

# Social-Emotional Wellbeing (SEW) Survey

## National Comparison Group

To help clients interpret their results from the Social-Emotional Wellbeing (SEW) survey, ACER provides comparisons to a large group of past SEW student survey participants. This group of past participants is referred to as the national comparison group. This document provides a general overview of the national comparison group and its demographic makeup.

The national comparison group results have been compiled from the survey responses of 87 883 school students from 490 different schools/ organisations who completed the SEW student survey online during the 2021 calendar year.

Table 1.1 shows the breakdown of the national comparison group by gender, and Table 1.2 shows the breakdown of the group by year level (at the time of completing the survey). Note that the national comparison group is not necessarily representative of the entire Australian population; this is because schools/organisations self-select to have their students take the survey.

**Table 1.1** The national comparison group broken down by the gender of the participating students

Gender	Students	
	N	%
Boys	44062	50.1
Girls	43821	49.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87883</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 1.2** The national comparison group broken down by the year level of the participating students

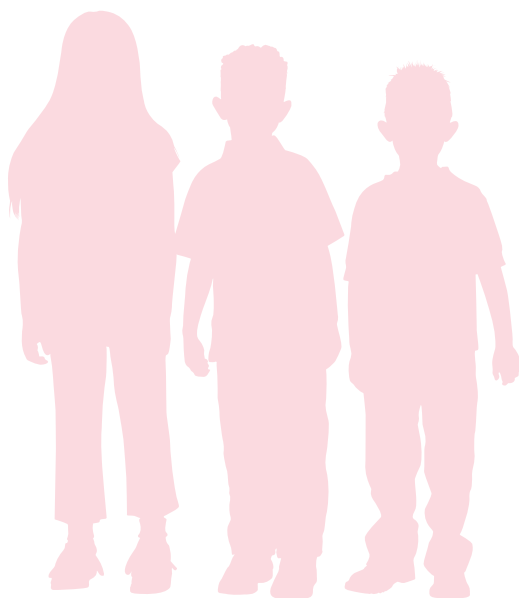
Year Level	Students	
	N	%
Year 2	6250	7.1
Year 3	4175	4.8
Year 4	2986	3.4
Year 5	7211	8.2
Year 6	10389	11.8
Year 7	11145	12.7
Year 8	10918	12.4
Year 9	11233	12.8
Year 10	8132	9.3
Year 11	8396	9.6
Year 12	7048	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87883</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.2 shows the year level distribution of reference data from the national comparison group, consisting of 87,883 student responses recorded in 2021.

**Table 1.3** The national comparison group broken down by the state/territory of the participating schools

State/ Territory	Students		Schools	
	N	%	N	%
Australian Capital Territory	6990	8	22	5.1
New South Wales	20446	23.3	99	22.8
Northern Territory	599	0.7	4	0.9
Queensland	10509	12	36	8.3
South Australia	1542	1.8	8	1.8
Tasmania	1599	1.8	7	1.6
Victoria	30726	35	148	34
Western Australia	15472	17.6	111	25.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>87883</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.3 shows the breakdown of the national comparison group by the state/territory of the participating schools. This breakdown assumes students resided in the same state/territory as the school they attended at the time of completing the SEW survey. 35% of the responses in the comparison group come from students in Victoria.



**Table 1.4** The national comparison group broken down by the socio-economic status (SES) of the participating schools

SES Quintile	Schools	
	N	%
5 (highest)	144	33
4	72	16.5
3	75	17.2
2	82	18.8
1 (lowest)	61	14
Not applicable	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1.4 provides a summary of the relative socio-economic status (SES) of the schools that make up the national comparison group. Each SES was based on the SES of the area where the school is located. This is not a perfect measure, but it does provide an indication of the SES of the school overall.

The measure of SES used is the 2016 Index of Education and Occupation, which is a socio-economic index for areas published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. All locations in Australia are ordered by their SES index, and then broken into five equal groups called quintiles. Quintile 5 represents the 20% of Australian locations with the highest SES; quintile 1 represents the 20% of Australian locations with the lowest SES.

Table 1.4 shows that 33% of the schools in the national comparison group are in locations from the highest SES quintile in Australia, and 14% of the schools are in locations from the lowest SES quintile.

The following chart shows the distribution of student SEW by year level for the national comparison group.

