



Tell Us Results Summary

August 2010

The quick snapshot...

Tell Us is a national campaign that asked 10,000 secondary students about the meaning of success at school. Findings reveal that Australian students should have more of a say in their education. Students also say that school prepares them for the future, but cannot rely on test scores alone to measure what they know.

Ten points to sum it up...

1. *Tell Us* is Australia's first national campaign to ask *students* what success at school really means.
2. The current focus on student and school performance and the national curriculum has drawn a wide range of players to the national stage, including Federal and State governments, the education sector, academics and media. But where are the voices of students?
3. The campaign brings thousands of student voices to the debate to help redefine how achievement and success is valued at school. *Tell Us* also provides a snapshot of how students across the country feel about the current system.
4. Over 10,000 secondary students were part of the *Tell Us* campaign. Students from every State and Territory used Facebook, school events, surveys, advocacy and interviews with media to have their say...
5. **Students should have a real voice in their education**
 - a. The majority of students say they don't help decide how their school runs (50%)
 - b. Only four in ten students say their school listens to what they have to say (40% say their school does listen; 35% say their school doesn't listen; 25% are unsure)
 - c. The majority of students say that what they know cannot be measured by tests or marks (60%)
6. **Students say that, in addition to academic achievement, success comes from participation, friendship, sport, arts, recognition from peers and teachers, and leadership positions.**
 - a. Six in ten say that what they know cannot be measured by tests or marks (58%)
 - b. Qualitative feedback gives us an insight into what matters to students:

I think the most successful thing I am at school is being in the SRC Club, which means I can put my say to my school.

*My **sporting achievements** were mentioned at assembly. It felt really good to be acknowledged*

*I felt successful at school when I was the president of the Make Poverty History club. I **helped organise and run** an awareness and fund raising week.*

*I felt successful at school when I was appointed House Vice-Captain in Year 11. It was more important than just doing well in a test, it showed me that I was valued as more than just a student, but **as a worthy contributor to the community**.*

*I felt most successful at school after my Outdoor Education Camp last year. Although I didn't stand out from the crowd in particular, I felt successful because we as a group had bonded and **strengthened our friendships - we all helped each other**.*

7. Students think schools are positive places that prepare them for the future

- a. The majority of students say that what they learn at school is relevant to their life (58%)
 - b. The majority of students say that school helps them develop their most important skills (57%)
 - c. The majority of students say school helps them reach their full potential (57%)
8. FYA believes that schools, students, governments and the corporate and non-profit sectors can all take actions to improve the learning experience for young people.
9. All students who took part in Tell Us will receive a Student Action pack with hints, tips and resources to create action at a local level.
10. In addition, FYA is working with Tell Us advocates, young people who want to drive this campaign, to deliver the findings to Governments and to really open up the debate around school success.