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## Modern world causing kids stress at school: UNICEF report

By: Nicole Madigan in News, Top Stories May 9, 2019 0

Australian school children consider climate change to be the biggest threat to their future safety and have little faith in the country's leaders, according to a recent UNICEF report.

The *A Climate for Change: 2019 Young Ambassador Report* also found that the pressure and pace of the modern world is causing high levels of stress at school and poor mental health.

The report was the summary of research derived from consultations held by UNICEF Australia's eight Young Ambassadors with children across the country, in conjunction with two national YouGov Galaxy surveys.

The research found that children's distrust of politicians began at a very early age, as young as 14.

"It is, in fact, not unusual among children and younger teenagers to think having six Prime Ministers in 10 years is normal for our country," said UNICEF Australia Young Ambassador Josh Brittain.

More than 1500 children and young people aged between three and 22 were involved in the research project, which included preschool, primary and secondary school students, as well as members of guide and scout groups throughout Australia.

The supporting YouGov Galaxy surveys were conducted in all states and territories and included responses from more than 1000 young people considered to be the next generation of voters, aged between 14 and 17. A group of current voters, aged 18 and 19, was also included.

Chief executive of UNICEF Australia Tony Stuart said the research showed that children and young people in Australia wanted action in numerous areas.

"They are often dissatisfied and frustrated by the ideology and politicisation that has enveloped the huge issues that they consider are shaping their lives, now and into the future. And they want action," he said.

Director of policy and advocacy Amy Lamoin said the report clearly illustrated the extent to which so many children, from a very young age, began to actively engage with the information available to them, assess it and arrive at deeply considered positions.

"This is a process that becomes more sophisticated as they grow older. Their views on climate change, energy, mental health and education are some particularly vivid examples of this.

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“Young people are impatient with ideology, and want action based on sound policy making, evidence and stable leadership going forward.

“This is an election year, and the 30th anniversary of the Children’s Convention. The question is who will take leadership for children to provide them with a fair chance?”

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