

# Australia

The 2010 National Strategy for Young Australians defines youth in general as 12-24 years of age. Youth is also split into categories for certain measurements. For example, youth economic productivity is measured in two age groups: 15-19 and 20-24.

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

### Marriageable Age

	Opposite Sex		Same Sex
	Without Parental Consent	With Parental Consent	
Male	18	16	++
Female	18	16	++

Civil unions/partnerships are legal in Australia. Same-sex couples are offered all, most or some of the rights of marriage, depending on state. Source: UNSD, ILGA

### Candidacy Age

Lower House	18
Upper House	18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

### Criminal Responsibility

Minimum Age

10

From 10-14 years, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: Wikipedia

### Majority Age

18

Source: Wikipedia

### Voting Age

18

Compulsory voting. Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

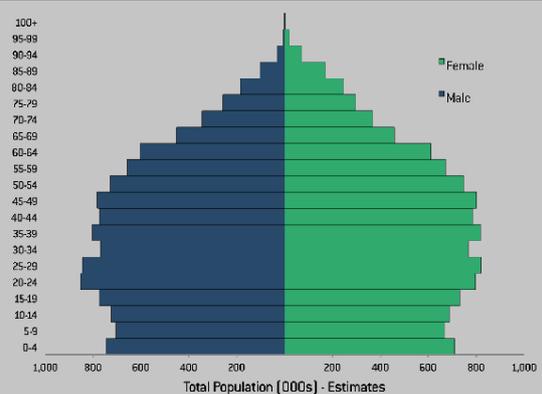
## YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET

HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/AUSTRALIA

GDP PER CAPITA	HDI	GINI
USD 67,441.59	0.938 <sup>1</sup>	33.40 <sup>2</sup>
	2 out of 187 countries.	
<small>Year: 2012, Source: World Bank</small>	<small>Year: 2012, Source: UNDP</small>	<small>Year: 2010, Source: OECD</small>

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION	PRESS FREEDOM
81 <sup>3</sup>	15.24 <sup>4</sup>
9 out of 177 countries.	26 out of 179 countries.
<small>Year: 2013, Source: Transparency International</small>	<small>Year: 2013, Source: Reporters Without Borders</small>

### Population by Age and Sex 2010



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### Net Enrolment Rates

Secondary School

85.61%

Both sexes (15-24) %

85.16% 86.09%

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2011

Source: UNESCO

### Literacy Rates

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Both sexes (15-24) %

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: --

Source: UNESCO

### Youth Development

0.86<sup>5</sup>

1 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

### Tobacco Use

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once during the 30 days prior to the survey.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

Male (13-15) % Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

### Prevalence of HIV

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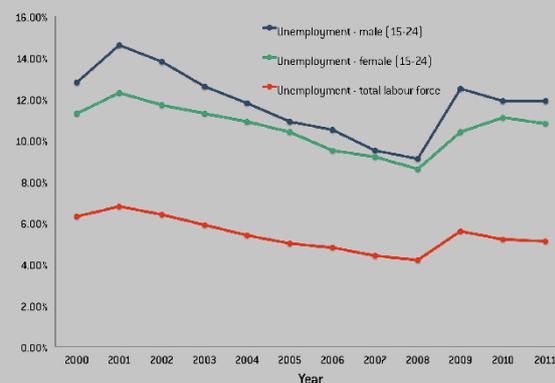
Male (15-24) %

Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

### Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)



## YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

The vision for the national youth strategy is that “all young people grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them”.

The Compact with Young Australians (2009) is a commitment from the Australian Government, together with state and territory governments, regarding education and skill training for youth under 25. It seeks to increase qualification and retention levels through initiatives such as the National Youth Participation Requirement, which requires that certain grades be completed as a precondition for obtaining government entitlements, such as the Youth Allowance or the Family Tax Benefit.

### Is there a national youth policy?

**Yes**

The national youth strategy was launched in 2010, underpinned by two reports on youth and policy.

### YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The **Office for Youth** is located within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. It supports policy development, implementation and interdepartmental coordination in areas that affect young people. The office also manages the **Australian Youth Forum (AYF)**, which aims to create a channel of communication between the government, young people and the youth sector.

On **16 September 2013**, the incoming Cabinet announced that it will no longer include a Minister for Youth, however the **Office for Youth** is still in existence.

### YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

**Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC)** is a national umbrella association with members that include state, territory and national youth organisations, as well as networks and individuals. Founded in 2002, it is the successor to the Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition (AYPAC). It is non-governmental, though funded by the federal government. Its activities include advocacy, research and policy development, youth sector development and youth engagement.

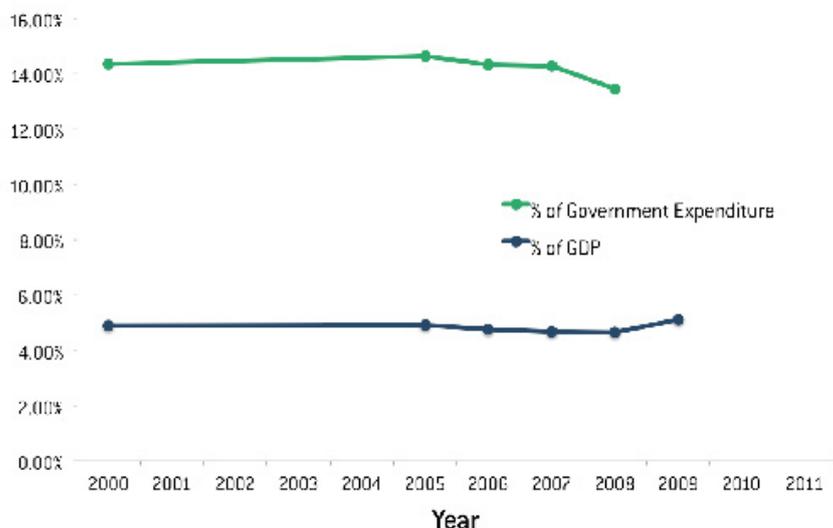
### YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

The **2013-14 budget** for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations allocates AUS 127.6 million (USD 117.5 million) to Youth Support (Program 2.8), which includes the **Office for Youth**.

However, on **16 September 2013**, the incoming Cabinet did not include Minister for Youth, and it is unclear how the budget will be affected.

According to the **World Bank**, Australia spent 5.12% of its GDP on education in 2009, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

#### Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP



Source: The World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org> [Accessed July 2013]  
N.B. Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**Yes**

Does the country have a national youth organisation/association (council, platform, body)?

**Yes**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**AUD 127.6 million**  
**USD 117.5 million**

#### Publications & Reviews

Visit our library for further reading:

<http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/australia>

#### Footnotes

- 1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)
- 2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)
- 3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)
- 4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)
- 5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)



For full citation list & more information, visit:  
<http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/australia>

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