



## Social-Emotional Wellbeing 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 38 549 school students from 144 different schools/organisations who completed the SEW student survey online between 2013 and 2015.

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	21 499	55.8
Girls	17 050	44.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38 549</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

YEAR LEVEL	STUDENTS	
	N	%
Year 2	2812	7.3
Year 3	4089	10.6
Year 4	3918	10.2
Year 5	4069	10.6
Year 6	3194	8.3
Year 7	4337	11.3
Year 8	4483	11.6
Year 9	3838	10.0
Year 10	3107	8.1
Year 11	3087	8.0
Year 12	1615	4.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38 549</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Table 1.2 shows that at each year level, the results of the national comparison group are based on at least 3000 responses, with the exception of Years 2 and 12.

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

STATE/TERRITORY	STUDENTS			
	N	%	N	%
New South Wales (NSW)	9344	24.2	29	20.1
Victoria (Vic)	12 396	32.2	40	27.8
Queensland (Qld)	6677	17.3	26	18.1
Western Australia (WA)	3190	8.3	17	11.8
South Australia (SA)	3839	10.0	21	14.6
Tasmania (Tas)	1539	4.0	4	2.8
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	756	2.0	2	1.4
Northern Territory (NT)	0	0.0	9	0.0
Overseas or not applicable	808	2.1	5	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>38 549</b>	100.0	<b>144</b>	<b>100.0</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. Five schools were either based overseas or operated across more than one state. 32% of the responses in the comparison group come from students in Victoria. Note that there were no responses from students attending schools located in the Northern Territory.

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

SES QUINTILE	STUDENTS	
	N	%
5 (highest)	45	31.3
4	27	18.8
3	17	11.8
2	20	13.9
1 (lowest)	28	19.4
Not applicable	7	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100.0</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.

# Social-Emotional Wellbeing (SEW) Survey



The measure of SES used is the 2011 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 31% of the schools in the national comparison group are in locations from the highest SES quintile in Australia, and 19% of the schools are in locations from the lowest SES quintile.

Seven schools were either based overseas, or did not have a relevant geographical location, and so have been reported separately without an indication of their SES.

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

**Distribution of student SEW by year level**

