Background to the Youth in Focus Project: Opportunities for Understanding Children of Migrants

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1. Introduction

1.1. Project motivation

The overarching goal of the Youth in Focus project is to understand the ways in which economic and social disadvantage might be transferred from one generation to the next. The project uses an innovative combination of survey and administrative data to explore some of the consequences for young Australians of growing up in disadvantaged families. Our focus is on outcomes in the early adult years when young people are moving into higher education, entering the labour market, starting families, and generally establishing themselves as independent adults. Developing a fuller understanding of reasons why disadvantaged youth succeed – or fail to succeed – is a necessary first step in formulating sensible policies targeted towards breaking any cycle of dependence and promoting the social and economic independence of Australian youth.

Previous studies have faced two major empirical challenges. Most studies have been based upon a population of disadvantaged individuals receiving support from a particular government program. These studies have not had a comparison group of program non-participants to provide a compelling counterfactual to answer questions such as ‘does dropping out of school early make youth in welfare-dependent families more likely to access social assistance as adults than youths from non-welfare-dependent families who drop out of school early?’ The second difficulty that previous studies have faced is the lack of complete administrative data about program participation. These studies have had to rely on individuals’ own reports of income-support receipt and have usually compared two particular points in time – one during an individual’s youth and one in adulthood. In addition to raising measurement issues that restrict the possible observable associations and complicate interpretation, such studies are unable to say anything about the importance of timing or intensity of exposure to social assistance.

This project is designed to address and overcome the weaknesses of previous studies. By using a combination of administrative data going back to 1991 and survey data gathered from both parents and children, issues of timing, intensity, and incidence of disadvantage can be studied while controlling for a range of background and demographic factors. The nature of the Australian payments system, managed by Centrelink, provides a population sampling frame of young Australians who grew up in a range of family circumstances. In particular, the same administrative database used to manage income-support payments is also used to manage childcare subsidies (which are not means tested) and tax rebates for dependent children (which are means tested and not paid to the top 15 per cent (approximately) of the income distribution). Thus this data source from which the survey sample is drawn provides consistent administrative data not only for disadvantaged families, but also for a large comparison group of middle and upper-middle income families.
1.2. Data sources

There are two data sources for the project. The first is administrative data collected by the Australian Government (Centrelink) from all recipients of (and applicants for) any type of government payment. The second data source is a survey of a sample of individuals selected from this administrative data specifically for the YIF project.

The administrative data contain information about most payments from the Australian Government to Australian families. It is believed to be nearly representative of the entire Australian population, with the exception of families with very high income. According to FaHCSIA estimates, approximately 85 per cent of families with children receive Family Tax Benefit and therefore appear in the administrative data.¹ A smaller number of families receive additional support primarily due to low income. (Disability status could be a reason for income-support receipt unrelated to low income.) This support may take the form of unemployment benefits, payments to single parents with low income, payments to couples with young children and low income, and a variety of less common payments.² Since the administrative data include families who received substantial income support as well as families who received only the tax benefit, the administrative data provide an excellent basis for studying the correlation between parents’ and children’s receipt of income support from a combined sample of recipients and non-recipients.

The survey is designed to collect a variety of information from a random sample of families who have appeared in the administrative data at least once since 1991. The survey design is based around a birth cohort of youth who turned 18 just before wave 1 interviewing. For each youth, we identified all individuals who received any type of payment on behalf of that youth in the history of the administrative data. From these individuals, who we henceforth refer to as ‘parents’, we selected the person who had the longest duration of care (as measured by receiving a payment on behalf of the youth or claiming the youth as a dependent) over the history of the administrative data set. We further implemented a set of rules designed to identify the natural mother from the administrative data. Although the administrative data do not contain information on the actual family relationships, the chosen method proved extremely successful in identifying the natural parents. Among wave 1 respondents, a natural mother was selected in 96.5 per cent and a natural parent in 98.6 per cent of cases.

The parents have been interviewed once and the youth have been interviewed twice with the gap of approximately two years between the waves. Respondents were asked to provide information on topics such as employment, education, physical and mental health, attitudes and values, family relationships and other psycho-social

¹ Tax benefits for dependent children can take the form of a tax deduction or of a bi-weekly payment direct to families. The vast majority of families in Australia who are eligible for Family Tax Benefit opt for the bi-weekly payment.
factors, the children’s experiences while growing up, neighbourhood and school quality. With consent, the survey data were linked to the administrative data.

2. Reference populations and sample stratification

2.1. Birth cohort and focal youth

The primary reference population for the main wave of the YIF survey is all people born between 1 October 1987 and 31 March 1988 who appear in the Centrelink administrative data at any point between 1991 and July 2006. There are two ways that a youth can appear in the administrative data. One is if the youth has received a payment, such as Youth Allowance, directly from the Australian government in his/her own name. The other is that the youth has been listed as the dependent child of another individual for the purpose of obtaining eligibility and amount of payment such as Family Tax Benefit or Parenting Payment.

2.2. Parents

The secondary reference population includes all adults who, at any point since 1991, have received government payments for the focal youth, or who had the focal youth registered as their dependent for payment purposes. The vast majority of cases will be where the adult received Family Tax Benefit (previously Family Allowance), which is the annual tax benefit to help families with the costs of raising children. The adult in question may be a birth parent, an adopted parent, a foster parent, an older sibling, a relative, or a non-relative who cared, or is caring for the focal youth. Although the family relationship between the focal youth and these adults is not identifiable from the administrative data, we will refer to these people as ‘parents’.

Due to the construction of the parent subset of the administrative data, a focal youth may have several parents or guardians. For the purposes of the survey, only one parent was selected, the criterion being the longest duration of care (payment receipt) for the focal youth. By looking at the gender of parents and the timing of receipt from the administrative data, we attempted to select the natural mother whenever possible. This methodology resulted in the natural mother being selected in 96.5 per cent, and a natural parent being selected in 98.6 per cent of cases.

2.3. Sample stratification

The sample of focal youths and their parents/guardians was selected as a probability sample, stratified on the basis of the income-support history of the parent as described in Table 2. Each focal youth will thus belong to one of six stratification categories shown in Table 1.
Table 1. Proportion of people across income-support stratification categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratification category</th>
<th>Stratum code</th>
<th>Proportion in admin. dataset</th>
<th>Expected proportion in wave 1 sample</th>
<th>Achieved proportion of youth in wave 1</th>
<th>Achieved proportion of parents in wave 1</th>
<th>Achieved proportion of matched obs units in wave 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No parental income-support history</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy exposure to income-support programs (more than six total years on income support)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First exposure to income-support system after 1998</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First exposure to income-support system between 1994 and 1998 and less than three total years on income support</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First exposure prior to 1994 and less than six total years on income support</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First exposure to income-support system between 1994 and 1998 and more than three but less than six total years on income support</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
a In this table, the term ‘income support’ refers to any kind of Centrelink benefits the parents may have received excluding family payments, Carer Allowance and maternity payments.
5. Survey instruments

Three instruments were used in the YIF survey:

- **Parent questionnaire** which collected information on the parent’s family, education, employment and income, relationship history, general values and health, as well as background information about the focal youth at early stages of life;

- **Youth questionnaire** which collected information on the focal youth’s household and family, education, employment and job search, housing arrangements, income and health, as well as personality traits and life satisfaction;

- **Self-completion questionnaire for youth** which collected information on attitudes, substance abuse, relationships with parents and important life events.

The summary of topics covered by the survey instruments is provided in Appendix A. The full versions of the survey questionnaires are available from the research team upon request.

Where possible, wording from other Australian surveys was used in order to facilitate comparison of the data collected. Standard Australian Bureau of Statistics questions for items such as Indigenous status were employed. Questions relating to income and labour status were made similar to those in HILDA for comparability.

6. Foreign language interviews

During wave 1, if a language could be determined and a bilingual interviewer was available, interviews were attempted in languages other than English. Seventy-nine parent interviews were conducted in languages other than English, most frequently in Cantonese or Vietnamese. Written translations were prepared and used for section G of the parent questionnaire, which was more difficult to translate, and the questions on the locus of control were not asked at all, since the level of precision required for translation of these questions was much higher compared to other parts of the questionnaire. The rest of the questionnaire was translated by bilingual interviewers while they conducted the interview.

For the respondents who did not know English sufficiently well to participate and could not be interviewed by a bilingual interviewer, a separate code was created to record language problems as a reason for the interview termination. Among parents, 410 interviews (3.54 per cent of the clean sample) were terminated for this reason, and among focal youth, the respective number of terminated interviews was 51 (0.43 per cent of the clean sample).
The interviews in wave 2 were conducted in English only. Among the continuing respondents, 7 interviews (less than 0.2 per cent of the in-scope sample) were terminated due to a language problem.

7. Sample Sizes

7.1. Sample size in wave 1

The achieved final survey sample in wave 1 was 3,964 parent interviews and 4,079 focal youth interviews (refer to Tables 2 and 3) with 2430 outh-parent pairs.

Table 2. Wave 1 focal youth outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratification category</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per cent of complete surveys across strata</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completes</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>4,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-completion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questionnaire:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>online questionnaire</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>2,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mail questionnaire</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>2,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to participatea</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontactableb</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>3,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unobtainablec</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CLEAN SAMPLE</td>
<td>2,545</td>
<td>4,789</td>
<td>1,442</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,178</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>11,757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a ‘Unable to participate’ category includes individuals who are out-of-scope (and observational units where the youth is out-of-scope), people who are unwell with no prospect of recovery until the end of the survey, are overseas or institutionalised with no prospect of return until the end of the survey, or do not speak English sufficiently well to participate.

b Individuals are declared ‘uncontactable’ if the number listed for them is a business number, if the named respondent is not at the number, or if, after a sufficient number of callbacks, the call outcomes on all callbacks are engaged, no reply, answering machine, fax or modem.

c Individuals are declared ‘unobtainable’ after a sufficient number of callbacks if the call outcomes on all callbacks are carrier messages like ‘this number is disconnected’, ‘this number is uncontactable’, or abnormal dialing tones that are not faxes or modems.
Table 3. Wave 1 parent outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratification category</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completes</td>
<td>1,045</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>3,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>3,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to participatea</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontactableb</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unobtainablec</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of clean strata sample</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CLEAN SAMPLE</td>
<td>2,516</td>
<td>4,704</td>
<td>1,426</td>
<td>1,113</td>
<td>1,157</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>11,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
See Table 2.

After completing the telephone survey, the respondents were asked for their consent to link their survey answers to the administrative data. The overwhelming majority of respondents, both in the pilot and the main wave, had agreed to the linking. Table 4 below details percentages of respondents who consented to the data linkage.

Table 4. Respondents’ consent to data linkage, per cent of total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratification category</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal youth</td>
<td>92.86</td>
<td>92.11</td>
<td>97.22</td>
<td>95.92</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>96.30</td>
<td>95.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>92.98</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>94.00</td>
<td>90.24</td>
<td>94.44</td>
<td>96.88</td>
<td>94.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main fieldwork</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal youth</td>
<td>97.47</td>
<td>95.45</td>
<td>95.44</td>
<td>96.19</td>
<td>96.77</td>
<td>96.10</td>
<td>96.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>93.49</td>
<td>91.15</td>
<td>91.85</td>
<td>93.08</td>
<td>94.53</td>
<td>92.45</td>
<td>92.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8
7.2. Sample size in wave 2

Of 4,079 focal youths who took part in Wave 1, 65 respondents had requested the market research firm to stop contacting them during the keep-in-touch program, and a further 7 respondents were out of scope (3 were institutionalised, 2 were unwell with no prospect of recovery, and 2 were deceased). Thus, the continuing respondents sample consisted of 4,007 respondents.

For 4,007 wave 1 respondents who were deemed in-scope for wave 2, 2,362 interviews were collected. Thus the rate of attrition between wave 1 and 2 was slightly over 41 per cent. Such rate of attrition, although higher than originally expected, is comparable to that observed for this age group in other surveys (for instance, HILDA).

In order to boost the survey sample, it was decided to attempt interviewing those wave 1 participants who were uncontactable at wave 1 or have given a ‘soft’ refusal to complete the wave 1 interview. This group of the survey participants will be referred to as ‘new entrants’ while those wave 2 respondents who have completed the wave 1 interview are referred to as ‘continuing respondents’.

A summary of the outcomes of the wave 2 fieldwork for continuing respondents is provided in Table 5.

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3 Wave 1 focal youth respondents were deemed out-of-scope for wave 2 if they were institutionalised, unwell, overseas or in the armed forces at the time of wave 2 (revealed either during the keep-in-touch program or at wave 2 contact).
Table 5. Wave 2 continuing respondents outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratification category</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of complete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surveys across strata</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total loaded into CATI</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-completion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questionnaire:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>online questionnaire</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mail questionnaire</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of scope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total loaded into CATI</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontactable/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unobtainable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>wave 2</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>4,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of total wave 1 completes</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
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<td>98.2%</td>
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<td>Out of scope for wave 2,</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of total wave 1 completes</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total wave 1 completes</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>4,079</td>
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There are a total of 1,554 family units in which we have two waves of interviews for the youths matched to a parent interview. These are shown below by category.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>9.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,554</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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8. Using YIF to Study Children of Migrants

Although YIF was not specifically targeted at the migrant community, because of the large fraction of the Australian population that is foreign-born, we nonetheless capture a number of immigrants in the sample. In wave 1:

- There are a total of 433 child migrants
- There are an additional 1,182 first-generation individuals (i.e., children of migrants)
- There are 958 migrant parents
- There are 167 child migrants matched to their parents
- There are an additional 695 children of migrants matched to parents.
Appendix A. YIF questionnaires summary

A1. Parent questionnaire

Identification
• Date of birth, gender
• State and postcode
• Relationship to focal youth
• Marital status

Section A – Household information
• For each person living with: age, gender, relationship to respondent, identifier for the other natural parent of the focal youth

Section B – Personal information
• Country of birth (COB)
• If COB not Australia:
  o Date of first arrival in Australia
  o Language spoken in the family while growing up
  o English knowledge
• Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status
• Respondent’s parents’ occupations and family holidays at respondent’s age 14

Section D – Education and employment
• Highest year of school completed and the type of school
• Highest educational degree attained
• Employment status and number of jobs
• Hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Contract and salary arrangements
• Occupation
• Job search and main activity (if not employed)

Section E – Income from other sources
• Combined own and partner’s income for 2005-2006 from wages/salary, own business, workers’ compensation, interest or dividends, rental property etc.

Section F – Children and relationships
If respondent is a natural parent of focal youth:
• Total number of children
• Number of marriages/de facto relationships
• For each marriage/relationship:
  o Date of start / date when started living together
  o Reason and date of ending
  o Whether spouse/partner is the other natural parent
• For the other natural parent:
  o Country of birth
  o Education and employment
Amount of contact with respondent regarding the focal youth

If respondent is not a natural parent of focal youth, the following is asked about each natural parent:

- Relationship to respondent
- Country of birth
- Education and employment
- Date when stopped living with focal youth

**Section G – Questions about Focal Youth’s education and youth**

- Focal youth’s general performance in school and participation in extra-curricular activities
- Respondents’ participation in parent committees
- Remedial courses attended by focal youth
- Current enrolment status of focal youth
- Focal youth’s health: Asthma/ADHD/Depression diagnosis, disabilities, hospital visits, weight problems
- Date and reason focal youth moved out of parent’s/guardian’s house
- Type of accommodation focal youth lives in now
- Amount of respondent’s contact with focal youth and satisfaction with focal youth’s environment
- Quality of respondent’s relationship with focal youth
- Financial help to focal youth
- Teenager difficulties

**Section H – General questions**

- Attitudes on unemployment benefits
- Importance of own and parental education, ambition and job for success in life
- Locus of control questions

**Section I – Health**

- Overall rating of own health
- Smoking and drinking habits
- Asthma/depression/disability diagnosis; other health problems
- Height and weight

**Section Y – Tracking information**

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**A2. Youth Wave 1 questionnaire**

**Section A – Identification**

- Post code, state
- Date of birth
- Gender

**Section B – Personal background**

- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status
- Country of birth (COB)
- If COB not Australia:
Section C – Current Household
- Marital/de facto status; gender and age of partner
- Living in large group/share accommodation
- Number of family members focal youth currently lives with and their age, gender and relationship to focal youth
- Living independently or with parents/guardians/parental figure; if lives independently – date and reason for moving out of the parents’ house

Section D – Childhood living arrangements
- Full/single parent/no parent family incidence
- Number of houses/apartments lived in

Section E – Family background
- Mother’s and father’s country of birth
- Whether lived with either or both parents at age 14
- Employment status of each parent (parent substitute) at focal youth’s age 14
- Parental education attainment (school and higher certificates/degrees)
- Quality of relationship with parents

Section F – School
- School enrolment status: year, type of school; overall number of schools attended
- Plans for completing school and continuing education
- Assessment of own performance at school: overall, mathematics, English
- Reasons for leaving school early
- Certificates attained as a result of studies

Section G – Post School student status and highest qualification
- Post-school studies: qualification, full-/part-time status, certificates
- Plans for completing higher degrees

Section H – Employment and earnings
- Employment status (past/present)
- Number of jobs
- Hours and earning in all jobs / main job
- Contract and salary arrangements
- Occupation and career
- First job history: age and hours

Section I – Job search and main activity
- Job search methods and length
- Main activity if not in school, employed, or looking for work

Section J – Family formation
- Date of start of current and first marriage/de facto relationship
- Number of marriages/de facto relationships
- Partner’s education and employment status
- Partner’s hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Children: date of birth, living arrangements for the child, money paid/received for child support (other than government)

Section K – Housing and income
• Housing arrangements (renting/own)
• Rent/mortgage payment amounts
• Combined own and partner’s income for 2005-2006 from wages/salary, own business, workers’ compensation, investment etc.
• Financial help from parents

Section L – Health
• Overall health and whether it provides any limitations to work
• Effect of emotional problems on daily activities
• Emotional health in the past 4 weeks
• Presence of Asthma/ADHD/Depression diagnosis
• Smoking (yes/no)
• Height and weight

Section M – Attitudes
• Attitudes on unemployment benefits
• Importance of own and parental education, ambition and job for success in life

Section N – Tracking questions and SCQ

A3. Youth Wave 1 self-completion questionnaire

Lifestyle and health
• Leisure and recreation activities
• Locus of control questions
• Physical activity
• Smoking and drinking habits
• Use of marijuana

Family and friends
• Quality of relationship with each parent/substitute

Education values
• Own, friends’ and parents’ attitudes to education

Life events and childhood
• Possible traumatic events that happened to focal youth
• Teenager problems and contact with authorities
• Relationship with parents during childhood
• Overall rating of childhood
A4. Continuing respondent (Youth) Wave 2 questionnaire

Section A – Identification
• Post code, state
• Date of birth
• Gender

Section C – Current Household
• Marital/de facto status; gender and age of partner
• Living in large group/share accommodation
• Number of family members focal youth currently lives with and their age, gender and relationship to focal youth
• Living independently or with parents/guardians/parental figure; if became independent since wave 1 – date and reason for moving out of the parents’ house

Section D – Childhood living arrangements
• If moved out of parents’ house since wave 1 – date of moving out

Section E – Family background
• Quality of relationship with parents

Section F – School
• School enrolment status: year, type of school; overall number of schools attended
• Plans for completing school and continuing education
• Assessment of own performance at school: overall, mathematics, English
• Reasons for leaving school early
• Certificates attained as a result of studies

Section G – Post School student status and highest qualification
• Post-school studies: qualification, full-/part-time status, certificates
• Plans for completing higher degrees

Section H – Employment and earnings
• Employment status (past/present)
• Number of jobs
• Hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Contract and salary arrangements
• Occupation and career
• First job history: age and hours

Section I – Job search and main activity
• Job search methods and length
• Main activity if not in school, employed, or looking for work

Section J – Family formation
• Date of start of current and first marriage/de facto relationship
• Number of marriages/de facto relationships
• Partner’s education and employment status
• Partner’s hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Children: date of birth, living arrangements for the child, money paid/received for child support (other than government)
Section K – Housing and income
• Housing arrangements (renting/own)
• Rent/mortgage payment amounts
• Combined own and partner’s income for 2005-2006 from wages/salary, own business, workers’ compensation, investment etc.
• Financial help from parents

Section L – Health
• Overall health and whether it provides any limitations to work
• Effect of emotional problems on daily activities
• Emotional health in the past 4 weeks
• Presence of Asthma/ADHD/Depression diagnosis
• Smoking (yes/no)
• Height and weight

Section M – Attitudes
• Most pressing current policies/issues
• Attitudes on unemployment benefits and immigration
• Importance of own and parental education, ambition and job for success in life
• Expectations of occupation and income in 10 years’ time

Section N – Tracking questions and SCQ

A5. New entrant (Youth) Wave 2 questionnaire

Section A – Identification
• Post code, state
• Date of birth
• Gender

Section B – Personal information
• Country of birth (COB)
• If COB not Australia:
  o Date of first arrival in Australia
  o Language spoken in the family while growing up
  o English knowledge
• Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status
• Respondent’s parents’ occupations and family holidays at respondent’s age 14

Section C – Current Household
• Marital/de facto status; gender and age of partner
• Living in large group/share accommodation
• Number of family members focal youth currently lives with and their age, gender and relationship to focal youth
• Living independently or with parents/guardians/parental figure; if lives independently – date and reason for moving out of the parents’ house

Section D – Childhood living arrangements
• Full/single parent/no parent family incidence
• Number of houses/apartments lived in

Section E – Family background
• Mother’s and father’s country of birth
• Whether lived with either or both parents at age 14
• Employment status of each parent (parent substitute) at focal youth’s age 14
• Parental education attainment (school and higher certificates/degrees)
• Quality of relationship with parents

Section F – School
• School enrolment status: year, type of school; overall number of schools attended
• Plans for completing school and continuing education
• Assessment of own performance at school: overall, mathematics, English
• Reasons for leaving school early
• Certificates attained as a result of studies

Section G – Post School student status and highest qualification
• Post-school studies: qualification, full-/part-time status, certificates
• Plans for completing higher degrees

Section H – Employment and earnings
• Employment status (past/present)
• Number of jobs
• Hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Contract and salary arrangements
• Occupation and career
• First job history: age and hours

Section I – Job search and main activity
• Job search methods and length
• Main activity if not in school, employed, or looking for work

Section J – Family formation
• Date of start of current and first marriage/de facto relationship
• Number of marriages/de facto relationships
• Partner’s education and employment status
• Partner’s hours and earning in all jobs / main job
• Children: date of birth, living arrangements for the child, money paid/received for child support (other than government)

Section K – Housing and income
• Housing arrangements (renting/own)
• Rent/mortgage payment amounts
• Combined own and partner’s income for 2005-2006 from wages/salary, own business, workers’ compensation, investment etc.
• Financial help from parents

Section L – Health
• Overall health and whether it provides any limitations to work
• Effect of emotional problems on daily activities
• Emotional health in the past 4 weeks
• Presence of Asthma/ADHD/Depression diagnosis
• Smoking (yes/no)
• Height and weight

Section M – Attitudes
• Most pressing current policies/issues
• Attitudes on unemployment benefits and immigration
• Importance of own and parental education, ambition and job for success in life
• Expectations of occupation and income in 10 years’ time

Section N – Tracking questions and SCQ

A6. Youth Wave 2 self-completion questionnaire

Lifestyle and health
• Leisure and recreation activities
• Locus of control questions
• Physical activity
• Smoking and drinking habits
• Use of marijuana

Attitudes to risk
• Assessment of own risk-taking characteristics

Expectations
• Expectations of family formation in 10 years’ time

Family and friends
• Quality of relationship with each parent/substitute

Life events
• Possible significant events that happened to focal youth since turning 18 years of age and their effect on the youth’s well-being