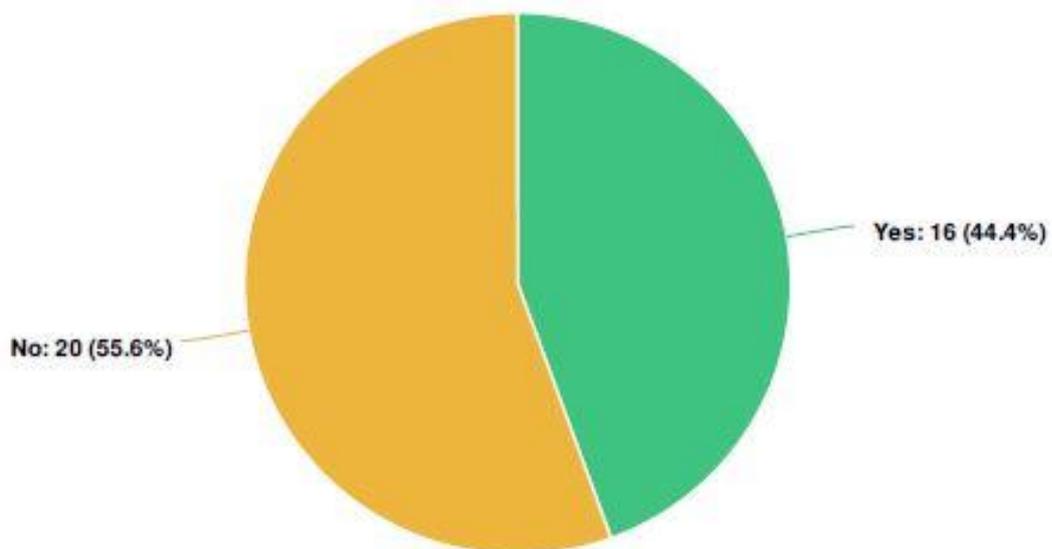


Have you ever heard of/used the following free services (please tick)?

Optional question

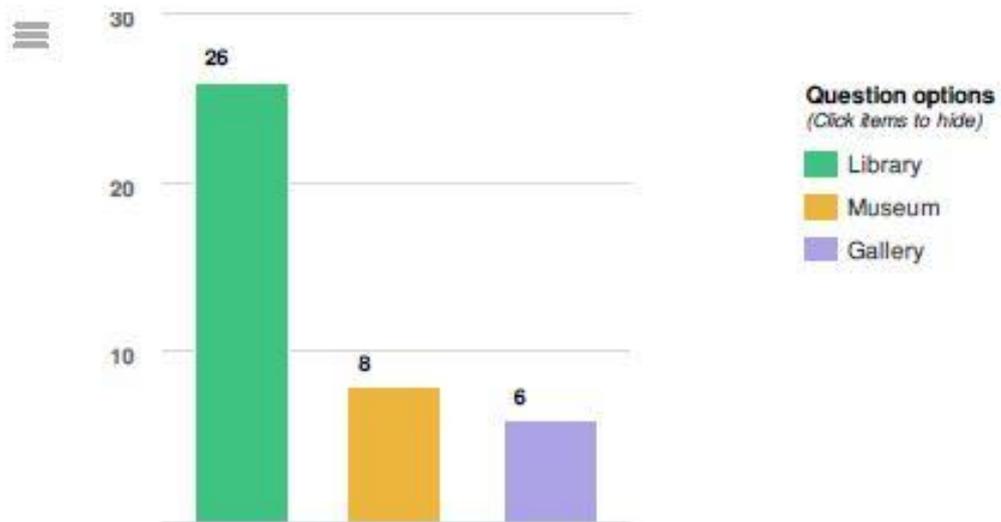


Would you like more information about free Youth employment services?

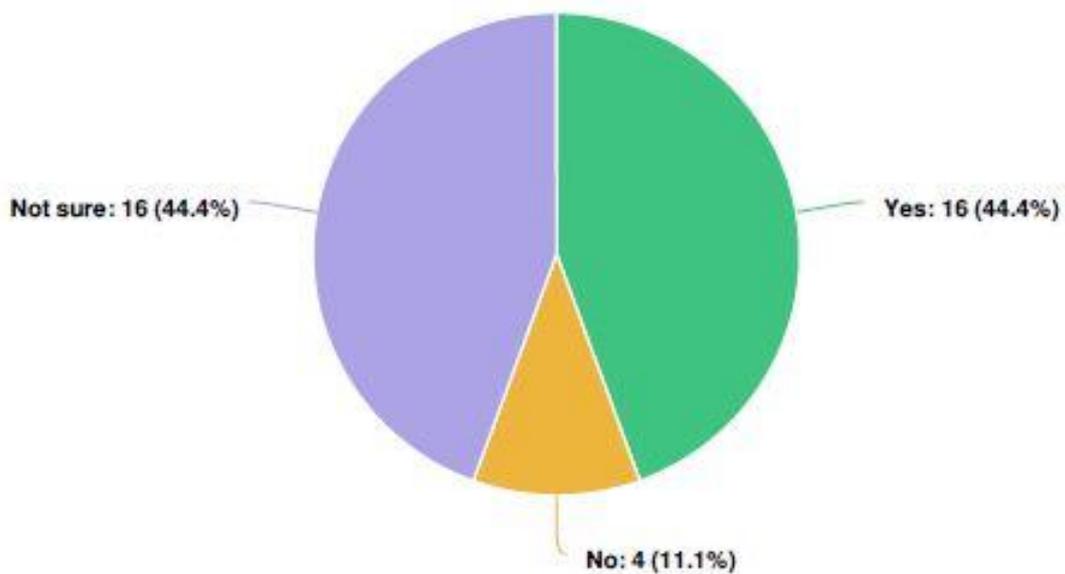


Have you ever used the Hawkesbury Library, Museum, or Gallery (please tick)?

Optional question

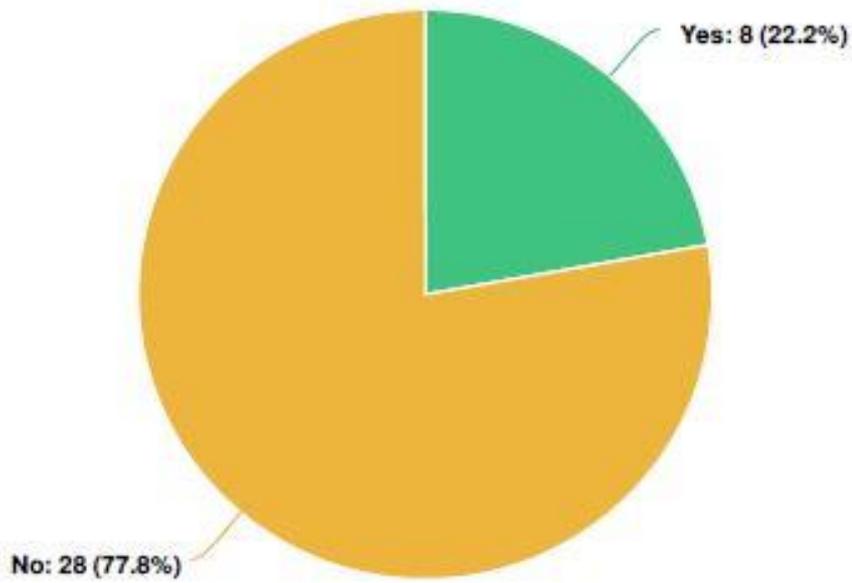


Do you think the programs and activities in the Library, Museum, & Gallery are relevant to young people (aged 12 - 25)?



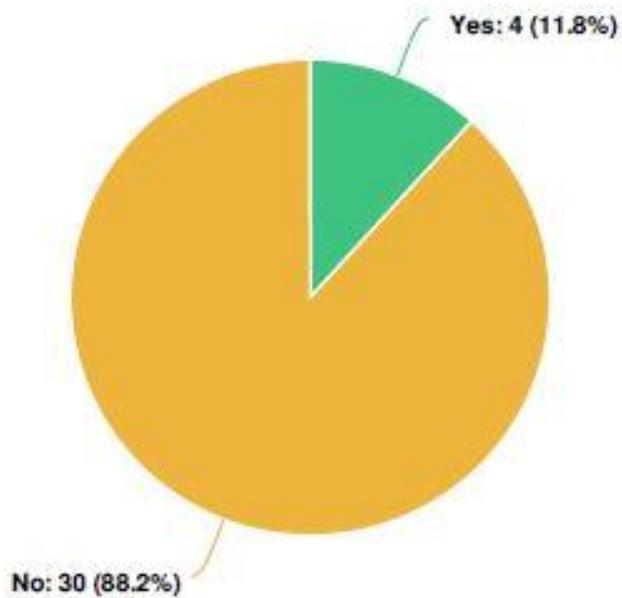
Have you ever taken part in activities through the Hawkesbury Library?

Optional question

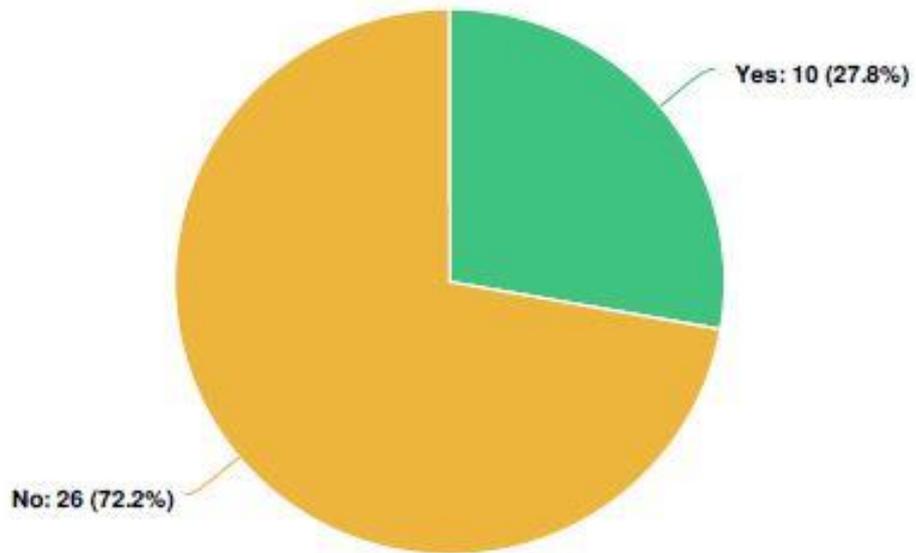


Would you like to receive more information about Library/Museum/Gallery programs and activities?

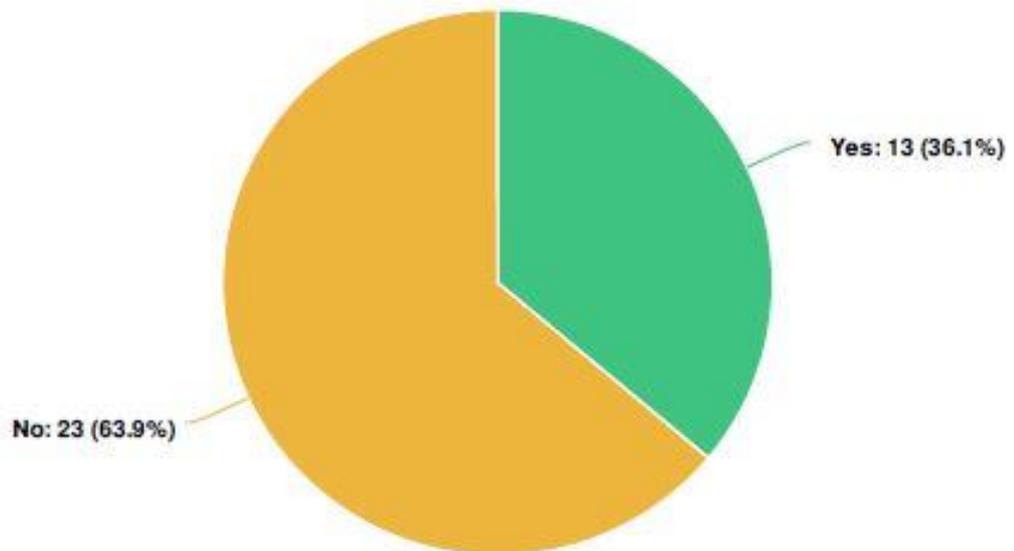
Optional question



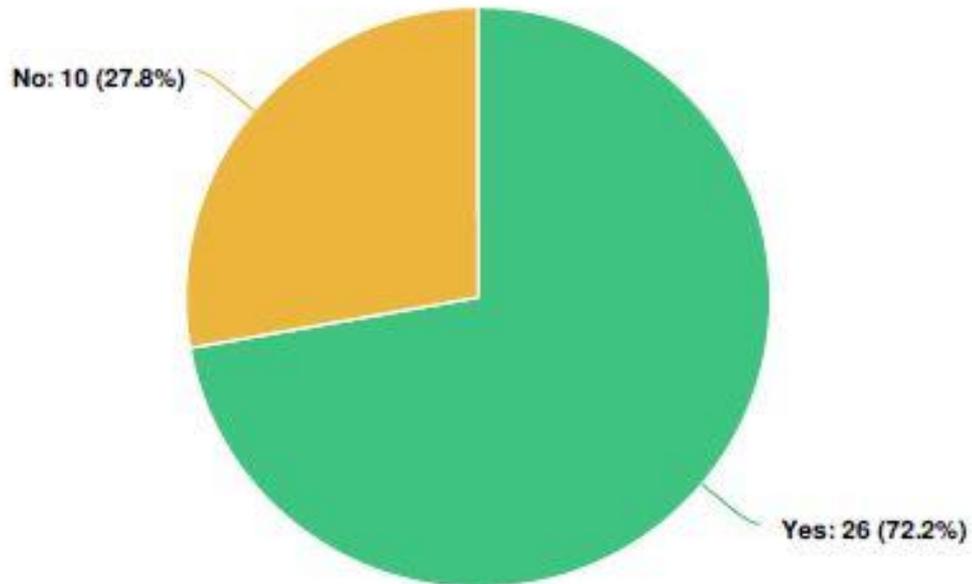
Did you know the Library offers HSC study workshops?



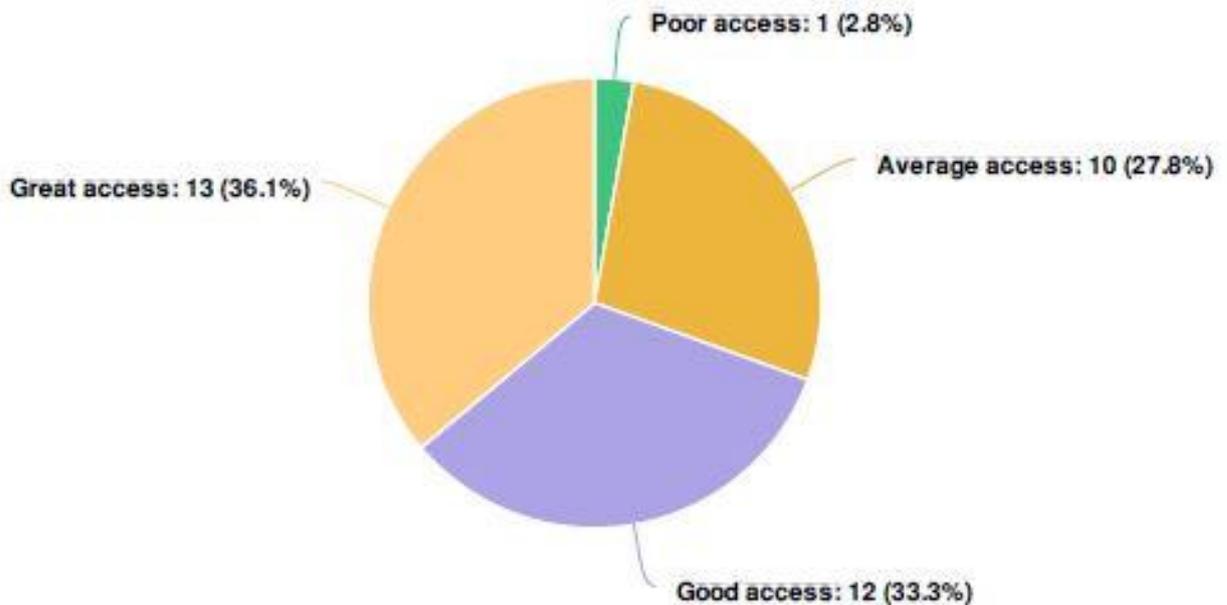
Would you like to receive more information about Library HSC study programs?



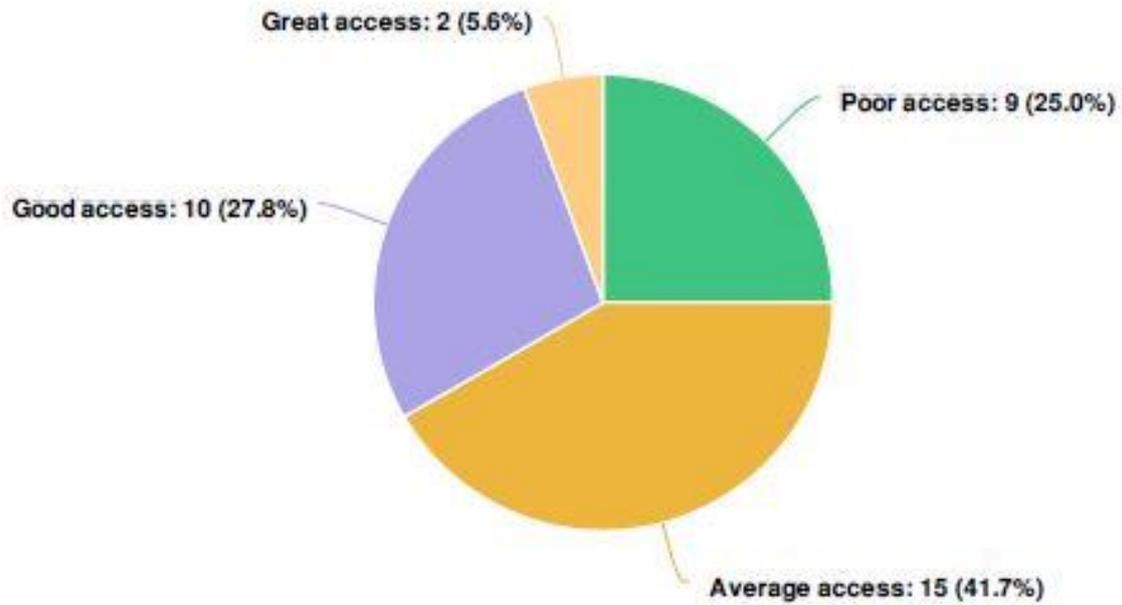
Are you involved with any regular sporting, artistic, cultural, or recreational activities? E.g. – Sports teams, dance groups, martial arts, skating, water skiing, health and fitness activities,...



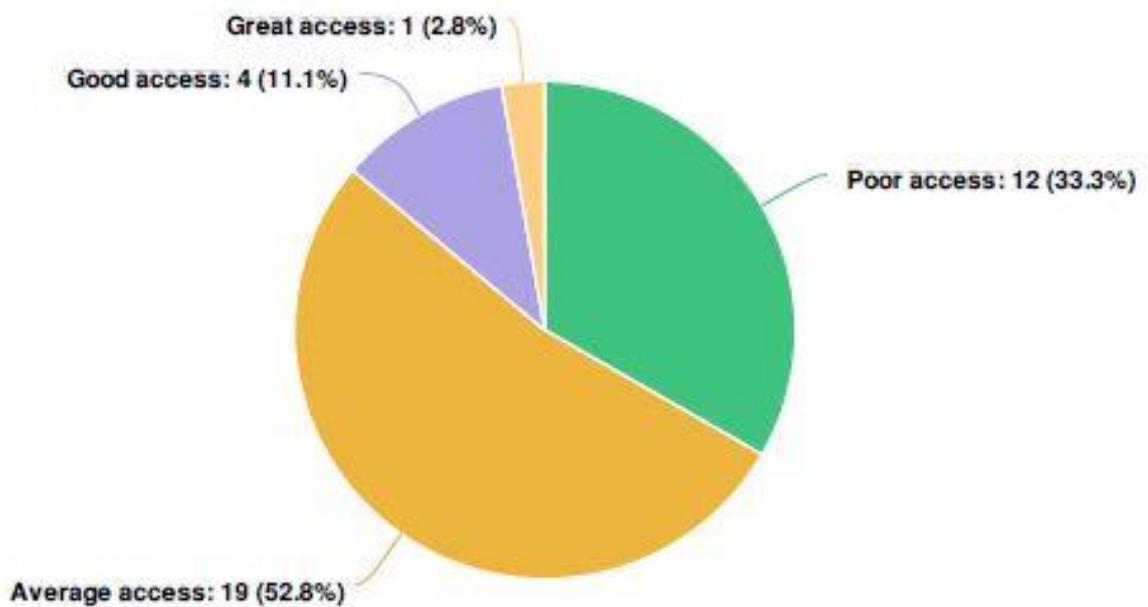
How would you describe the level of access that young people in your area have to sporting activities?



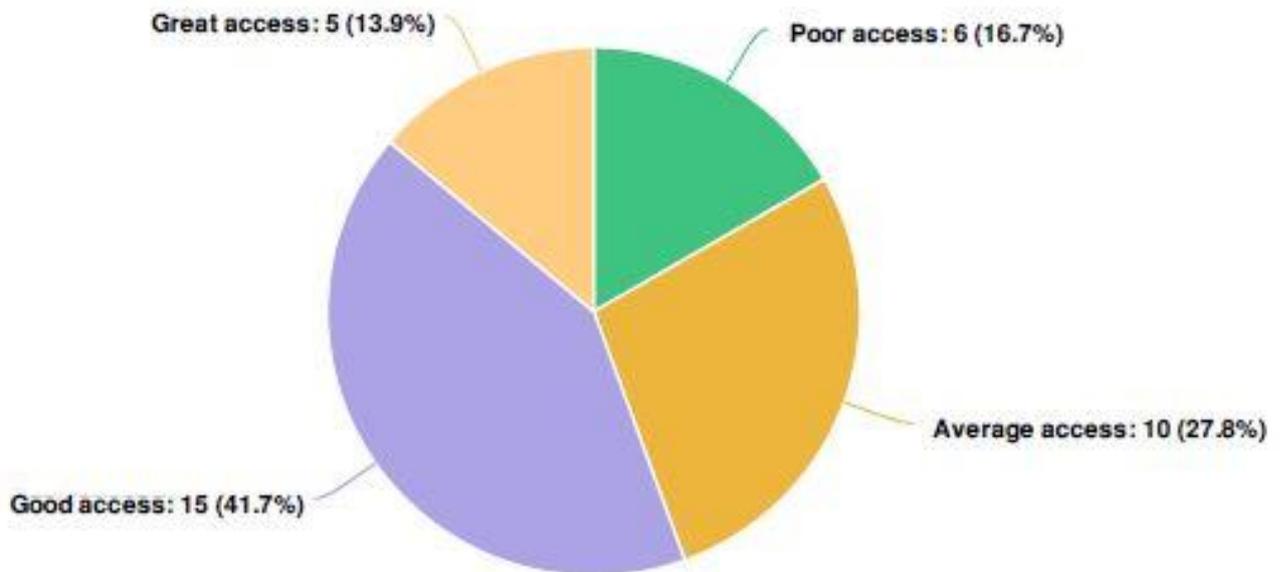
How would you describe the level of access that young people in your area have to artistic activities?



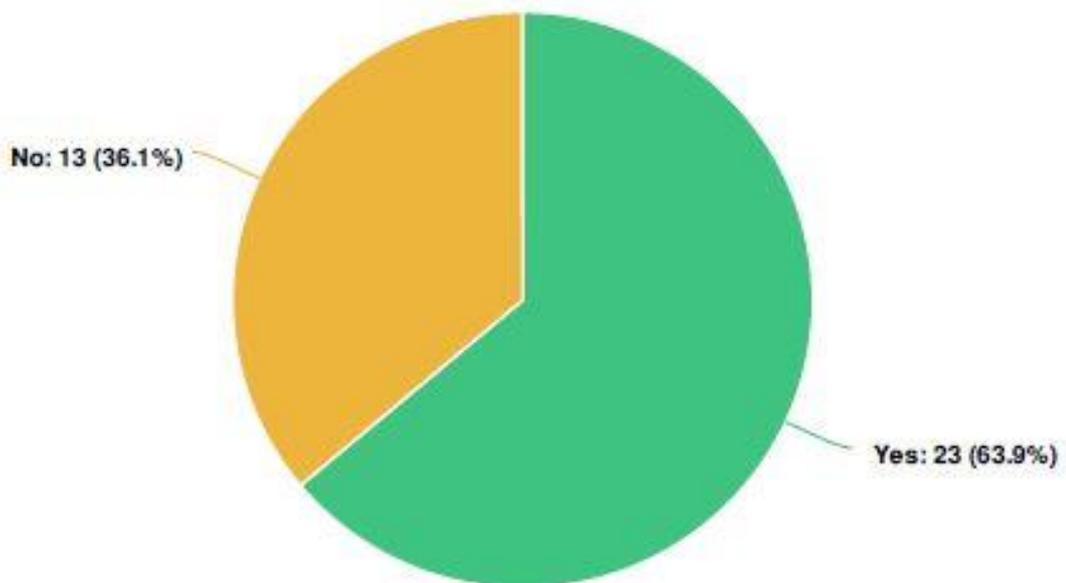
How would you describe the level of access that young people in your area have to cultural activities?



How would you describe the level of access that young people in your area have to recreational activities?

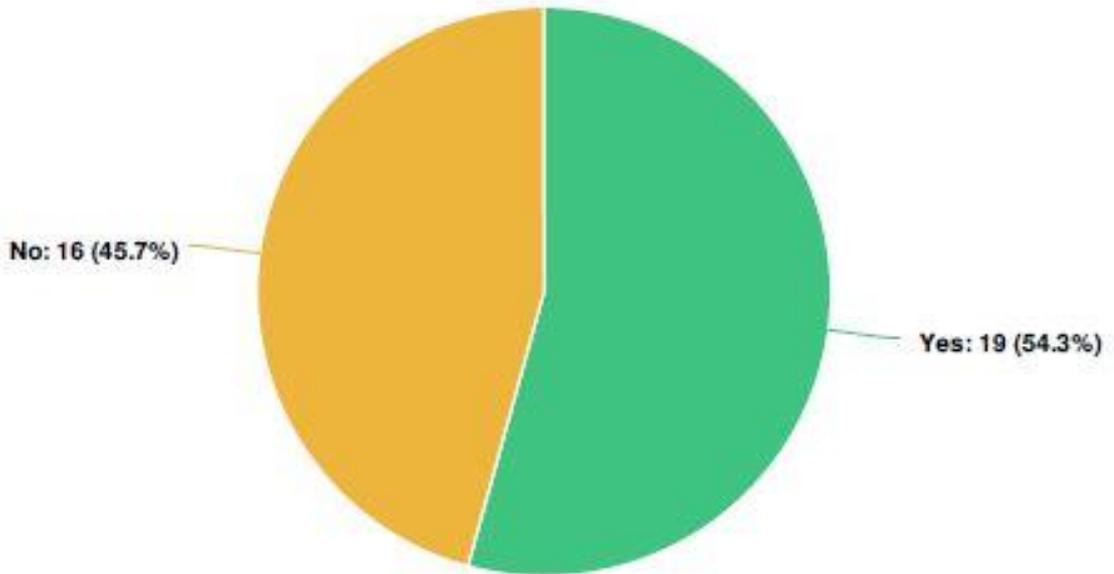


Would you like to have greater access to sporting, artistic, cultural or recreational activities?



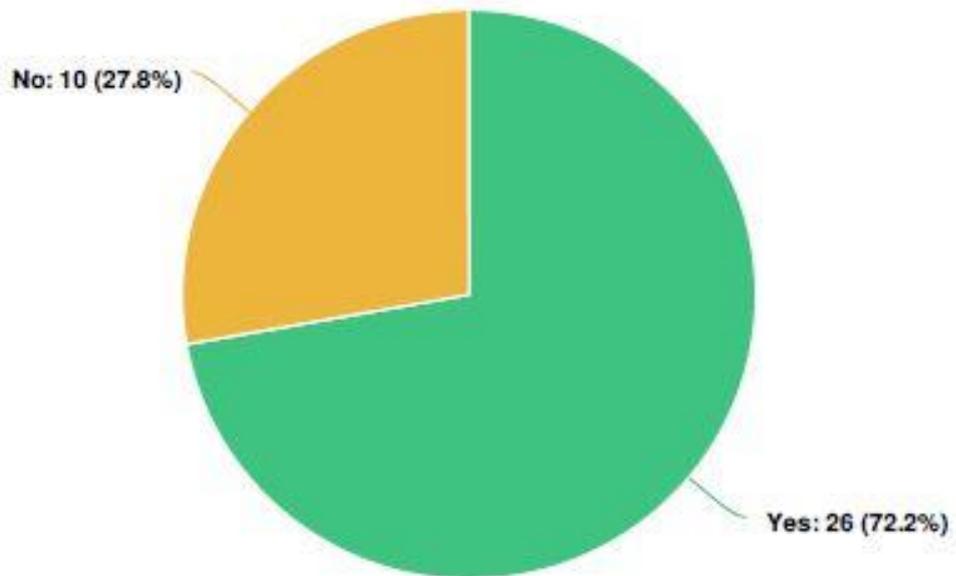
Have you ever been concerned about your own mental or emotional health?

Optional question



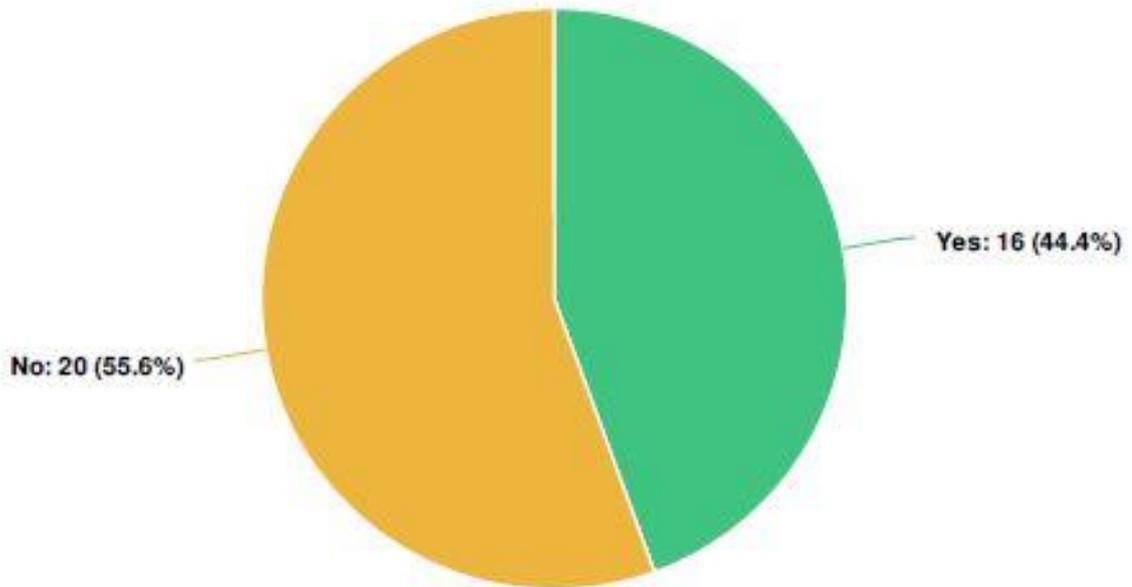
Have you ever been concerned about another young person's mental or emotional health?

Optional question



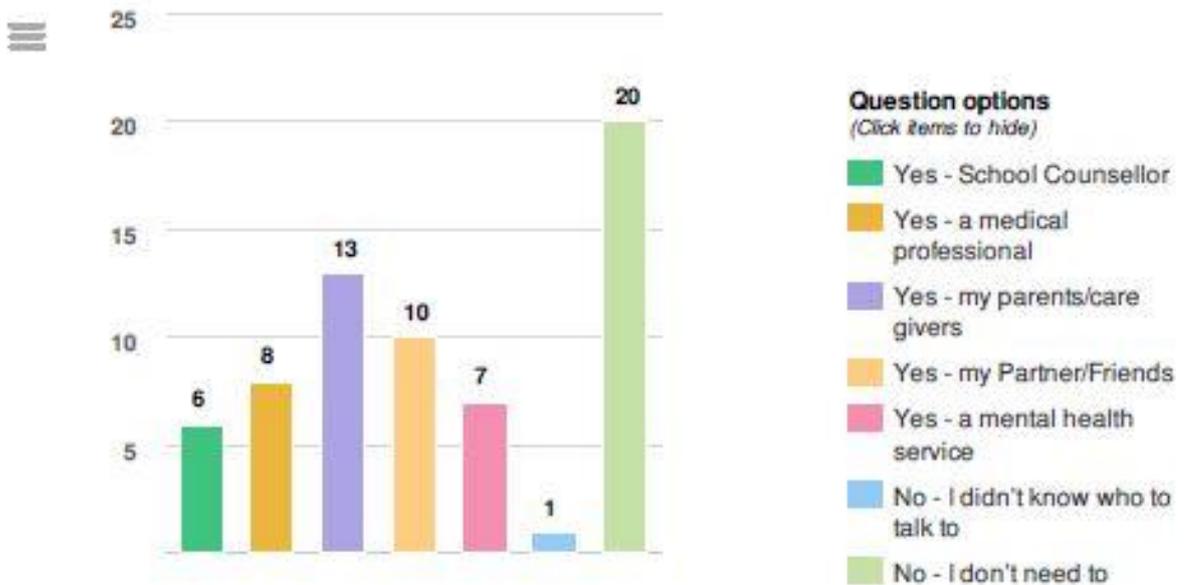
Has another person ever been concerned about your mental or emotional health?

Optional question

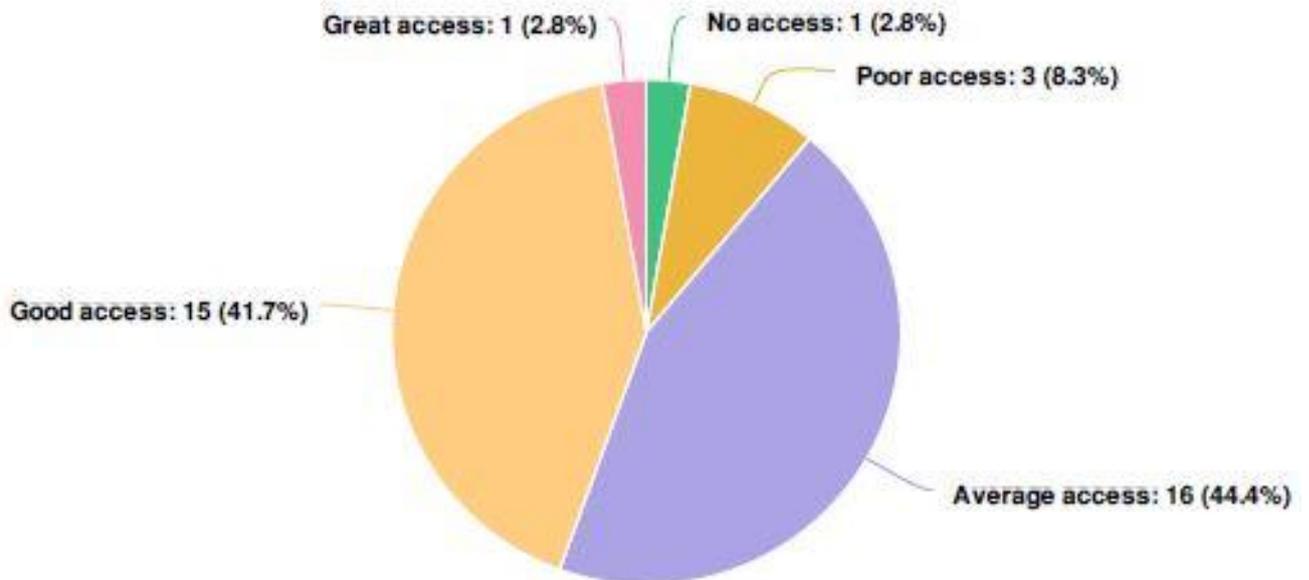


Have you ever spoken with anyone about these concerns?

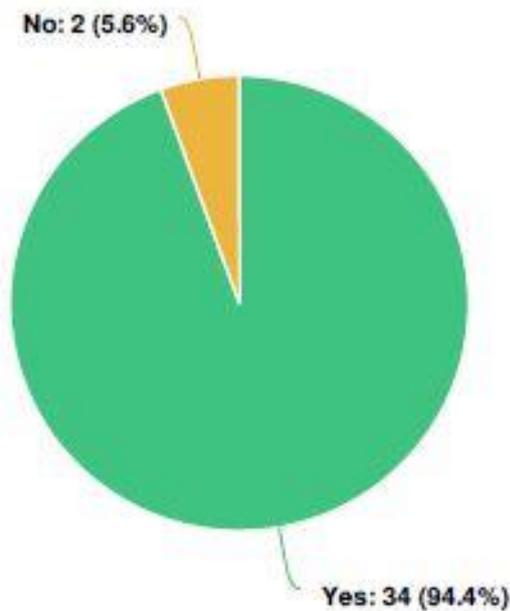
Optional question



How would you describe the level of access that young people in the Hawkesbury have to Mental Health Services? (please tick)

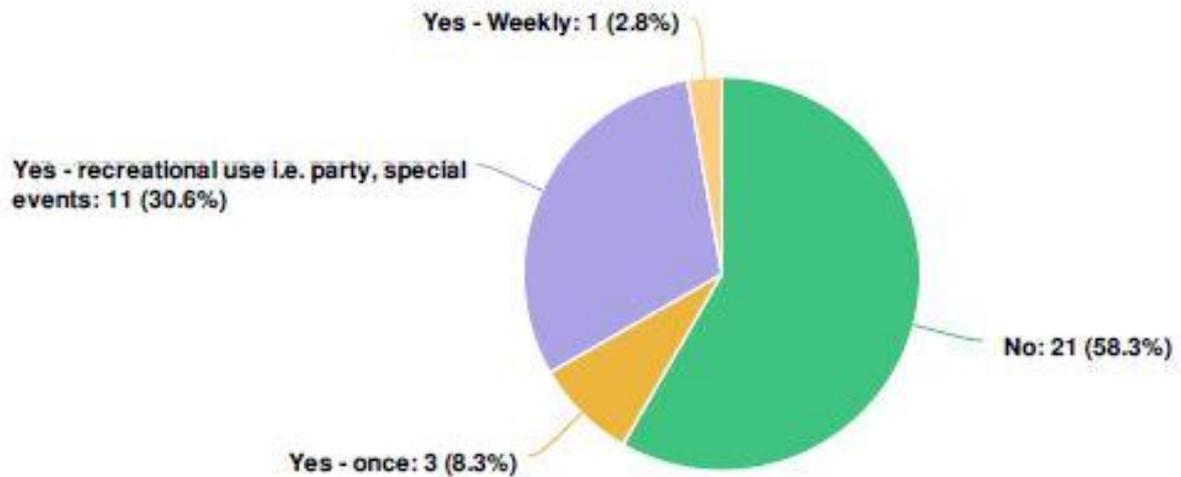


Do you think it would be good for young people if a headspace centre was established in the Hawkesbury?



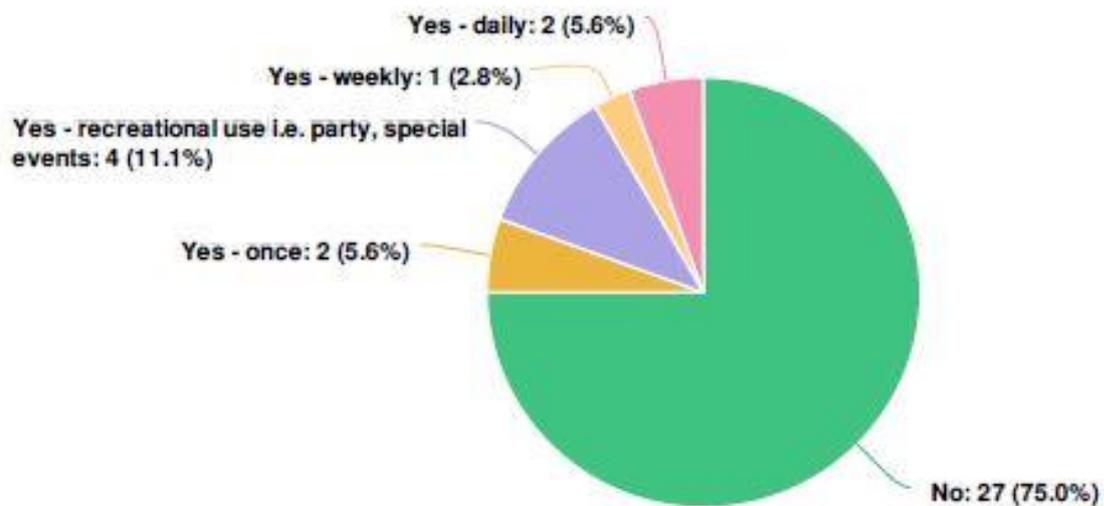
Have you ever used alcohol?

Optional question



Have you ever used drugs?

Optional question



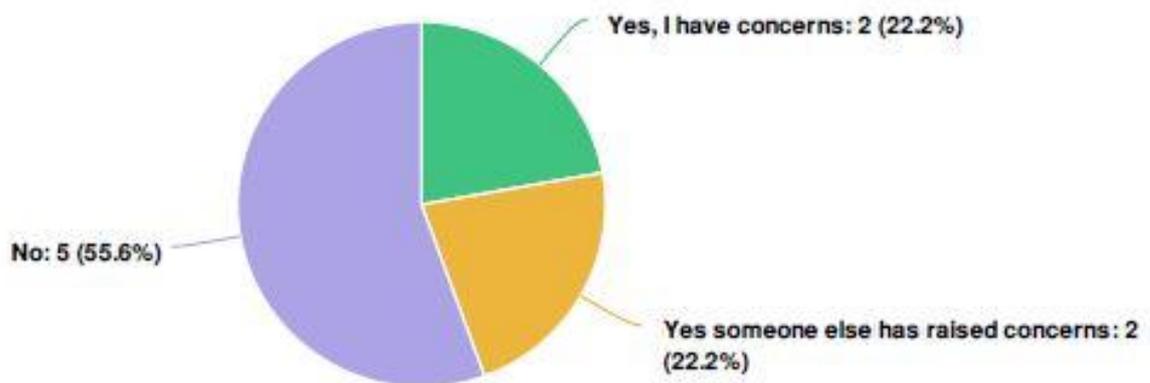
What substance have you used?

Optional question



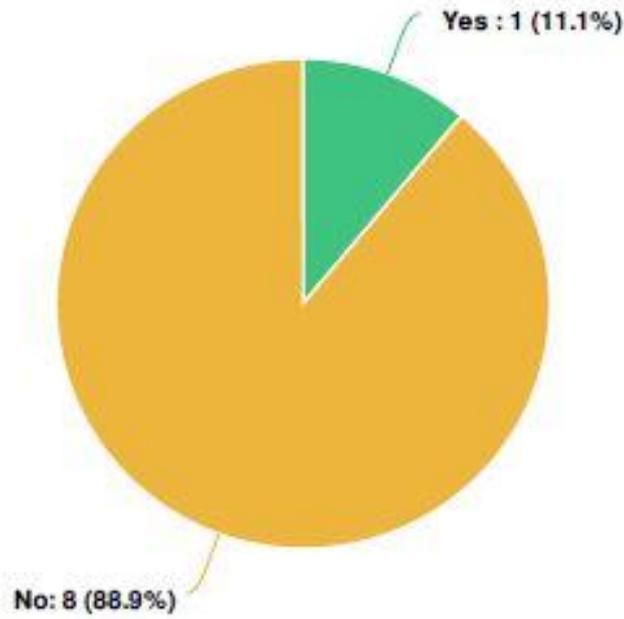
Have you or anyone else ever had a concern about the amount you have been using?

Optional question



Have you ever accessed support for alcohol and other drug use?

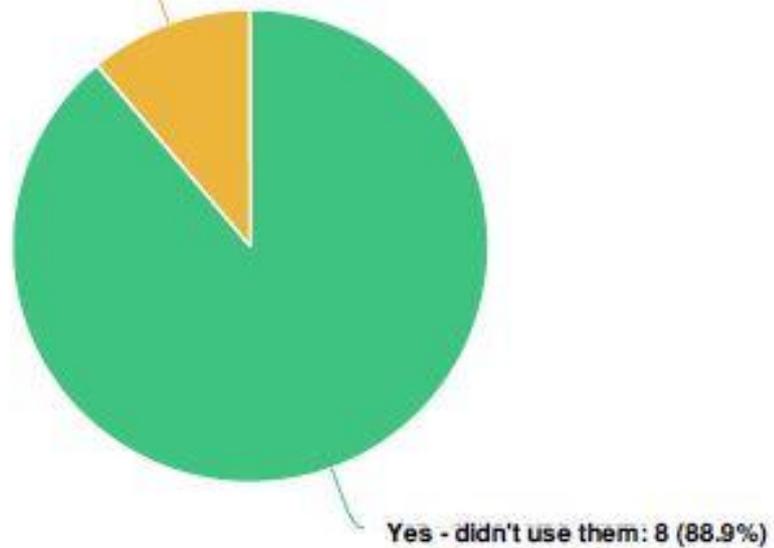
Optional question



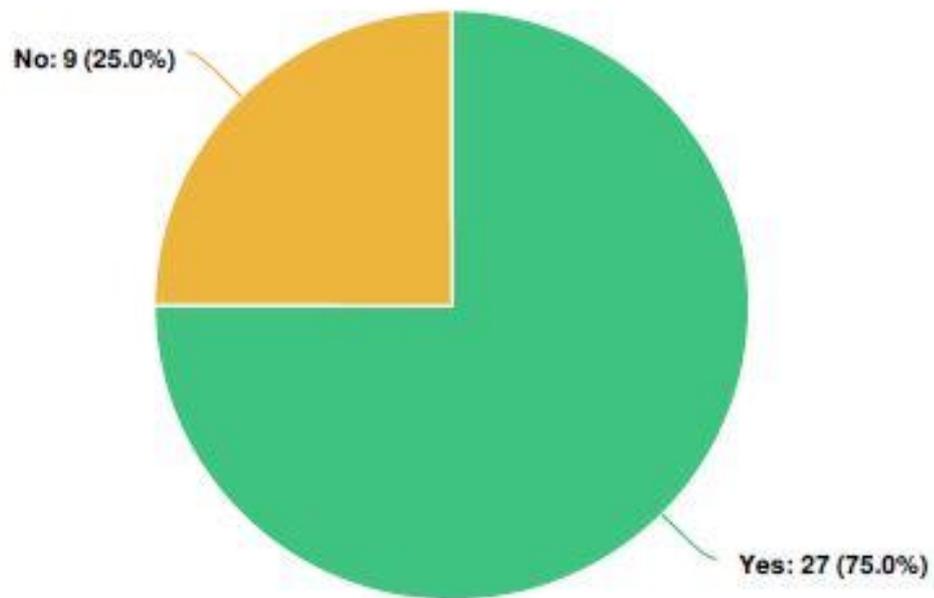
Are you aware there are drug and alcohol support services in the Hawkesbury?

Optional question

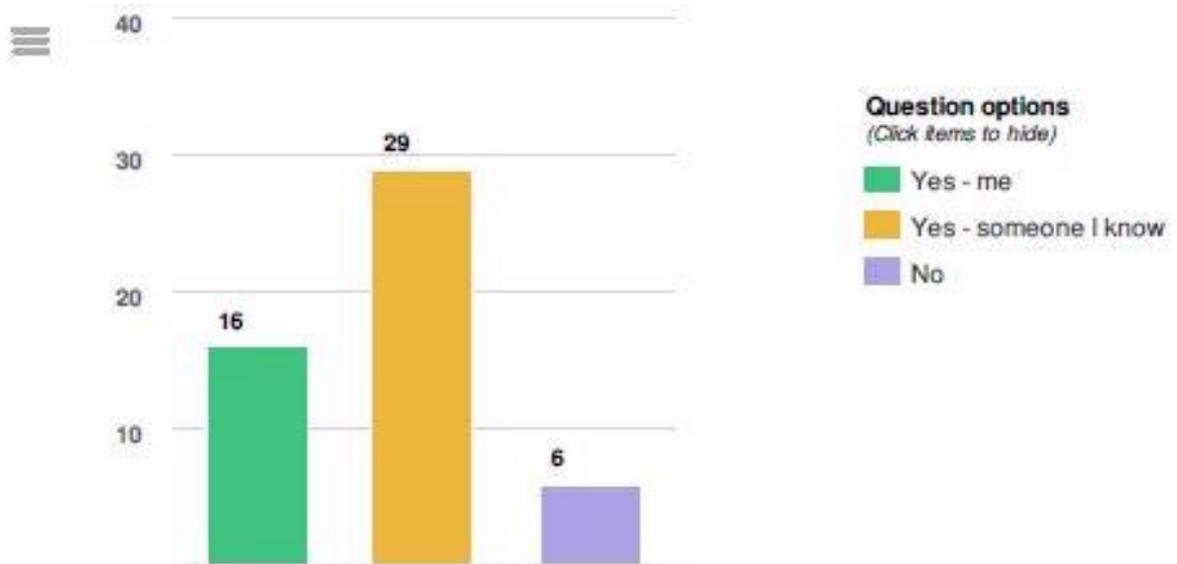
No - didn't know they were out there: 1 (11.1%)



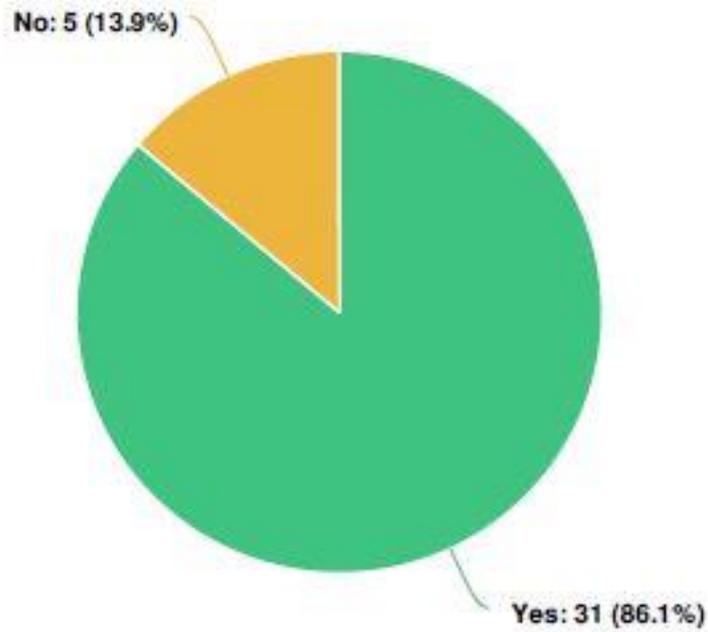
Do you think drug & alcohol abuse is a big concern for young people in the Hawkesbury?



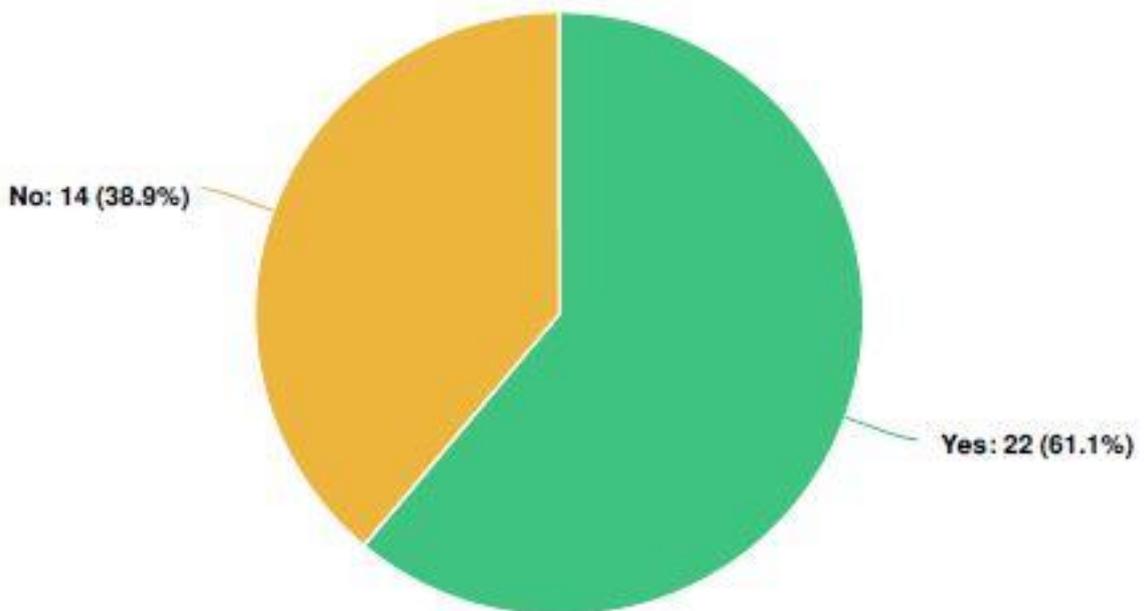
Have you, or someone you know, ever been impacted by the effects of bullying?
(tick all that apply)



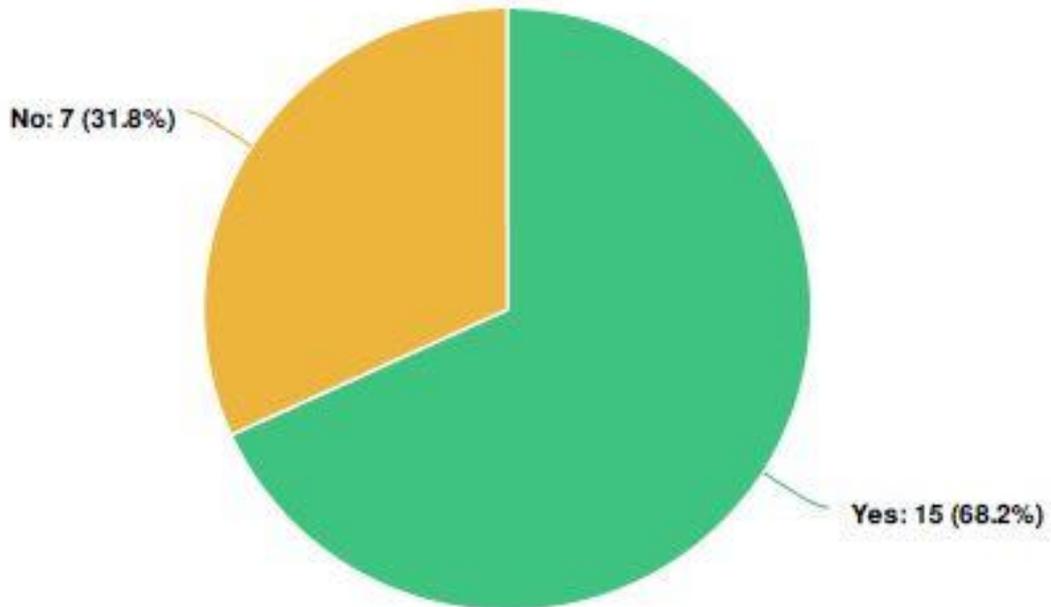
Do you think that bullying is a significant issue for young people in the Hawkesbury?



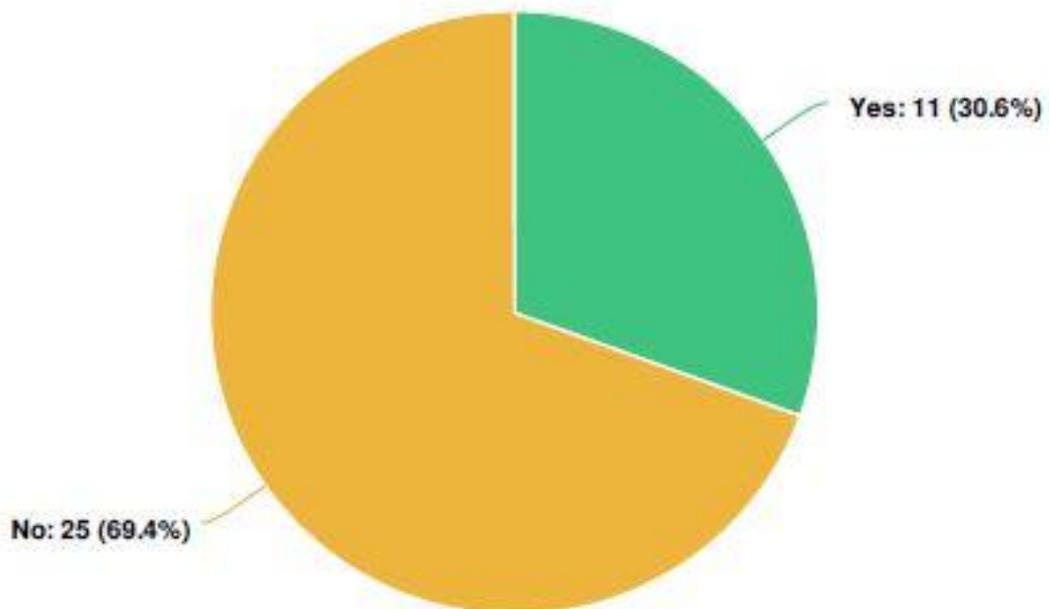
Have you ever been involved in an anti-bullying program?



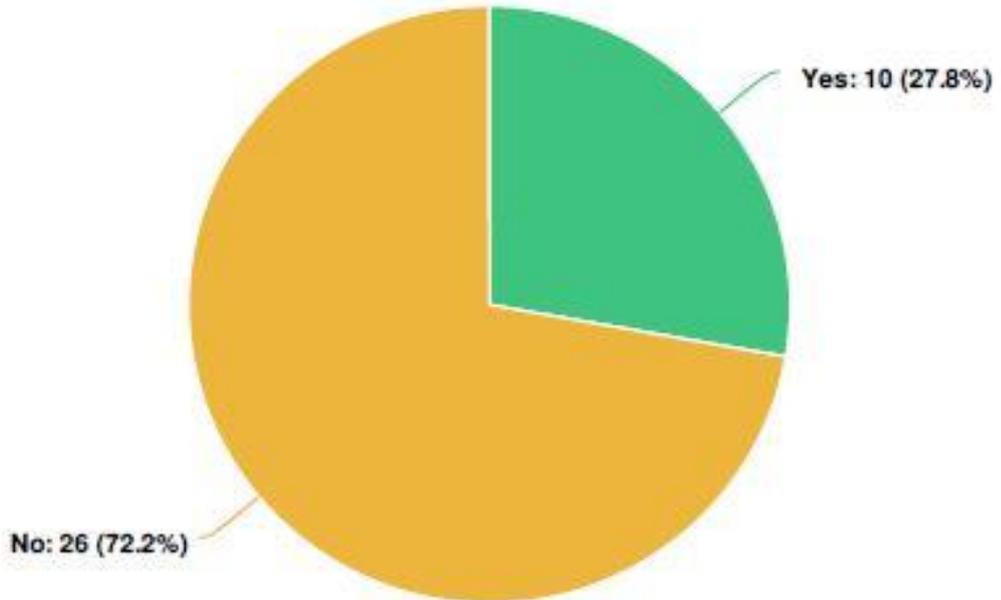
Did you find the program useful?



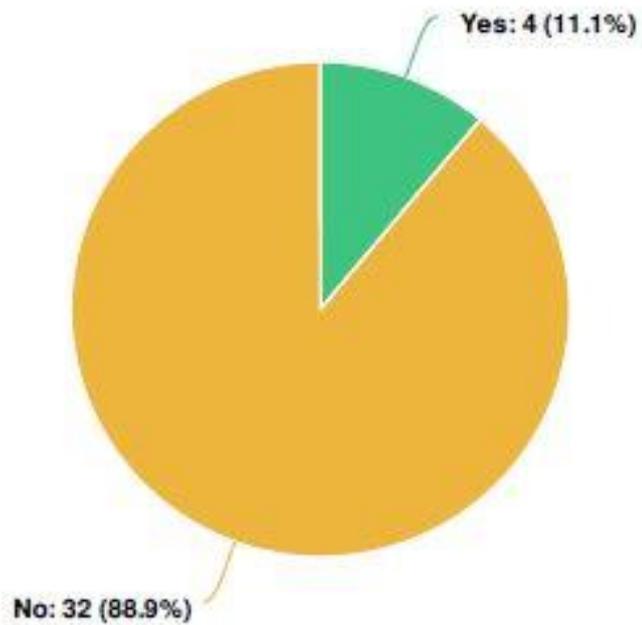
Did you know that the Hawkesbury City Council provides free anti-bullying programs for all Hawkesbury High Schools?



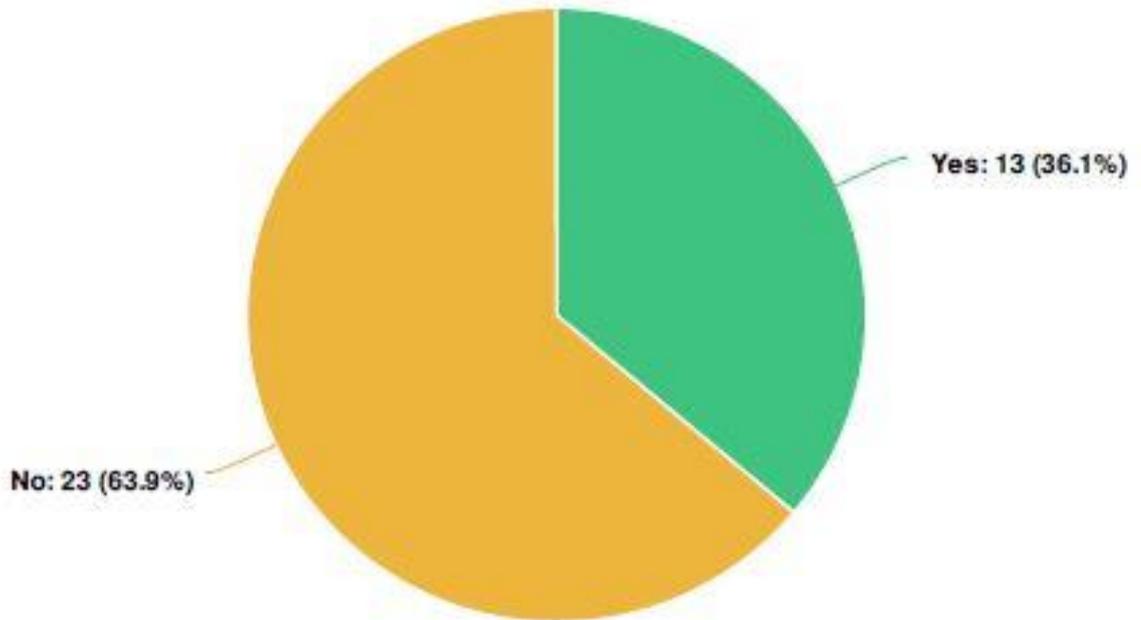
Would you like more information about anti-bullying programs?



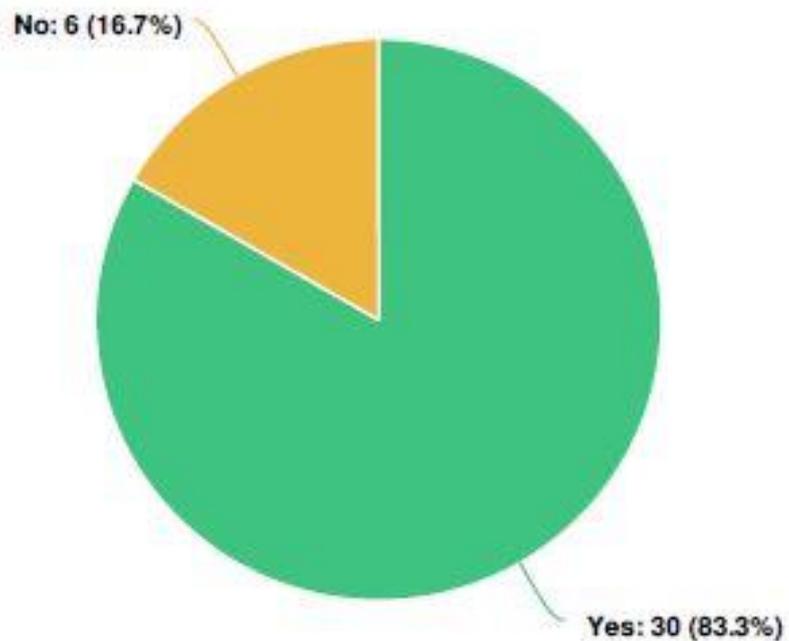
Do you have any ideas of how to tackle the issue of bullying in the Hawkesbury?



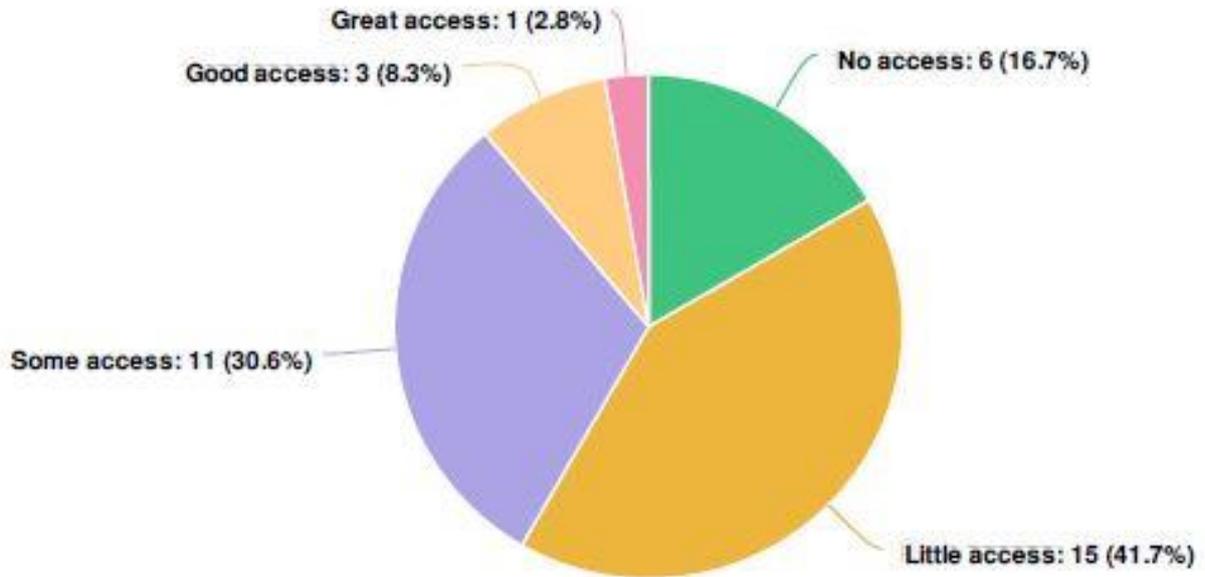
Have you ever experienced, or witnessed, bullying as an attack on someone's sexual identity?



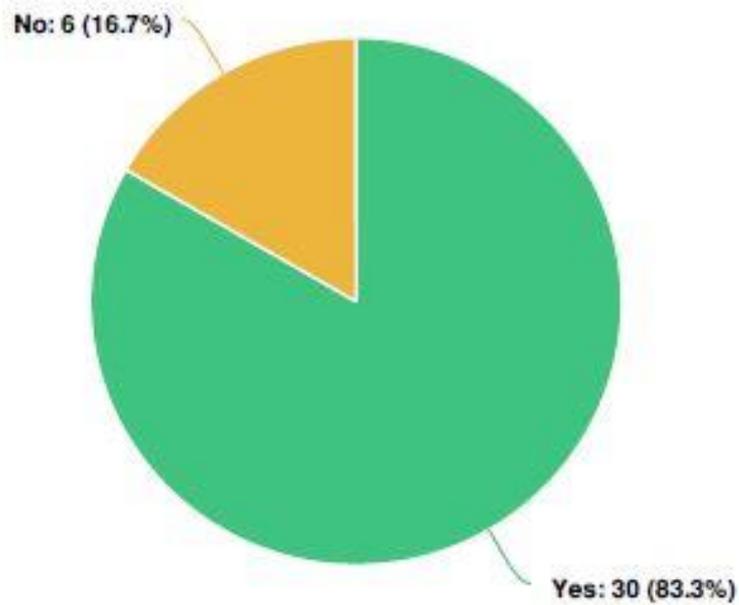
Do you think that people from the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersex) community are at a greater risk of bullying?



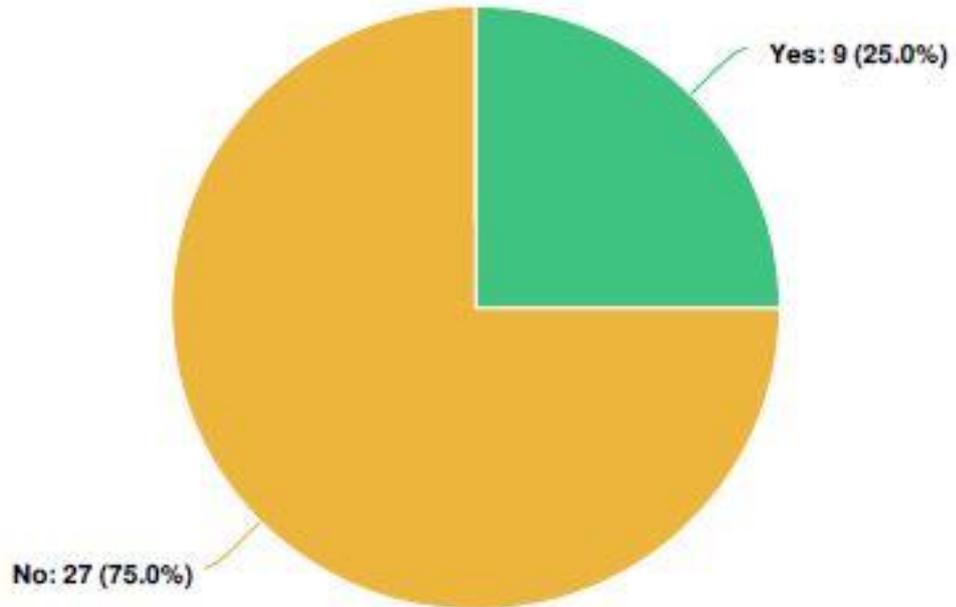
How would you describe the level of access that young LGBTI people in the Hawkesbury have to LGBTI support services? (please tick)



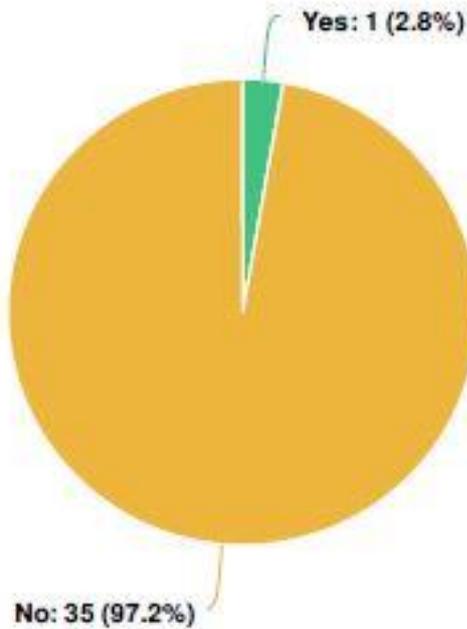
Would you like to see more support services for the LGBTI community in the Hawkesbury?



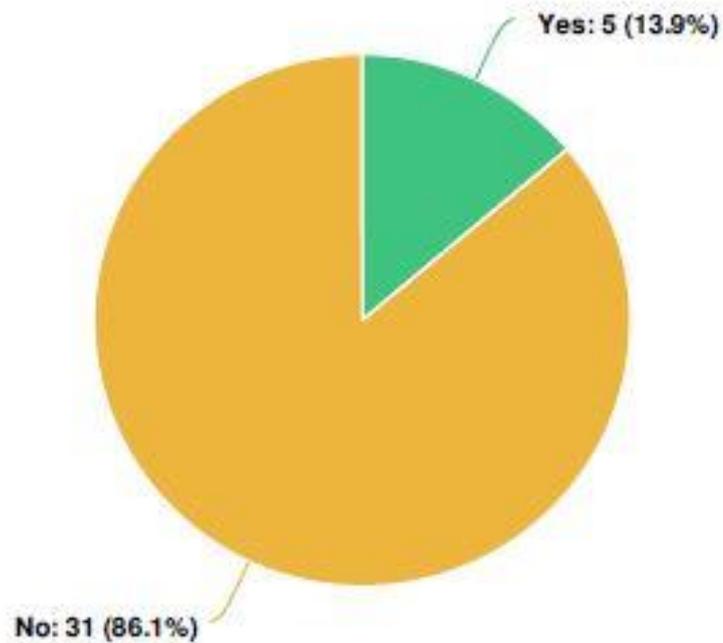
Did you know that the Hawkesbury City Council has a Youth Participation Officer?



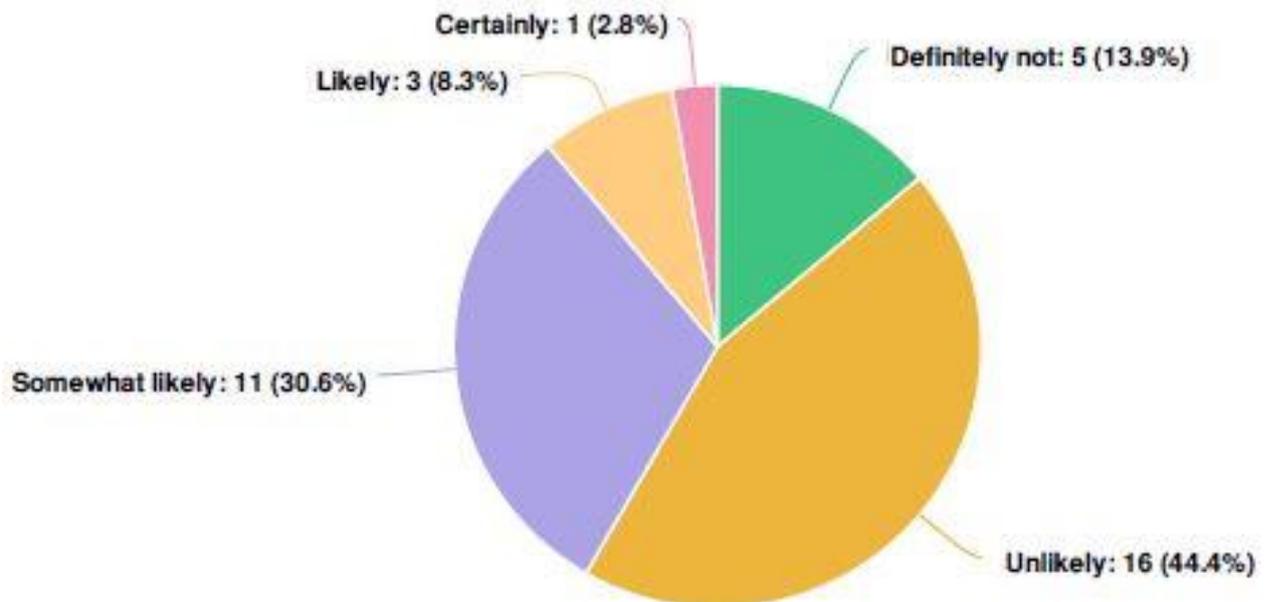
Have you ever contacted the Youth Participation Officer?



Did you know that the Youth Participation Officer can assist you to find information about youth services and programs?



How likely is it that you will contact the Youth Participation Officer in the future?



oooO END OF REPORT Oooo