

Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains District

Western Sydney 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.


DCJ Districts 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.

Local Priorities for Western Sydney District

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

1. Parents, including young parents, grandparent carers and kin carers, experiencing vulnerabilities
 2. Children not reaching their developmental milestones
 3. Young people disengaged from school
 4. Families experiencing domestic violence
 5. Children and young people experiencing mental health issues
 6. Young people and families affected by substance misuse
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7. Children, young people and families who are socially and geographically isolated
8. Access to culturally safe services for CALD communities
9. Access to culturally safe services for Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities

Evidence

1. Parents, including young parents, grandparent and kin carers, experiencing vulnerabilities

- In the Western Sydney district, out of the four LGAs, Cumberland has the lowest Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas SEIFA score (959) and is ranked the lowest (69 out of 129). This is followed by Blacktown, ranked 95 out of 129 with a SEIFA score of 993.¹
- Cumberland has the highest rate of unemployment in the Western Sydney district (9.5% compared to 6.3% State average) and the lowest personal income level.²
- In the Local-Level Mothers Index, Auburn (now Cumberland LGA) received the lowest rank, 87 out of 152.³
- Blacktown has the highest rates of teen pregnancy. 2.3% of mothers giving birth in 2018 were under 19 years of age. This is higher than the New South Wales average of 1.9%.⁴
- Mothers in the Blacktown LGA are more likely to smoke during their pregnancy than the state average (10.9% in Blacktown compared to the state average of 8.7%).⁵
- There is a high proportion of children aged 0-5 in the Blacktown LGA identified as vulnerable due to one or more risk factors (34%). Of these vulnerable children, 16% are Aboriginal children.⁶
- In 2016-17, 1,630 children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC) in the Western Sydney District. The majority of these children and young people were in the Blacktown LGA (n=1,057).⁷

¹ ABS, Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA), 2016, 2033.0.55.001:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012016?OpenDocument>

² ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au>

³ 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>

⁴ Healthstats NSW: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_mbth_age/mab_mbth_age_lgamap

⁵ Healthstats NSW: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_smo_cat/mab_smo_cat_lga_trend

⁶ Their Futures Matter

⁷ FACS Datacube

- In 2016-17, 11,940 children and young people were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). The majority of these children were also in the Blacktown LGA (n=6,612).⁸
- Support for grandparent and kin carers has been identified as a significant gap in the current service system. Local knowledge from community organisations and sector peaks has highlighted this gap.
- 30% of children with two working parents received some form of care from their grandparents in Australia, according to the latest report on grandparents by the ABS.⁹
- Grandparents who are primary carers often need to deal with a range of emotions including joy and excitement; apprehension about the role and the overwhelming amount of new information available; grief, loss, and fear due to the necessity of them to provide care due to loss of or issues with their adult child; and relief knowing they will be part of their grandchild's upbringing.¹⁰
- The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) reports that one in four children who are living with only one parent are also co-residing with a grandparent who provides care. This is most likely if their parent is relatively young, has a lower level of educational attainment, or is from a non-English speaking background.¹¹
- A survey conducted by researchers from the University of New South Wales on grandparent carers found that more than 70% were financially disadvantaged. Two out of three grandparent carers needed to make changes to their employment to look after their grandchildren. The majority of grandparent carers surveyed raised concerns about their physical and mental health, and relationship and social issues.¹²

2. Children not reaching their developmental milestones

- In the Western Sydney district, 9.9% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more AEDC domains. In Blacktown, Parramatta and Cumberland, the proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains was slightly higher, at approximately 11-12% for each LGA.¹³

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ ABS: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/4402.0Media+Release1June+2014>

¹⁰ First Five Years: <https://www.firstfiveyears.org.au/lifestyle/raising-grandchildren-grandparent-carers>

¹¹ First Five Years: <https://www.firstfiveyears.org.au/lifestyle/raising-grandchildren-grandparent-carers>

¹² AIFS: <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/families-policy-and-law/12-grandparents-primary-carers-their-grandchildren-policy-and>

¹³ AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

3. Young people disengaged from school

- In the Western Sydney district, Coreen School in Blacktown has the lowest Index of Community Socio-Education Advantage (ICSEA) score (730).
- Coreen School, Chifley College Shalvey Campus, and Blackett Public School all have the highest percentage of Aboriginal students (29.0% each). All three schools are located in Blacktown LGA.¹⁴
- Of the government schools in the Western Sydney district, school attendance rate is lowest in Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High (81%).¹⁵

4. Families experiencing domestic violence

- In the Western Sydney district, 4,404 domestic violence related assaults and 3,547 non-domestic violence related occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence related assaults were most likely to occur in the Blacktown LGA, with a rate of 610.9 per 100,000 people.¹⁶

5. Children and young people experiencing mental health issues

- Of the four LGAs in the Western Sydney district, Blacktown LGA has the highest rates of children and young people affected by mental illness. 10% of children aged under 15 (n=5,140) in the Blacktown LGA are affected by mental illness. 20% of those identify as Aboriginal. 12% of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 (n=1673) in the Blacktown LGA are affected by mental illness. 18% of these children and young people identify as Aboriginal.¹⁷

6. Young people and families affected by substance misuse

- In 2018, the most common drug offence in Western Sydney was the use or possession of cannabis. The highest rate of cannabis-related offences was in Cumberland (262.3 per 100,000 people), followed by Blacktown (177.4 offences per 100,000). Ecstasy and amphetamine drug offences were the second most common. The highest rate of both of these

¹⁴ 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>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ 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

¹⁷ Their Futures Matter

offences was in Parramatta (97.0 per 100,000 population and 91.3 per 100,000 population respectively).¹⁸

7. Children, young people and families who are socially and geographically isolated

- In the Western Sydney district, 8.1% of households had no registered motor vehicle. This is less than the NSW state average of 9.2%¹⁹.
- The LGAs with the highest proportion of households with no registered motor vehicle were Cumberland (11.7%) and Parramatta (10.6%)²⁰.
- In the Western Sydney district, 11.1% of households have no internet access. This is less than the NSW average of 14.7%²¹.
- The LGAs with the highest proportion of households with no internet access were Cumberland (15.1%) and Blacktown (12.3%)²².
- In the Western Sydney district, 4.7% of people need assistance with core activities. Cumberland and The Hills Shire had the largest proportions of people who need assistance with core activities, at 5.8% and 3.2%, respectively²³.

8. Access to culturally safe services for CALD communities

- 49.8% of the Western Sydney population was born outside of Australia (higher than the NSW average of 34.5%)²⁴.
- In Western Sydney district, 47% of people speak only English at home (less than the NSW state average of 68.5%). The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Cumberland at 67.9%, followed by Parramatta (54.2%), Blacktown (45.9%), and then The Hills Shire (37.2%).²⁵
- From January 2016 to December 2017, 18,025 migrants settled in the Western Sydney district. This is 22.3% of the total number of migrants who settled in New South Wales in 2017.²⁶

¹⁸ NSW Local Government Area excel crime tables, BOCSAR:

https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx

¹⁹ ABS Quickstats: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ ABS Community Profiles

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>

²⁴ ABS Quickstats: <https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/>

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ 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>

- The largest number of migrants to the Western Sydney district settled in Parramatta (n=5,746). Most of these were skilled migrants (n=3,968)²⁷.
- In 2017, 1,130 humanitarian migrants settled in the Western Sydney district. The majority of these migrants settled in Blacktown (n=419)²⁸.

9. Access to culturally safe services for Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities

- In the Western Sydney district, 1.4% of the population (n=13,426) identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Most of the Aboriginal population live in the Blacktown LGA, where Aboriginal people make up 2.8% of the population.²⁹
- The Aboriginal population of Western Sydney is younger than the population as a whole. While 53.9% of the Aboriginal population of Western Sydney is under 25, only 34.1% of the population of Western Sydney as a whole is under 25.³⁰
- In Blacktown, 30,847 children were under the age of 5. Of these children, 34% (n=10,414) were identified as vulnerable and 16% of these vulnerable children were Aboriginal children. By comparison, in The Hills Shire, 16% of children under the age of 5 were vulnerable and 3% of these children were Aboriginal children.³¹
- In Blacktown, 10% of children under the age of 15 were affected by mental illness. 20% of these children were Aboriginal children. In the Hills Shire, 6% of children under the age of 15 were affected by mental illness and 4% of this group were Aboriginal children.³²
- 12% of children and young people between the ages of 15 and 18 were affected by mental illness in the Blacktown LGA. Aboriginal children make up 18% of this group.³³

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ 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>

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Their Futures Matter

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.