

MEMBER SURVEY 2014



Introduction

It is a great pleasure to introduce the 2014 AIYA members survey, which this year had its highest response rate ever, attracting close to 500 people. Each year AIYA conducts a survey to get our members' views both about how AIYA is operating and about key policy issues impacting young people involved in the Australia - Indonesia relationship. This report focuses largely on the latter, providing a synopsis of our membership but focusing largely on the views of those members on matters of public policy.

Young people are a large, and often unrepresented group, who play a significant role in the Australia Indonesia relationship in cultural exchange, business and, importantly, education. The way that Indonesia's 120 million or so people under 30 years old view Australia will have a marked impact on the way that our two countries relate. Similarly, if current Australian political and economic thinking about an Australia more integrated with Asia is to be realised, the way that young Australians currently relate with Indonesia, and the barriers they face with engagement with that country, is of central importance.

The hard working and highly skilled AIYA team carrying out this survey (Samuel Bashfield, Tim Graham, Stefano Sibarani, Michael Tarn, and Chris Urbanski) have spent hours of volunteer time pulling this report together in the hope that it will be used by governments, universities, not-for profits and other organisations which deal with young Australians and Indonesians. We hope that the results can be used to shape government policies and improve services to help create settings in which the bilateral relationship - particularly at a youth level - can flourish.

Yours sincerely,

Arjuna Dibley

President, Australia-Indonesia Youth Association

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About AIYA

The Australia-Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) is a non-government, youth-led organisation which aims to better connect young Indonesians and Australians to each other and to Indonesia-related opportunities.

With active chapters in every Australian state and territory, as well as Jakarta, AIYA is the peak body for young people in the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

AIYA aims to connect young Australians and Indonesians to each other, and to opportunities in the bilateral relationship; inform young people about opportunities to engage with the relationship; and to inspire business, government and other organisations to facilitate youth engagement between the two countries.

Find out more about AIYA at aiya.org.au, follow us on Twitter at [@aiya_national](https://twitter.com/aiya_national), or find us on Facebook as [fb.com/aiyanational](https://www.facebook.com/aiyanational).

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

The Australia – Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) is a membership based association operating in Indonesia and Australia. AIYA tries to connect, inform and inspire young people from both countries to connect with each other and spend time in each other's countries.

To further its objectives, AIYA carries out a survey of its members annually to provide a synopsis of the issues which youth deem important in the Australia-Indonesia relationship. This report is based on the 2014 AIYA annual member's survey, the results of which policy makers, educators, businesses and others can access and draw their own views about youth issues in the bi-lateral relationship.

The following are the survey's key findings.

Key perceptions

- **Government – to – government relations, education and economic engagement are key priorities.** Respondents cited these three factors above all others when asked about what they consider to be priorities for the bilateral relationship.
- **Australia is not presently managing its relationship well with Indonesia.** Australian respondents (strongly) and Indonesian respondents (less strongly) reported that they thought that Australia is doing a poor job in managing the bilateral relationship with Indonesia. Both Australians and Indonesians thought that the Indonesian government was the more effective actor in the bilateral relationship.
- **There are barriers to engagement between Australian and Indonesian youth.** Respondents' personal financial situations and tough visa restrictions were marked as important factors hindering travel to Indonesia or Australia. In terms of barriers while living in either Australia or Indonesia, cultural and social adjustment was the most significant factor. Respondents also identified various methods to overcome such barriers, including finding employment or volunteer opportunities and getting involved with local social or sporting clubs as ways to integrate into the target society.

Key perspectives on government policy

Some issues received unanimous responses from Australian and Indonesian respondents:

- **New Colombo Plan and IA-CEPA- 'good ideas, but questions about effectiveness'** - Respondents, both Indonesian and Australian showed support for the New Colombo Plan (with 95% considering it favourably) and the Indonesia- Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (with 87% considering it favourably). Despite the positive response to these policy platforms, AIYA respondents were concerned about their implementation. Respondents considered the amount of money available to New-Colombo

scholarship recipients as being excessive for study programs in Indonesia, and respondents questioned the ability of Australian business to fully make use of the IA-CEPA.

Other issues attracted highly varied responses:

- **Indonesian restrictions on foreign workers - Australians opposed, Indonesians neutral** - Respondents' perceptions were divided. While Australian respondents were not in favour of the policy's intent (60%), Indonesian respondents were largely in favour of the policy(50%). This result is due to many Australian respondents considering a career in Indonesia, and a belief by many Indonesians that jobs should be saved for Indonesian citizens.

Overview of survey process

The 2014 AIYA survey was conducted in March 2014, and attracted 495 respondents, of which 218 completed the survey. Those that completed were 50% Indonesian, 48% Australian, and 2% Other. These respondents were recruited through AIYA's extensive social media and mailing list channels. 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.

The second section of this report includes perspectives and insights on key policy issues which affect youth in the Australia-Indonesia relationship. These three policies are the New Colombo Plan, the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) and the Indonesian Government's restrictions on the hiring of foreign workers. The perspectives and individual member responses included within these pages represent a cross section of perspectives received, and should be read in conjunction with the graphics presented.

Who are the survey respondents?

- **Survey respondents are highly educated and typically work in professional positions or are completing tertiary study.** 53% of respondents are currently studying, and a further 39% are currently in the workforce. Of those respondents currently in the workforce 68% occupy professional positions while 13% occupy managerial positions (13%).
- **The vast majority of survey respondents have at least some facility in both English and Indonesian.** Of Australian 16-35 year old respondents, 53% self-reported their language skills to be either "advanced" or "fluent." A further 40% reported their language skills to be either "basic" or "intermediate." Similarly, Indonesian respondents reported high rates of English language competency. 70% of Indonesian respondents self-reported their English competency as either "advanced" or "fluent." A further 30% recorded their English language ability as either "intermediate" or "basic."
- Respondents are highly likely to spend part of their career in both Australia and Indonesia of their career. A large proportion of Australian respondents, 85%, **would consider a long term career in Indonesia.** Meanwhile, 77% of Indonesian respondents would consider a long term career in Australia.
- **AIYA members have spent extensive periods of time in each other's countries.** 68% of Australian respondents have spent over three months in Indonesia. Additionally, 58% of Indonesian respondents have spent at least three months in Australia.

Part 1: Youth Perceptions of Australia and Indonesia's Bilateral Relationship

A focus of the 2014 AIYA survey was on members' perceptions on Australia and Indonesia's bilateral relationship.

Government-to-Government Relations, Education and Economic Engagement are Priorities

Respondents living in Indonesia and Australia agree that both Government-to-Government relations and education ties are the highest priorities for the bilateral relationship. Using a weighted average measurement approach, where a higher statistical value equals a higher importance level ranging between -1 to +1, Australian respondents identified Government-to-Government relations as the most important issue (0.48), compared to Indonesian respondents (0.41).

For Indonesian respondents, the highest priority was education (0.49), compared to Australian respondents (0.44). Australian respondents also highly value cultural and community engagement (0.43), which was much more than Indonesian respondents (0.32). Respondents rated economic and business engagement next in the order of priorities (0.38, Australian respondents; 0.37, Indonesian respondents).

With many respondents having spent time studying in both countries, the high priority of education is to be expected, though also indicative of the high value placed on educational ties to fostering warm relationships by those who have experienced it first-hand.

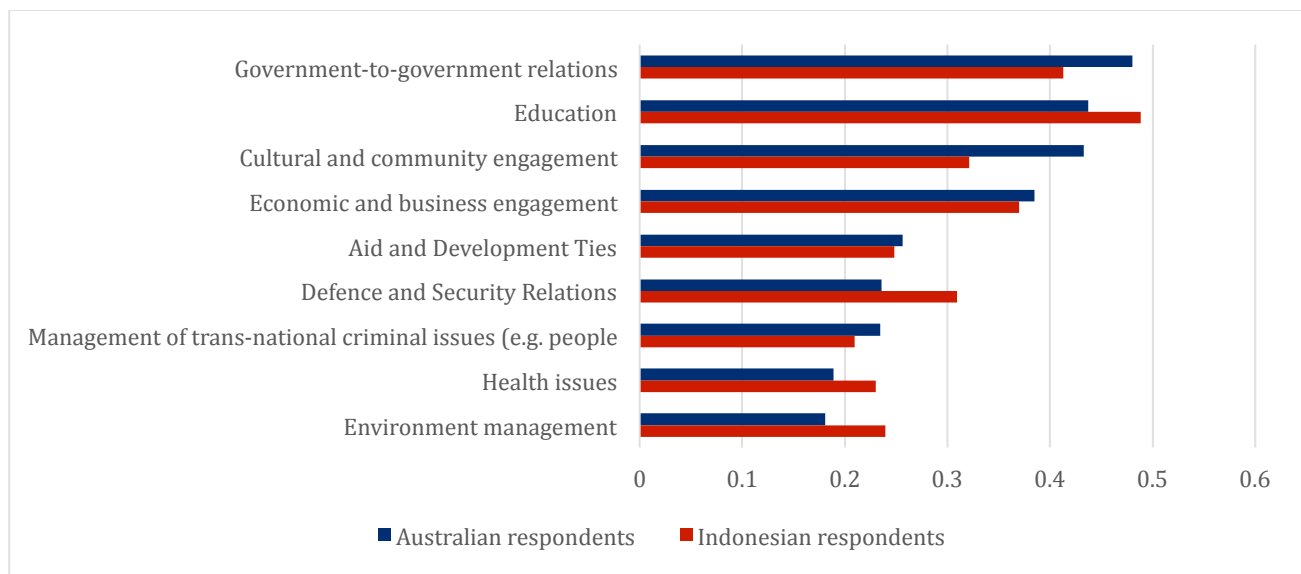


Figure A: AIYA Survey respondents priorities for the Australia-Indonesia relationship. Comparison between Australian and Indonesian respondents.

Respondents also thought economic engagement should be prioritized. As the above figures illustrate, over 80% of both Australian and Indonesian respondents either “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement that “Indonesia is important to the Australian economy.” Furthermore, just over 50% of Australians and over 60% of Indonesians either “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” that “Australia is important to the Indonesian economy.”

Respondents overwhelmingly reported that environmental management (0.18, Australian respondents; 0.24 Indonesian respondents) and health issues (0.19, Australian; 0.23 Indonesian) were the lowest priority issues in the context of the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

Australia is not managing its government-to-government relationship with Indonesia well

An overarching finding of this survey is the belief among respondents that Australia is struggling to maintain a strong relationship with Indonesia. AIYA respondents were asked about their perceptions on the state of the Australia-Indonesia bilateral relationship. The belief that Australia is poorly managing its relationship with Indonesia is most evident among Australian respondents (85%). Figure B] illustrates that 50% of Australian respondents “strongly disagree” with the statement that “Australia is managing its relationship with Indonesia well.” A further 35% disagreed with the statement. Only 12% of Australian respondents either “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” that Australia is managing its relationship with Indonesia well.

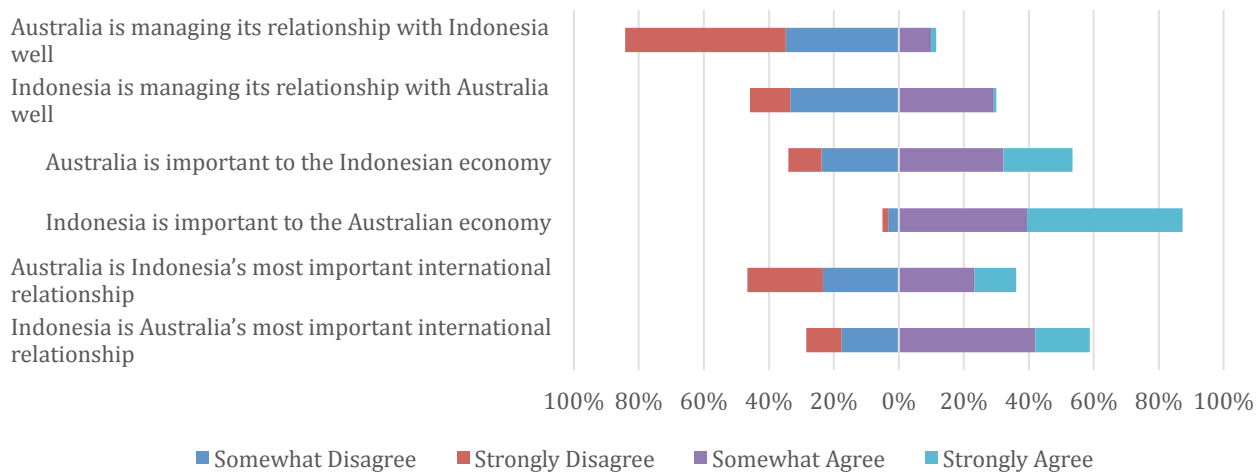


Figure B: Australian AIYA Members Perspectives on Key Statements.

While Indonesian respondents did not criticise the Australian governments management of the bilateral relationship as much as Australian respondents, 28% either “strongly disagree” or “somewhat disagree” that Australia is managing its relationship with Indonesia well.

Both Australian and Indonesian respondents believe that Indonesia is more successful than Australia at managing the bilateral relationship. Approximately 59% of Indonesian respondents believe Indonesia managing its relationship with Australia well, compared with 30% of Australian respondents.

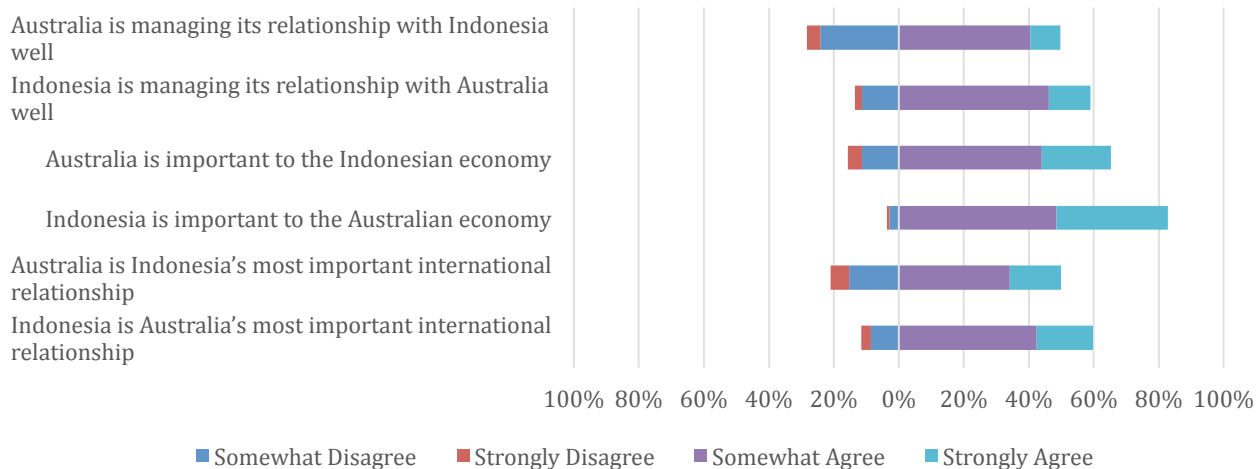


Figure C: Indonesian AIYA Members Perspectives on Key Statements.

Barriers to Increased Youth Engagement

While Australian and Indonesian AIYA respondents exhibit positivity towards each other's countries, they also acknowledge that there are many and varied impediments which must be overcome before greater engagement can occur.

Indonesian respondents identified various hindrances which affect their ability to travel to Australia. The most widely reported barrier was their 'personal financial situation' (65%). The high cost of living in Australia relative to Indonesia discourages many Indonesians from visiting. Other issues identified by Indonesian respondents were Australia's strict visa policies (56%), and also securing time off work(55%). As the following figure indicates, Indonesian respondents expressed that they do not feel their English language ability is an impediment to travelling to Australia (59%)].

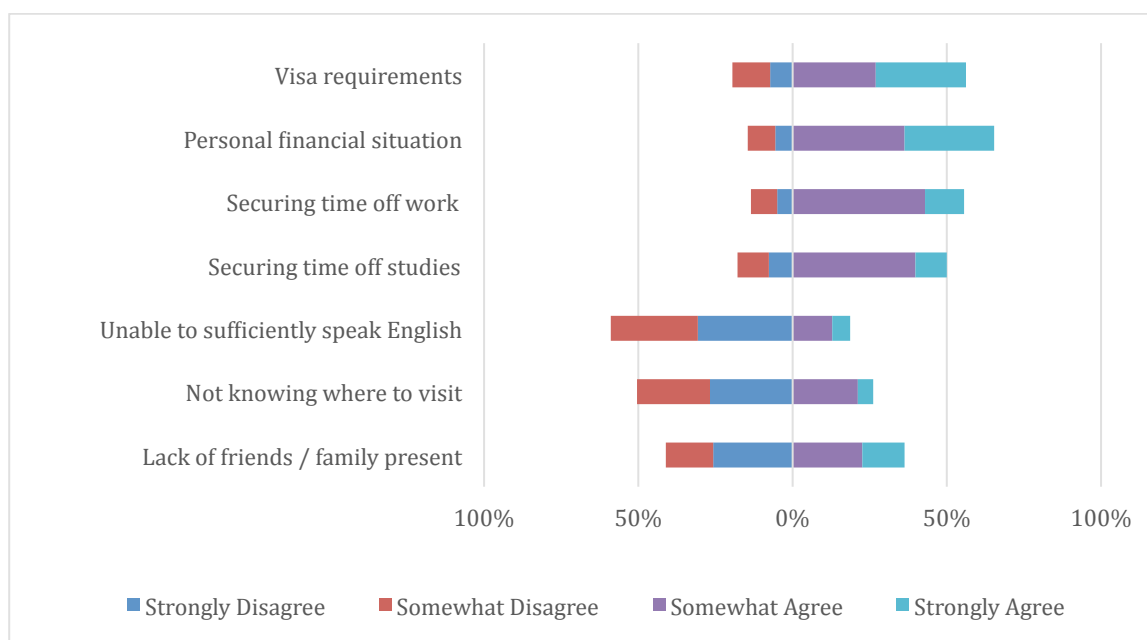


Figure D: Barriers hindering travelling to Australia for Indonesian survey respondents.

The major impediment to living in Australia for Indonesian respondents was cultural and social adjustment (61%). This impediment was closely followed by differences in writing, researching and editing practices (44%), feelings of homesickness (45%) and the belief that Indonesians spent too much time with other international students (43%).

Among Australian respondents, the main impediments to travel to Indonesia were recorded as visa requirements (61%), followed by financial capacity (55%), and the difficulty of securing time away from work and studies (39%). Australian respondents did not believe that a lack of friends or family in Indonesia, or the language barrier were obstacles in travelling to Indonesia (11%).

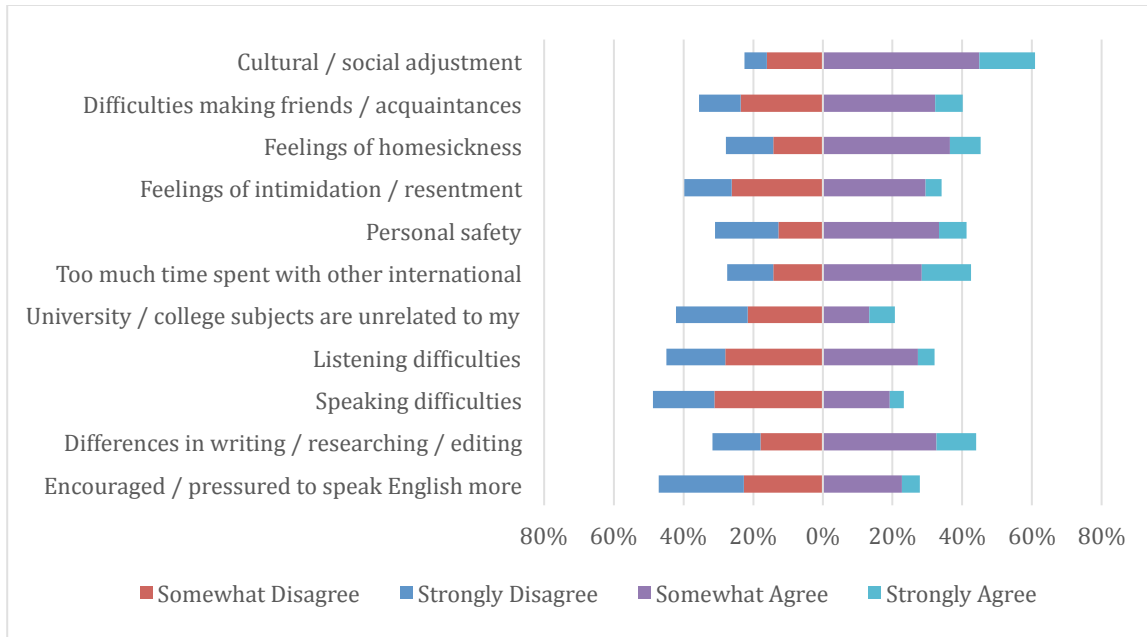


Figure E: Impediments to living in Australia for Indonesian respondents.

While in Indonesia, Australian respondents just like their Indonesian counterparts found cultural and social adjustment to be the most significant issue (68%). Other significant issues include difference in academic styles and being encouraged or preferring to speak English with fellow English speakers (49%, and 45%, respectively). With both Australian and Indonesian students reporting similar in-country needs, it is evident that programs that provide social, lifestyle and academic integration are highly valued among both groups.

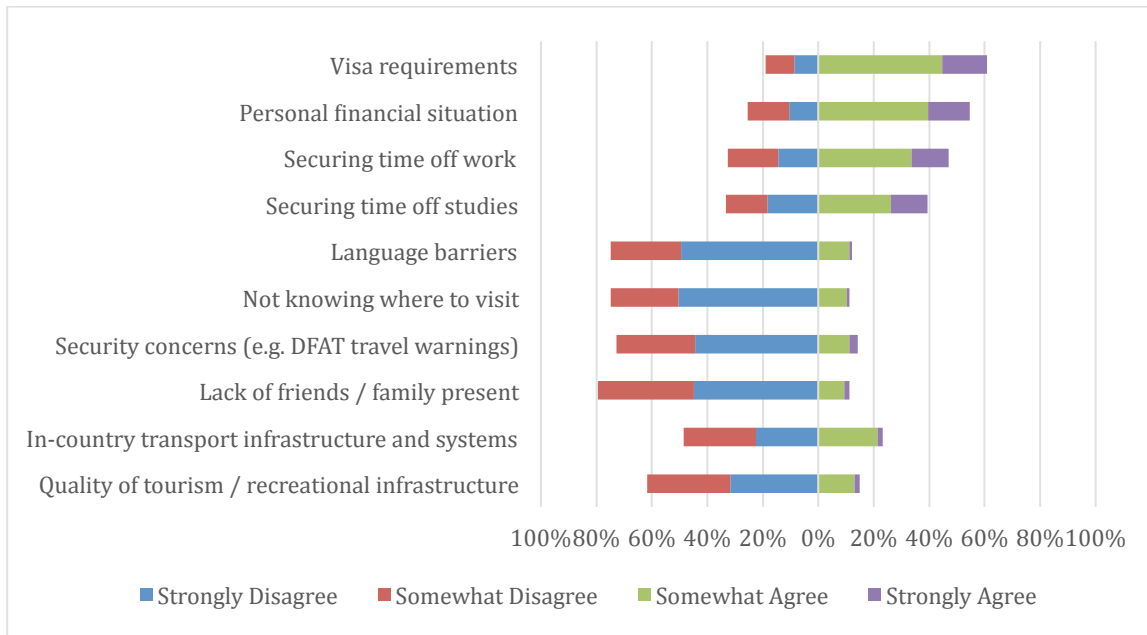


Figure F: Barriers hindering travelling to Indonesia.

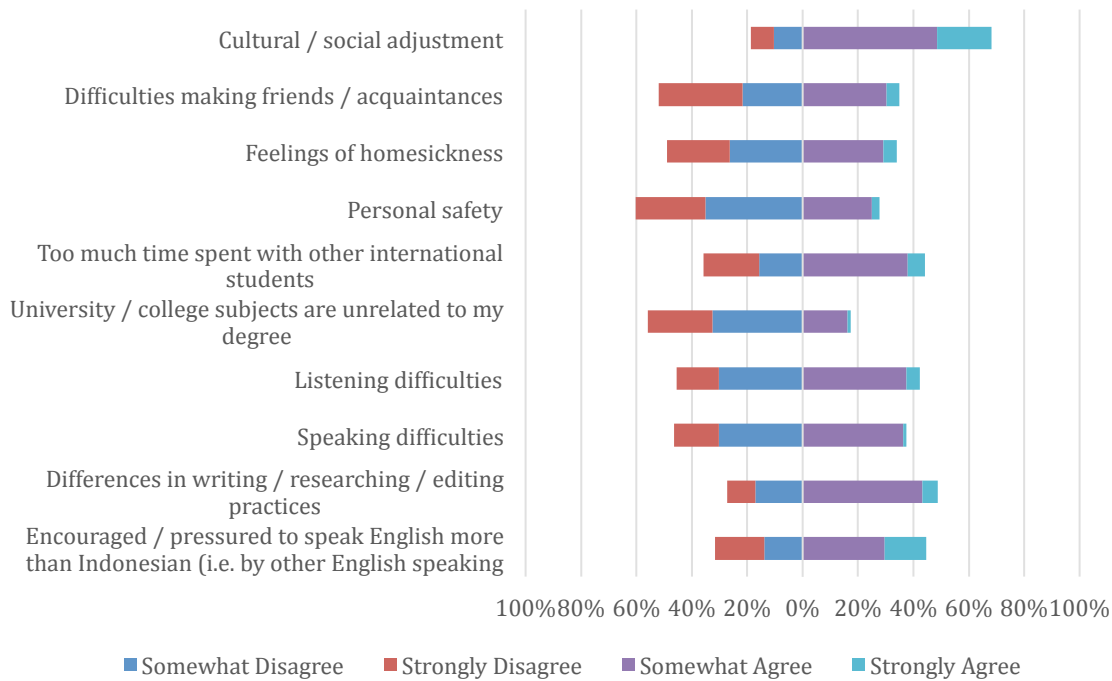


Figure G: Barriers hindering living in Indonesia for Australian Survey Respondents.

Both the Australian and Indonesian respondents were asked about adjustment techniques, and how best one can adjust to their new life, whether it be in Australia or Indonesia. Applying a weighted average measurement approach, Australian respondents feel that the best way to adjust to life in Indonesia is by finding employment or volunteer work (0.6), followed by residing in local housing such as with a family, or a student boarding house (0.58). Similarly, Indonesian respondents regard finding employment or a volunteer position as also important (0.51), but not as important as getting involved with local social or sporting clubs (0.64). Figure 11 illustrates the best ways to adjust to a new country, from the perspective of survey respondents.

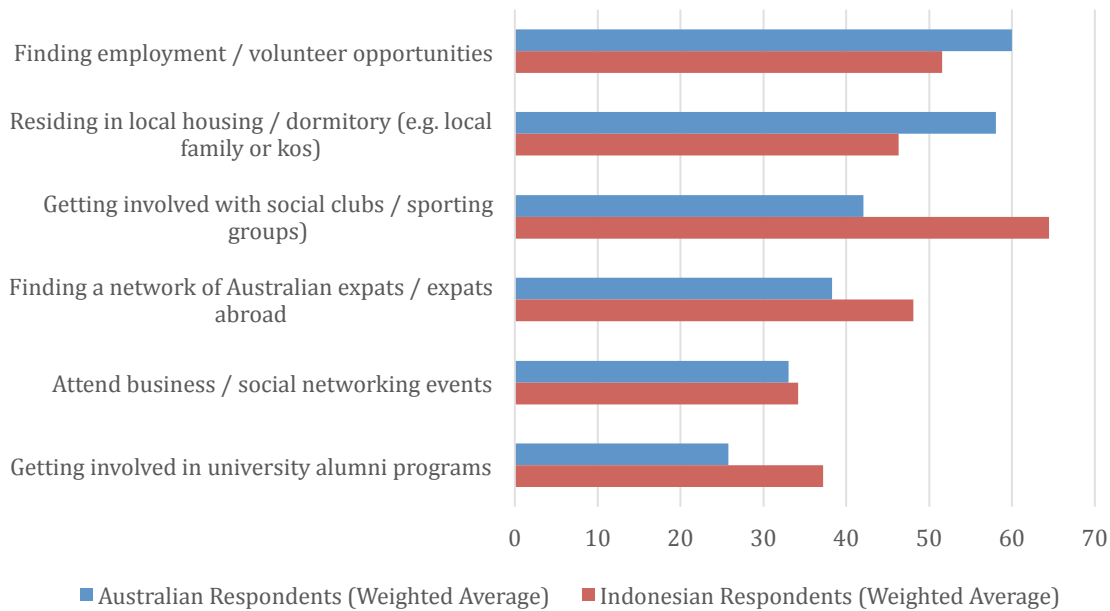


Figure H: Comparison of adjustment techniques.

On the issue of adjustment while spending time in-country, AIYA respondents noted that some useful methods of becoming more comfortable in a new environment were:

- “Mentor program where people who newly arrive in Indonesia [or Australia] can speak to other Australians [or Indonesians] who have been living/working/studying in Indonesia [or Australia] to gain advice and here about their experiences.”
- “Making friends, especially friends that are happy to speak mostly Indonesian [or English] language with you. Establishing regular contact with family and friends back home through email and Skype.”

Part 2: Youth Perceptions of Key Policies in the Australia-Indonesia Relationship

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments on issues pertaining to youth in the Australia-Indonesia relationship. AIYA survey respondents were asked to evaluate the 'intent' and the 'effectiveness' of certain policies. The three policies part two of this report will focus on are the New Colombo Plan, the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) and the Indonesian Government's restrictions on the hiring of foreign workers. The perspectives and individual member responses included within these pages represent a cross section of perspectives received, and should be read in conjunction with the graphics presented

Figures I and J show a weighted average mark for both the favourability of the intent and the favourability of the implementation of each policy. A score of 1 indicates the strong support of 100% of members, while a score of -1 indicates 100% of members are against the policy intent or effectiveness. The accompanying quotations from respondents are representative of the various perspectives of survey respondents and aid in interpreting the quantitative figures provided.

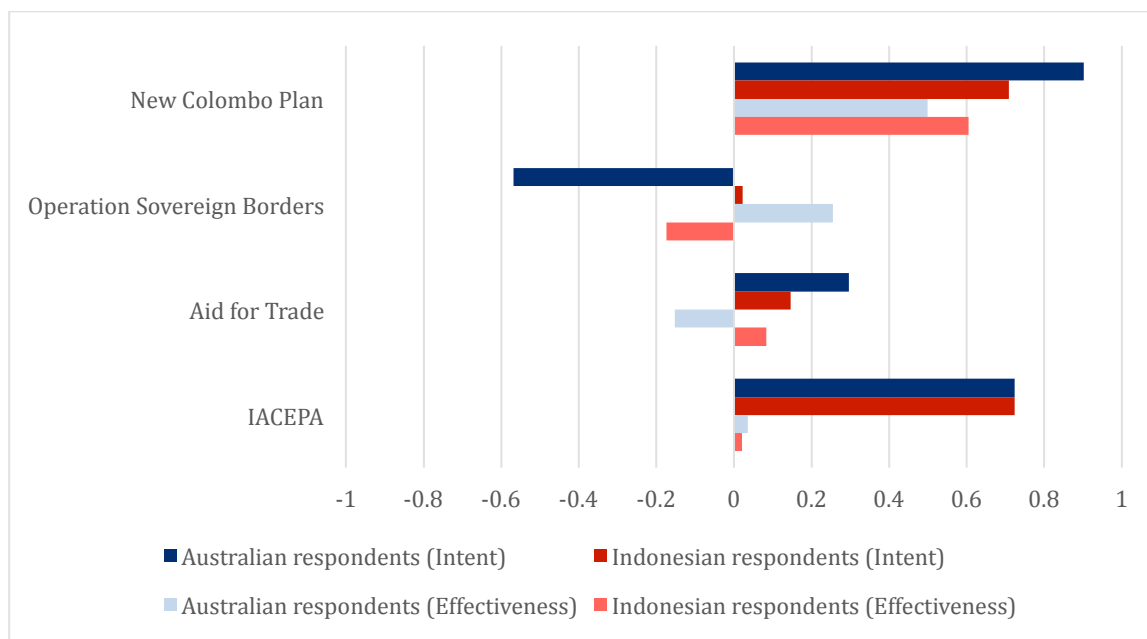


Figure I: AIYA Respondents Perspectives on Australian policies.

New Colombo Plan

The New Colombo Plan promotes cross cultural understanding and increased Indonesian language competency among young Australians by providing scholarships for study of up to one year and internships or mentorships and a flexible mobility grant for both short and longer-term study including practicums and research.

Respondents were strongly in support of the New Colombo Plan. This favourable perception is demonstrated by the very high weighted average recorded in the graph(0.84). Despite the positive response by respondents to the policy's intent, there was considerable concern as to the policy implementation. Particularly, respondents were concerned about the amount of money available to the scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients can access up to AUD \$67,000 for their time in Indonesia, which many respondents regarded as extremely high and reckless expenditure of public funds . Nevertheless, the New Colombo Plan is well supported by AIYA respondents as a means to strengthen the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

Some AIYA respondents noted that:

- “Indonesia (and more broadly Asia) literacy is key in the 'Asian Century' and also the fact that the Indonesian economy is growing consistently at around 8% P.A means business/political interests in Indo will expand and we will need Indo literate people to properly exploit and aid this growth.”
- “I think it would be good if smaller monetary amounts were given to many people instead of a lot to a select few.”
- “This is one of the best ways to promote cross-cultural awareness as well as positive testimonies from either side about the other.”

Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) negotiations commenced in Jakarta in September 2012. IA-CEPA aims to strengthen and expand the trade, investment and economic cooperation relationship between Australia and Indonesia. This partnership agreement will help bring the region's two largest economies closer together and will form a key part of Australia's regional economic integration as part of the Asian Century. Akin to the respondents' warm perceptions of the New Colombo plan, Australian respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the intent driving the IA-CEPA(0.72), compared to their Indonesian counterparts(0.58). However, respondents were a little more sceptical about the effectiveness of this policy. AIYA respondents aired concerns about a lack of confidence in the likely effectiveness of this foreign policy agreement. The following comments demonstrate the sentiment which is that respondents are in favour of the intent, but sceptical about the effectiveness of the IA-CEPA:

- “This overarching trade agreement will touch on a number of key areas and will ultimately increase engagement with the country, grow business links and provide a huge boost to the relationship between our two countries. The single most important piece of work being done between our two countries- no question.”
- “Australia is ill prepared to capitalise on the deals due to lack of knowledge about Indonesia.”
- “I doubt about its effectiveness, because the trust level for Australian to do business with Indonesian, especially in commodity export imports are still very low (Of course there are some importers/exporters, but the number is very few). Most corporate[s] in Australia consider Indonesia as "Dirty Economy" and choose neighbor country like Malaysia or Singapore as their trading partners.”

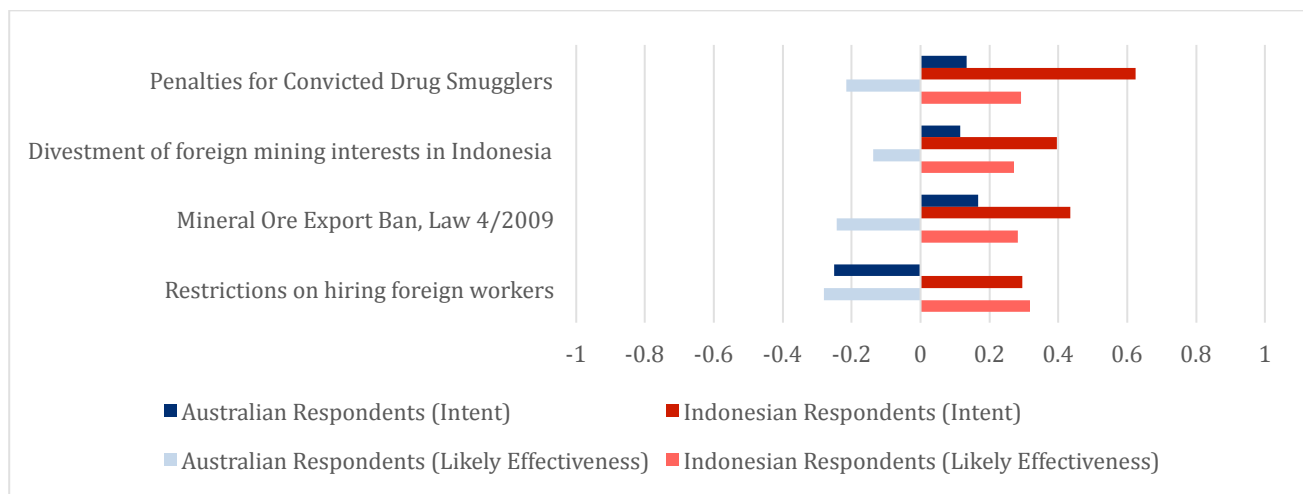


Figure J: AIYA respondents Perspectives on Indonesian Policies.

Indonesian restrictions on foreign workers

The Indonesian Government has been cutting back on the number of foreign worker permits released each year since 2011. The number of KITAS (Kartu Izin Tinggal Terbatas or Limited Stay Permit) visas has been particularly reduced, which affects all sectors the Indonesian workforce. Many Australian respondents are very interested in pursuing a career in Indonesia, and this ambition is hampered by the restrictions currently in place for foreign workers.] This sentiment was reflected in the survey results, which demonstrate the negativity towards both the intent and the likely effectiveness of this policy. Respondents expressed various perspectives, including advocating for greater ease of mobility for both Australian and Indonesian staff, to the view that Indonesian jobs should be reserved for Indonesians. As Indonesia's economy is rapidly growing and maturing, Jakarta believes that the reliance on foreign staff in professional positions is redundant. The below quotations represent the variety of commentary AIYA received:

- “There are ways around a lot of things in Indonesia. You will see more expats be employed as 'Consultants'. Having said that, if an Indonesian national is better qualified to do a job then they should be employed to do so in their country, but if not, then allow foreign expertise to remain.”
- “I think it's important for Indonesia to be able to provide more jobs for locals - however for improved bilateral relationships more exchange would be necessary so ideas and skills could be transferred between both countries.”
- “This policy restricts greater people to people engagement and skills transfer between Australia and Indonesia. Another rent seeking policy that creates a few beneficiaries at disproportionate cost to the broader economy. Companies would replace expat with local workers, when the cost vs skill level justifies it - and Government intervention to accelerate this process stifles the labour market, and actually slows the rate of human capital improvement for Indonesian workers through limiting the opportunities to learn from foreign workers.”