

PARENT AND SCHOOL STAFF VIEWS ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Results from an Australian Survey Study

PARENTS: WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY?

167

Parents/caregivers



85% female
13% male
2% preferred not to report

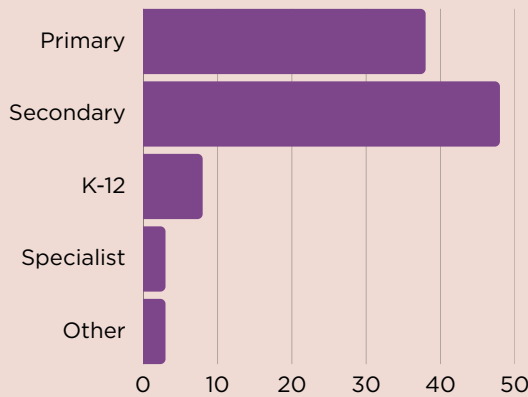
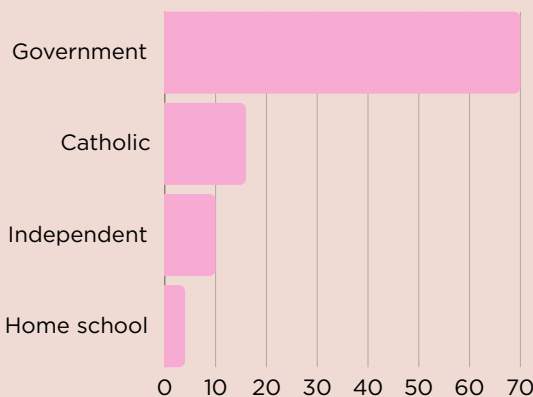


The average age of the children parents reported on was **12 years old**



44% female
53% male
1% non-binary or gender fluid
2% preferred not to report

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOOLS DID CHILDREN ATTEND?



LOTS OF PARENTS REPORTED INDICATORS THAT THEIR CHILD HAD DIFFICULTY ATTENDING SCHOOL

29%

reported that their child *often* or *always* pleaded to be allowed to stay home

19%

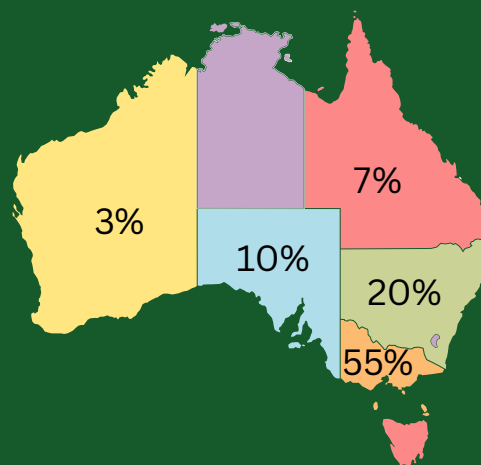
reported that their child *often* or *always* misbehaved in the morning when it was time to get ready for school

25%

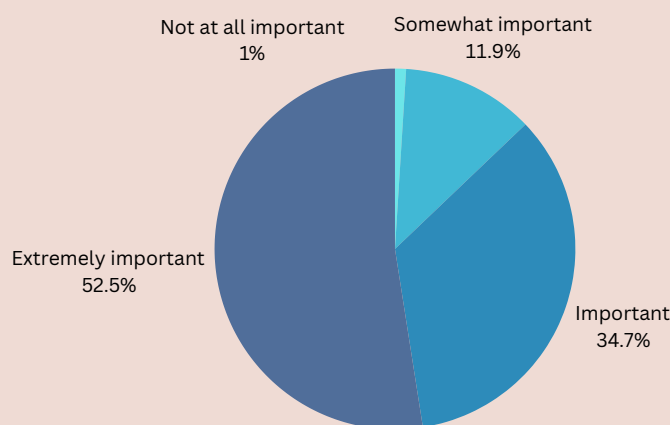
reported that they *often* or *always* found it hard to get their child to school

21%

reported that their child was *often* or *always* upset/distressed because they didn't want to go to school



HOW IMPORTANT DID PARENTS VIEW SCHOOL TO BE?



PARENT EXPERIENCES OF SCHOOL REFUSAL

Some parents reflected on their experiences with a child who had experienced school refusal.

CHILDREN WERE ON AVERAGE **8 YEARS OLD** WHEN THEY FIRST MISSED SCHOOL DUE TO SCHOOL REFUSAL

CHILDREN MISSED AN AVERAGE OF **4.4 DAYS OF SCHOOL** IN THE PREVIOUS 4 WEEKS DUE TO SCHOOL REFUSAL

62% OF PARENTS WERE ABLE TO **SOMETIMES** IDENTIFY A **TRIGGER OR STRESSOR** BEFORE THEIR CHILD STARTED TO REFUSE SCHOOL
17% OF PARENTS WERE **ALWAYS** ABLE TO IDENTIFY A **TRIGGER OR STRESSOR**

DID CHANGING SCHOOLS HELP?

34% of children changed schools due to school refusal.



64% reported that their child's attendance **improved**
17% reported there was **no improvement** in their child's attendance

19% reported that their child's attendance **got worse**

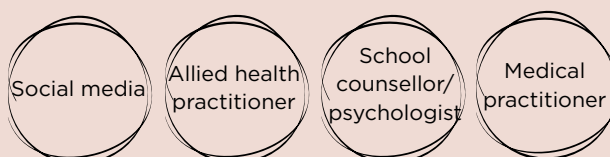
SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

50%

of parents reported they **do not** have the necessary support to resolve their child's school attendance challenges

61% have sought support for their child's school attendance challenges

The most helpful sources of assistance identified were:

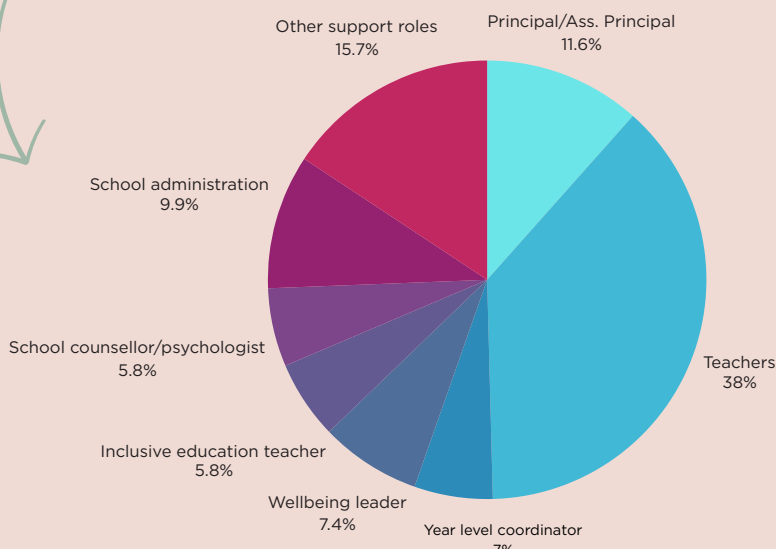


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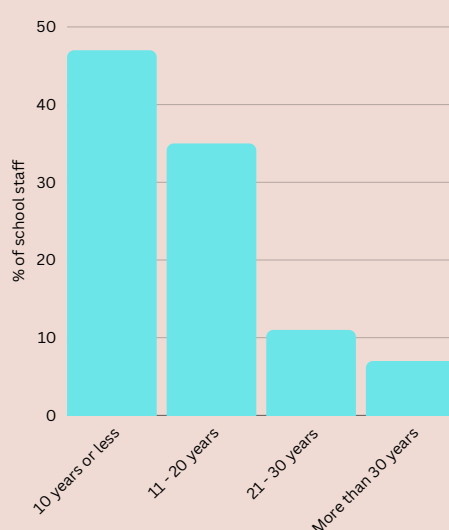
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SCHOOL STAFF: WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY?

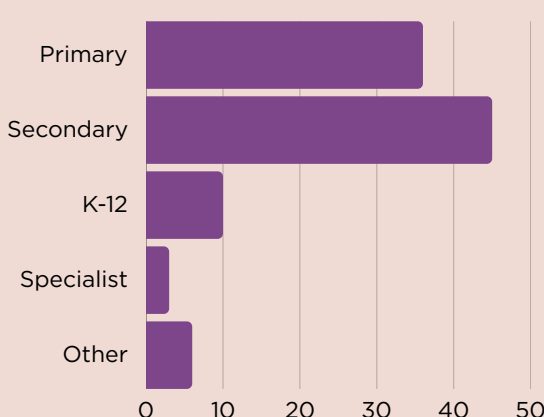
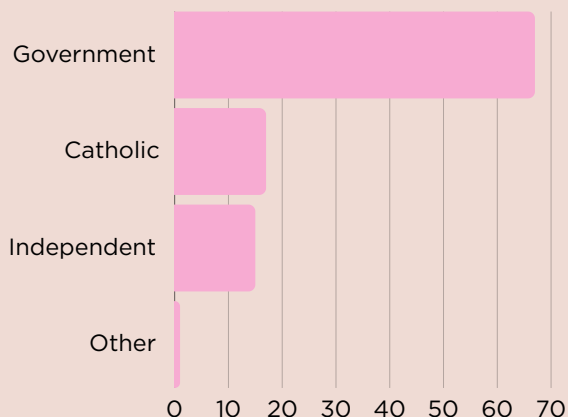
69 School Staff



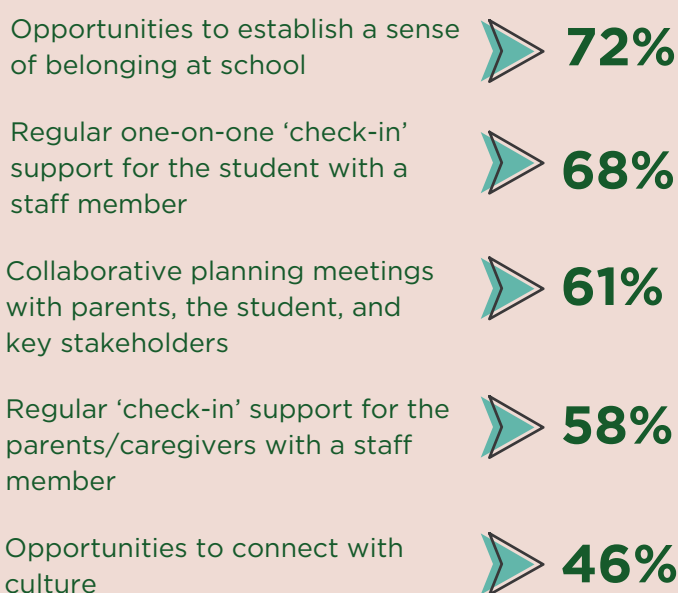
How many years have school staff worked in schools?



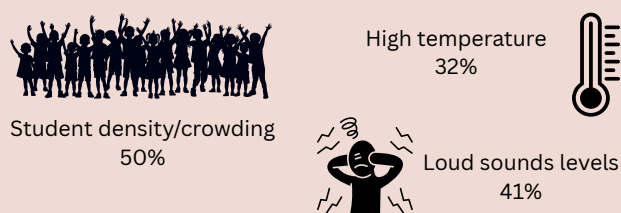
WHAT TYPES OF SCHOOLS DID SCHOOL STAFF COME FROM?



WHAT DO SCHOOL STAFF THINK ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES IN SUPPORTING STUDENTS TO ATTEND REGULARLY?



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS DO TEACHERS THINK CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOOL REFUSAL?



SCHOOL STAFF WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DIFFICULTIES



ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF SCHOOL STAFF FEEL CONFIDENT IN THEIR ABILITY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

55% FELT 'CONFIDENT' OR 'VERY CONFIDENT' IN OFFERING ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS WHO PRESENT WITH SCHOOL REFUSAL

50% FELT 'CONFIDENT' OR 'VERY CONFIDENT' IN OFFERING ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS WHO PRESENT WITH SCHOOL REFUSAL

51% FELT 'CONFIDENT' OR 'VERY CONFIDENT' IN DIRECTING PARENTS/CAREGIVERS AND STUDENTS TO APPROPRIATE EXTERNAL ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES

62% FELT 'CONFIDENT' OR 'VERY CONFIDENT' IN MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AT SCHOOL AND IN CLASS FOR STUDENTS PRESENTING WITH SCHOOL REFUSAL