

## Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

### Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW District

#### Southern NSW District Local Priorities

##### We will take a local approach

We know that every local community is different and has distinct needs and priorities. Local knowledge is crucial to identifying and addressing these needs. That's why we're taking a local approach to recommissioning for Targeted Earlier Intervention.

The new TEI program will focus on collecting data so you can learn more about your local community. This will help you to identify needs, as they change, in your area. As the evidence grows, you'll be able to adapt your service to what works in your community. This is crucial to supporting children, young people, families and communities experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, vulnerability in NSW.

Southern NSW District will work with you to identify the needs and priorities of your community. We will look at:


- local priority groups – who needs the services most in your community?
- location – where in your local area are the services needed most?
- service type – what kinds of services will work in your area?

This evidence-based snapshot outlines the main priority groups in your District. This will help you to plan services that can make a real difference in your local area.

##### ISSD Principles - How we are going to work

**Improving Aboriginal outcomes** by enabling access to culturally appropriate and safe strengths-based services and programs to Aboriginal families, children, young people and communities in both Aboriginal-led and mainstream organisations.

**A strong focus on early intervention** to vulnerable families and children across the District. We will provide client-centred and culturally appropriate family support and early childhood services which ensure children are on a trajectory for better outcomes.



**Our District focus** is on safe and nurturing families and communities which promote the wellbeing and appropriate development of infants and children, particularly during their first 2000 days.

**Adopting a place-based approach** in the delivery of TEI services and community strengthening activities, targeting areas of need identified through data and local knowledge.

**Supporting flexibility and innovation** by collaborating and trying new models and projects that are suited to the local context.

## Focus Areas

### Focus locations for Southern NSW

The attached evidence-based snapshot outlines the main priority groups in your District. This will help you to plan services that can make a real difference in your local area as you work with us to refine your approach.

In addition, the following localities are areas of priority focus based on the following factors:

- Low SEIFA score
- High Aboriginal population
- High child vulnerability, young mothers, single parent families
- High unemployment, low income
- Concentrations of social housing
- Correlations between drug and alcohol, mental health and domestic and family violence

### For Southern NSW, these locations are:

Batemans Bay, Moruya, Mogo, Bega, Eden, Queanbeyan, Marysmount and Bradfordville in Goulburn, Yass, and remote villages in the Bega Valley and Cooma Monaro.

Southern NSW priority locations are also characterised by limited public transport and relative geographic isolation.

## Local Priorities for the Southern NSW district

Please note, local priorities are not listed in order of importance.

1. Aboriginal children, families and communities experiencing vulnerabilities and trauma
2. Children, families and communities experiencing systemic disadvantage and challenges (e.g. in education, unemployment, poverty, financial hardship, domestic violence and substance misuse)
3. Children, young people and families who are socially and geographically isolated
4. Supporting children and young people to reach developmental milestones and manage life transitions
5. Refugee and emerging communities

## Evidence

### 1. Aboriginal children, families and communities experiencing vulnerabilities and trauma

- In Southern NSW, 37.0% of children aged 0-5 were identified as vulnerable. Of these vulnerable children, 23.0% identify as Aboriginal.<sup>1</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 16.0% of children under 15 were affected by mental illness. Of these children, 25.0% identify as Aboriginal.<sup>2</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 21.0% of children and young people aged 15-18 were affected by mental illness. Of these children and young people, 23.0% identify as Aboriginal.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2017-18, 2,733 children and young people were reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH) in Southern NSW. Of these children and young people, 587 (21.5%) were Aboriginal.<sup>4</sup>
- As of the 30 June 2018, 463 children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC) in Southern NSW. Of these children and young people, 177 (38.2%) were Aboriginal.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> FACS Administrative data, unpublished.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

## 2. Children, families and communities experiencing systemic disadvantage and challenges (e.g. in education, unemployment, poverty, financial hardship, mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse)

### Vulnerable Children and Young People

- In Southern NSW, 37.0% of children aged 0-5 were identified as vulnerable. Eurobodalla had the largest proportion of vulnerable 0-5-year olds, at 41.0%. This was followed by Goulburn Mulwaree at 39.0% and Bega Valley at 35.0%.<sup>6</sup>
- Of the vulnerable 0-5 year olds in Southern NSW, 28.0% had a concern report, 37.0% had a parent who had interacted with the justice system and 45.0% had a mother who smoked during pregnancy.<sup>7</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 16.0% of children under 15 were affected by mental illness. Eurobodalla had the largest proportion of children under 15 affected by mental illness, at 19.0%. This was followed by Bega Valley, at 18.0%, and Snowy Monaro Regional and Yass Valley, both at 16.0%.<sup>8</sup>
- Children aged under 15 who were affected by mental illness are also vulnerable in other ways. For example, 45.0% of these children have had a concern report, 43.0% had a mother who smoked during pregnancy and 39.0% had parents who have interacted with the justice system.<sup>9</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 21.0% of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 were affected by mental illness. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional had the largest proportion of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness at 34.0%. This was followed by Yass Valley at 24.0% and Bega Valley at 20.0%.<sup>10</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 2,729 children were reported at ROSH in 2016-17. Eurobodalla had the largest number of children reported at ROSH, at 547. This was followed by Goulburn Mulwaree, at 518.<sup>11</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 455 children were in OOHC as of 30 June 2017. Goulburn Mulwaree had the largest number of children in OOHC, at 117. This was followed by Eurobodalla, at 86.<sup>12</sup>

### Education, Employment and Income

- In Southern NSW, 17.4% of people aged 15 and over reported completing a bachelor degree level or above. This is lower than the NSW average of

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<sup>6</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> FACS Datacube.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



23.4%. Only 13.2% of people had completed year 12, this is lower than the NSW average of 15.3%.

- Goulburn Mulwaree has lower levels of educational attainment compared to the rest of the Southern NSW district. Only 11.5% of the population reported completing a bachelor level degree or above. A higher proportion of the population had completed only Year 10, 15.9%, compared to 11.5% in NSW.<sup>13</sup>
- The unemployment rate in Southern NSW is 5.2%. Eurobodalla had the highest proportion of people who were unemployed at 7.1%, followed by Goulburn Mulwaree at 6.3%.<sup>14</sup>
- In Southern NSW, the average family weekly income was \$1,645. This is less than the NSW average of \$1,780. Eurobodalla has the lowest average family weekly income, at \$1,184. This was followed by Bega Valley at \$1,242.<sup>15</sup>
- In Southern NSW, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley had the highest proportions of low-income households. In Eurobodalla, 29.4% of households had less than \$650 a week in income. This was followed by Bega Valley, at 29.1%. This is much higher than the NSW average of 19.7%.<sup>16</sup>

## **Domestic Violence**

- In Southern NSW, 622 domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence-related assaults were most likely to occur in the Eurobodalla LGA, with a rate of 464.8 per 100,000 people.<sup>17</sup>

## **Substance Misuse**

- In Southern NSW, drug offences related to cannabis possession or use were most common. Yass Valley had the highest rate of cannabis-related offences, at 483.9 per 100,000 of the population. This was followed by Eurobodalla at 372.9 per 100,000 of the population.<sup>18</sup>
- Drug offences related to amphetamine possession or use were the next most common in the Southern NSW District. Goulburn Mulwaree had the highest rate of amphetamine-related offences, at 193.1 per 100,000 of the population. This was followed by Eurobodalla at 86.7 of the population.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: [https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar\\_crime\\_stats/bocsar\\_lgaexceltables.aspx](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx)

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

### 3. Children, young people and families who are socially or geographically isolated

- In Southern NSW, 4.7% of households had no registered motor vehicle. Goulburn Mulwaree had the highest proportion of households with no registered motor vehicle, at 7.3%.<sup>20</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 17.9% of households had no internet access. The highest proportion of households with no internet access was in Upper Lachlan Shire at 24.8%. This was followed by Goulburn Mulwaree at 22.9%.<sup>21</sup>

### 4. Supporting children and young people to reach developmental milestones and manage life transitions

- In Southern NSW, 9.2% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more AEDC domains. Yass Valley had the highest proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains, at 12.1%. This was followed by Eurobodalla at 11.4% and Bega Valley at 10.3%.<sup>22</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 20.1% of children were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain. Eurobodalla had the highest proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain, at 23.1%. This was followed by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional at 22.3% and Yass Valley at 21.0%.<sup>23</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 5.2% of students received short suspensions of four days or less in 2018. This was higher than the NSW state average of 4.0%.<sup>24</sup>
- In Southern NSW 2.5% of students received long suspensions of 4-20 school days in Southern NSW. This was similar to the NSW state average of 1.5%.<sup>25</sup>

### 5. Refugee and emerging communities

- In 2017, 639 migrants settled in Southern NSW. 254 of these migrants were family migrants and 385 were skilled migrants. No humanitarian migrants settled in the region in 2017.<sup>26</sup>
- In Southern NSW, 21.5% of people were born overseas. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional had the highest proportion of overseas born residents at 25.0%.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>21</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>22</sup> AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>


<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Suspensions and Expulsions in NSW government schools (2015-2018): <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/suspensions-and-expulsions-in-nsw-government-schools>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Department of Social Services, Settlement Data Reports January 2017 to 31 December 2017: <https://www.data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-8d1b90a9-a4d7-4b10-ad6a-8273722c8628/details>

<sup>27</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

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- In Southern NSW, 8.8% of households spoke a language other than English at home. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional had the highest proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home, at 15.6%.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid.