



# National Survey of Australian Girl Guides



GIRL GUIDES  
AUSTRALIA

Issues concerning Girl Guides



Foreword

## Guides Say... Project

2010 marks the centenary of the Girl Guides.

With the 100 year anniversary just around the corner, now is the time for girls and young women involved in Guides to have their say on the issues that concern them. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (**WAGGGS**) is one of the key focal points for the voices of girls and young women, worldwide.

As part of this vision, the Australian *Guides Say... Project (The Project)*, collected information from each Guide Unit in Australia. Respondents (girls aged 5-17) were invited to identify the top issues that they cared about at a global, national and local level. The survey results offer a unique perspective on the thoughts and concerns of young Australian girls, their insights and their values.

Through The Project, Girl Guides Australia gains an in-depth understanding of their members, creating a platform to advocate and speak out on key issues facing young women in Australia, and in so doing, help to build a better world.

A key objective for all levels of Guiding is to develop an understanding of civic duty and advocacy. The project identifies issues of importance for girls to develop their advocacy skills, to contribute to the local, national and global movements who are championing issues of concern to Guides, whilst continuing to develop sound relationships with community and government.

The survey also provides a framework to assist Girl Guides Australia to plan for the future, giving direction to efforts in helping our girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.



## Introduction

In 2007, Girl Guides Australia conducted its first ever national survey of Guides aged between 5 to 17 years. The aim of **The Project** was to identify the issues affecting girls and young women at a global, Australian and local level.

The diversity of the girls who took part in The Project, reflects a wide spectrum of age, geographical location, cultural background and personal circumstances, provided a rich understanding of both the similarities and differences of young girls across all walks of life in Australia, giving the survey's finding depth and power.

The survey's findings are important for a number of reasons. They will be used to inform State Guide organisations and **WAGGGS** (as well as parents and the general community), of the concerns and issues that Australian Guides have.

The findings will assist Girl Guides Australia (GGA) and the State Girl Guide organizations to evaluate and further develop their programs. They will also provide Australian Guides with the kind of detailed, in depth information from their members so that the Guides can become a single clear voice, speaking out as an advocate for girls in Australia.

Girl Guides Australia will now be able to undertake projects which target the girls' specific concerns, thus ensuring Guiding remains relevant to the young women of Australia.



## Survey Methodology

A resource kit was distributed in August 2007 to every Guide Unit in Australia. The kit included a list of suggested activities, consistent with the girls' different developmental stages, to facilitate Unit or Patrol<sup>1</sup> discussion on issues they care about. Once the activities and/or discussion had taken place, a simple survey postcard was filled out by each Patrol in the Unit and posted back to Girl Guides Australia where the information was collated. Patrols were asked to rank issues in order of importance. The data presented in this report represents the proportion of Patrols who ranked their issues of concern one, two or three.

The Patrol postcards collected the following data:

- State and postcode in which the Patrol meets;
- Age range of girls in the Patrol;
- The top three issues concerning the Patrol at a global, national and local level; and
- Guides over 13 years ranked their top three issues of the nine identified WAGGGS adolescent issues.

Participation in the Project was close to 4,500 Guides from diverse backgrounds and communities across Australia. All data for individual questions has been used, even if some Patrols did not go on to complete the entire survey with the exception of 29 Patrol postcards where State, age and postcode data was incomplete. This data was not included in the following results.

Using the postcodes, the results were separated into Metropolitan (capital cities and metropolitan area), Regional (defined as the regional centres) and Rural (defined as the areas outside capital cities and regional centres).

<sup>1</sup> A Patrol is a small self-governing group of four to eight Guides.

## This Report

This report contains an Executive Summary as well as summaries at the national level and for each State. Each of the chapters contains a breakdown and summary of the key data by:

- Overall findings;
- Age profile - two age categories: 5 to 12 years and 13 to 17 years;
- Geographical distribution - whether Patrols were from Metropolitan, Regional and Rural areas; and
- Age and geographical distribution.

This report also contains the results of the survey undertaken by Guides 13 to 17 years and ranks the top three adolescent WAGGGS issues which concerned them.

## Categorising the Issues

Issues raised by the Patrols were varied. All issues have been allocated by Girl Guides Australia to the 25 general different headings listed on the left hand side of the following table. The right hand column contains quotes from the Patrol postcards of the issues raised by the Guides.

	Issue	Issues raised included
1.	Activities for Youth	lack of youth activities, parks for pre-teens, need local swimming pools, cooperation between sports clubs
2.	Addictions	drugs, smoking, alcohol, gambling
3.	Animal Cruelty	Most data in this category related to endangered species and saving native animals but also included hunting, whaling poachers, testing products on animals.
4.	Body Image	obesity, anorexia, child fitness and healthy eating
5.	Bullying	bullying in general, swearing, teasing, showing off
6.	Crime (Petty)	vandalism, need for more police, wagging school, copyright violation, peeping toms, prank calls
7.	Crime (Serious)	violence and abuse, gangs, theft, guns, murder, abduction, kidnapping, rock throwing, child abuse
8.	Discrimination	Most data in this category related to racism but also included understanding religion, ageism and sexism.
9.	Education (School)	boarding schools, orphanages, school funding, class sizes, air conditioning, teacher's pay, discipline in schools
10.	Environment	pollution, deforestation, recycling, abusing natural resources, nuclear power and alternate power, bushfires, natural disasters, habitat loss, introduced species (cane toads), pulp mill (Tas), over population
11.	Equal Rights	respect for everyone, women's rights, child rights, workers' rights, slavery, arranged marriages, abortion, violence against women and birth control, refugees, divorce issues, family separation, parental responsibility, single parent families, corporal punishment, working mums, being a friend to all, trafficking of people for slavery
12.	Global Warming	climate change, greenhouse gases, ozone layer, Kyoto protocol, melting ice caps
13.	Government	consumer prices, taxes, petrol prices, home prices, interest rates, inflation, profits, globalisation, quarantine laws, assistance for farmers, Australian-owned companies and products, exports, fair trade, foreign aid, more involvement in the UN, inadequate emergency services, hospital funding, jobs, IR laws, fair working conditions, employment for young people, sweatshops, better pay for our parents, detention centres, easier citizenship, going to jail when innocent, school and university funding, university fees, support for single parents, childcare, free help lines (relationships), funding for not-for-profit organisations, funding for lifesavers, sustainable and affordable housing policy, daylight saving, fluoride in the water, harmful chemicals in food, mobile phone coverage, internet monitoring, media influence, censoring children's TV content,

	Issue	Issues raised included
		rude TV content, smoking bans, regulation of liquor outlets, council amalgamations, change of suburb name, isolated community issues, encouraging people to move to rural areas, sugar cane trains, no pay to park, provision and maintenance of public toilets, more public water taps, funding for public venues, public art, preservation of historic buildings, preservation of Australian songs and stories, becoming a republic, bad management by political leaders, politicians to tell the truth, waste of council resources, children should vote, keeping green space
14.	Graffiti	
15.	Health & Scientific Research	sun awareness; STDs, AIDs/HIV, more children's wards; assisting the elderly; scientific research, cancer research, hospital quality, free vaccinations, mental health, mosquitoes, cloning, allergies, access to medical professionals, numbers of nurses, doctors and hospitals
16.	Homelessness	local and international
17.	Indigenous	
18.	Littering	
19.	Poverty	hunger, donation to charity
20.	Road Safety	road rage, drink driving, speeding, trucks on highways, slowing near schools, lights, parking, road kill, less cars, unsafe footpaths
21.	Safety	lead paint on toys, death, accidents, family safety, feeling safe on the street, stranger danger, workplace safety, safe place to play, safe travel, internet safety, better lifesaving on beaches, need for more police, unsafe equipment
22.	Teen Issues	suicide, teen depression, teen pregnancy, peer pressure, focus on fashion
23.	Terrorism	
24.	Water Resources	water supply; drought and clean water, farmers, wasting water, storm water
25.	World Peace	no wars, peace, land mines



## Executive Summary

### Participation

Guide Units participated in the Project between September and December 2007. The Project was undertaken by 4,500 girls between the ages of 5 and 17 years from all State Guide organisations.

### Issues of Concern

Nationally, the primary concerns for Australian Guides at a global level were Global Warming (16.9%), Environment (15.6%) and Poverty (15.1%) whilst 21.2% of Guides were concerned about Water as the most serious issue facing Australia.

At both the national level and at the local level, Environment (Aust. 18.0% and local 12.3%) and Addictions (Aust. 8.7% and local 10.8%) were considered of significant concern. Bullying (8.4%) out ranked Water (7.5%) as a concern to Australian Guides in their local communities with Western Australia and Tasmania hardly considering Water a concern at all.

The greatest variance in the variety of issues raised was between the States at the local level where very specific local problems were voiced. There was also a difference between Guides 5 to 12 years and those 13 to 17 years. The older Guides varied from the national averages, recording their primary global concern as Poverty (22.3%) and issues relating to Government and Body Image were also seen as important issues facing Australians today.

The responses indicated that the Guides were generally well informed and delighted they could voice their concerns and discuss them with their peers. Kidnapping was identified by many Patrols who participated early in the time frame, which coincided with the publicity of the Madeline McCann kidnapping in Portugal. Despite kidnapping rarely happening in Australia, it was seen as a concern to the girls, probably as a direct result of the extended media coverage this story received. The Federal Election held at the end of November appears to have raised an awareness of a vast array of political issues.

The long drought has clearly had a major impact on the lives of many Guides and highlighted water issues as a major concern particularly in Rural areas.

### Where to go from here

The Guides' responses have given Girl Guides Australia a clear picture of the issues that concern Australian Guides globally, nationally and in their local communities.

Girl Guides Australia undertook this project to help implement the WAGGGS vision to be “the voice of girls and young women to build a better world”. The results will help Girl Guides Australia with policy formulation, development of program and training resources, and to influence the broader community’s understanding of the issues concerning girls and young women in Australia.

The 2007 Project was the first of what is recommended to become a triennial national survey, to be conducted in the year preceding the WAGGGS World Conference. The survey results can then be used by Australian delegates as the basis of their contribution to world decision-making and priority setting.

It is recommended that this approach be adopted as an ongoing consultation with the Guide membership in Australia. The information collected not only contributes to the work of Girl Guides Australia in advocating for positive policy outcomes but assists in improving and providing up-to-date and relevant programs for its members.

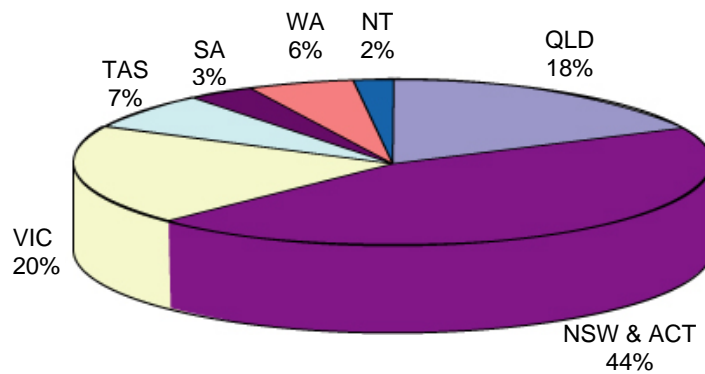


# National Summary

## Profile of Patrol Responses

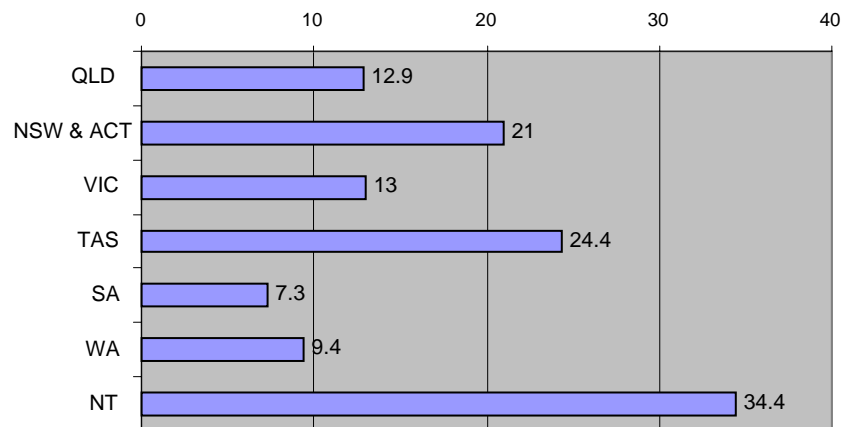
### State Distribution

A total of 933 Patrol postcards were received in response to the Project. Respondents came from every State, including 164 from Queensland, 401 from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, 177 from Victoria, 63 from Tasmania, 30 from South Australia, 51 from Western Australia and 18 from the Northern Territory. 29 Patrol postcards did not indicate postcode and/or age range. This data has been excluded from the following analysis.



**Figure 1: Percentage Participation by State**

Of the 904 Patrol postcards reviewed in this Report, State participation in the Project has been calculated on the basis of an average sized Patrol of five girls and compared with individual State membership for 2007



**Figure 2: Percentage of Participation by State**

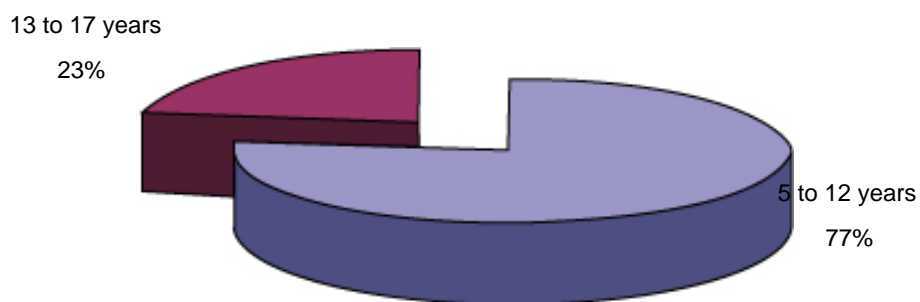
## Age Breakdown

The Project surveyed Guides aged between 5 and 17 years and the results have been collated into two age groups – 5 to 12 years and 13 to 17 years. Whilst girls in each Patrol did not necessarily exactly fit into each of these age categories, for the purpose of collating the results they were categorised into the closest age group for the age range specified on the postcard.

**Table 1: National Age Profile of Patrols**

Age in years	Number of Patrols	Percentage of respondents
5 to 12 years	697	77
13 to 17 years	207	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>100%</b>

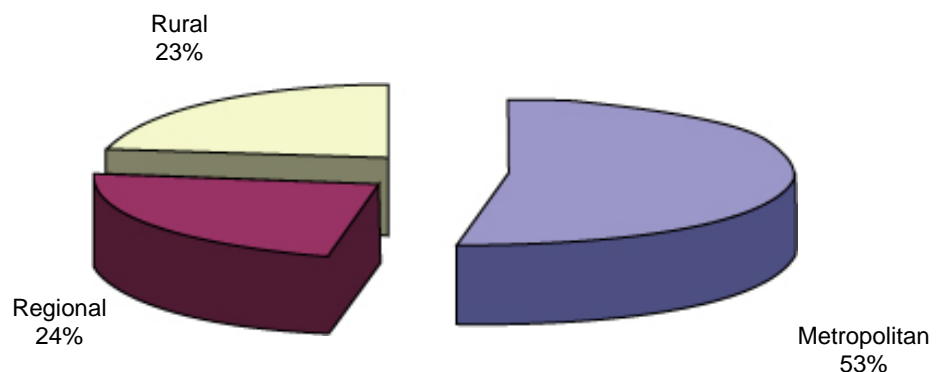
*Note: Not all respondents answered all the survey questions on the postcards. The data has been calculated for total responses given in each survey question. Percentages in all tables, figures and text are rounded to 1 decimal place and may not necessarily total 100%.*



**Figure 3: Percentage Profile of Respondents by Age**

## Geographic Distribution of Guide Units

The Project indicated that 53% of the respondents across Australia came from metropolitan area whilst 24% resided in regional areas and 23% resided in rural areas.



**Figure 4: Percentage of Respondents Residing in Metropolitan, Regional and Rural Areas.**

# Issues concerning Australian Guides

## Main Issues concerning Australian Guides

The girls were asked to list the top three issues that concerned them or were important to them at a global, Australian and local level. The following tables indicate the cumulative ranks of these issues.

**Table 2: National Overall Summary of Issues**

Global Issues	% of responses	Australian Issues	% of responses	Local Issues	% of responses
Global Warming	16.9	Water	21.2	Environment	12.3
Environment	15.6	Environment	18.0	Addictions	10.8
Poverty	15.1	Addictions	8.7	Bullying	8.4
World Peace	9.6	Animal Cruelty	7.0	Water	7.5
Animal Cruelty	7.7	Equal Rights	5.4	Littering	7.0
Equal Rights	6.9	Government	4.6	Crime (serious)	5.8

### Global Level

71.8% of the concerns related to these top six issues. Of this 47.6% related to Global Warming, Environment and Poverty. These last three issues appeared to be of primary concern to Guides across Australia.

### Australian Level

All States with the exception of the Northern Territory identified Water as the primary issue of concern facing Australia. Issues concerning Environment were listed of high concern across the country. Information from the Patrol postcards indicated that Government issues of concern were often related to public infrastructure (hospitals, schools and roads) and issues of Equal Rights while covering the broader issues of equality often related to more personal experiences such as: effects of divorce; single parent families; and family harmony. Addictions was included by every State.

### Local Level

Environment, Addictions, Bullying and Littering were seen as the main issues of concern at the local level Australia wide. Water was not a local issue for Tasmania or Western Australia and Crime (Serious) was not an issue in Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

## Age Differences

A total of 76% of the responses came from the younger girls aged between 5 to 12 years. The disproportionate amount of responses compared to the 13 to 17 age group was consistent with the current membership profile of Girl Guides Australia.

**Table 3: National Summary of Global Issues Raised of Concern to Australian Guides.**

	Issue	5 -12 years %	Issue	13 - 17 years %
GLOBAL	Environment	18.2	Poverty	22.3
	Global Warming	16.6	Global Warming	17.9
	Poverty	12.9	Equal Rights	11.1
	World Peace	10.3	Environment & World Peace	7.3
	Animal Cruelty	8.2	Animal Cruelty	6.0
AUSTRALIAN	Water	21.5	Water	20.4
	Environment	20.2	Environment	11.1
	Addictions	8.7	Addictions	8.9
	Animal Cruelty	8.3	Government	8.3
	Equal Rights	5.1	Body Image	6.8
LOCAL	Environment	13.6	Addictions	13.7
	Addictions	9.8	Environment	8.5
	Bullying	8.7	Bullying	7.6
	Water	8.2	Crime (petty)	6.1
	Littering	7.7	Equal Rights & Teen Issues <sup>1</sup>	5.9

With the exception of Environment at the global level, the ranks at all levels were similar to the national average for girls 5 to 12 years. Conversely, ranks and percentages for girls 13 to 17 years for all levels vary from the national averages and their younger counterparts reflecting their maturity, wider experience and exposure to media reports.

<sup>1</sup> Where two or more issues are listed in any table the percentage given relates to each issue and is not cumulative

## Geographic Distribution

Table 4: National Geographic Distribution Summary

	Metropolitan Issues	% of responses	Regional Issues	% of responses	Rural Issues	% of responses
GLOBAL	Global Warming	18.2	Environment	16.8	Global Warming	16.2
	Poverty	16.4	Global warming	14.8	Poverty	13.0
	Environment	16.3	Poverty	14.1	Environment	12.6
	World Peace	8.9	Animal Cruelty	9.8	World Peace	11.8
AUSTRALIAN	Water	22.5	Environment	20.8	Water	19.7
	Environment	18.2	Water	20.0	Environment	14.6
	Addictions	8.1	Addictions	8.9	Addictions	10.1
	Animal Cruelty	6.8	Animal Cruelty	7.9	Animal Cruelty & Government	6.4
LOCAL	Environment	11.6	Environment	15.8	Addictions	12.7
	Addictions	10.8	Addictions	9.0	Water	11.8
	Bullying	9.3	Littering	8.2	Environment	10.2
	Littering	6.3	Water & Crime (Serious)	7.8	Bullying	9.1

### Global Level

At this level metropolitan and rural issues were ranked equally. Regional Guides recorded Animal Cruelty as a more important issue of concern than World Peace.

### Australian Level

The four concerns, namely Water, Environment, Addictions and Animal Cruelty were viewed as main issues across all areas. There was a greater emphasis on Water by Metropolitan and Rural girls.

### Local Level

The two concerns of Environment and Addictions accounted for about 22% of the responses for all areas. Bullying accounted for a little over 9% of the responses for both Metropolitan and Rural girls while Littering was an issue for both Metropolitan and Regional girls. For Metropolitan girls other issues of concern outranked Water as a main issue at this level.

# National Geographic & Age Distribution

**Table 5: Geographic & Age Distribution Summary of Main Issues of Concern**

		5 to 12 years		13 to 17 years	
		Issues	% of responses	Issues	% of responses
<b>GLOBAL LEVEL</b>	<b>Metropolitan</b>	Environment	18.7	Poverty	24.6
		Global Warming	17.8	Global Warming	19.6
		Poverty	13.9	Equal Rights	10.1
		World Peace	10.0	Environment	8.5
	<b>Regional</b>	Environment	19.8	Poverty	24.7
		Global Warming	14.8	Global Warming	14.7
		Animal Cruelty & Poverty	11.3	Equal Rights	11.3
		World Peace	9.2	World Peace	8.7
	<b>Rural</b>	Global Warming	15.7	Global Warming	17.6
		Environment	15.3	Poverty	14.9
		Poverty	12.3	Equal Rights	12.8
		World Peace	12.1	Discrimination	11.5
<b>AUSTRALIAN LEVEL</b>	<b>Metropolitan</b>	Water	23.0	Water	20.9
		Environment	19.5	Environment	13.8
		Addictions	8.4	Addictions & Discrimination	7.1
		Animal Cruelty	8.0	Government	6.8
	<b>Regional</b>	Environment	23.7	Water	16.3
		Water	21.1	Environment	11.6
		Animal Cruelty	9.7	Addictions	10.9
		Addictions	8.3	Equal Rights & Government	8.9
	<b>Rural</b>	Water	18.5	Water	23.3
		Environment	17.9	Government & Addictions	11.0
		Addictions	9.8	Body Image	10.3
		Animal Cruelty	7.6	Health	6.9
<b>LOCAL LEVEL</b>	<b>Metropolitan</b>	Environment	12.4	Addictions	14.1
		Bullying	9.8	Environment	9.3
		Addictions	9.7	Bullying	7.7
		Littering	6.9	Equal Rights	6.1
	<b>Regional</b>	Environment	17.0	Addictions & Environment	11.9
		Water	8.7	Crime (Petty)	7.7
		Crime (Serious) & Addictions	8.1	Crime (Serious)	7.0
		Discrimination & Government	6.1	Education	6.3
	<b>Rural</b>	Water	13.7	Addictions	14.6
		Environment	12.5	Bullying	10.2
		Addictions	12.1	Equal Rights	8.0
		Bullying	8.8	Littering & Teen Issues	7.3

## **National Geographic & Age Distribution (cont)**

### **Global Level**

For girls 5 to 12 years the four issues of Global Warming, Environment, Poverty and World Peace were ranked by all areas as their issues of main concern. Regional girls also ranked Animal Cruelty with Poverty. The older girls agreed on Poverty, Global Warming and Equal Rights as main issues but differed on the fourth.

### **Australian Level**

Again at the Australian level the younger girls all agreed on Water, Environment, Animal Cruelty and Addictions as their main issues of concern. For girls 13 to 17 years Water was the primary concern for all areas and Addictions and Government of common concern for the three areas. Metropolitan and Regional girls were also concerned about Environment. Metropolitan girls mentioned Discrimination, Regional girls Equal Rights and Rural girls Body Image and Health issues.

### **Local Level**

Younger girls in all areas ranked Environment and Addictions as main concerns. Regional and Rural girls ranked Water as a main concern but Metropolitan girls were more concerned with Bullying and Littering. Bullying was also a concern for Rural girls. Addictions was the only common issue of concern for the older girls. Other issues of concern were wide spread across the areas.

## State Comparison of the Main National Issues

**Table 6: State Comparison of Main National Issues by Percentage and Rank at Global Level**

	Issues	NATIONAL	QLD	NSW & ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT
GLOBAL	Global Warming	<b>16.9</b>	15.3 1	17.5 1	16.8 1	14.5 2	20.5 1	14.9 1	26.5 2
	Environment	<b>15.6</b>	14.7 2	15.9 2	16.6 2	11.0 4	15.9 2	11.4 3	34.7 1
	Poverty	<b>15.1</b>	14.4 3	15.7 3	14.6 3	19.7 1	12.5 3	13.5 2	8.2 3
	World Peace	<b>9.6</b>	10.1 5	10.2 4	9.0 4	12.1 3	5.7 6	5.7 6	4.1 5
	Animal Cruelty	<b>7.7</b>	12.5 4	6.9 6	7.4 5	5.2 8	8.0 4	5.0 8	2.0 7
	Equal Rights	<b>6.9</b>	6.2 6	7.6 5	5.8 6	9.3 5	8.0 4	5.0 8	4.1 5

*Note: The samples for Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia were small and in the Northern Territory for girls 5 to 12 years. Both these factors should be taken into account when considering the results for these States.*

### Global Level

Global Warming concerns for most States were consistent with the national averages. Average results for both South Australia and particularly the Northern Territory (20.5% and 26.5% respectively) were above the national averages however it should be remembered that returns for both were small. All States, with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, rank it as their primary concern.

Environmental issues in the Northern Territory (34.7%) were significantly above the national averages (15.6%) whilst Tasmania and Western Australia (11.0% and 11.4% respectively) were relatively lower than the national and consequently they were ranked of lower concern by these two States.

61.2% of Northern Territory respondents listed Global Warming and Environmental issues as their primary issues of concern and consequently their results display a significantly lower level of concern for Poverty, World Peace, Animal Cruelty and Equal Rights when compared to the national average. Tasmania recorded the highest level of concern for World Peace and Equal Rights when compared with the other States.

**Table 7: State Comparison of Main National Issues by Percentage and Rank at Australian Level**

	Issues	NATIONAL	QLD	NSW & ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT
AUSTRALIAN	Water	<b>21.2</b>	20.3 1	20.3 1	26.4 1	18.4 1	21.6 1	19.1 1	16.0 2
	Environment	<b>18.0</b>	18.8 2	18.8 2	19.1 2	11.4 3	14.8 2	13.6 2	22.0 1
	Addictions	<b>8.7</b>	7.0 4	8.6 3	10.0 3	12.7 2	5.7 6	9.5 3	6.0 4
	Animal Cruelty	<b>7.0</b>	10.7 3	6.3 5	5.2 5	9.5 4	4.6 7	2.7 10	14.0 3
	Equal Rights	<b>5.4</b>	5.2 6	6.4 4	2.7 8	6.3 6	9.1 3	4.8 8	2.0 7
	Government	<b>4.6</b>	6.6 5	4.2 6	2.7 8	3.2 10	5.7 5	8.8 4	2.0 7

*Note: The samples for Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia were small and in the Northern Territory for girls 5 to 12 years. Both these factors should be taken into account when considering the results for these States.*

### Australian Level

At this level the results indicate that Victoria has the highest level of concern for issues related to Water and the Northern Territory the overall lowest. The other States appear to be consistent with the national averages for Water concerns.

In respect to Environmental concerns, Tasmania and to a lesser extent South Australia (14.8%) and Western Australia (13.6%) were lower than the national average but still as their second issue of concern. In the Northern Territory (22%) it was clearly ranked first.

The responses for Queensland (10.7%) and Tasmanian Guides (9.5%) show a higher level of concern for issues related to Animal Cruelty than the other States.

**Table 8: State Comparison of Main National Issues by Percentage and Rank at Local Level**

LOCAL	Issues	NATIONAL	QLD	NSW & ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT
	Environment	<b>12.3</b>	14.8 1	12.6 1	11.0 1	13.9 1	6.1 5	7.7 4	16.0 2
	Addictions	<b>10.8</b>	7.5 4	12.3 2	9.1 4	9.7 2	6.1 5	14.7 1	20.0 1
	Bullying	<b>8.4</b>	6.9 6	7.4 3	9.7 3	9.7 2	15.9 1	11.9 2	6.0 5
	Water	<b>7.5</b>	8.0 2	7.4 3	10.2 2	0.7 19	9.8 2	2.8 13	8.0 4
	Littering	<b>7.0</b>	8.0 2	6.3 6	5.8 5	9.7 2	6.1 5	8.4 3	14.0 3
	Crime (serious)	<b>5.8</b>	6.2 7	7.0 5	3.7 11	3.5 10	4.9 6	6.3 6	2.0 11

*Note: The samples for Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia were small and in the Northern Territory for girls 5 to 12 years. Both these factors should be taken into account when considering the results for these States.*

### Local Level

At the local level the differences between the Guides' concerns across the States was more obvious.

The eastern States and Tasmania all ranked Environment as their primary concern while in South Australia Bullying (15.9%), for the sample received, was clearly their first issue of concern. Addictions was ranked first in the Northern Territory (20%) and Western Australia (14.7%).

Most States ranked Water as a main issue of concern with the exception of Tasmania where it was ranked 19<sup>th</sup> and Western Australia where it was ranked 13<sup>th</sup>. Because Water was not an issue in Tasmania Addictions, Bullying and Littering were seen to be of more concern and other issues related to Body Image, Education and Government<sup>2</sup> influenced their results.

For Western Australian Guides Bullying was also the second issue of concern. For all other States it was ranked as a main concern and in NSW & ACT and Victoria it was ranked third.

A detailed report for each State Girl Guide Association is available by contacting Girl Guides Australia on [guides@girlguides.org.au](mailto:guides@girlguides.org.au).

<sup>2</sup> Issues categorised as Government from Tasmanian Patrol postcards highlighted issues related to pulp mills and logging.



## Adolescent Health Issues

### Overview

In 2005, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (**WAGGGS**) conducted its first ever global survey of 6,000 members in 100 countries. The results of this survey were turned into three key areas on which WAGGGS is advocating. These being:

- **Access to education** - WAGGGS views the education of girls and young women as a fundamental human right;
- **Tackling trafficking of girls and young women** – WAGGGS views the trafficking and exploitation of women and children as a severe violation of human rights; and
- **Adolescent health.**

In respect of the adolescent health issues, WAGGGS selected seven key messages which it will use as advocacy platforms. These are:

1. girls worldwide say "**fight AIDS**"
2. girls worldwide say "**make healthy food choices**"
3. girls worldwide say "**prevent adolescent pregnancy**"
4. girls worldwide say "**it is important to talk about sex**"
5. girls worldwide say "**let's talk about the danger of drugs**"
6. girls worldwide say "**ban smoking in public places**"
7. girls worldwide say "**discover your potential**"

### Survey Methodology

To support the implementation of WAGGGS messages in Australia, Girl Guides Australia sought to confirm the priorities of local adolescent girls in relation to these messages. Patrols with girls aged 13 years and over were asked to rank the top three WAGGGS issues (as listed above) which concerned them or were important to them.

### Profile of Patrol Responses

A total of 182 Patrol postcards were received from Patrols with Guides aged 13 and over across Australia in response to the Project. Responses came from all States, including 36 from Queensland, 75 from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, 30 from Victoria, 11 from Tasmania, 9 from South Australia, 16 from Western Australia and 2 from the Northern Territory. Three Patrol postcards did not indicate which State, age or postcode. This data was not excluded from the overall calculations.

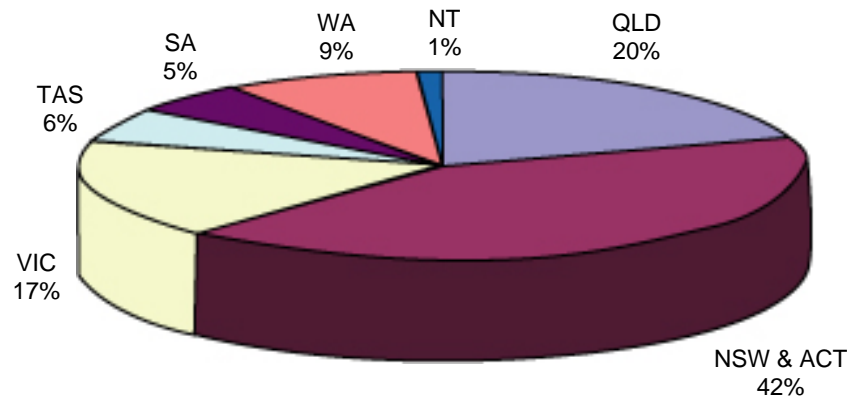


Figure WAG1: Percentage Participation by State

## WAGGGS Adolescent Issues concerning Australian Guides

### Main WAGGGS Adolescent Issues concerning Australian Guides

Of the nine WAGGGS issues, adolescent Guides were asked to list the top three issues that concerned them or were important. The following data indicates the outcome of the survey. The results have been recorded nationally as the responses from many States were too small to validate individual State analysis.

Table WAG1: Summary of WAGGGS Adolescent Issues

WAGGGS Advocacy Issues	% of responses
Danger of drugs	25.3%
Discovering your potential	17.6%
Prevention of adolescent pregnancy	13.8%
Making healthy food choices	9.6%
Fighting AIDS	8.7%
Banning smoking in public places	8.3%
It is important to talk about sex	8.0%
Tackling trafficking of girls and young women	5.8%
Access to education	2.9%

55.7% of responses related to the first three ranked WAGGGS Adolescent Issues. Of highest concern to adolescent Guides was “Dangers of drugs” (25.3%). This was significantly above the next ranked issue of “Discovering your potential” (17.6%). “Prevention of adolescent pregnancy” also ranked high at 13.8% of the total responses. “Access to education” was seen as the least concern to Australian adolescent Guides (2.9%).



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