

## PARENTS CONCERNED WITH HOW YEAR 12s CELEBRATE SCHOOLIES

*'In the span of a generation, celebrating the end of Year 12 by attending a schoolies week has emerged as a rite of passage. However Australian parents have mixed views of how the celebration is played out and a third of parents state that they would not allow their child to participate in a "Gold Coast type schoolies week". – Mark McCrindle*

**10 November 2014** – Schoolies week has become a tradition in Australia, and the norm for how Australian students reward themselves following months of studious diligence preparing for the HSC exams. Yet parents aren't altogether convinced of *how* their young people are celebrating – nearly all Australian parents have some concern with how schoolies is celebrated and a third would stop their children from participating. In fact, if parents were given the choice, just 1 in 5 would suggest their child participate in schoolies week as is traditionally celebrated, in a place like the Gold Coast.

McCrindle presents the latest research conducted with a survey of 1015 Australians and 266 parents of school age children, analysing their attitude to Schoolies and life following school.

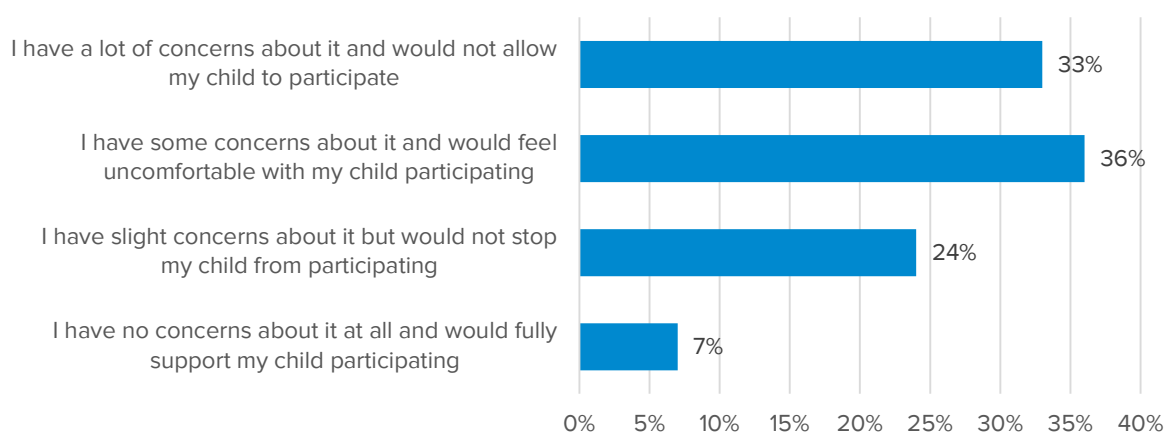
### 9 in 10 Australian parents uncomfortable with the way Schoolies is currently celebrated

93% of Australian parents express some level of concern with the way in which Year 12s currently celebrate their school-leaving. 1 in 3 (33%) have such concerns that they would not allow their child to participate, and a further third (36%) feel uncomfortable with their child participating. Baby Boomer parents express the most significant concern, and 2 in 5 (40%) would not allow their children to participate, compared to 30% of Gen X parents.

Parents in NSW are the most likely to have concerns about their child's participation in Schoolies. More than 1 in 3 NSW parents (36%) have a lot of concerns and would not allow their child to participate, compared to 28% QLD and 27% VIC parents.

Just 1 in 14 parents have no concern at all about their child's participation in conventional schoolies (7%).

#### Q. How comfortable are you with your children (when they finish year 12) participating in schoolies in the way it is currently celebrated?



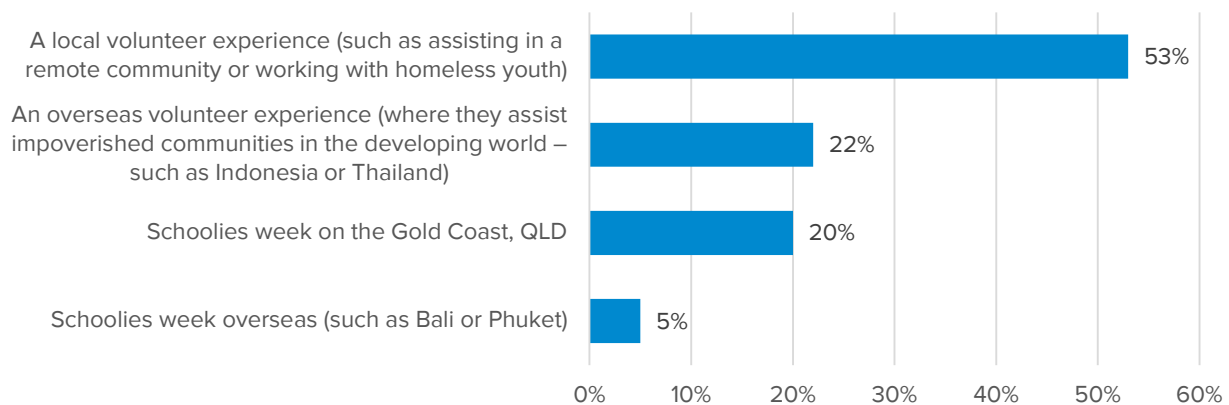
*‘And while more NSW parents would ban their children from attending than Queensland parents, it is not the distance that is the key factor but what they will get up to. In fact more parents would prefer their child head overseas for a volunteer experience in a developing country such as Indonesia or Thailand, than spend a week at schoolies on the Gold Coast.’*  
– **Mark McCrindle**

### 3 in 4 parents would prefer their child participate in a volunteer experience than Schoolies week

When Australian parents are asked what form of Schoolies they would like their child to participate in, just 1 in 5 chose the traditional schoolies week on the Gold Coast as their preferred option (22%). Three quarters of parents would prefer their school-leaving child to participate in a volunteer experience (75%), and more than half (53%) would prefer this experienced to be a local rather than overseas experience, such as assisting in a remote community or working with homeless youth.

Just 1 in 20 parents (5%) showed a preference for an overseas schoolies week in Bali or Phuket.

#### Q. Of the following four options available to young people upon completing Year 12, which would you most prefer your children to participate in?



*‘It is not about helicopter parenting but risk mitigating that is driving the concern. Parents are not wanting their child to feature in the evening news or social media feeds and the binge drinking, risk behaviours and worries about older “predators” fuel their concerns. Parents are aware of the increased support services in place from local authorities to volunteers such as Red Frogs, and properly organised schoolies agencies, but most still worry about their child’s participation.’* – **Mark McCrindle**

### Parents show a strong preference for formal schooling for their kids after the HSC

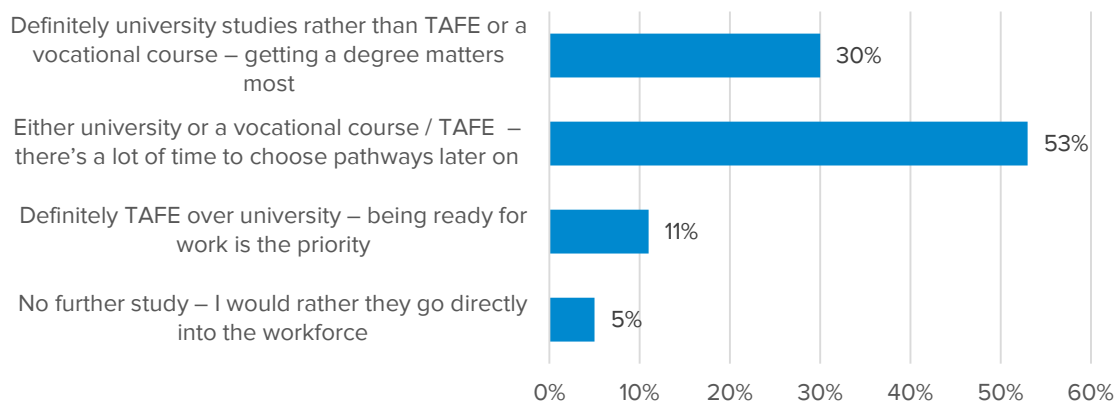
While just over two thirds of the parents in the study (68%) had a tertiary qualification, more than 9 in 10 (95%) wanted their children to pursue formal studies after completing high school.

More than half of parents say that it doesn’t matter to them if their child chooses university or TAFE – they are happy for their kids to choose their pathways later on. 1 in 3 parents, however, express that getting a degree matters most and have a preference for university studies exclusively (30%).

Just 1 in 20 Australian parents (5%) would prefer their child go directly in the workforce without pursuing formal education, and 1 in 9 parents (11%) would prefer their child to become work-ready by pursuing TAFE over university studies.

Fathers are more hopeful that their child will go to university over TAFE (36%) than a quarter (26%) of mothers.

**Q. Which of the following best expresses your hopes for your children regarding their further study upon completing school?**



**Less than half of Australians (both parents and non-parents) say that schools are effective in equipping students for the workforce**

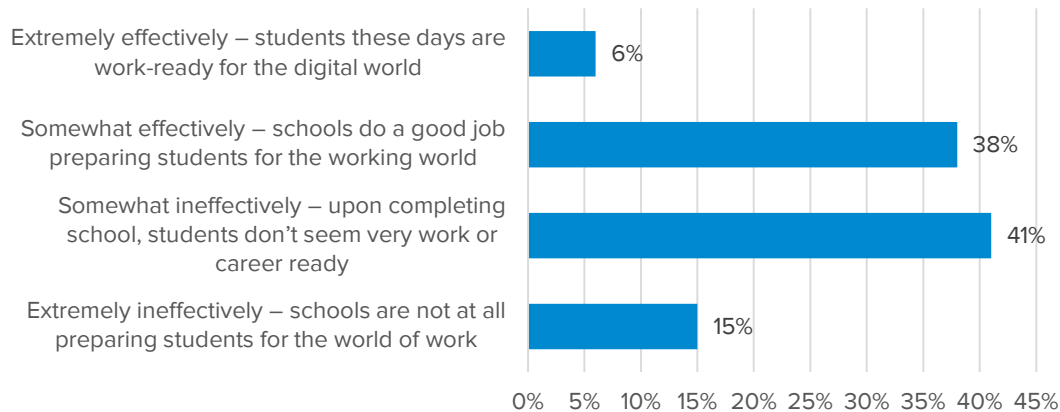
When 1,019 Australians were asked if schools are effective in equipping students for the workforce and future-proofing them for careers, just 44% said that this was true.

More than half (56%) of Australians feel that upon completing school, students don’t seem very career ready and that schools are not adequately preparing students for the world of work. Just 6% of Australians feel that schools, in the way that they currently operate, are extremely effective in preparing students in their work-readiness within today’s digital workplace.

Gen Y (48%) and Gen X (47%) are more optimistic about school education than Baby Boomers (38%) and believe schools are extremely or somewhat preparing students for the working / digital world.

Contrastingly, Baby Boomers are more convinced that schools are ineffectively preparing students for the world of work, indicated by close to 2 in 3 respondents (62%) aged 50-68, compared to the average 56%.

## Q. How effectively are schools equipping students for the workforce and future-proofing them for careers?



Results such as these highlight the increasing demand from Australians, including parents, for schools to bridge the gap between the traditional school curriculum and vocational education and training.

### Media Contact

Results based on a nationally representative survey of 1,015 responses conducted by McCrindle in 2014.

For **further information and interviews** with social researcher Mark McCrindle, please contact Ashley McKenzie at 02 8824 3422 or via [ashley@mccrindle.com.au](mailto:ashley@mccrindle.com.au)

## Nationally Representative

	This survey #	This survey %	National % of population aged 18+
<b>GENDER</b>			
<i>Male</i>	507	50%	50%
<i>Female</i>	508	50%	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>AGE</b>			
<i>18-19</i>	22	2%	GEN Z 2%
<i>20-34</i>	269	27%	GEN Y 28%
<i>35-49</i>	277	27%	GEN X 27%
<i>50-68</i>	336	33%	BOOMERS 29%
<i>69+</i>	108	11%	BUILDERS 15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>STATE</b>			
<i>NSW</i>	334	33%	32%
<i>VIC</i>	255	25%	25%
<i>QLD</i>	205	20%	20%
<i>TAS</i>	21	2%	2%
<i>NT</i>	10	1%	1%
<i>SA</i>	67	7%	7%
<i>WA</i>	105	10%	11%
<i>ACT</i>	18	2%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Parents of School Aged Children

	This survey #	This survey %
<i>Male</i>	118	44%
<i>Female</i>	148	56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>18-19</i>	4	2%
<i>20-34</i>	76	29%
<i>35-49</i>	141	53%
<i>50-68</i>	43	16%
<i>69+</i>	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>NSW</i>	95	36%
<i>VIC</i>	55	21%
<i>QLD</i>	67	25%
<i>TAS</i>	5	2%
<i>NT</i>	5	2%
<i>SA</i>	13	4%
<i>WA</i>	21	8%
<i>ACT</i>	5	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100%</b>