

IN-CONFIDENCE

Transition Support Service

Summary of key messages from the 2021 Just Sayin' survey



Malatest
International

Hearing from Rangatahi: Just Sayin' 2021

355

Rangatahi
completed
the survey

- › We surveyed rangatahi aged 16 to 20 eligible for transition worker support.
- › We heard from 355 of the 514 (69%) valid contacts for rangatahi. Twenty-four responses from Youth Justice residents are included in a separate report because of their different contexts.

331

completions
included in
analyses

- › Of the 331 included in analyses, 129 were still in Oranga Tamariki care and 202 had left care.
- › More than half of the rangatahi eligible for TW support and responding to the survey were aged 17 or 18 (53%).



- › Young women were over-represented in the sample (63% in Just Sayin' compared to 44% of total eligible cohort).
- › We heard from rangatahi Māori (61%), young Pacific (13%) and young people from other ethnic groups (36%).

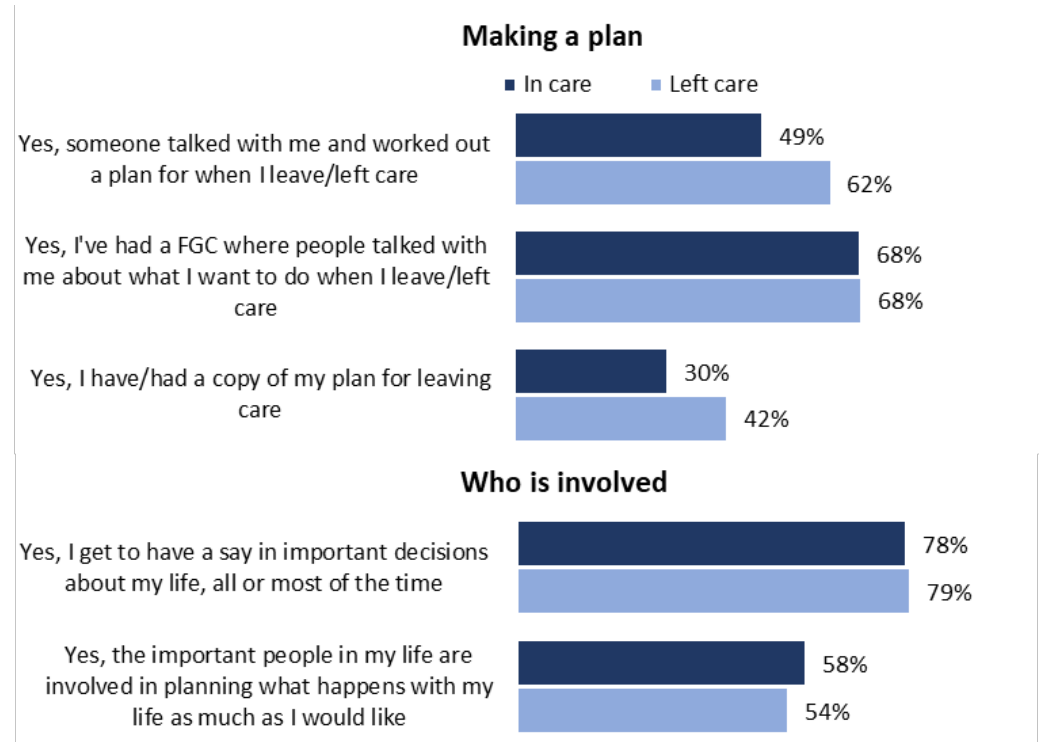
Preparing for transition

Approximately two-thirds (61%) responded positively to questions about the support they received from their social worker and Oranga Tamariki.

79%



Of young people felt they had a say in the important decisions in their lives most or all of the time, but fewer (56%) said the important people in their lives were involved in their planning as much as they would like.



Plans for leaving care (In care n=126-129, left care n=202)

Preparing for transition

Does OT help make things better for you? Why/Why not?

Yes...

"Because [OT] have put me in a safe environment for me to grow up in."

"Doing pretty good with supporting me :) Possibly stick with social workers or let me know in advance when swapping so I know what's happening."

"Because [my social worker] understands me."

Not really...

"Communication with my social worker is difficult and hard. I am never able to receive a definite answer from her when I have questions regarding placement after care, issues with care and time in the community. I feel me and social worker do not have much in common."

"I don't like relying upon OT in general due to past experiences."

Transition worker support

Most young people said their transition worker understands what kinds of support they need (81%), is there when they need them (80%), and does what they say they would do (most or all of the time) (81%).

Seventy-one percent gave positive answers to all three questions above.

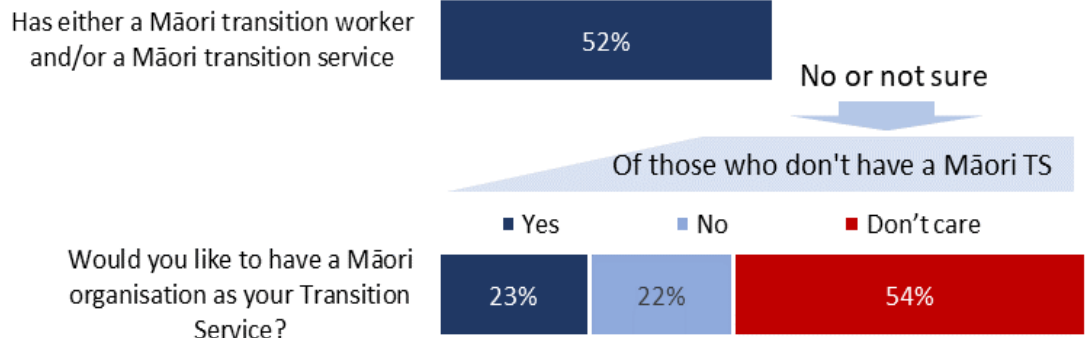
85%

Of young people had been asked if they wanted a transition worker.

63%

Of young people who had a transition worker thought their frequency of contact with their transition worker was about right.

Many rangatahi Māori wanted transition support from Māori



Ethnic match of transition support partners and transition workers (asked of Māori with a transition worker n=149, and 90 who are not supported by a Māori TS partner)

The difference having a Māori TS makes for Rangatahi Māori

What difference does having Māori Transition Support worker make for you?

“A lot of difference actually. I think because this service is Māori, we are more inclined with helping our own people and because of our tikanga and the way our elders do understand and empathise rangatahi we are able to work together more compatibly as opposed to anyone else... if you are Māori, majority of your upbringing you are raised to manaaki which means to care for others. It's something we are taught, and often shown therefore working with a Māori service you feel more at home especially being Māori myself I'm able to actually breathe.”

“It helps a lot that I have a transition worker that understands the boundaries I have put in place to ensure everything being done follows my cultural preference.”

“There are differences in relationship, they're able to understand from multiple perspectives... Not just there to tick the boxes.”

Pacific views of having Pacific TS

Would you like to have a Pacific Transition Support worker, why or why not?

"I'm two cultures. It doesn't matter who they are as long as they help me out."

"Because of its part of my culture. It's something that I want to learn more about it."

"I don't really mind."

"[I] reckon I get along with Pacific people more too."

"There's mainly white people and they don't understand Māori and Pacific islanders."

"[It] would be nice to have a Pacific experience."



Living arrangements

Most young people (87%) selected only one answer. The most common place young people lived was in a family home (43%) with their whakapapa whānau or biological family (44%)



A few young people (9%) were living in unstable accommodation and many of this group did not feel safe or that they belonged.



A higher proportion of rangatahi Māori (51%) lived with whakapapa whānau than other ethnic groups (34%).



Only 28% of young people who had left care were living in the same place as before they left care. Forty-five percent of young people said someone had spoken to them about other places they could live.

Parenting

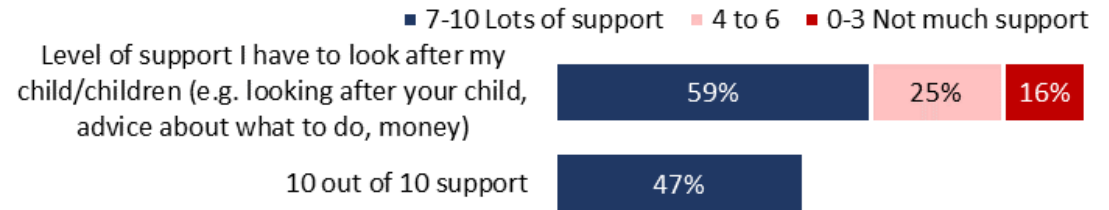
There is room to improve the support young people get to be parents. Seventeen percent of young people said they were either a parent and/or hapū (pregnant).



63%

Of parents said their child/children lived with them either some or all of the time; most were women (75%) compared to men (33%).

Of the 32 young people whose child lived with them, 59% ranked the support they received as 7 to 10 on a 10 point-scale, 41% provided a lower rating.



Identity

Seventy-two percent of young people were secure in their identity, proud of who they were and hopeful about their future: 58% were positive about all three.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

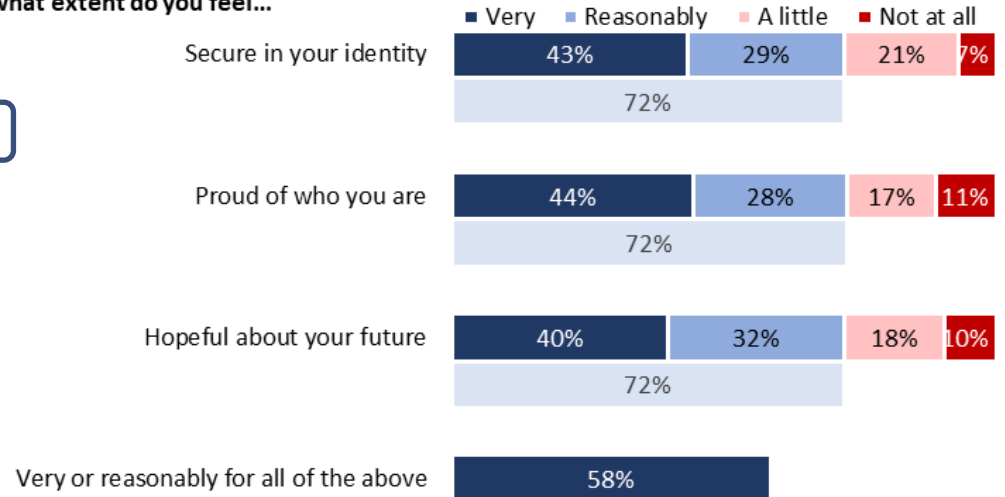
62%

Of young people had goals that related to jobs.

"Finished school and working."

"I see myself having a bright future working at a job. Making tight closest friends also to make the best I can to keep them safe and to keep the crew running, but it start with me first. Getting married and having kids. Doing the things I'm passionate about. Having gratitude knowing that life was never a mistake. There is more than this."

To what extent do you feel...



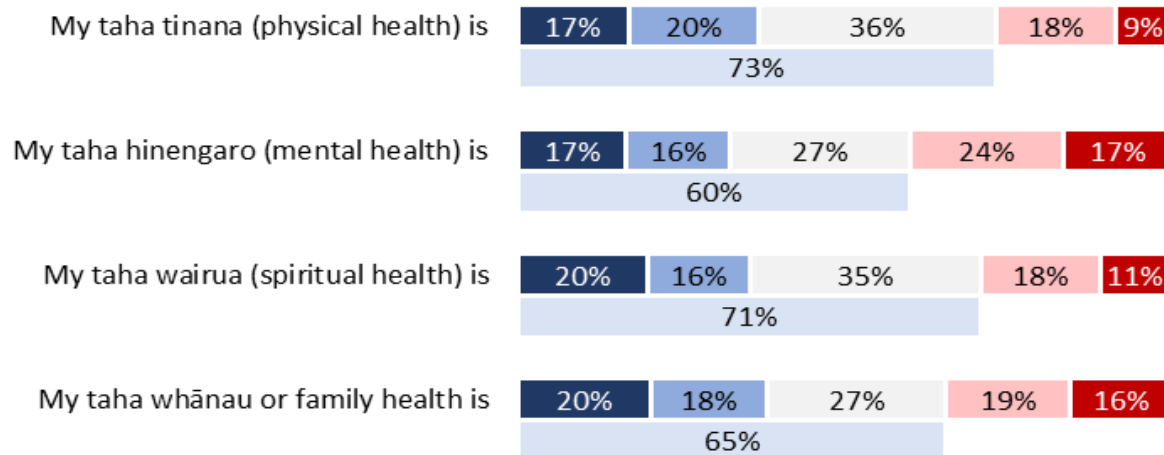
Identity, pride and hope for the future (n=325-327)

Wellbeing

Although 40% of young people rated their life as excellent or very good, 31% rated their lives as fair or poor.



The four domains of wellbeing

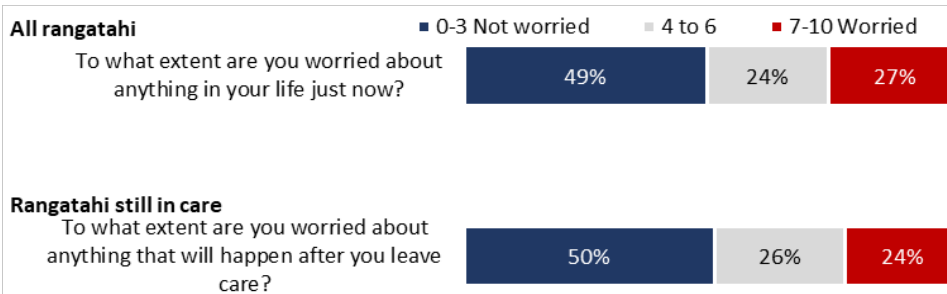


Young people who rated some aspect of their life 'poorly' reported feeling less supported in a range of areas even though they were just as likely to have a transition worker.

Young people's self-assessed wellbeing (n=328-326)

Worries in life

Most young people were doing well, but around one-quarter were struggling with some aspects of their lives, including being secure in their identity, proud of who they are, hopeful about the future, knowing their iwi, general life ratings and ratings of the four domains of Te Whare Tapa Whā.

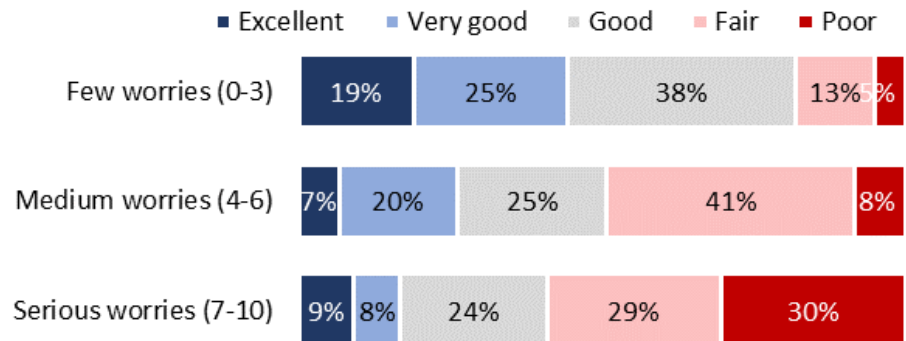


Being worried about something in their lives was significantly correlated with how young people felt about their life in general.

Level of worry (All young people n=250, In care n= 119)

Approximately one-quarter of young people were worried about things in their lives.

Are you worried about anything in your life just now? (0 to 10 scale)



Relationship between worries and overall life ratings (n=249)

Worries in life

What are you worried about?

“Being alone.”

“Being financially stable.”

“Being broke and homeless.”

“Finding a place for me and my partner to rent before I turn 18. My mental illness getting worse and harder to control.”

“Mental status, relationship status of family, learning friends from associates, worried about future and future jobs. Didn't have much education.”

“I am worried I will not have the necessary knowledge to care for myself as I am already struggling while in care.”



Disability

Fifty-nine percent of young people reported difficulties with learning or with their emotional or mental health. The most common disabilities were difficulties 'learning, remembering or concentrating' (34%) and 'emotional, psychological or mental health conditions' (38%).

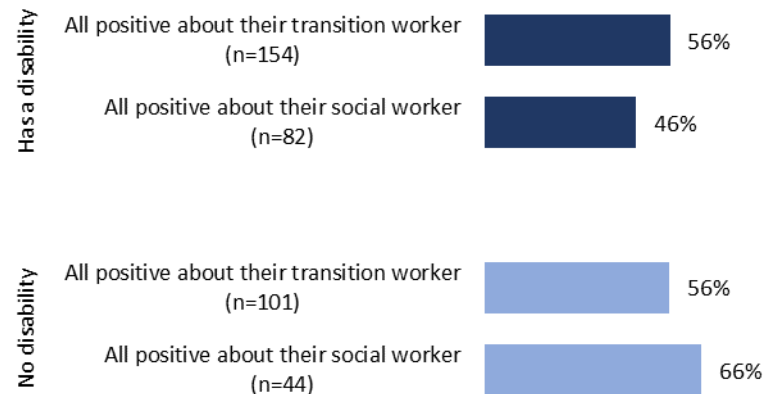
Fewer young people with a disability were positive about their life.

59% 

Of young people with a disability reported 'good' or better about their life. The percentage for young people with no disability was 83%.

Young people with a disability rated many aspects of their life more negatively than other young people.

Young people with a disability were less likely to rate their social worker positively.



Barriers to access healthcare

Transportation, cost and anxiety are the main barriers for young people to access healthcare.

“Opening up to my parents is a big fear of mine and I didn't and still don't know how to ask or say that I need help to need a check up because of my past I feel still scared deep inside”

“Couldn't afford to plus not registered.”

“Has a phobia of doctor... If doesn't have support, then won't go. Is also moving all the time, so have a joining fee. Don't have all the money for the Doctor.”

“The fact I had to tell a stranger about my depression and anxiety.”



Support

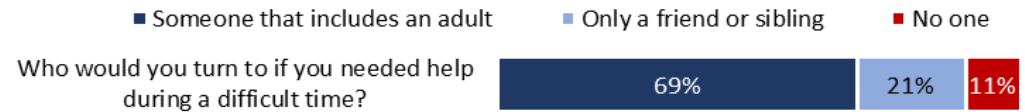
Sixty-nine percent of young people said they would turn to an adult if they needed help during a difficult time. A higher proportion (78%) of young people would talk to their transition worker about their worries compared to the proportion of those in care who said would talk with their social worker (53%)

40%

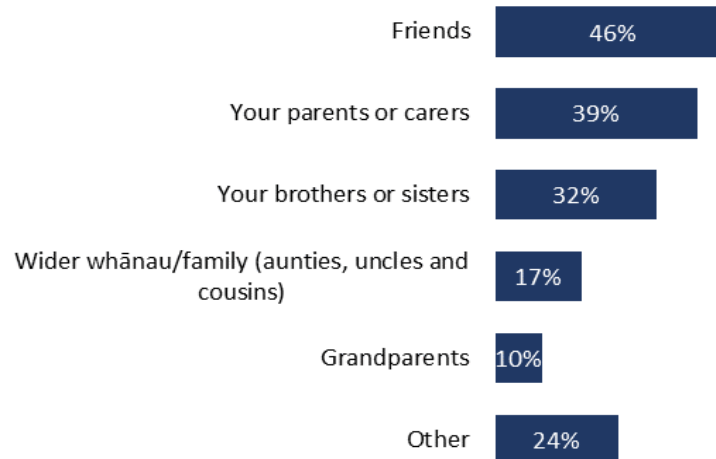
Of young people said they were being supported by organisations outside of their transition provider and Oranga Tamariki.

69%

Of young people knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki if they needed help, while 48% knew how to contact VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai.



Who would you talk to?



Skills rangatahi want to learn

While young people received a lot of support, some young people needed more support to learn the skills they wanted.

52%



Of young people wanted to learn how to drive.

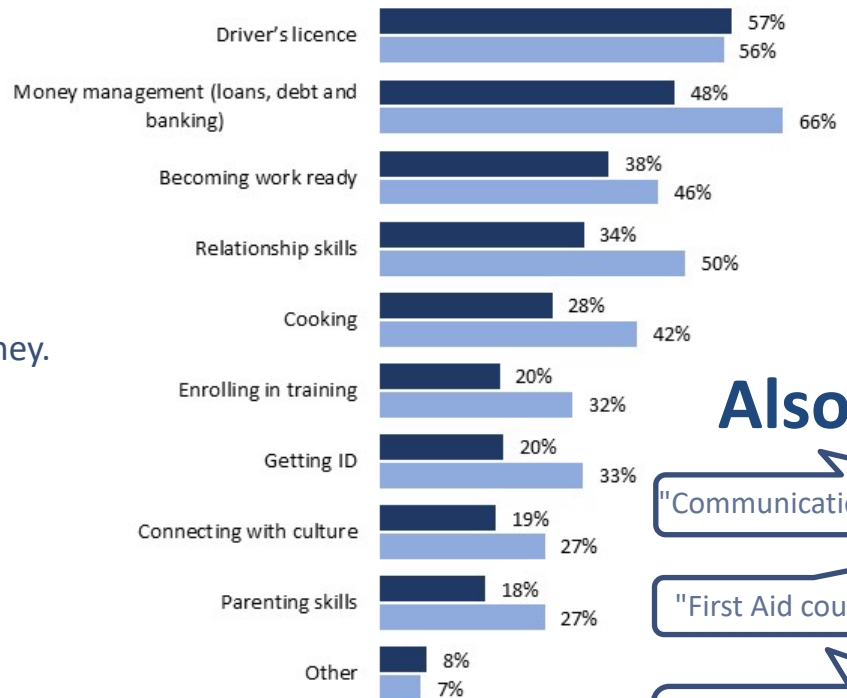
50%



Of young people wanted to learn how to manage money.

"I get some support but not all. I need to work with one person to be able to learn good life skills. I am told my attention span is short which does not help with learning different skills."

What skills would you like to learn to help you get where you want to?



Are you getting the support you need to learn these skills

■ Yes, getting support (61%) ■ Not getting support (41%)

Also...

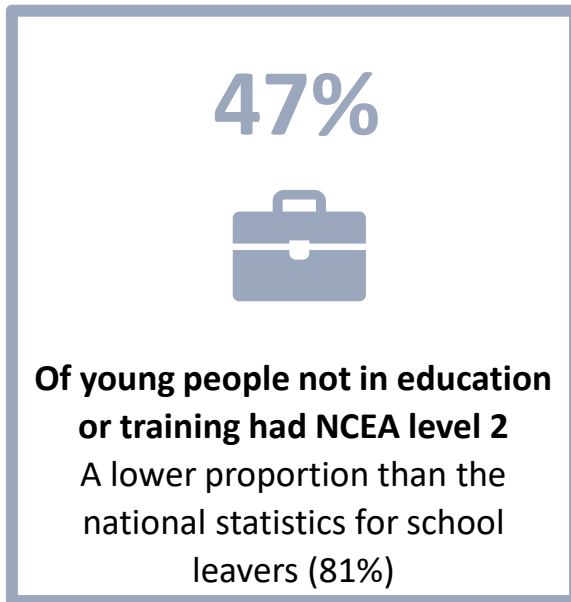
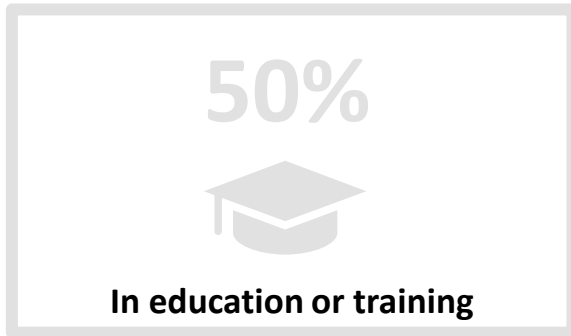
"Communication skills"

"First Aid course"

"Mechanics, electrical engineering, fabrication"

Skills young people want to learn and the extent they consider they are being supported to learn these skills (n=320)

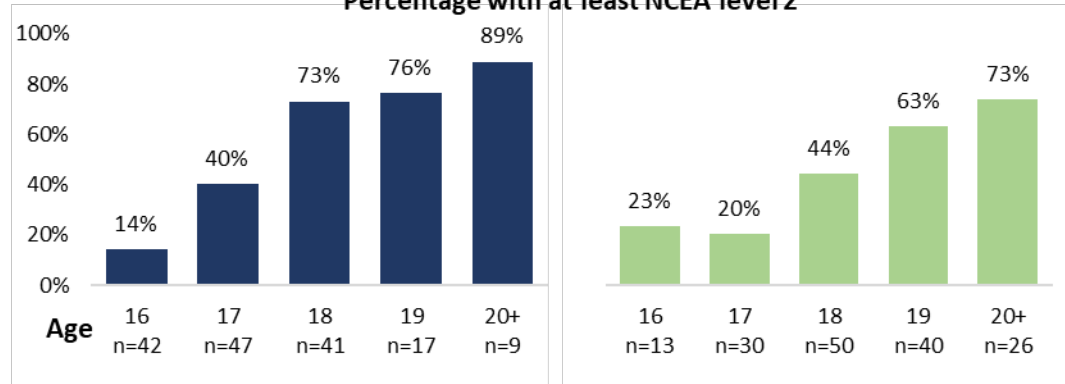
Education and training



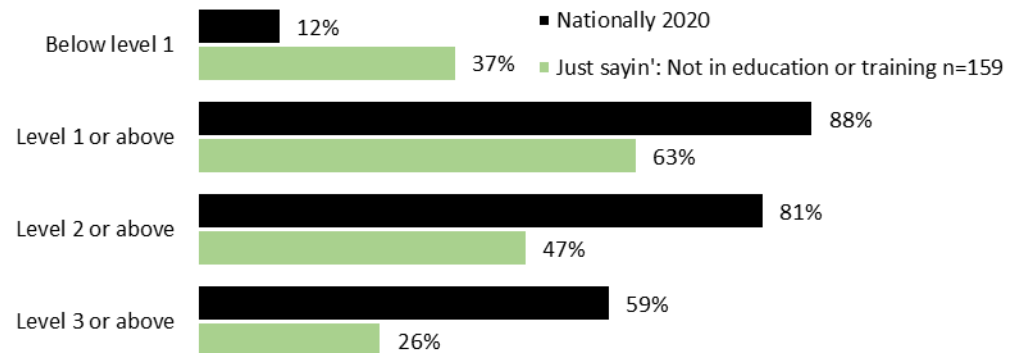
Current education status



Percentage with at least NCEA level 2

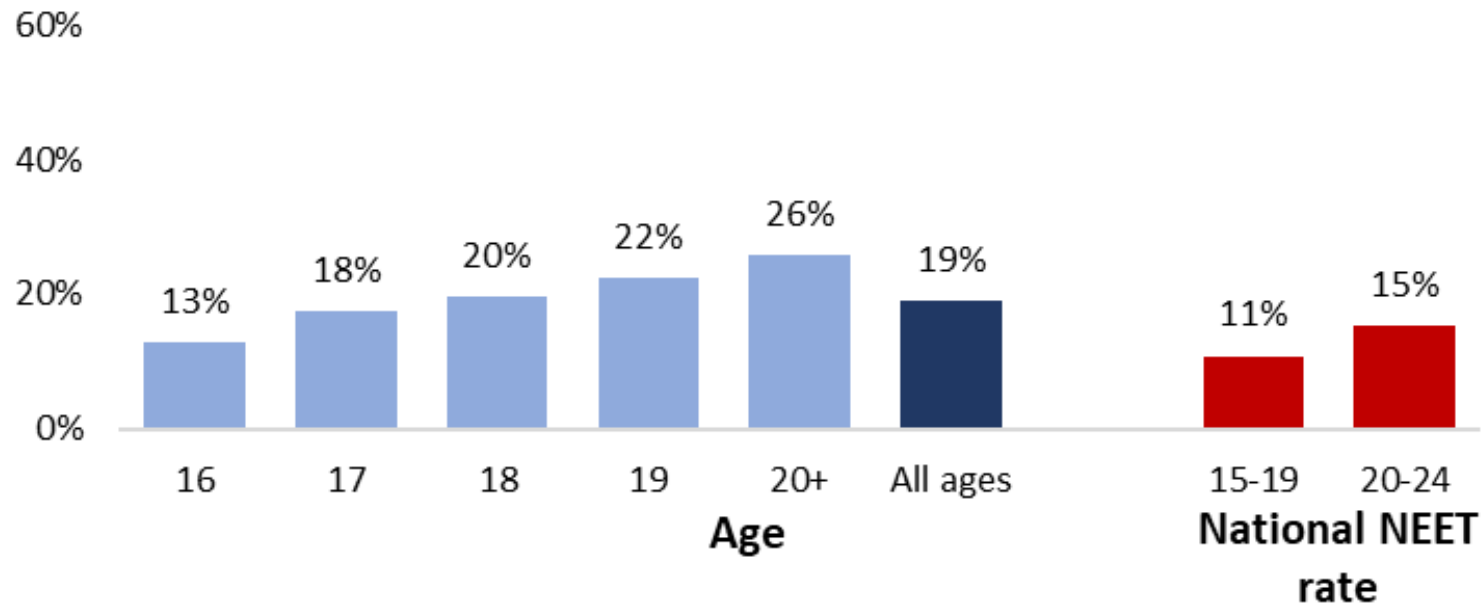


Leaving school with...



NEET rate

The NEET rate for the Just Sayin' young people is higher than the national rate (19% compared to 12.2% - aged 15-24).



NEET rate by age (n=320)

Challenges

The larger sample size in the 2021 survey provides more information about the transition needs of young people with different characteristics and contexts amongst those leaving care.

Close relationship between young people and TS workers;
Inadequate contact frequency;
Inadequate support to develop the skills young people thought they needed.

TSS is supporting young people – but opportunities to strengthen

Young people's voices

Many young people felt their voices were not heard and asked for Oranga Tamariki to listen to them.

Smaller proportions of young people with a disability were positive about all aspects of the survey questions.

Young people with disabilities

Rangatahi Māori

Many rangatahi Māori valued support by a Māori transition worker but only 43% said they had a choice about the organisation that would support them.

Pacific who were receiving transition worker support had statistically similar outcomes to non-Pacific.