

Poll 13 – Travelling to school: Habits of Australian families

For different reasons, families use lots of different ways to get to and from school. We are interested in knowing about how your children travel to and from school.

Question 1.1

Do you have access to a car that could be used to drive your child(ren) to and/or from school most days of the week?

Yes, No

Question 1.2

Thinking about a typical week during the school term, which of the following ways does your child go to and/or from school? *Please answer separately for each child five years or more. Select all that apply.*

They are driven to or from school in a car

Public transport *with an adult* present (e.g. bus, train, tram, ferry)

Public transport *without an adult* present (e.g. bus, train, tram, ferry)

Walk or ride (e.g. bike, scooter, skateboard) *with an adult* present

Walk or ride (e.g. bike, scooter, skateboard) *without an adult* present

If only one answer given in Q1.2, then autofill Q1.3

Question 1.3

Please answer separately for each child five years or more.

Thinking about the ways that your child travels to and/or from school, which of the following is the *most common*? *Please answer separately for each child aged five years or more.*

They are driven to or from school in a car

Public transport *with an adult* present (e.g. bus, train, tram, ferry)

Public transport *without an adult* present (e.g. bus, train, tram, ferry)

Walk or ride (e.g. bike, scooter, skateboard) *with an adult* present

Walk or ride (e.g. bike, scooter, skateboard) *without an adult* present

Question 1.4 **BRANCH IF 1.3 = THEY ARE DRIVEN TO SCHOOL IN A CAR

Thinking about your answer to the previous question, why is your child most commonly driven to school?
Please answer separately for each child aged 5 years or more. Select all that apply.

- Driving to school is the safest form of transport
- Driving to school is the quickest form of transport
- Driving to school is the most affordable form of transport
- Driving to school is the only form of transport available
- Driving to school is my child's preference
- Driving to school fits in with our family's schedule
- Driving to school is a way to spend time together with my child

Question 1.5

Parents have different views on when it is appropriate for children to travel without an adult. In general, at what age do you believe it is appropriate for your children to travel to and/or from school without an adult?

Question 1.6

Thinking about *a typical week*, often does your child travel to and/or from school *without an adult* present? E.g. by themselves or with another child. *Please answer separately for each child aged five years or more.*

Every day / 3-4 days a week / 1-2 days a week / less than once a week / never

Question 1.7 **BRANCH IF 1.6 = YES

At what age did your child start travelling to or from school without an adult? E.g. by themselves or with another child. *Please answer separately for each child.*

Only ask for 1 child

Question 1.8 **BRANCH IF 1.6 = NEVER

Thinking about your child(ren) who DO NOT travel to or from school without an adult, please rate your agreement with the following statements.

Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Unsure

It is too far for my child(ren) to travel to or from school without an adult

My child(ren) does not feel comfortable travelling without an adult

I am concerned that other people would think it was irresponsible if I allowed my child(ren) to travel without an adult

There are no safe crossings for my child(ren) to use if they walked or cycled to school without an adult

I am worried about my child(ren) being bullied by other children on their way to and/or from school

My child(ren) has too much to carry to walk or ride to school

My child(ren) does not know the way to school

My child has commitments before or after school that make it inconvenient to walk or ride to or from school

Question 1.9

Please estimate how many kilometres your child needs to travel to get to school from their home? *Please answer separately for each child aged five years or more.*

Less than 1.0 kilometre

Between 1.0 and 2.0 kilometres

Between 2.1 and 5.0 kilometres

Between 5.1 and 10.0 kilometres

More than 10.0 kilometres

Question 2.1

Parents have different views on how children travel to or from school. Please rate your agreement with the following statements.

Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Unsure

There are too many risks these days for me to allow my child to travel without an adult

If my child is travelling without an adult I need to be able to contact my child at all times

Travelling to or from school without an adult helps children to build independence

Walking or riding all or part of the way to school helps keep children healthy

Travelling to or from school without an adult helps children develop problem-solving skills

A short car trip to school makes no difference at all to air pollution

It is irresponsible for parents to let children travel to or from school without an adult

It is common for children to travel to or from school without an adult

There are people I know and trust in my neighbourhood

I sometimes think I am too protective of my children

I am worried my child(ren) will be unsafe crossing the road or walking or riding on the streets due to traffic hazards

I am worried that my child(ren) may be approached or harmed by a stranger on the way to or from school

Question 3.1

Some parents use tracking devices to help them know where their child is at different times of the day. Tracking devices include phone apps (e.g. Find my iPhone) smartwatches and other GPS devices placed on a child's body or belongings. Have you ever used a tracking device to monitor the location of your child? *Please answer separately for each child.*

Yes, No

Question 3.2 **BRANCH IF 3.1 = NO

Would you ever consider using a tracking device to monitor the location of your child(ren)? E.g. travelling to/from school or when they are out and about. *Please answer separately for each child.*

Yes, No, Not sure

Question 3.3 **BRANCH IF 3.1 = YES

In general, when your child is travelling with their tracking device on, when do you or your partner check their location using the device?

I/we continuously monitor their journey

I/we check their location every few minutes

I/we only check their location at the beginning and/or end of the journey

I/we only check their location if there's a problem

I/we don't check their location at all

Question 3.4 **BRANCH IF 3.1 = YES

Some children, especially younger children, may not know if they are being tracked. Does your child know that they are being tracked? *Please answer separately for each child.*

Yes, No, Not sure

Question 3.5 **BRANCH IF 10.1 = YES

Thinking about the reasons why you use the tracking device, please rate your agreement with the following statements.

Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Unsure

My child feels more secure knowing that I know exactly where they are

My child would prefer I did not use the tracking device

Using a tracking device makes me more comfortable to allow my child to travel without a supervising adult

I feel reassured about my child(ren)'s safety by tracking their location

My partner and I disagree about whether we should track the location of our child(ren)

I use the tracking device because I am curious about where my child goes