

# Nepean Blue Mountains District Data Profile

Western Sydney and  
Nepean Blue Mountains



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# Introduction

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This document presents a brief data profile for the Nepean Blue Mountains district. It contains a series of tables and graphs that show the characteristics of persons, families and communities. It includes demographic, housing, child development, community safety and child protection information. Where possible, we present this information at the local government area (LGA) level.

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district there are four LGAs:

- Blue Mountains
- Hawkesbury
- Lithgow
- Penrith

The data presented in this document is from a number of different sources, including:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)
- NSW Health Stats
- Australian Early Developmental Census (AEDC)
- NSW Government administrative data



The majority of these sources are publicly available. We have provided source statements for each table and graph. This tells you where the data comes from and where you can find more information.

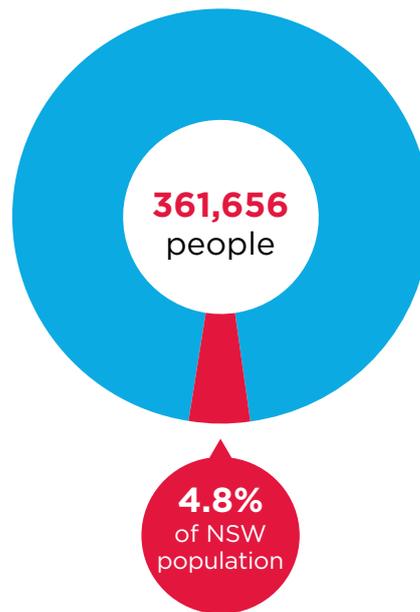
Please note, the information in the original sources may change as authors (e.g. ABS, NSW Healthstats) update the data. As such, we have also recorded the data we accessed the information.

If you would like additional suburb-level and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific data, the following sources are available to you:

- The ABS provides demographic, cultural and linguistic diversity, employment and housing data at a suburb level through Quick Stats: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>. For example, for the Lithgow suburb, select 'Lithgow, NSW: State Suburb (SSC)' from the drop down menu.
- The ABS also ranks suburbs on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA): [http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SEIFA\\_SSC](http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SEIFA_SSC). For more information on the SEIFA, see page 51.
- BOSCAR records criminal offences at a suburb level: [https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar\\_datasets/Datasets-.aspx](https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_datasets/Datasets-.aspx). Follow the 'Suburb' link in the Geographic breakdown category for a spreadsheet containing all suburb-level crime data.
- Information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, families and dwellings, including comparisons with non-Indigenous people, is also available at LGA level through the ABS 2016 Census Community Profiles: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>. For example, for information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Lithgow, select 'Lithgow (C), NSW: Local Government Area (LGA)' from the drop down menu, and follow the link for the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile'.

# Nepean Blue Mountains District

## Demographics



## Census 2016



**Median age = 40**  
NSW median age = **38**



**13,160** people in this  
district are  
**Aboriginal and/or  
Torres Strait Islander**  
(**3.6%**)

## Economic Environment



**16.7%**  
Bachelor degree  
level or above  
**23.4% NSW  
average**



**5.0%**  
Unemployment  
rate  
NSW: **6.3%**



**192,460**  
Total labour  
force



**\$664**  
Median weekly  
personal income  
**\$664 NSW  
average**

## Social Environment



**25%**  
People born  
overseas  
**34.5% NSW  
average**



**15.7%**  
Households where  
a non-English  
language is spoken  
at home  
**26.5% NSW average**



**1,261**  
Migrants in 2017



**1,799**  
Domestic  
assaults in 2018

## Children, Young People and Families



**2.9%**  
Mothers giving  
birth aged 19  
and under  
**1.9% NSW average**



**5,093**  
Children and  
young people at  
risk of significant  
harm 2016-17



**1,436**  
Children and  
young people in  
out-of-home care  
2016-17



**9.9%**  
Children  
developmentally  
vulnerable on  
2 or more AEDC  
domains 2018

## Disability



**5.2%**  
People need  
assistance with  
core activity  
**5.4% NSW  
average**



**2.6**  
Average no.  
of people per  
household  
**2.6 NSW average**



**5,796**  
Social housing  
dwellings,  
June 2018  
**3.8% of NSW  
dwellings**



**3,375**  
Public and AHO  
housing tenancies  
- June 2018  
**3.0% of NSW  
tenancies**

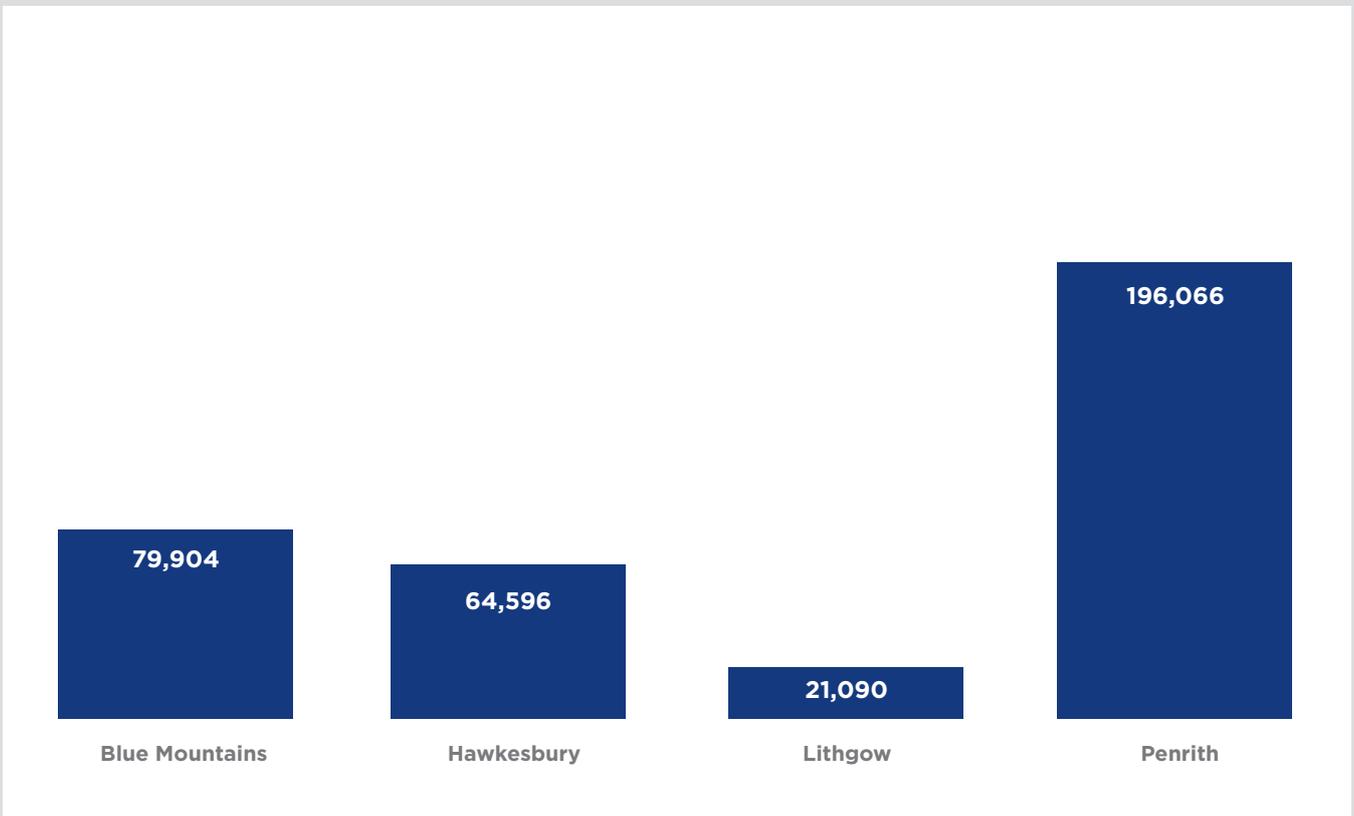
## Households and social housing

# Demographic Data

## Population – Nepean Blue Mountains

The population in the Nepean Blue Mountains district was estimated at 361,656 in the 2016 Census. This district is made up of four local government areas (LGAs). The largest LGA is Penrith, with an estimated population of 196,066. The smallest LGA is Lithgow with an estimated population of 21,090 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Population of Nepean Blue Mountains District, by LGA



Source: Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

The median age in New South Wales (NSW) is 38 years of age. In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, the Hawkesbury LGA has the same median age at the state average. The Blue Mountains and Lithgow both have an older population with their median ages at 44 and 45, respectively. Penrith had the youngest population with a median aged of 34.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of age for each LGA in the Nepean Blue Mountains district.

Table 1. Age breakdown of the population by LGA in Western Sydney District

Age Group (years)	Blue Mountains		Hawkesbury		Lithgow		Penrith		Nepean Blue Mountains	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	4,232	5.5	4,101	6.4	1,178	5.6	14,478	7.4	23,989	6.7
5-9	4,924	6.4	4,358	6.7	1,230	5.8	14,113	7.2	24,625	6.9
10-14	4,917	6.4	4,409	6.8	1,183	5.6	12,694	6.5	23,203	6.5
15-19	4,769	6.2	4,580	7.1	1,193	5.7	13,037	6.6	23,579	6.6
20-24	3,631	4.7	4,387	6.8	1,100	5.2	14,119	7.2	23,237	6.5
25-29	3,184	4.1	4,230	6.6	1,175	5.6	15,044	7.7	23,633	6.6
30-34	3,800	4.9	3,796	5.9	1,082	5.1	15,251	7.8	23,929	6.7
35-39	4,379	5.7	3,742	5.8	1,043	4.9	13,968	7.1	23,132	6.5
40-44	5,304	6.9	4,375	6.8	1,298	6.2	13,488	6.9	24,465	6.8
45-49	5,545	7.2	4,869	7.5	1,310	6.2	12,653	6.5	24,377	6.8
50-54	5,437	7.1	4,680	7.2	1,551	7.4	12,086	6.2	23,754	6.6
55-59	5,947	7.7	4,310	6.7	1,626	7.7	11,998	6.1	23,881	6.7
59-64	5,811	7.6	3,520	5.5	1,463	6.9	10,229	5.2	21,023	5.9
65+	15,022	19.4	9,219	14.4	4,644	22	22,917	11.7	51,802	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,902</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64,576</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21,076</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>196,075</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>358,629</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total in NSW</b>									<b>7,480,228</b>	<b>4.8</b>

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)



# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 3.6% (n=13,160) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (see Table 2), this is slightly more than the NSW state average of 2.9%.

Lithgow had the highest proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, at 5.8%, followed by Penrith (3.9%), Hawkesbury (3.7%) and then the Blue Mountains (2.3%).

The majority of these people are children and young people; 55% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Nepean Blue Mountains district are under 25 years old. This is significantly higher than the NSW state average, where only 28.6% of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population are under 25 years old.



**Table 2. Population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Western Sydney, by Age**

Age Group (years)	Blue Mountains		Hawkesbury		Lithgow		Penrith		Nepean Blue Mountains	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	198	10.9	293	12.2	131	10.8	947	12.2	1,569	11.9
5-9	228	12.6	284	11.9	136	11.2	912	11.8	1,560	11.9
10-14	214	11.8	277	11.6	121	10.0	810	10.5	1,422	10.8
15-19	206	11.3	267	11.2	109	9.0	848	11.0	1,430	10.9
20-24	142	7.8	205	8.6	105	8.6	800	10.3	1,252	9.5
25-29	104	5.7	189	7.9	104	8.6	606	7.8	1,003	7.6
30-34	98	5.4	127	5.3	63	5.2	489	6.3	777	5.9
35-39	89	4.9	104	4.3	63	5.2	428	5.5	684	5.2
40-44	104	5.7	125	5.2	93	7.7	480	6.2	802	6.1
45-49	91	5.0	134	5.6	53	4.4	392	5.1	670	5.1
50-54	94	5.2	112	4.7	50	4.1	312	4.0	568	4.3
55-59	85	4.7	105	4.4	54	4.4	246	3.2	490	3.7
60-64	57	3.1	68	2.8	48	4.0	192	2.5	365	2.8
65 and above	105	5.8	102	4.3	85	7.0	276	3.6	568	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>% of LGA population</b>	<b>2.3</b>		<b>3.7</b>		<b>5.8</b>		<b>3.9</b>		<b>% of district pop. 3.6</b>	

Source: ABS Community Profiles, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles> (accessed 30 September 2019)

## Country of birth

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 75% of residents were born in Australia (see Table 3). This is higher than the NSW state average of 65.5%. The most common birthplaces, other than Australia, were England, New Zealand, Germany, and the Philippines

**Table 3. Country of Birth in Nepean Blue Mountains, by LGA**

Blue Mountains			Hawkesbury		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	60,028	78.1	Australia	52,544	81.4
<b>Other top responses</b>					
England	4,385	5.7	England	2,351	3.6
New Zealand	1,121	1.5	New Zealand	833	1.3
Germany	557	0.7	Malta	475	0.7
Scotland	539	0.7	Germany	298	0.5
United States of America	445	0.5	Philippines	261	0.4
Lithgow			Penrith		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	16,782	79.7	Australia	141,876	72.4
<b>Other top responses</b>					
England	542	2.6	England	6,123	3.1
New Zealand	208	1.0	New Zealand	3,867	2.0
Scotland	103	0.5	Philippines	3,797	1.9
Philippines	94	0.4	India	3,763	1.9
Germany	78	0.4	Malta	1,236	0.6

**Source:** ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Languages spoken at home

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 81.5% of residents spoke only English at home (see Table 4). This is higher than the NSW state average of 68.5%.

The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Penrith, at 20.7%, followed by Hawkesbury (9.3%), Blue Mountains (8.8%) and then Lithgow (5.1%).

**Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Nepean Blue Mountains, by LGA**

Blue Mountains			Hawkesbury		
	No.	%	Country	No.	%
English only spoken at home	68,689	89.3	English only spoken at home	57,007	88.3
Households where a non-English language is spoken	2,652	8.8	Households where a non-English language is spoken	2,091	9.3
<b>Top responses other than English</b>					
German	419	0.5	Maltese	600	0.9
Spanish	396	0.5	Italian	289	0.4
Italian	276	0.4	Cantonese	218	0.3
Mandarin	274	0.4	German	193	0.3
French	236	0.3	Arabic	193	0.3
Lithgow			Penrith		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
English only spoken at home	17,905	84.9	English only spoken at home	151,300	77.2
Households where a non-English language is spoken	438	5.1	Households where a non-English language is spoken	13,894	20.7
<b>Top responses other than English</b>					
Italian	60	0.3	Arabic	3,137	1.6
Arabic	45	0.2	Tagalog	2,117	1.1
German	44	0.2	Hindi	1,747	0.9
Cantonese	44	0.2	Punjabi	1,667	0.9
Vietnamese	34	0.2	Maltese	1,424	0.7

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Migration Stream

Only 1.6% of migrants who arrived in NSW from 1 January to 31 December 2017 settled in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 5). The largest number of migrants to the District settled in Penrith LGA. Most of these migrants were skilled migrations (n=407) and family migrants (n=499).

Only 56 humanitarian migrants migrated the Nepean Blue Mountains district. All of these humanitarian migrants settled in the Penrith LGA.

**Table 5. Migration Stream in Nepean Blue Mountains, by LGA, between 1 January and 31 December 2017**

LGA	Migration Stream			Total
	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	
Blue Mountains	90	0	46	136
Hawkesbury	67	0	65	132
Lithgow	25	0	6	31
Penrith	499	56	407	962
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>1,261</b>
<b>Total NSW</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>6,514</b>	<b>47,002</b>	<b>80,794</b>

**Source:** 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> (accessed 3 October 2019).

# Children and Young People

## Government schools

The following tables provide information about the government schools in the four LGAs that make up the Nepean Blue Mountain district. These tables provide information on the following factors:

<b>No. of FTE enrolments</b>	The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments indicates the number of students who attended the school over the course of the academic year. For example, 39.2 means 39 students were enrolled full time for one academic year and one student was enrolled for a fifth of the year.
<b>% of ATSI</b>	The percentage of FTE students enrolled who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
<b>% of LBOTE</b>	The percentage of students (headcount) who have a language background other than English (LBOTE). A student has a LBOTE if they, or their parents or guardians, speak a language other than English at home.
<b>ISCEA value</b>	<p>The Index of Community Socio-Education Advantage (ICSEA) provides information about the socio-educational backgrounds of a school's students. This is worked out by looking at the parents' occupation and education, a school's geographical location, and the proportion of Indigenous students.</p> <p>The ICSEA is set at an average of 1000. The lower the ICSEA level, the lower the educational advantage of students who go to this school. The highest score of a public school in New South Wales is 1245, and the lowest score is 543.</p>
<b>% School attendance</b>	The attendance rate is the number of actual FTE student days attended by full-time students in Years 1-10 in Semester One as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended in semester one.

There are 102 government schools in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 6a-6d):

- 23 in the Blue Mountains LGA
- 18 in the Hawkesbury LGA
- 11 in the Lithgow LGA
- 50 in the Penrith LGA

The largest of these schools is Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School (1082.2 FTE enrolments), and the smallest is Hampton Public School (seven FTE enrolments). The highest Indigenous population was in Kingswood Park Public School in Penrith (44%) and the highest LBOTE population is Penrith High School (87%).

Penrith High School is also the school with the highest ISCEA in the district (1164). The school with the lower ISCEA score is Windsor South Public School (853). The school with the highest school attendance rate is Glen Alice Public School in the Lithgow district (97.6%).

**Table 6a. Profile of government schools in the Blue Mountains LGA**

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Blackheath Public School	342	2	13	1075	93.6
Blaxland East Public School	408	4	10	1060	94.9
Blaxland High School	994.2	5	9	1053	91.1
Blaxland Public School	113	11	14	1033	92.7
Ellison Public School	307	5	6	1056	93.7
Falconbridge Public School	322	2	7	1051	93.9
Glenbrook Public School	285	np	11	1110	96.3
Hazelbrook Public School	409	8	9	1033	94.9
Katoomba High School	801.6	6	12	1023	87.3
Katoomba North Public School	141	13	16	974	91.8
Katoomba Public School	295	4	10	1053	93.2
Lapstone Public School	243	np	10	1112	96
Lawson Public School	206	10	8	1008	91.1
Leura Public School	248	np	13	1077	93.9
Megalong Public School	8	0	np	1047	96.2
Mount Riverview Public School	215	5	13	1056	96.1
Mount Victoria Public School	69	19	22	952	90.3

**Table 6a. Profile of government schools in the Blue Mountains LGA (continued)**

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Springwood High School	663.1	5	10	1038	88.5
Springwood Public School	460	4	14	1074	93.7
Warrimoo Public School	165	4	4	1081	94.8
Wentworth Falls Public School	377	2	16	1078	92.8
Winmalee High School	873.6	4	8	1053	90.9
Winmalee Public School	359	6	8	1033	94.1

**Table 6b. Profile of the government schools in the Hawkesbury LGA**

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bilpin Public School	58	np	np	1013	93.7
Bligh Park Public School	301	13	11	933	92.1
Cattai Public School	52	0	0	1014	92.1
Colo Heights Public School	42	np	np	946	92.3
Colo High School	912.2	5	9	1005	88.9
Comleroy Road Public School	121	np	7	1009	92.4
Ebenezer Public School	134	7	7	995	92.9
Freemans Reach Public School	182	9	10	960	94.8
Glossodia Public School	219	5	np	981	94.2
Grose View Public School	224	8	9	1001	94.3
Hawkesbury High School	422.2	11	10	946	88.4
Hobartville Public School	368	8	9	960	93.7
Kurmond Public School	161	6	10	1018	94.7

Table 6b. Profile of the government schools in the Hawkesbury LGA (continued)

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Kurrajong East Public School	59	12	np	969	95.8
Kurrajong North Public School	104	np	14	1044	95.9
Kurrajong Public School	246	np	8	1036	95.9
Macdonald Valley Public School	15	np	np	952	95.3
Maraylya Public School	103	np	np	1033	94.3
Oakville Public School	437	4	10	992	95.5
Pitt Town Public School	295	np	6	1011	94.3
Richmond High School	601.6	12	8	935	94.7
Richmond North Public School	237	8	9	969	87.1
Richmond Public School	364	7	17	1017	93.1
Wilberforce Public School	351	2	5	999	94.6
Windsor High School	439.8	16	9	916	86.8
Windsor Park Public School	228	19	4	921	93.1
Windsor Public School	162	21	12	931	93.6
Windsor South Public School	205	30	10	853	91.9

Table 6c. Profile of government schools in the Lithgow LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Capertee Public School	7	np	0	995	94.7
Coerwull Public School	405	20	8	909	92.6
Cullen Bullen Public School	27	np	np	895	93.7
Glen Alice Public School	10	np	np	887	97.6
Hampton Public School	6	np	0		sp
Lithgow High School	798.2	14	4	928	85.8
Lithgow Public School	413	10	9	936	91.2
Meadow Flat Public School	50	20	np	955	91.9
Portland Central School	127	23	6	842	89.4
Wallerawang Public School	302	16	5	924	93.9
Zig Zag Public School	88	15	8	932	91.2

Table 6d. Profile of government schools in the Penrith LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Banks Public School	391	6	32	944	93.9
Bennett Road Public School	567	12	35	911	91.7
Blackwell Public School	649	5	24	981	93.5
Braddock Public School	295	27	13	853	90.5
Cambridge Gardens Public School	457	11	16	968	93.2
Cambridge Park High School	706.6	12	20	910	86.5
Cambridge Park Public School	574	21	17	895	92.1
Castlereagh Public School	109	7	16	973	95.4
Chifley College Dunheved Campus	327	27	31	848	81.2

Table 6d. Profile of government schools in the Penrith LGA (continued)

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Clairgate Public School	416	5	24	980	93.2
Claremont Meadows Public School	554	6	27	987	93.3
Colyton High School	683.6	10	39	895	86.1
Cranebrook High School	738.3	18	10	916	83.9
Emu Heights Public School	324	4	8	1013	95.3
Emu Plains Public School	469	7	11	991	94.1
Erskine Park High School	957	5	30	977	90.7
Glenmore Park High School	840.6	8	16	970	88.5
Glenmore Park Public School	659	6	27	998	93.5
Henry Fulton Public School	420	5	29	1008	92.4
James Erskine Public School	586	5	28	991	94.2
Jamison High School	990	8	16	964	87.3
Jamisontown Public School	356	8	11	986	93.5
Kingswood High School	733.8	9	22	939	85.9
Kingswood Park Public School	142	44	12	812	90.5
Kingswood Public School	442	5	70	1053	93.6
Kingswood South Public School	319	13	31	950	92.7
Leonay Public School	268	6	9	1038	95.3
Llandilo Public School	365	8	26	952	93.6
Londonderry Public School	213	9	10	930	93.7
Mulgoa Public School	81	np	18	1016	94.8
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School	1082.2	7	14	996	90.1
Orchard Hills Public School	128	np	35	1003	94.3

Table 6d. Profile of government schools in the Penrith LGA (continued)

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Oxley Park Public School	522	9	44	937	92.2
Penrith High School	918.5	np	87	1164	95.5
Penrith Public School	418	8	40	980	92.2
Penrith South Public School	507	12	20	954	93.8
Putland School	73	23	65	905	92.2
Regentville Public School	686	4	10	1008	94.6
Samuel Terry Public School	522	13	11	972	95.2
St Clair High School	664	8	38	936	86.2
St Clair Public School	283	9	40	957	91.5
St Marys North Public School	386	29	25	867	90.5
St Marys Public School	262	11	46	926	92.8
St Marys Senior High School	896.8	1	66	1040	na
St Marys South Public School	313	6	38	957	91.5
Surveyors Creek Public School	562	1	18	1018	94.7
Wallacia Public School	82	7	13	949	92.7
Werrington County Public School	444	8	8	959	92.9
Werrington Public School	437	10	27	944	91.3
York Public School	550	7	12	972	94.2

Source: 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> (accessed 9 October 2019)

The Department of Education also provides information about suspensions and expulsions from government schools at the district level<sup>1</sup>.

Table 7 shows that the Nepean Blue Mountains district has a slightly higher proportion of students who received short suspensions (four days or less) in 2018 compared to the NSW state average. In 2018, 4.2% of students received short suspensions in Nepean Blue Mountains, compared to 4.0% in NSW. The proportion of students who received long suspensions (4-20 school days) was equal to the NSW state average of 1.5%.

**Table 7. Suspensions and expulsions from government schools in Nepean Blue Mountains district, 2018**

	Nepean Blue Mountains	New South Wales
Total short suspensions <sup>1</sup>	2,783	52,755
Total number of students short suspended	1,779	32,343
Students short suspended as % of enrolment	4.2%	4.0%
Total long suspensions	803	17,235
Total number students long suspended <sup>2</sup>	621	12,355
Students long suspended as % of enrolment	1.5%	1.5%
Students expelled for misbehaviour	<5 <sup>3</sup>	175
Expulsion for unsatisfactory participation	<5 <sup>3</sup>	122

**Source:** 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> (accessed 9 October 2019)

- <sup>1</sup> includes students on short suspension (four days or less) on more than one occasion  
<sup>2</sup> includes students on long suspension (four to 20 school days) on more than one occasion  
<sup>3</sup> In order to protect individual students' identities, values 5 and under are represented as <5

<sup>1</sup> To our knowledge, LGA data is unavailable



## Early childhood development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the early childhood development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. It measures this across five domains that predict later health, education and social outcomes:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge

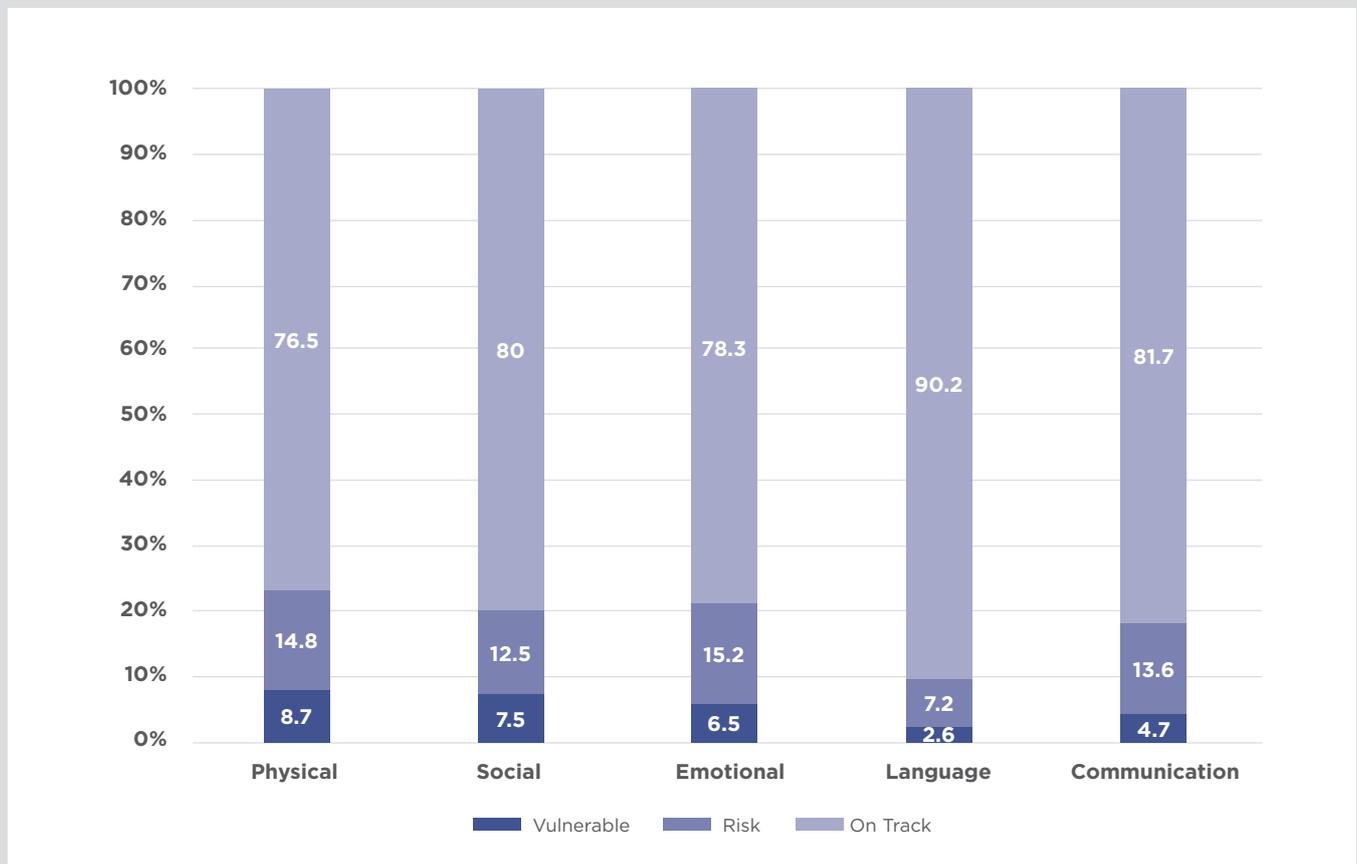
### MORE INFORMATION

More information about the AEDC domains can be found in the [About the AEDC Domains](#) fact sheet.

The AEDC results can tell us if children are developmentally on track or if they need more support through their school years.

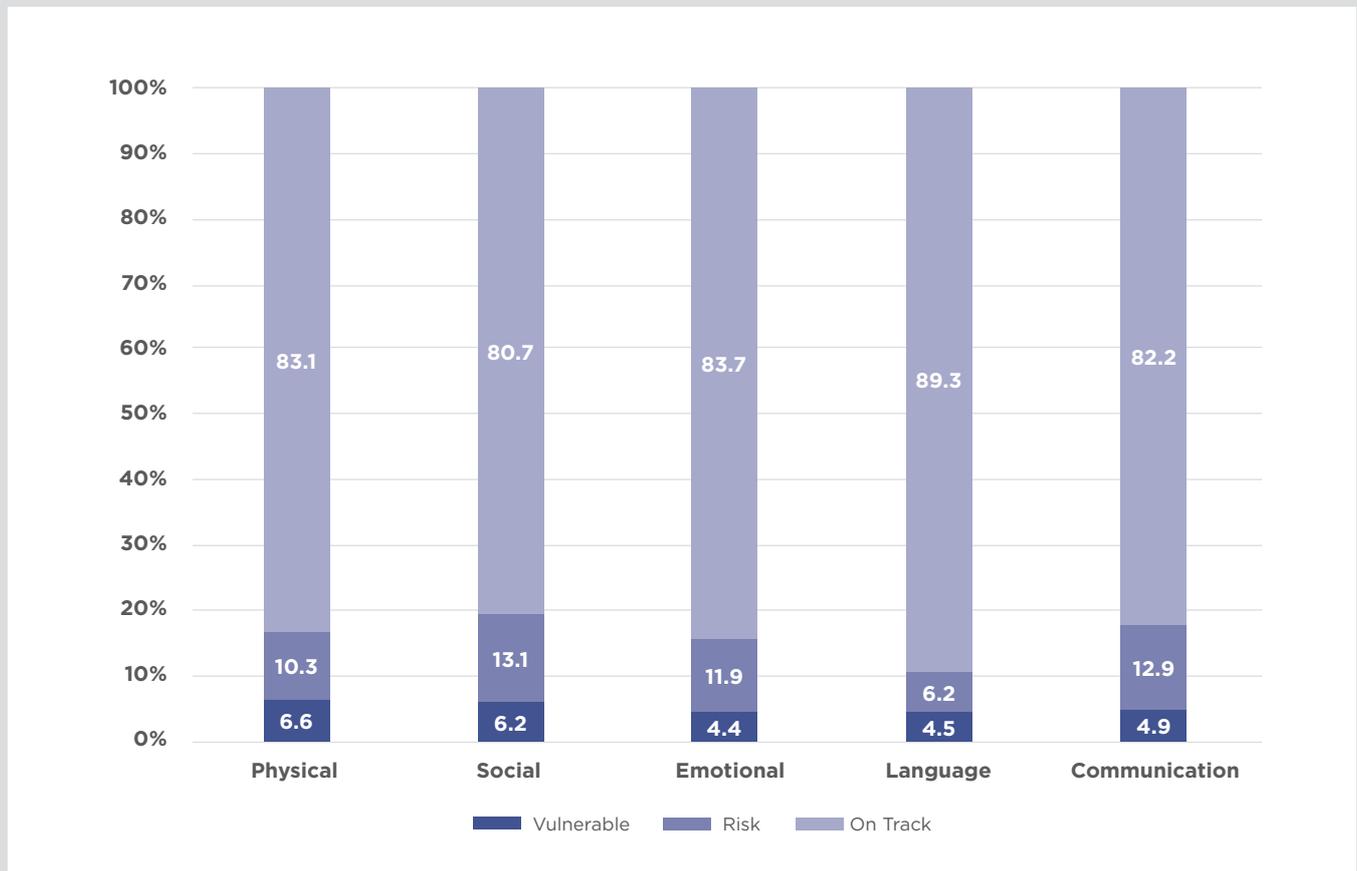
In the 2018 AEDC, the majority of children in the Nepean Blue Mountains district were developmentally 'on track' (see Figures 2-5). In all four LGAs, over 67% of children were developmentally on track for each of the five AEDC domains. The proportion of children developmentally 'at risk' and 'vulnerable' was greater in the Penrith LGA.

Figure 2. 2018 AEDC results for the Blue Mountains LGA



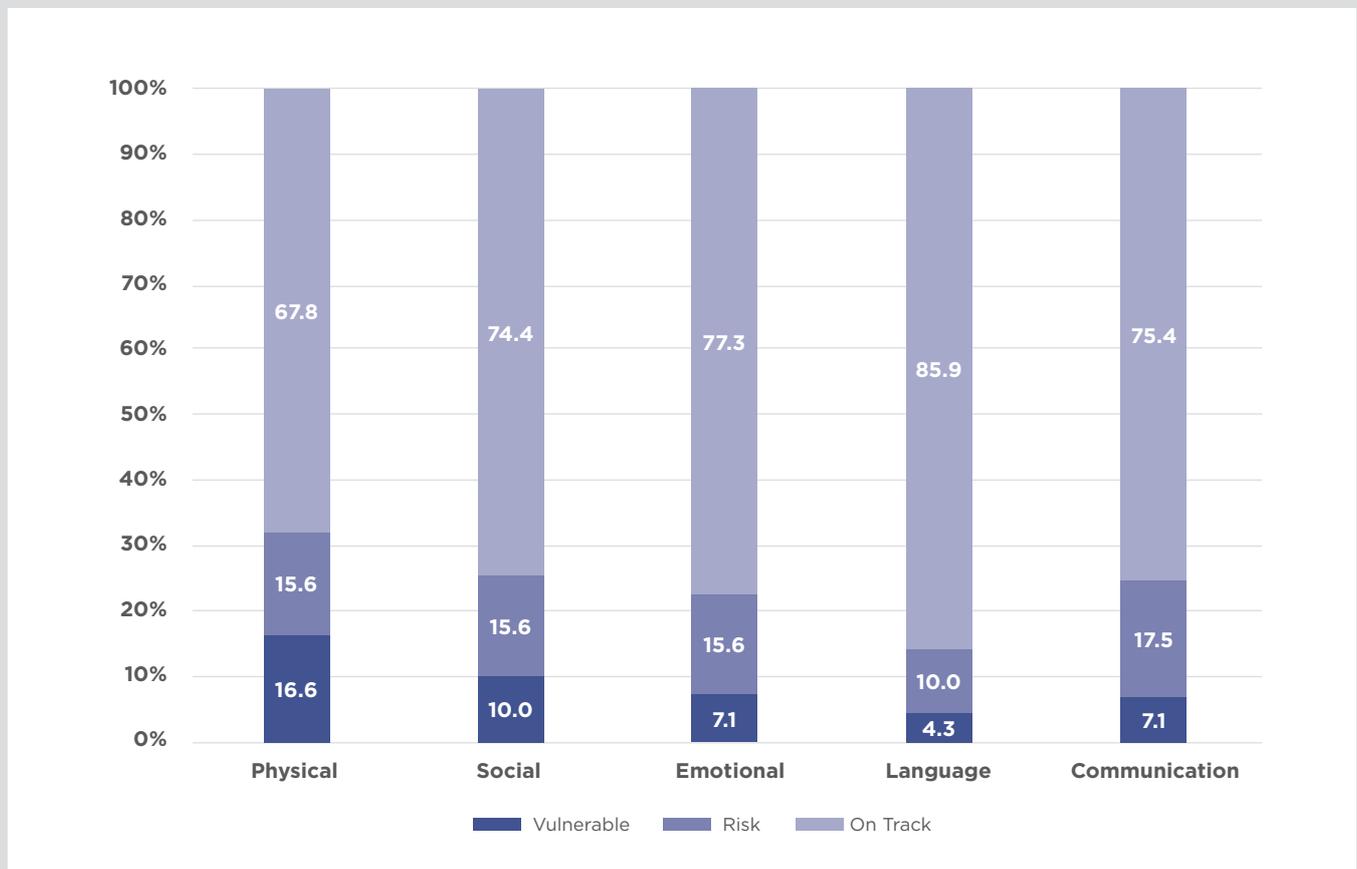
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 3 October 2019)

**Figure 3. 2018 AEDC results for Hawkesbury LGA**



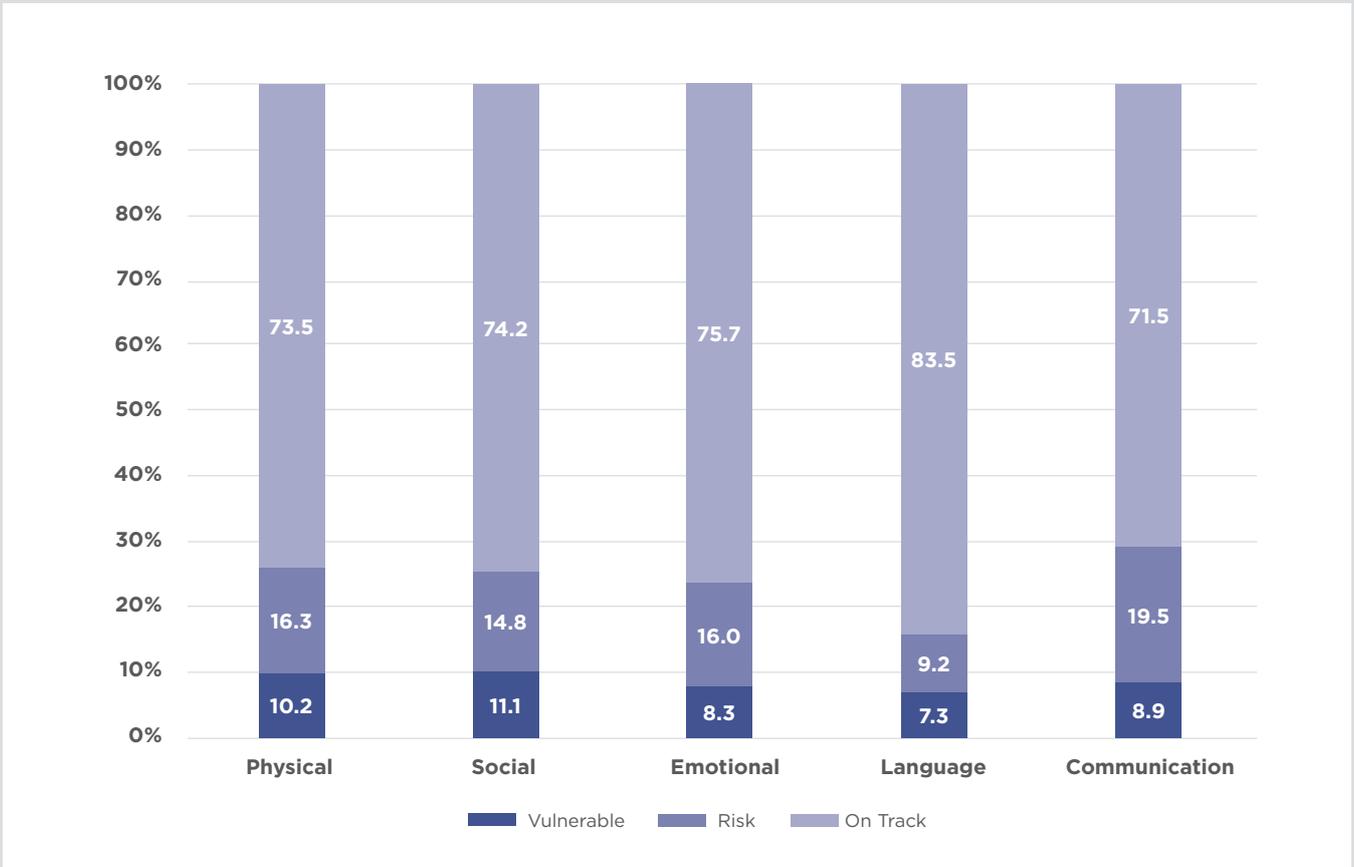
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 3 October 2019)

**Figure 4. 2018 AEDC results for Lithgow LGA**



Source: Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 3 October 2019)

Figure 5. 2018 AEDC results for Penrith LGA



Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 3 October 2019)

The AEDC also has two summary indicators that measure developmental vulnerability across all five domains.

In 2018, 9.9% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 8). This was slightly higher in Penrith (12.0%) and Lithgow (13.7%) and slightly lower in the Blue Mountains (7.8%) and Hawkesbury (6.7%).

**Table 8. Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable in Western Sydney District, by LGA, 2018**

	Developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domain		Developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains		Total no. of children measured
	No.	%	No.	%	
Blue Mountains	138	16.9	64	7.8	866
Hawkesbury	125	15.5	54	6.7	840
Lithgow	49	23.2	29	13.7	216
Penrith	674	24.0	338	12.0	2,954
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>4,876</b>
NSW	18,583	19.9	9,001	9.6	97,731

Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 3 October 2019)



# Vulnerable children and young people

Using the Their Futures Matter (TFM) Human Services Dataset, TFM identified three vulnerable groups of children and young people in NSW:

<b>Young children aged 0-5</b>	Children aged 5 or younger at 30 June 2017 with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 or more parental risk factors</li><li>• 2 or more perinatal risk factors</li><li>• Assessment as at ROSH</li></ul>
<b>Children aged under 15 and affected by mental illness</b>	Children under 15 years at 30 June 2017 with one or more the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)</li><li>• Parental use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)</li></ul>
<b>Children and young people aged 15-18 and affected by mental illness</b>	Children and young people between 15-18 years at 30 June 2017 with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)</li><li>• Parental use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)</li></ul>

For each vulnerable group, TFM identified five indicators associated with poor outcomes later in life. They also identified the proportion of this group with this indicator. TFM identified these indicators by undertaking predictive modelling and analysis, using the TFM Human Services Data set. This dataset brings together data collected by ten different government agencies. It includes data on child protection, housing, justice, health, education and commonwealth service use.

Table 9 shows the top five indicators for each vulnerable group in the Western Sydney district.

**Table 9. Indicators of vulnerable children and young people in the Nepean Blue Mountains district**

Vulnerable group	Indicator	% of group with indicator
Young children aged 0-5	Parents have interacted with justice system	33
	Mother smoked during pregnancy	29
	Child had concern report	26
	Mother aged 21 and under at childbirth	15
	Parents have been in social housing	8
Children aged under 15 and affected by mental illness	Child had a concern report	39
	Mother smoked during pregnancy	28
	Parents have interacted with justice system	29
	Mother aged 21 and under at childbirth	18
	Parents have been in social housing	14
Children and young people aged 15-18 and affected by mental illness	NAPLAN Year 7 band less than 6	48
	Had concern report in the last three years	32
	Hospital admission in the last three years	35
	Family have been in social housing	19
	Has appeared in court	7

**Source:** Their Futures Matter, FACS District Data pack, Nepean Blue Mountains district

Table 10 shows the number and proportion of children in each of the vulnerable groups by LGA. It also shows us what proportion of this group identifies as Aboriginal.

For example, in Penrith, 17,074 children were under the age of five. Of these children, 35% (n=5,911) were identified as vulnerable and 16% of these vulnerable children identified as Aboriginal. By comparison, in Hawkesbury, 28% of children under the age of five were vulnerable and 12% of these children identified as Aboriginal.

When looking at children under the age of 15, 15% were affected by mental illness in the Blue Mountains and Lithgow, compared to 12% in Penrith and 10% in Hawkesbury.

When looking at children and young people between the ages of 15 and 18, 21% were affected by mental illness in Lithgow, compared to only 15% in the Blue Mountains, 13% in Penrith and 12% in Hawkesbury.

**Table 10. Vulnerable groups of children and young people in the Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA**

		Blue Mountains	Hawkesbury	Lithgow	Penrith
Young children aged 0-5	No. of C/YP aged under 5	4,573	4,616	1,305	17,075
	No. of vulnerable C/YP aged under 5	1,503	1,311	487	5,911
	% of vulnerable C/YP aged under 5	33%	28%	37%	35%
	% who identify as Aboriginal	9%	12%	31%	16%
Children aged under 15 and affected by mental illness	No. of C/YP aged under 15	9,589	9,533	2,883	31,695
	No. of C/YP aged under 15 affected by mental illness	1,416	999	426	3,747
	% of C/YP aged under 15 affected by mental illness	15%	10%	15%	12%
	% of identify as Aboriginal	10%	15%	28%	17%
Children and young people aged 15-18 and affected by mental illness	No. of C/YP aged 15-18	3,605	3,285	856	8,920
	No. of C/YP aged 15-18 affected by mental illness	554	392	176	1,170
	% of C/YP aged 15-18 affected by mental illness	15%	12%	21%	13%
	% of identify as Aboriginal	7%	15%	27%	16%

Source: Their Futures Matter, FACS District Data pack, Nepean Blue Mountains district

## Contact with child protection services

In 2016-17, 1,436 children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC) in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 11). The majority of these children and young people were in the Penrith LGA (n=810).

In 2016-17, 5,093 children and young people were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). Again, the majority of these children were in the Penrith LGA (n=3,243).

Lithgow had the smallest number of children reported, at risk of significant harm or in OOHC.

**Table 11. Child Protection Overview in the Nepean Blue Mountains District, by LGA, 2016-17**

	Total number of children and young people reported		Total number of children and young people at risk of significant harm		Total number of children and young people in out-of-home care, as of 30 June 2017		Total number of CYP 18 and under
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Blue Mountains	946	5.3	688	3.8	202	1.1	17,959
Hawkesbury	1,068	6.5	741	4.5	304	1.8	16,481
Lithgow	571	12.4	441	9.6	120	2.6	4,592
Penrith	4,309	8.3	3,243	6.3	810	1.6	51,633
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>6,894</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>90,665</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>230,343</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>168,819</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>36,304</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1,742,488</b>

Source: FACS Datacube, accessed 3 October 2019



# Economic Environment

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## Education

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 16.7% of people aged 15 and over reported having completed a Bachelor degree level and above as their highest level of educational attainment, 20.4% had completed a Certificate III or IV, and 15.5% had completed Year 10 (see Table 12).

**Table 12. Level of highest educational attainment in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over)**

Highest level of educational attainment	Blue Mountains		Hawkesbury		Lithgow		Penrith		Nepean Blue Mountains		NSW
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Bachelor Degree level and above	17,276	27.5	6,764	13.1	1,522	8.7	20,717	13.4	46,279	16.7	23.4
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	7,368	11.7	4,847	9.4	1,153	6.6	13,002	8.4	26,370	9.5	8.9
Certificate level IV	2,498	4.0	2,074	4	540	3.1	5,888	3.8	11,000	4.0	2.8
Certificate level III	8,134	12.9	9,870	19.1	3,066	17.5	24,375	15.7	45,445	16.4	12.0
Year 12	7,939	12.6	6,557	12.7	1,695	9.7	24,128	15.6	40,319	14.5	15.3
Year 11	1,994	3.2	1,929	3.7	646	3.7	6,468	4.2	11,037	4.0	3.3
Year 10	6,668	10.6	8,174	15.8	3,113	17.8	24,990	16.1	42,945	15.5	11.5
Certificate level II	38	0.1	42	0.1	27	0.2	141	0.1	248	0.1	0.1
Certificate level I	3	0.0	5	0.0	3	0.0	16	0.0	27	0.0	0.0
Year 9 or below	3,560	5.7	4,878	9.4	2,170	12.4	14,542	9.4	25,150	9.1	8.4
No education attainment	116	0.2	155	0.3	45	0.3	809	0.5	1,125	0.4	0.9
Not stated	4,942	7.9	4,745	9.2	3,016	17.2	15,031	9.7	27,734	10.0	10.3

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Employment

There were 192,460 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in the Nepean Blue Mountains district. Of these, 62.8% were employed full time, 27.7% were employed part-time and 5.0% were unemployed (see Table 13).

The proportion of people who were unemployed was highest in Lithgow (7.7%), followed by Penrith (5.7%), Blue Mountains (4.7%) and then Hawkesbury (4.3%).

**Table 13. Employment in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA**

	Worked full-time		Worked part-time		Away from work		Unemployed		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Blue Mountains	20,994	55.8	13,148	34.9	1,724	4.6	1,778	4.7	37,644	100
Hawkesbury	31,093	28.6	9,645	28.6	1,583	4.7	1,446	4.3	43,767	100
Lithgow	4,627	54.8	2,678	31.7	489	5.8	651	7.7	8,445	100
Penrith	64,237	63.9	27,787	25.6	4,837	4.8	5,743	5.7	102,604	100
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>120,951</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>53,258</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>8,633</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9,618</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>192,460</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>NSW</b>		<b>59.2</b>		<b>29.7</b>		<b>4.8</b>		<b>6.3</b>		<b>100</b>

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Income

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in the Nepean Blue Mountains district was \$664 (see Table 14).

**Table 14. Median weekly income in Western Sydney district, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over)**

	Personal	Family	Household
Blue Mountains	\$688	\$1,866	\$1,468
Hawkesbury	\$728	\$1,916	\$1,668
Lithgow	\$510	\$1,328	\$984
Penrith	\$728	\$1,858	\$1,658
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>\$664</b>	<b>\$1,742</b>	<b>\$1,445</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>\$664</b>	<b>\$1,780</b>	<b>\$1,486</b>

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, Lithgow had the highest proportion of low-income households, compared to the state average (see Table 15); 31.2% of households in Lithgow earned less than \$650 a week, compared to 19.7% in NSW as a whole. The Blue Mountains had a similar proportion of low-income households (19.0%) and Hawkesbury (15.9%) and Penrith (15.3%) had fewer low-income households, compared to the NSW average.

**Table 15. Household income in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA**

	% of households with less than \$650 gross weekly income	% of households with more than \$3000 gross weekly income
Blue Mountains	19.0	16.3
Hawkesbury	15.9	18.5
Lithgow	31.2	9.5
Penrith	15.3	16.7
<b>NSW</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>18.7</b>

**Source:** ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a measure used to rank areas in Australia according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. It is based on information from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The information presented below is based on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD). The IRSAD summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, out of the four LGAs, Blue Mountains has the highest SEIFA score (1,042) and is ranked the highest (see Table 16). This means the Blue Mountains is relatively advantaged compared to the other LGAs in the Nepean Blue Mountains district.

Conversely, out of the four LGAs, Lithgow has the lowest SEIFA score (908) and is ranked the lowest (see Table 14). This means Lithgow is relatively disadvantaged compared to the other LGAs in the Nepean Blue Mountains district.

**Table 16. LGA Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage in the Nepean Blue Mountains District, 2016**

	Score <sup>1</sup>	NSW Rank <sup>2</sup>	NSW Decile <sup>3</sup>
Blue Mountains	1,042	105	9
Hawkesbury	1,014	99	8
Lithgow	908	17	2
Penrith	988	93	8

**Source:** ABS, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2016, 2033.0.55.001, accessed 3 October 2019, <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012016?OpenDocument>

- <sup>1</sup> **Score:** A low IRSAD score indicates that an area is relatively disadvantaged compared to an area with a higher score.
- <sup>2</sup> **Rank:** All areas are ranked from the lowest to the highest score. The area with the lowest score is ranked number one, the area with the highest score is ranked 129. The State Rank can only be used to compare areas with a single state/territory.
- <sup>3</sup> **Decile:** All areas are ordered from the lowest to highest score, the lowest 10% of areas are given a decile number of 1 and so on, up to the highest 10% of areas which are given a number of 10. This means that areas are divided into 10 groups, depending on their score. Decile 1 is the most disadvantaged relative to other deciles.

# Social Environment

## Community safety and crime

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 1,799 domestic violence-related assaults and 1,502 non-domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence-related assault was most likely to occur in Penrith, with a rate of 601.8 assaults per 100,000 people (see Table 17). This is the 27th highest rate of domestic violence across NSW.

Lithgow had the highest rate of non-domestic violence-related assaults in the district, at 616.7 assaults per 100,000 people. This is the 20th highest rate of non-domestic violence across the state.

**Table 17. Incidents of crime recorded by the NSW Police Force in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA, January-December 2018**

	Domestic violence-related assault			Non-domestic violence-related assault		
	No.	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank in NSW <sup>1</sup>	No.	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank in NSW
Blue Mountains	232	293.8	83	209	264.7	86
Hawkesbury	244	366.2	65	208	312.2	78
Lithgow	89	412.7	56	133	616.7	20
Penrith	1,234	601.8	27	952	464.3	46

**Source:** 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) (accessed 26 September 2019)

<sup>1</sup> Ranked by rate of domestic and non-domestic violence per 100,000 population, from 1-129 (where number 129 equals the lowest rate, and number one equals the highest).

The most common drug offence in the Nepean Blue Mountains district is cannabis use and/or possession (see Table 18). The highest rate of cannabis offences is in Lithgow (194.8 offences per 100,000 people) followed by Penrith (190.2). The second most common drug offence is amphetamine use and/or possession, which is most common in Penrith (107.3 offences per 100,000 people) followed by Hawkesbury (91.6 offences per 100,00 people).

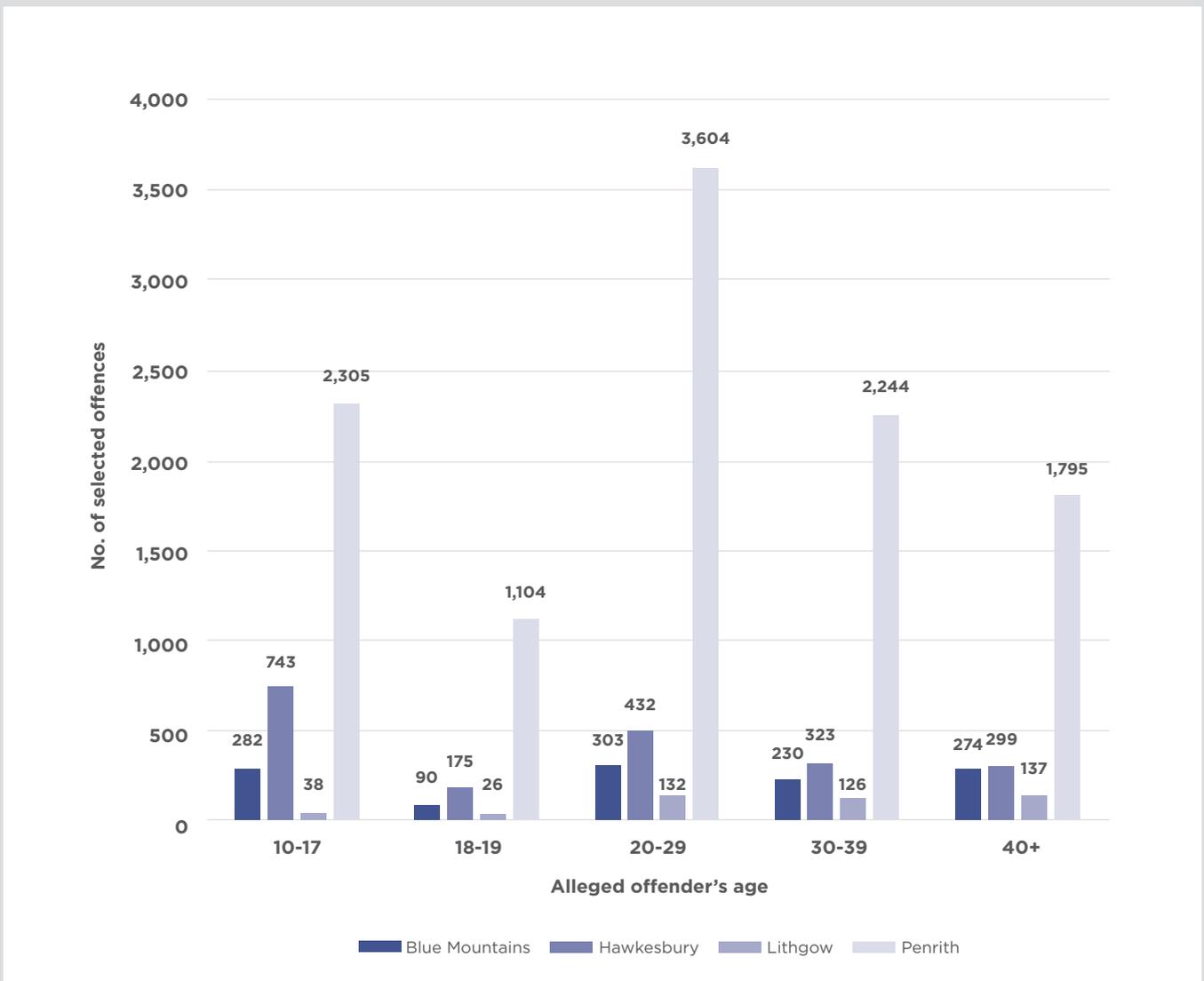
**Table 18. Recorded drug offences (possession and/or use) in Nepean Blue Mountains district, Jan-Dec 2018, by LGA**

	Blue Mountains		Hawkesbury		Lithgow		Penrith	
	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000
Cocaine	6	7.6	10	15.0	0	0.0	31	15.1
Narcotics	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	7.8
Cannabis	113	143.1	88	132.1	42	194.8	390	190.2
Amphetamine	23	29.1	61	91.6	19	88.1	220	107.3
Ecstasy	3	3.8	19	28.5	1	4.6	49	23.9
Other drugs	15	19.0	33	49.5	5	23.2	110	53.6

**Source:** Source: 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) (accessed 26 September 2019)

When looking at the age of alleged offenders in the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 20-29-year-old's are most likely to offend, followed by 30-39 year old's and 40-year old's and above (see Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Age of alleged offenders proceeded against by NSW Police for incidents of selected offences<sup>1</sup> in Nepean Blue Mountains, 2018<sup>2</sup>**



**Source:** 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) (accessed 26 September 2019)

<sup>1</sup> For the full list of selected offences please see the original source  
<sup>2</sup> The year the alleged offenders were proceeded against, rather than the year the incident was recorded.

# Maternal Health

## Teenage pregnancy

Teenage parenthood is associated with a number of adversities, including low socioeconomic status, educational under-achievement and drug abuse. In turn, young parenthood can act to further entrench some of these problems and perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage.

In 2018, 131 mothers aged 19 and under gave birth in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 19). This accounts for 2.9% of all births in this district. This proportion is slightly higher than the NSW state average of 1.9%. Lithgow had the highest proportion of young mothers aged 19 and under in 2018, 3.5%.

Table 19. Young mothers who gave birth<sup>1</sup> in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA, 2018

LGA	No. of mothers 19 and under	% of mothers giving birth aged 19 and under	Total no. of births
Blue Mountains	15	2.2	674
Hawkesbury	26	3.0	863
Lithgow	7	3.5	198
Penrith	83	2.9	2,821
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4,556</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>94,145</b>

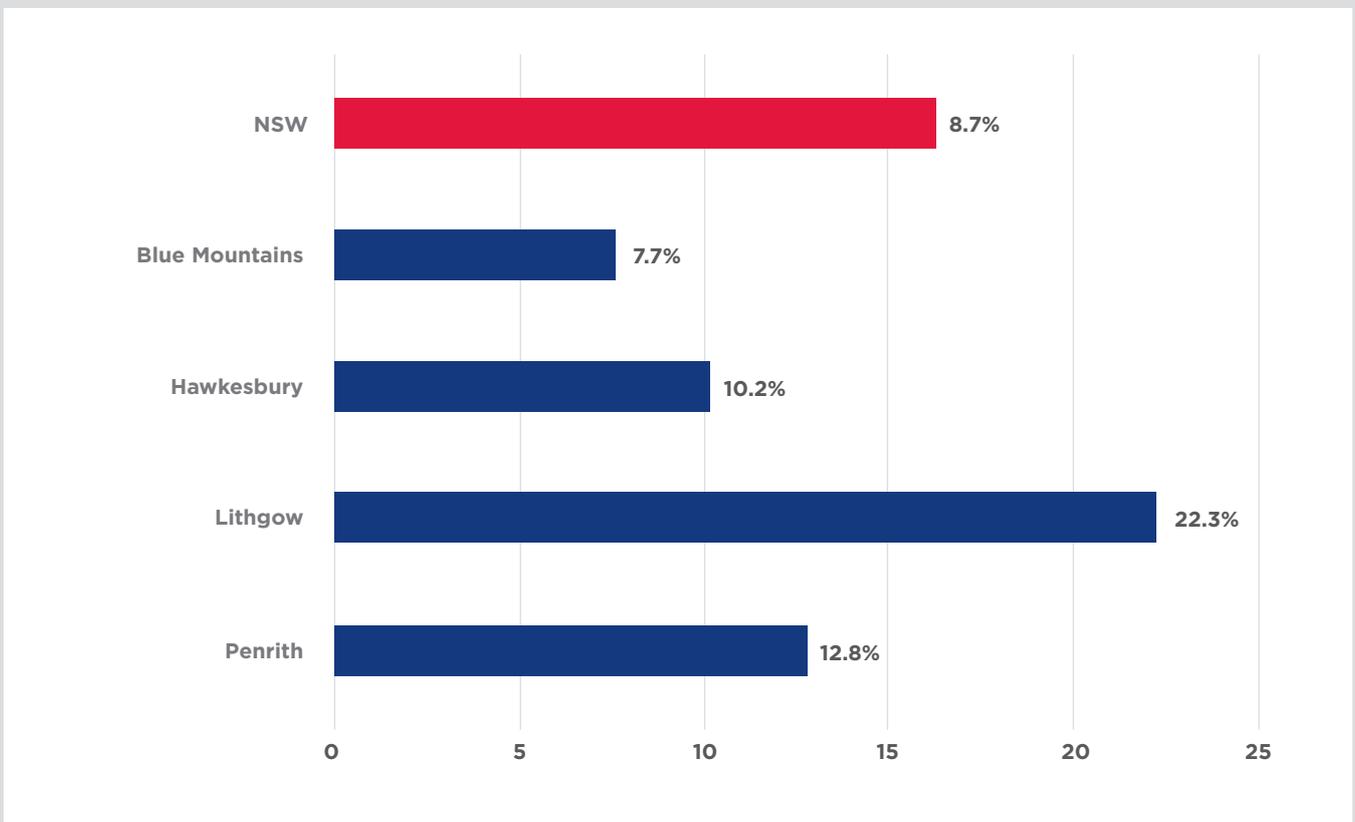
Source: Healthstats NSW: [http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab\\_mbth\\_age/mab\\_mbth\\_age\\_lgmap](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_mbth_age/mab_mbth_age_lgmap) (accessed 3 October 2019)

<sup>1</sup> Number of mothers who gave birth (stillbirth or live birth) in NSW, regardless of place of permanent residence

## Smoking during pregnancy

Smoking during pregnancy is an important modifiable risk factor for low birth weight, pre-term birth, placental complications, and perinatal mortality. Between 2015-2017, in the Nepean Blue Mountains district, mothers in Lithgow (22.3%) were most likely to smoke during their pregnancy (see Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Proportion of mothers in the Nepean Blue Mountains district who smoked during pregnancy, 2015-2017**



**Source:** Healthstats NSW: [http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab\\_smo\\_cat/mab\\_smo\\_cat\\_lga\\_trend](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_smo_cat/mab_smo_cat_lga_trend) (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Australian Mothers Index

Since 2000, Save the Children has produced a Mother's Index showing where mothers do best and where they face the greatest hardships. This index compares countries worldwide, as well as Australian states and territories and LGAs.

The information in Table 20 is derived from the Local-level Mothers Index. Five indicators make up this index:

- maternal health - the proportion of pregnant women with at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester
- children's wellbeing - the proportion of children under 5 developmentally on track (measured by the AEDC)
- educational status - the proportion of women completing Year 12 or above
- economic status - average household income
- relative socioeconomic disadvantage - a measure of a mother's access to material and social resources and her ability to participate in society

These indicators were used to rank every LGA in NSW, where 1 is the best rank and 152 is the worst.

Of the four LGAs in the Nepean Blue Mountains district, Blue Mountains performed the best receiving a rank of 17 out of 152 (see Table 20). Lithgow received the lowest rank of the four LGAs, at 92 out of 152. This means that mothers in Lithgow are facing much greater hardships than mothers in the Blue Mountains.

**Table 20. Mothers Index Ranking in the Nepean Blue Mountains District, by LGA**

LGA	NSW Ranking
Blue Mountains	17
Hawkesbury	38
Lithgow	92
Penrith	38

**Source:** Harris, J and Wells, M, 2016, State of Australia's Mothers, Save the Children, Sydney, <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2016/05/apo-nid63692-1201431.pdf> (accessed 3 October 2019)

# Disability

## Need for assistance with core activities

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 5.2% of the population need help or assistance with core activities (see Table 21). This amounts to 18,813 people.

In the Lithgow LGA, 6.6% of people need help or assistance with core activities. This was the highest proportion of all four LGAs.

In Hawkesbury LGA, 4.7% of people need help or assistance with core activities. This was the smallest proportion of all four LGAs.

**Table 21. Need for assistance with core activities<sup>1</sup> in Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA**

	Has need for assistance		Does not have need for assistance		Need for assistance not stated		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Blue Mountains	4,228	5.5	68,659	89.2	4,008	5.2	76,895
Hawkesbury	3,046	4.7	57,442	88.9	4,098	6.3	64,586
Lithgow	1,387	6.6	17,107	81.1	2,597	12.3	21,090
Penrith	10,152	5.2	172,901	88.2	13,014	6.6	196,066
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>18,813</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>316,109</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>23,717</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>358,637</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>402,048</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6,558,727</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>519,452</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7,480,228</b>

Source: ABS, 2016 Census Community Profiles: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles> (accessed 3 October 2019)

<sup>1</sup> A person's need for help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility, and communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

# Housing

## Households

The average number of people per households in the Nepean Blue Mountains district is 2.6, the same as the NSW state average (see Table 22). Of the LGAs in this district, Penrith and Hawkesbury have the highest average, 2.9 and 2.8 respectively.

The majority of households in the Nepean Blue Mountains district are family households (75.5%). Single-person households make up 21.9% of all households. Only 2.6% of households in the district are group households.

**Table 22. Household Composition in Nepean Blue Mountains, by LGA**

LGA	Single-person households		Group household		Family households		Total	Average people per household
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.
Blue Mountains	7,386	25.8	854	3.0	20,389	71.2	28,629	2.5
Hawkesbury	4,389	20.6	510	2.4	16,405	77.0	21,304	2.8
Lithgow	2,561	32.6	188	2.4	5,114	65.0	7,863	2.3
Penrith	12,236	19.2	1,656	2.6	49,777	78.2	63,669	2.9
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>26,572</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>91,685</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>121,465</b>	<b>2.6</b>
NSW		23.8		4.2		72.0		2.6

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Tenure types

In the Nepean Blue Mountains district, 31.0% of occupied private dwellings were owned outright, 39.9% were owned with a mortgage and 26.0% were rented (see Table 23).

Lithgow had the highest proportion of private dwellings owned outright, at 41.8%. This was followed closely by the Blue Mountains at 39.2%. Penrith had the smallest proportion of private dwellings owned outright at 26.0%. This is below the NSW state average of 32.3%.

Penrith had the highest proportion of rented private dwellings, at 30.2%. The Blue Mountains had the smallest proportion of rented private dwellings, at 18.4%.

**Table 23. Tenure types Nepean Blue Mountains district, by LGA**

LGA	Owned outright		Owned with mortgage		Rented		Other tenure		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Blue Mountains	11,218	39.2	11,295	39.5	5,267	18.4	251	0.9	595	2.1
Hawkesbury	6,550	30.7	8,896	41.8	5,174	24.3	169	0.8	512	2.4
Lithgow	3,286	41.8	2,300	29.3	1,931	24.6	81	1.0	260	3.3
Penrith	16,561	26.0	25,931	40.7	19,206	30.2	302	0.5	1,668	2.6
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>37,615</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>48,422</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>31,578</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>NSW</b>		<b>32.2</b>		<b>32.3</b>		<b>31.8</b>		<b>0.9</b>		<b>2.8</b>

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 3 October 2019)

## Housing Stress

One way to measure housing stress is to calculate the percentage of households who spend more than 30% of their household income on rent or mortgage payments.

In the Nepean Blue Mountain district, the Hawkesbury LGA has the highest proportion of households in rental stress (12.9%). This is the same as the state average. Penrith, Lithgow and Blue Mountains all had smaller proportions of households paying more than 30% of their income on rent. The Blue Mountains have the smallest proportion at 8.4%.

Penrith had the highest proportion of households in mortgage stress, with 9.2% of households spending 30% or more of their income on mortgage repayments. This was greater than the NSW state average of 7.4%. Lithgow had the smallest proportion of households in mortgage stress, with only 4.7% of households spending 30% or more of their income on mortgage repayments.

**Table 24. Mortgage and rent payments in the Nepean Blue Mountain district, by LGA<sup>1</sup>**

	Blue Mountains	Hawkesbury	Lithgow	Penrith	NSW
Average weekly rent	\$350	\$380	\$230	\$370	\$380
Renting households where rent payments are less than 30% of household income	91.6%	87.1%	89.9%	88.1%	87.2%
Renting households where rent payments are more than 30% of household income	8.4%	12.9%	10.1%	11.9%	12.9%
Average monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,842	\$1,986	\$1,387	\$2,000	\$1,986
Home-owning households where mortgage repayments are less than 30% of household income	92.9%	92.6%	95.3%	90.8%	92.6%
Home-owning households with mortgage repayments greater than or equal to 30% of household income	7.4%	7.4%	4.7%	9.2%	7.4%

**Source:** ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 25 September 2019)

<sup>1</sup> The number of households where rent and mortgage payments were 30% or more of an imputed income measure are expressed in this table as a proportion of the total number of households in an area. The nature of the income imputation means that the reported proportion may significantly overstate the true proportion.

## Social housing

As of 30 June 2018, there were 5,796 social housing residential dwellings in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 25). Public housing accounted for 58.2% of these dwellings and community housing accounted for 39.0%. The majority of these dwellings were in the Penrith LGA.

**Table 25. Social Housing Residential Dwellings as at 30 June 2018**

	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Community Housing		Indigenous Community Housing		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Blue Mountains	10	1.5	0	0.0	656	97.6	6	0.9	672
Hawkesbury	195	20.5	3	0.3	748	78.8	3	0.3	949
Lithgow	514	90.5	7	1.2	42	7.4	5	0.9	568
Penrith	2,652	73.5	109	3.0	816	22.6	30	0.8	3,607
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>3,371</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5,796</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>111,341</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>4,603</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>30,757</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>4,971</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>151,672</b>

Source: FACS Administrative Data, unpublished.

As of 30 June 2018, there were 3,375 public housing and Aboriginal housing tenancies in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 26). Public housing made up 96.6% of all tenancies and Aboriginal housing made up 3.4% of all tenancies.

**Table 26. Public Housing and Aboriginal Housing Office Tenancies, as at 30 June 2018**

	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Blue Mountains	3	100	0	0.0	3
Hawkesbury	189	98.4	3	1.6	192
Lithgow	503	98.8	6	1.2	509
Penrith	2,564	96.0	107	4.0	2,671
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3,375</b>
<b>NSW</b>	<b>106,895</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>4,414</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>111,309</b>

Source: FACS Administrative Data, unpublished.

As of 30 June 2018, there were 2,421 vacant social housing residential dwellings in the Nepean Blue Mountains district (see Table 25 and 26).