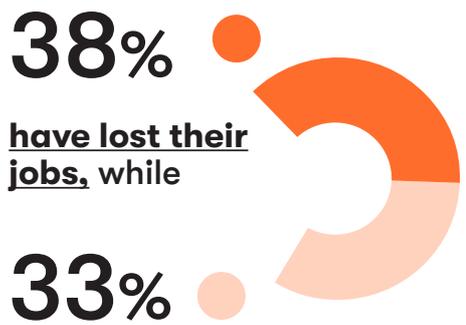


# Locked Down and Locked Out?

*The impact of COVID-19 on employment for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Victoria.*

*During the March-April 2020 lockdown period, CMY interviewed 41 young people (aged between 18-25) from 17 different cultural backgrounds, connected with our Employment Empowers program. These findings provide a snapshot of the experiences of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds at this time.*

Of the young people who were working prior to COVID-19



have lost their jobs, while

have had their hours reduced.

There is widespread reduction in young people's household income with



of young people reporting that their family has been negatively impacted.

(That's 2 in 3)



The above is impacting on young people's:

- Housing security
- Pursuit of their own educational and employment aspirations
- Ability to support vulnerable relatives overseas.

Young people experienced high rates of casual employment prior to COVID-19



**30%**

of the young people withdrew from the labour market during March-April 2020.

(That's almost 1 in 3)

**24%**

of young people reported increased caring responsibilities in the home.

(That's almost 1 in 4)



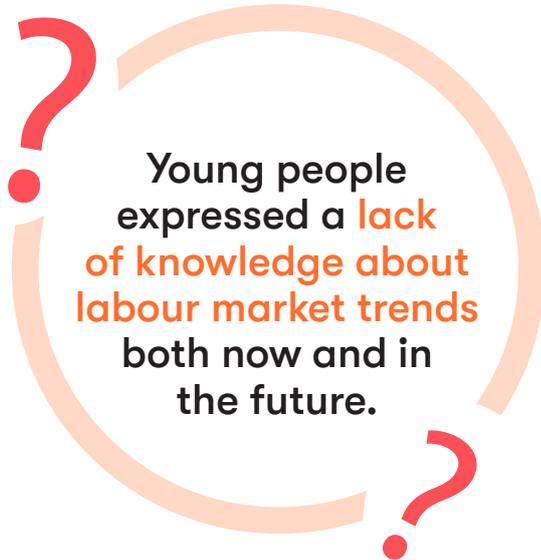
**Lack of digital access is impacting on some young people's education and ability to look for work:**



**17%**  
**reporting insufficient internet access.**  
(That's almost 1 in 5)

and **10%**  
**are without access to a laptop or computer.**

(one in ten)



Young people expressed a **lack of knowledge about labour market trends** both now and in the future.

Young people reported experiencing a knock to their

- **confidence**
- **motivation and**
- **employment aspirations.**



Young people in employment during COVID-19 have concerns about their **physical health, safety and rights at work.**

Young people value the support of employment mentors, **even if they have withdrawn from the labour market.**

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