



AUSTRALIA
INDONESIA
YOUTH
ASSOCIATION

SURVEY 2021

AIYA **SURVEY 2021**

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AUSTRALIA INDONESIA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Clarice Campbell



Dear readers,

I am pleased to present the AIYA Survey 2021. The last year has marked 10 years since AIYA was established, and over 70 years of formal diplomatic relations between Australia and Indonesia. Our bilateral relationship is built on the work of successive generations in both countries – political leaders, officials, business people, students and volunteers.

This spirit is reflected in the hundreds of responses we received to this year's survey that covered many aspects of our bilateral relationship, including travel, culture and business ties. Of course, the past two years have also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has considerably affected both countries. Our long and dynamic partnership will help us work together to overcome the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This spirit has forged a relationship that is not just vital for both our countries, but for our ASEAN neighbours and our wider Indo-Pacific region.

This survey aims to capture and highlight the various perspectives and views of Australians and Indonesians towards each other. The respondents cover officials, students, business, academia and civil society.

We hope that the survey will provide helpful insights and fresh perspectives to the Australian and Indonesian relationship in the future.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarice Campbell', written in a cursive style.

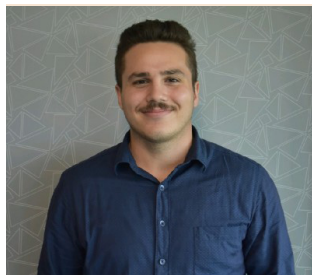
CLARICE CAMPBELL
AIYA National President

SURVEY 2021 TEAM



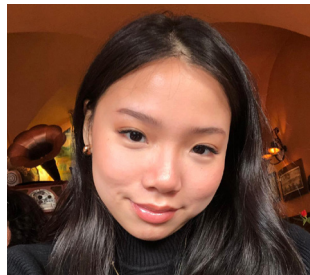
CLARICE CAMPBELL

Contributor



JAYA PASTOR-ELSE-GOOD

Editor



GHABY GUNAWAN

Editor



HIRZI PUTRA LAKSANA

Contributor/Editor



GILLIAN SCOTT

Editor



KIRBY TAYLOR

Contributor



DAN TREVANION

Contributor/Editor



ARFIANA WARDHANI

Contributor



AIYA AT A GLANCE

The Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) is a non-government, youth-led organisation which connects young Indonesians and Australians to each other and to opportunities to engage in the bilateral relationship. With active Chapters in every Australian state and territory, as well as Jakarta, Yogyakarta, West Java, South Sulawesi and East Nusa Tenggara, AIYA is the peak body for young people in the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

AIYA runs various kinds of events that enable the sharing of language and cultural experiences. Examples include language exchanges, professional mentoring programs, trivia nights, cultural workshops, sporting events and academic seminars.

One of AIYA's flagship initiatives is the National Australia-Indonesia Language Awards (NAILA), which is an annual competition that rewards and fosters the development of Indonesian language learning in Australia at all levels.

Through these events, run across both countries, AIYA seeks to incubate innovative ideas within the bilateral relationship.

AIYA's vision is to strengthen the Australia-Indonesia relationship through increased youth engagement and our mission is threefold:

1. **Connect** young Australians and Indonesians to each other, and to opportunities in the bilateral relationship;
2. **Inform** about avenues to engage with Australia and Indonesia to enhance young people's understanding of each other's countries.
3. **Inspire** business, government and other organisations to facilitate youth engagement between the two countries.

To become a member of AIYA, please sign up at: www.aiya.org.au/membership/. Find out more about AIYA at aiya.org.au, follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/aiya_national) at @aiya_national, [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/aiya_national) at @aiya_national or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aiyanational) as [fb.com/aiyanational](https://www.facebook.com/aiyanational).

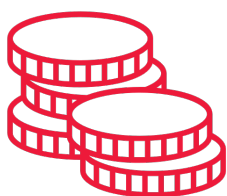
SURVEY 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS



Advanced and intermediate level speakers of Indonesian in Australia are declining and are being replaced by basic level speakers. Also, private tuition is becoming more prevalent.



Respondents were generally unaware of IA-CEPA. When prompted, respondents believe its effects to be social (e.g. people to people links) rather than commercial (e.g. benefiting local businesses)



The priority areas of the bilateral relationship among respondents are government-to-government relations, business engagement and education.



COVID-19 significantly impacted respondents with many reporting changes to their work (inc. loss of job) or changes to their methods of study (e.g. campus closures and online classes).

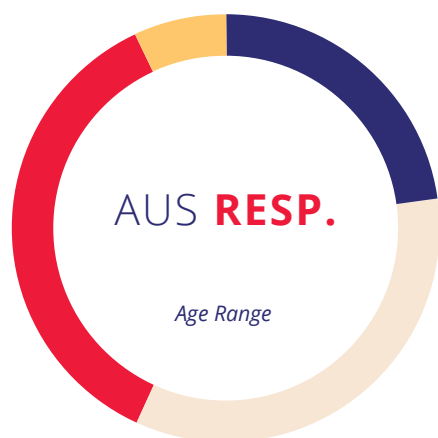
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. AIYA recommends a government led-national languages strategy that incorporates pathways for Indonesian language learning from primary school to university. A national program focussed on Indonesian language will create a generation of Australians who will engage Indonesia across government and business.
2. AIYA recommends IA-CEPA be more broadly communicated and educated to communities in both countries. Many official statements focus on the social benefits of IA-CEPA without imparting the specific economic and financial benefits.
3. AIYA recommends the Australian and Indonesian governments to rebuild their post-COVID society and economy while responding to pertinent youth issues such as education outcomes and employment opportunities.



SURVEY 2021

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- 32.39%: 20 to 24 years old
- 23.94%: 25 to 29 years old
- 7.75%: 30 to 34 years old
- 35.92%: Other



- 52.94%: 20 to 24 years old
- 19.12%: 25 to 29 years old
- 2.94%: 30 to 34 years old
- 25%: Other

TOTAL RESPONDENTS

210

Of the 210 respondents, 43% were employed. One of the highest proportions in an AIYA survey. Similarly, 44% of respondents were university students (35% undergraduate and 9% postgraduate). The remaining respondents comprised high school students, technical college students and unemployed.

TOTAL REGIONS

20

Including each Australian state or territory and Aceh, Bali, Bangka-Belitung, Banten, Jakarta, Jawa Tengah, Jawa Timur, Jawa Barat NTT, Sulawesi Utara, Papua and Yogyakarta.

GENDER WOMEN

49%

The survey also had 50% male and 1% non-binary respondents. The majority of English responses were by males; while the majority of Indonesian responses were by females.

The 2021 AIYA survey was conducted in November & December 2020, and attracted 210 respondents. These respondents were recruited through AIYA's extensive social media and mailing list channels, and the survey was also promoted through the networks of our partners and supporters. The survey was conducted online using a web-based survey form, and respondents were asked a variety of quantitative and qualitative questions, including open ended responses, slide bars, thermometer scales, and multiple choice questions.



Photo top

*Students at kampus brawijaya.
Credit: Studnesia.*

Photo next page

*Student volunteers at women's
organisation , in Yogyakarta.
Credit: ACICIS.*

LANGUAGE STUDY AND TRAVEL: **A DECLINING TREND**

AIYA SURVEY 2021

In President Joko Widodo's address to the Australian Parliament in February 2020, he stated:

"Indonesia and Australia are destined to be close neighbours. We cannot choose our neighbours. We have to choose to be friends. Australia is Indonesia's closest friend."

President Jokowi's statement identifies the key matter for Indonesian and Australian relations – proximity. That is, geographical proximity as neighbours and relational proximity as friends. In this section of the AIYA Survey, we explore these two issues through language study and travel between both countries.

LANGUAGE STUDY AND TRAVEL: A DECLINING TREND

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

LANGUAGE STUDY: ALARM BELLS RINGING

In a widely [viewed webinar](#), AIYA discussed the declining study of Indonesian in Australian universities. For those who are not familiar here are the startling facts:

- At the end of 2019, [there are less than 200 new students enrolling in Indonesian-language studies in Australia](#). For comparison, in 1992 there were approximately 500 enrolments.
- By the end of 2021, it is expected only 12 universities will teach Indonesian, down from the peak of 22 tertiary institutions in 1992.
- In recent years, Western Sydney University, Murdoch University and La Trobe University have announced their plans to discontinue their Indonesian language programs.

In short, enrolments in Indonesian-language studies are down and places for learning Bahasa Indonesia are also reducing for Australians. Despite this, respondents to AIYA's Survey identify education as a priority for strengthening long-term ties between Australia and Indonesia:

Top-3 Priorities to Strengthen Long-Term Ties

Statement	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Government-to-government relations	29.41%	20.59%	13.24%
Education (language, history and culture)	25.55%	18.25%	21.17%
Economic and Business Engagement	21.74%	22.46%	17.39%

But universities are not the only place to learn Bahasa Indonesia. In AIYA's Survey, 45% of English respondents studied Indonesian language or culture in university. Significant portions of respondents studied Indonesian in Primary School (25%) and High School (32%). Some respondents (14%) also studied Indonesian through private tuition.

We can compare these responses with data obtained from previous AIYA surveys. Noting that These answers are not exclusive (i.e. respondents may have studied Indonesian in Primary School, High School and University).

English Respondents Study of Indonesian Language and Culture

Place of Study	2020	2019	2016	2014
Primary School	25%	25%	10%	10%
High School	32%	46%	20%	20%
University	45%	70%	29%	29%
Private Tuition	14%	25%	9%	7%



“

Our ongoing connection and relationship with Indonesia happens across many contexts and industries – but education is a foundational element for building lifelong learning and engagement.
- Hamish Curry, Asia Education Foundation

A 2021 independent study by applied linguistics and languages researcher Michelle Kohler indicates the number of students studying Indonesian in 2016 across all states and the ACT dropped from 14,418 in the final year of primary school to just 353 in year 12.

LANGUAGE STUDY AND TRAVEL: A DECLINING TREND

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

The above figures do not show trends in enrolments as respondents to AIYA's surveys may have been enrolled in university Indonesian programs over the last decade. However, two observations may be made:

- There is an *increase among respondents who undertake private tuition*, which suggests that the decline in language learning pathways through universities are being supplemented by private study; and
- *Focusing on declining language studies in universities is only part of the issue*. Many respondents study Indonesian during Primary School and High School, however there is little information available on the state of Indonesian-language programs in those institutions.

It is useful to also take into account respondents' self reported assessment of their Indonesian language proficiency over the years:

Respondent's self-assessment of language proficiency

Indonesian Proficiency	2020 ¹	2019	2016	2014
Fluent	12%	15%	7%	14%
Advanced	17%	37%	44%	39%
Intermediate	21%	30%	34%	31%
Basic	21%	17%	12%	9%
None	3%	1%	3%	7%

¹ Excludes native speakers

While self-assessed fluent speakers have stayed somewhat constant, there is a clear trend that advanced and intermediate level speakers of Indonesian are being replaced by basic level speakers. This may reflect shallow pathways for Indonesian language learning that finish at High School level proficiency, or university short courses and minors.

For comparative purposes, it is useful to look at Australia's efforts in light of English proficiency in Indonesia. Anecdotally, there is a perception among many Australian learners of Indonesian that our Indonesian counterparts are more proficient at English than

Australians at Indonesian.

This data was collected for the first time in the latest AIYA survey:

Indonesian Respondents Study of English Language

Place of Study	2020
Primary School	74%
High School	82%
University	57%
Private Tuition	33%

It is not surprising that English is a greater focus for Indonesia's education system than Indonesian for Australian students. But, if close engagement and collaboration with Indonesia is critical to Australia's future, as many senior government officials espouse, then language is a key starting point.

AIYA supports a government led-national languages strategy that incorporates pathways for Indonesian language learning from Primary School to University. AIYA believes that an ambitious program focussed on languages will create a new generation of Australian graduates who will engage Indonesia across government and business.

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA TRAVEL: WHAT NEXT AFTER COVID-19?

COVID-19 has greatly affected international travel between countries. This is also true of Australia and Indonesia. [Tourism Australia](#) statistics show that, as of May 2021, there are only 14 flights per week from Indonesia into Australia, which totals about 160,000 seats. This is down 92% in capacity year on year.

Before COVID-19, approximately 1.4 million Australians visited Indonesia, with a large proportion visiting Bali. In comparison, approximately 100,000 Indonesians visited Australia.

This divergence in visitation between each country is borne out in the AIYA Survey's respondents. Of the respondents, 70% had visited Indonesia and 36% had spent over a year in Indonesia.

LANGUAGE STUDY AND TRAVEL: A DECLINING TREND

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

In comparison, 27% had visited Australia and only 18% for more than 3 months.

Why do Australians and Indonesians travel between countries? Respondents identify their main purposes for visiting to be study and leisure. It is also evident that while Australians visit Indonesia for multiple purposes (or at least multiple times for different purposes), Indonesians visit Australia predominantly for study.

travel bubble between Australia and Indonesia, however, there appears to be little appetite for such an arrangement at this time.

AIYA is hopeful that international travel between the two countries resumes promptly, as it is a key factor in deepening relations between Australia and Indonesia.

Purposes for travelling to the other country

Purpose	Visiting Indonesia	Visiting Australia
Study	58%	48 %
Leisure	62%	22 %
Work	40%	22 %
Family/Friends	45%	13 %

What do AIYA Survey respondents think about before visiting Australia and Indonesia? In 2019, the most pressing issue when visiting Indonesia was security concerns (55% of respondents) and visa requirements (54% of respondents).

In 2020, it is no surprise that contracting COVID-19 is now the highest consideration before travelling to Indonesia (62%). Security concerns dropped somewhat in priority (47%) and health concerns including access to health care and medication came third highest (44%).

In 2019, Indonesians travelling to Australia identified visa requirements as a key issue (75%), and the second highest issue of concern was knowledge of attractions and locations (47%).

Interestingly, in 2020, communicating with Australians was the highest concern before visiting Australia (63%), above visa requirements (47%) and knowledge of attractions and locations (44%). Risk of contracting COVID-19 was a relatively low concern for respondents before visiting Australia (36%).

Many experts foresee a rebound in international tourism in 2021-2022, but this will depend on travel restrictions and vaccinations. Senior government officials have suggested the potential of a



Photo top

Prime Minister Scott Morrison walking with President Joko Widodo. Credit: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Photo next page

President Joko Widodo at the Australian Parliament. Credit: AAP/Rick Rycroft

THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: **STRONG DESIRE FOR COOPERATION**

AIYA SURVEY 2021

In this section, we asked respondents about their perceptions of the bilateral relationship.

Participants were asked general questions such as what features of the bilateral relationship should take priority to strengthen ties as well as about specific programs such as the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA).

THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: STRONG DESIRE FOR COOPERATION

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

HOW TO STRENGTHEN TIES?

In the AIYA Survey, participants were asked **which features of the bilateral relationship should take priority to strengthen long-term ties?**

In both the Indonesian and English responses, the highest ranking priorities were similar.

Priorities to strengthen long-term ties

Priority	Australians	Indonesians
Government Relations	1st-2nd	1st
Business Engagement	3rd	2nd
Education	1st-2nd	3rd
Transnational Crime	9th	4th
Defence	6th	6th
Cultural & Community Evets	4th	5th
Health	10th	7th-8th
COVID-19	8th	7th-8th
Art	11th	9th
Aid & Development	5th	10th

The lower ranked priorities showed more variance in opinions, for example aid and development assistance is ranked higher in the ENG response (5th) compared to the IND responses (10th) while the reverse occurred for management of transnational criminal issues e.g. people and drug smuggling (ENG: 9th; IND: 4th).

One potential reason for this could be that the term 'bilateral relationship' has a deeper connection to government, education and business ties and ultimately encompass the other categories e.g. defence and security as well as management of transnational crimes could be considered within government-to-government relations.

However, it is interesting that aid and development initiatives were not prioritised higher considering the sector is part of the traditional sense of 'bilateral relationship'. It could be because the Indonesian Government has supported the [country's moving away from aid recipient to an emerging donor country](#), and thus Indonesian respondents may not rank aid and development initiatives as important anymore.



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Indonesia and Australia are destined to be close neighbours. We cannot choose our neighbours. We have to choose to be friends. Australia is Indonesia's closest friend.

- President Joko Widodo

On 10 February 2020, President Joko Widodo addressed the Australian Parliament. During the address, he suggested steps the two countries should take together to strengthen their bilateral relationship, and to contribute to regional peace and security.

THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: STRONG DESIRE FOR COOPERATION

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

When asked **what are the most common recurring issues that prevent a stronger Australia-Indonesia relationship?** the highest ranking reason answered by both English-speaking and Indonesian-speaking respondents was lack of cross-cultural understanding (61.70% and 49.25%, respectively).

What prevents a stronger bilateral relationship?

Issue	Eng Resp.,	Issue	Ind Resp.
Lack of cross cultural understanding	62%	Lack of cross cultral understanding	49%
Bureaucratic hurdles	45%	Differences in business practice (inc. corrup-tion)	36%
Lack of engagement across governments	43%	Racism and distrust	34%
...
Gender & LGBTIQ+ issues	11%	Language differences	16%

It begs the question then if government-to-government and economic and business engagement were to be prioritised in order to build a stronger bilateral relationship, how would that increase cross-cultural understanding within the community. Ironically, both groups did not rank artistic collaborations as a priority when it is [commonly argued that arts facilitate intercultural communication and understanding](#).

When asked **which initiatives would be most helpful in improving the engagement of youth between Australia and Indonesia?** the two initiatives ranked most helpful were government financial support for in-country study programs (Avg ranking - ENG: 6.23/8;IND: 6.79/8) and government financial support for young people to undertake internships with Australian and Indonesian organisations (ENG: 5.83/8;IND: 6.17/8).

This shows that experiences in-country are highly valued in developing cross cultural understanding. The topics that ranked the lowest were using alumni to promote benefits of engaging with Australia and Indonesia (ENG: 2.85/8;IND: 2.6/8) and showcase alternatives to bilateral engagement beyond business and politics e.g. sports, music, visual arts, literature (ENG: 3.28/8;IND: 2.86/8).

35% of English respondents thought Australia manages its relationship with Indonesia quite well. Though interestingly, 50% of Indonesian respondents rated Australia's management of the relationship as quite well. Perhaps, demonstrating that Australian's a more self-critical of the state of the bilateral relationship.

The majority of Australian and Indonesian respondents (71% and 36%, respectively) responded that their vote at a Federal/ Presidential election would be influenced by policies that promote closer ties and greater engagement between Australia and Indonesia. However, it is worth noting that Indonesian-speaking respondents who chose No (Tidak) and I don't know (Saya tidak tahu) were relatively equal to those who chose Yes (Ya), suggesting that it is not a priority for many people based in Indonesia.

NCP & IA-CEPA

Looking at specific initiatives in the relationship, specifically the New Colombo Plan (NCP) and the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) respondents were asked about their effectiveness in building and maintaining a better relationship between Australia and Indonesia.

For the NCP the most popular answer from English-speaking respondents was that the program was somewhat effective (37%) while Indonesian-speaking respondents said they did not know (50%).

There may be several reasons these answers were the most popular, the NCP program scholars generally have to undertake a rather lengthy selection process and the scholarship is only eligible to undergraduate students, with only a small number of students chosen from each Australian university. The scholars themselves receive up to \$67,000 in funding to undertake academic study and professional placements in the Asia-Pacific region, including in Indonesia. Indonesian respondents are likely to be less aware of this program as the scholarship is only available to Australian students.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

For the IA-CEPA, many English-speaking respondents noted that they have heard about some aspects of the IA-CEPA through other people and read about it through media reports and other sources (42.14%) while Indonesian-speaking respondents had largely not heard about the IA-CEPA before undertaking the survey (56.06%).

Respondents' knowledge of IA-CEPA

Knowledge of IA-CEPA	Eng Resp.,	Knowledge of IA-CEPA	Ind Resp.
Some aspects through people, media and other sources	42%	Some aspects through people, media and other sources	23%
I've read parts of IA-CEPA	33%	I've never heard of IA-CEPA before the survey	56%

This response is insightful as it indicates participants do not believe there will be large commercial benefits to come from the agreement, and in fact the two lowest scoring responses were making money for Australian businesses (18.75%) and making money for Indonesian businesses (2.34%).

It is also insightful that respondents felt Australian companies would benefit more from the agreement than Indonesian companies when the Official Development Assistance (ODA) fund of A\$40 million for the program has only been contributed by the Government of Australia, which will be used to assist Indonesian businesses to enter the Australian market or work with Australian companies.

When asked about the effectiveness of the IA-CEPA in building and maintaining a better economic relationship between Australia and Indonesia, the most popular response was somewhat effective (51.77%), however, the second most popular response was I don't know (26.95%) which indicates that the provisions of the trade agreement are still not well understood within the community.

When asked how the IA-CEPA will be most effective, respondents felt that the agreement would create good diplomatic relations between our two countries (ENG: 28.13%;IND: 51.56%) and create new opportunities for people-to-people connections (ENG: 29.69%;IND: 21.88%).

How can IA-CEPA be most effective?

Suggestion	Eng Resp..	Ind Resp.
Creating new opportunities for people-to-people connections	30%	22%
Creating good diplomatic relations between our two countries	28%	52%
...
Making money for Australian businesses	19%	8%
Making money for Indonesian businesses	2%	5%



Photo top

*Scientist at the Eijkman Institute, Indonesia.
Credit: Eijkman Institute/CSIRO.*

Photo next page

*Prime Minister Scott Morrison
and President Joko Widodo
shake hands.
Credit: Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Flickr.*

COVID-19: TWO DISTINCT STORIES

AIYA SURVEY 2021

The spread of COVID-19 has undeniably caused an unprecedented global crisis. Based on data from the World Health Organisation, at the time of writing of this report, there have been over 270 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5.3 million deaths around the world.

Indonesia has had 4.26 million cumulative cases since the start of the pandemic while Australia has faced 264 thousand, indicating the vastly different pandemic experiences of the two countries.

In this section, we analyse the ways in which COVID-19 has affected youth in Australia and Indonesia, their views on the pandemic responses of their respective governments, and how they perceive the post-pandemic future.

COVID-19: TWO DISTINCT STORIES

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

REFLECTING ON LIVING DURING A PANDEMIC

Survey respondents were asked about the extent to which they have been affected by COVID-19? 81.54% of the Indonesian speaking respondents said that they had been very or somewhat affected by the pandemic, while 18.46% of respondents reported that they had not been affected much or at all. In contrast, a smaller majority of Australian respondents (71.63%) reported that they had been very or somewhat affected by the pandemic, with 28.36% responding that they had not been affected much or at all. Indeed, looking at the data in more detail, 53.85% of Indonesian respondents said that they were very affected by the pandemic while only 23.4% of Australian respondents answered in the same way.

Considering the vastly different levels of transmission between Australian states throughout the pandemic, it is to be expected that less Australian respondents felt that they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, while Melbourne experienced a lockdown for a total of 262 days (widely reported to be the longest in the world), Perth was in lockdown only for a total of 38 days. Indeed, with Australia's two most populous states (New South Wales and Victoria) as an exception, the rest of Australia was able to live in relative freedom for most of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, in Indonesia, COVID-19 was far more widespread. Although only the island of Java experienced strict PPKM Level 3-4 restrictions during Indonesia's deadly second wave from June and August 2021, many regions across the archipelago suffered from reduced hospital capacity, high mortality rates, and some level of restriction on social gatherings. As such, it is unsurprising that a higher proportion of Indonesian respondents reported that they had been affected by the pandemic.

How much were Respondents impacted by COVID-19?

Impact of COVID-19	Eng Resp.	Ind Resp.
Very affected	23%	23%
Somewhat affected	48%	28%
Not very affected	23%	17%
Not at all affected	5%	2%



“

It is in this spirit of partnership that we today announce an A\$1.5 billion bilateral loan from the Australian Government to the Indonesian Government.

- Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer of Australia

On 12 November 2020, the Australian Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, and Her Excellency Dr Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesian Minister of Finance, announced a Loan between Australia and Indonesia.

Under the agreement, the loan supports the Asian Development Bank-led COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program in Indonesia.

COVID-19: TWO DISTINCT STORIES

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

One of the biggest impacts of the pandemic has been on the economy and the workforce. While most of the Indonesian respondents were fortunate enough to still have a job, 14.52% had lost their job due to COVID-19 and 16.13% experienced a significant reduction of paid work hours. Similar results were found from the Australian respondents, with 11.45% reporting that they had lost their job and 18.32% reporting a reduction in paid work hours.

Although Australian and Indonesian respondents answered similarly regarding the effects of COVID-19 on employment, Australia and Indonesia's economy faced different experiences. According to data from the World Bank, Australia's annual GDP decreased by a factor of 0.285% between 2019 and 2020 which is only a small contraction compared to what other countries have experienced.

This can, again, be attributed to the fact that many cities across Australia avoided long periods of lockdowns. Indonesia's economy, meanwhile, due to the more widespread nature of COVID-19 transmission, contracted at a higher rate of 2.07%. The similarity in our respondents' answers may demonstrate the high degree to which the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the economic opportunities of young people no matter where they reside, this being a finding of a recent Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights report.

How did COVID-19 affect respondents' employment?

Change experienced	Eng Resp.,	Ind Resp.
Loss of job	11%	15%
Significant reduction in work hours	18%	16%
Unable to travel to work	31%	42%
Increased hours at work	11%	6%
Increased difficulty in performing job	27%	29%
No change to workplace	11%	6%
Working from home	48%	47%
Working at home some of the time	24%	19%

For those who were able to keep their jobs, most respondents said that they have experienced changes in the way they work. The majority of both Indonesian and Australian respondents (66.12% and 71.75% respectively) reported that they had worked at home some or all of the time throughout the pandemic. The uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and the inability to work in the office has been a challenging experience for many, with 29.03% of Indonesian respondents and 27.48% of Australian respondents reporting an increased difficulty in performing their job.

COVID-19 has also had a large impact on student populations in both countries. Many of our student respondents had to do online classes due to the pandemic, with 39.68% of Indonesian respondents and 50.60% of Australian respondents reporting that they had to study online. Interestingly, though, while a smaller percentage of Indonesian students had to study online compared to Australian students, more Indonesian students reported that their campus had been closed (15.87% of Indonesian respondents and 8.43% of respondents). Additionally, a significant percentage of students in both countries (20.63% of Indonesian respondents and 31.33% of Australian respondents) experienced no changes to their study, perhaps indicating that working youth have been affected by the pandemic more than those who are still studying.

How did COVID-19 affect respondents' studies?

Change experienced	Eng Resp.,	Ind Resp.
Deferring enrolment because of COVID-19	4%	5%
Unable to travel to campus due to restrictions	1%	8%
My university has shut its campus	8%	16%
I am studying online because of COVID-19	51%	40%
I am able to travel to campus occasionally	5%	5%
There has been no changes to my studies	31%	21%

COVID-19: TWO DISTINCT STORIES

CONT.

AIYA SURVEY 2021

ASSESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Respondents were also asked about their perceptions of how the Australian and Indonesian governments responded to COVID-19.

Indonesian respondents were critical of their government's performance throughout the pandemic, with 56.92% reporting some level of dissatisfaction at the Indonesian government's COVID-19 response. In contrast, a survey by Fixpoll Research and Strategic Consulting conducted in August 2021 revealed that 37.7% of the general Indonesian population are dissatisfied with the government's COVID-19 response, showing perhaps that Indonesian youth are more critical of their government. This could be due to Indonesian youths' higher exposure to global news, which gives them the ability to compare COVID-19 policies across borders.

Performance of IDN government's COVID-19 response

Rating of IDN Gov response to COVID-19	Idn Resp.,
Very well	5%
Well	28%
Satisfactory	11%
Not well	40%
Very poorly	17%

Our survey dove deeper on participants' views on government pandemic policy by asking about the specific measures that they saw to be effective and ineffective in containing the spread of COVID-19. Participants were able to write a free response and some responded by mentioning multiple measures. Participants' free responses were then coded against a list of COVID-19 response measures that were formulated by the author, after which the frequency of words was quantified.

Large scale social restrictions (PSBB) was the most frequently cited ineffective policy in Indonesia, with this being mentioned

by 16 out of 51 respondents. Critiques of this policy focussed on the lateness of its introduction as well as what was viewed as its inadequacy in containing the spread of COVID-19. Indeed, while the first case of COVID-19 was reported on the 2 March 2020, social distancing restrictions were only implemented on 30 March 2020. The second most cited ineffective element of the Indonesian government's pandemic response was non-compliance from the public (n=7) and the third was the lack of stricter enforcement of health protocols on the part of the government (n=5).

In contrast, Australian respondents had very positive views of the Australian government's COVID-19 response, with 81.88% reporting some level of satisfaction with the government's performance throughout the pandemic. These are very high levels of support, considering a survey conducted by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research indicated that only 60% of the general Australian population approved of the federal government's response to some degree. A caveat is that we did not ask respondents the Australian state they originated from and hence, were not able to discern the level of government (i.e. state or federal) towards which their satisfaction was felt.

Performance of IDN government's COVID-19 respons

Rating of Aus Gov response to COVID-19	Eng Resp.,
Very well	47%
Well	35%
Satisfactory	14%
Not well	2%
Very poorly	1%

In free responses, our Australian respondents saw lockdowns and social/physical distancing measures as being the most effective in containing the spread of COVID-19 in Australia (n=36). The second most effective measure cited by Australian respondents was border restrictions and the requirement for international arrivals to quarantine (n=22), with the third most effective measure being the wearing of masks (n=13).

The AIYA Survey also asked participants to reflect on their feelings towards the future after COVID-19. Asked to rate how anxious they felt about the future on a scale of 1 to 100 (where 100 indicates high levels of anxiety), Indonesian respondents tended to be more anxious than their Australian counterparts, with the mean score being 64 for the former and 50 for the latter.

We also asked participants about the reasons behind their anxiety. Again, they were able to input answers in free form and these were coded and quantified by the author based on emergent themes.

From a total of 72 Australian responses, the most commonly cited reason for anxiety was uncertainty surrounding travel (n=25). This was linked to the inability to visit friends and family overseas, as well as the pandemic's effect in cancelling student global mobility programs which for many of our respondents is a way to gain a competitive edge in the employment market. The second most cited reason for anxiety was the nation's society and economy (n=21), with many worrying about future austerity, growing inequality and social division. The third most cited reason was diminishing employment opportunities and shrinking incomes (n=20) which, again, highlights the disproportionate economic impact of the pandemic on the youth demographic.

Looking at the Indonesian data, of which there were a total of 51 responses, the reason for anxiety that most frequently emerged were health concerns, the fear of infection and the fear of death (n=22). Concerns surrounding employment opportunities and income (n=13) were the second most frequently cited reason, while worries about Indonesia's society and economy (n=12) came third.

Australian and Indonesian youth have had vastly different experiences throughout the pandemic due to the vastly different

policy responses of their respective governments in handling the spread of COVID-19. However, our analysis has shown that Australian and Indonesian youth lived similar lifestyles during the pandemic - the experience of disrupted study and work from home, for example, was one that was universal. Additionally, Australian and Indonesian youth also share many worries regarding the post-pandemic future - they are both anxious about their nations' society, economy and their individual employment prospects.

The findings of our survey indicate that the pandemic, for all its woes, may perhaps have created common experiences around which youth can coalesce regardless of nationality. It has also alerted us towards the disproportionate way in which youth have been negatively impacted by the social, economic and health consequences of the pandemic.

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YOUTH ASSOCIATION

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Instagram

[https://instagram.com/aiya_
national/](https://instagram.com/aiya_national/)

Email

president@aiya.org.au

Website

www.aiya.org.au