

Community Attitudes and Awareness survey: Child poverty in Australia and its Educational Impacts

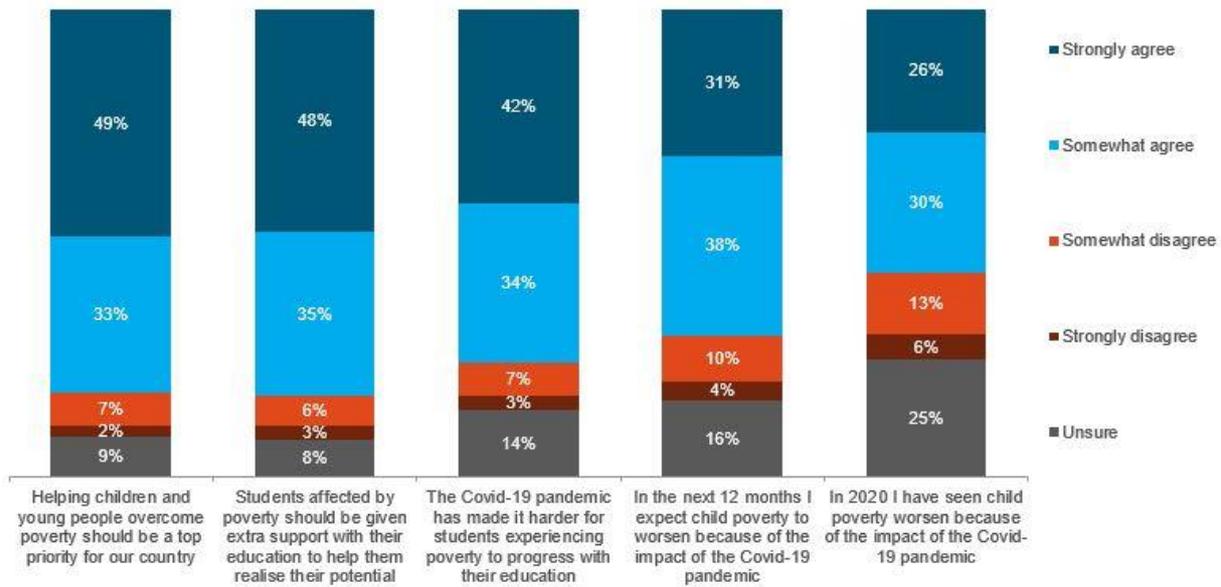
Conducted by Essential Research on behalf of The Smith Family



everyone's family

Attitudes towards child poverty

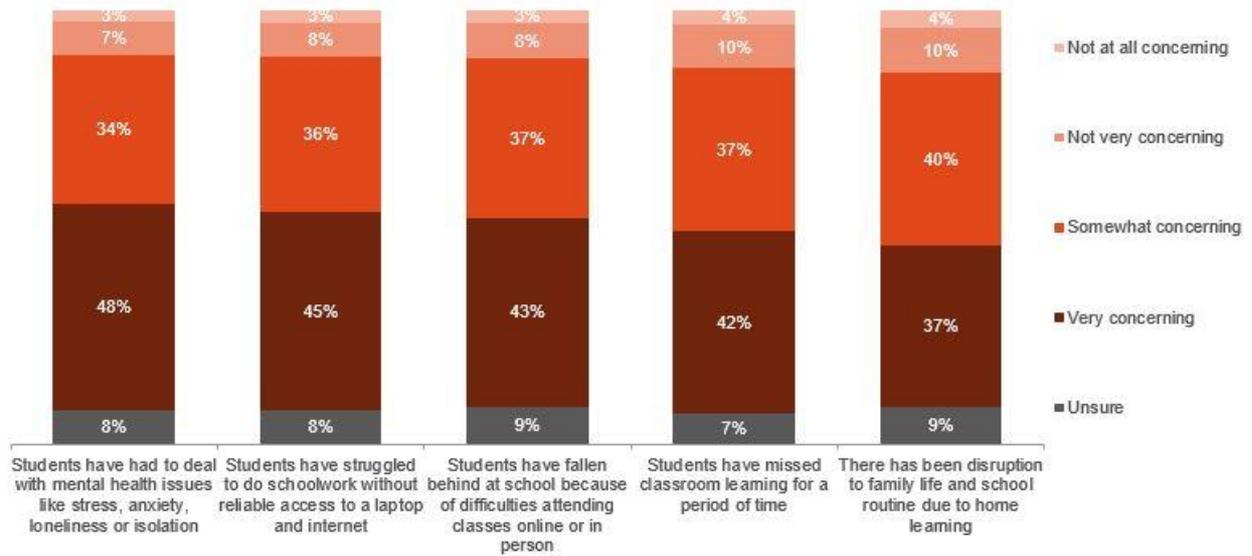
Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about students experiencing poverty in Australia?



	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In 2020 I have seen child poverty worsen because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic	56%	19%	26%	30%	13%	6%	25%
In the next 12 months I expect child poverty to worsen because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic	70%	14%	31%	38%	10%	4%	16%
The Covid-19 pandemic has made it harder for students experiencing poverty to progress with their education	76%	10%	42%	34%	7%	3%	14%
Students affected by poverty should be given extra support with their education to help them realise their potential	83%	9%	48%	35%	6%	3%	8%
Helping children and young people overcome poverty should be a top priority for our country	82%	10%	49%	33%	7%	2%	9%

Level of concern for Covid-19's impact on educational outcomes of students experiencing poverty

Q How concerning to you are each of the following impacts that Covid-19 has had on the educational outcomes of students experiencing poverty?



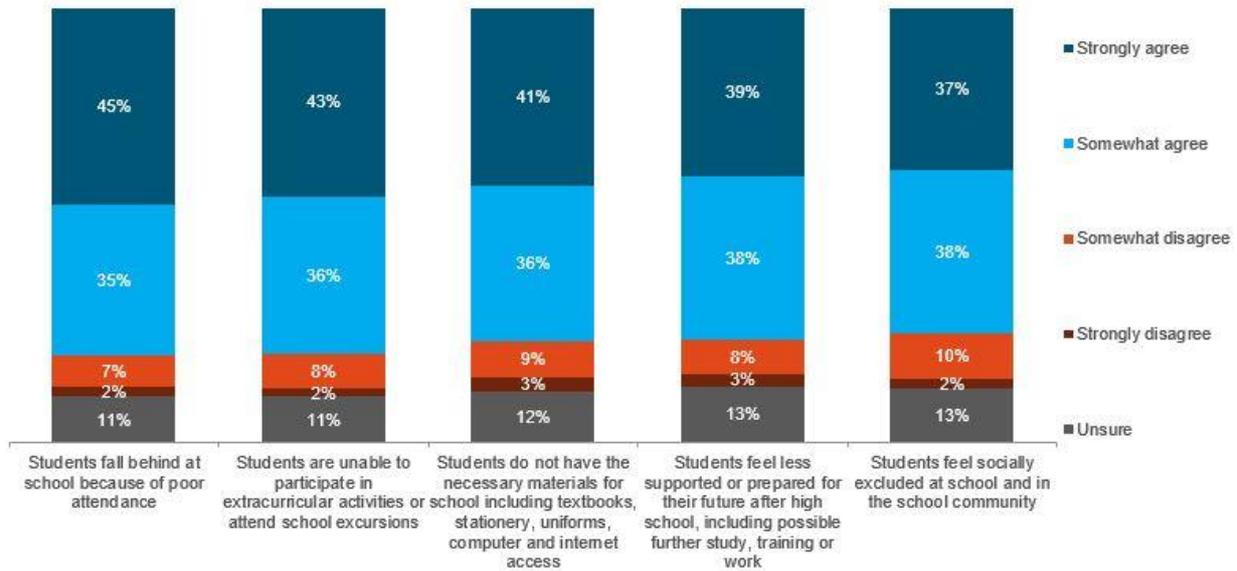
Level of concern for Covid-19's impact on educational outcomes of students experiencing poverty

How concerning to you are each of the following impacts that Covid-19 has had on the educational outcomes of students experiencing poverty?

	TOTAL: Concerned	TOTAL: Not concerned	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Not very concerning	Not at all concerning	Unsure
Students have missed classroom learning for a period of time	79%	14%	42%	37%	10%	4%	7%
Students have fallen behind at school because of difficulties attending classes online or in person	80%	11%	43%	37%	8%	3%	9%
There has been disruption to family life and school routine due to home learning	77%	15%	37%	40%	10%	4%	9%
Students have had to deal with mental health issues like stress, anxiety, loneliness or isolation	82%	10%	48%	34%	7%	3%	8%
Students have struggled to do schoolwork without reliable access to a laptop and internet	81%	11%	45%	36%	8%	3%	8%

Impact of poverty on education

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how poverty impacts on a student's education?



	TOTAL: Agree	TOTAL: Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Students fall behind at school because of poor attendance	80%	9%	45%	35%	7%	2%	11%
Students do not have the necessary materials for school including textbooks, stationery, uniforms, computer and internet access	77%	12%	41%	36%	9%	3%	12%
Students are unable to participate in extracurricular activities or attend school excursions	80%	10%	43%	36%	8%	2%	11%
Students feel socially excluded at school and in the school community	75%	12%	37%	38%	10%	2%	13%
Students feel less supported or prepared for their future after high school, including possible further study, training or work	76%	11%	39%	38%	8%	3%	13%

About this poll

This report summarises the results of a fortnightly omnibus conducted by Essential Research with data provided by [Qualtrics](#). The survey was conducted online from 25th to 30th November 2020 and is based on 1,034 respondents.

The methodology used to carry out this research is described in the appendix at the end of the report.

Note that due to rounding, not all tables necessarily total 100% and subtotals may also vary.

Methodology, margin of error and professional standards

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a fortnightly online omnibus conducted by [Qualtrics](#).

Every two weeks, the team at Essential considers issues that are topical, and a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated regularly (such as political preference and leadership approval), while others are unique to each week and reflect current media and social issues.

The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000+ interviews. In theory, with a sample of this size, there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire population had been polled. However, this assumes random sampling, which, because of non-response and less than 100% population coverage cannot be achieved in practice. Furthermore, there are other possible sources of error in all polls including question wording and question order, interviewer bias (for telephone and face-to-face polls), response errors and weighting.

The online omnibus is live from the Wednesday night and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants. Essential Research uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

All Essential Research staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behaviour.