

## Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

### Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney

#### 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 (TEI).

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 New South Wales (NSW).

Department of Communities and Justice (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 Sydney District

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

1. Children, young people and families or carers affected by mental ill-health, substance misuse, separation, or domestic and family violence
2. Children, young people and families with multiple risk factors
3. Aboriginal children and young people are connected to their community, identity and culture
4. Children and families at key transition points (birth to 12 months, transition to school, adolescence, high school or the workforce)
5. Young people at risk of disengaging from school
6. Families and communities living in social housing experiencing vulnerabilities
7. Grandparents who care for grandchildren or kin carers experiencing vulnerabilities

Key district directions:

- Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities have access to culturally safe services
- Children, young people and families are involved in the design of service responses
- Vulnerability is identified early utilising 'universal' engagement platforms such as early childhood services, schools or community organisations
- Parents and carers have access to parenting information and coaching, particularly at key transition points
- Support provided to children and young people at risk is multifaceted, integrated, coordinated and tracked
- Effective assessment and triage to quality responses including services that work with children and parents

## Evidence

### 1. Children, young people and families or carers affected by mental ill-health, substance misuse, separation, or domestic and family violence

#### **Children, young people and families or carers affected by mental ill-health**

- Of the 6 LGAs of the Sydney district, Inner West (12%) had the highest proportion of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness, followed by Burwood and Sydney at 10% each.<sup>1</sup>
- Sydney LGA (part of which falls within the South Eastern Sydney district) had the highest proportion of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness (16%). 20% of this group identified as Aboriginal. The Inner West LGA had the second highest proportion (13%) with 10% of children in this group identifying as Aboriginal.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Young people and families or carers affected by substance misuse**

- In the Sydney district, Sydney LGA has the highest number of recorded drug offences in the district.<sup>3</sup>
- The rate of narcotics and cannabis related offences in Canterbury-Bankstown LGA (22.0 and 228.5 per 100,000) is higher than the NSW average (13.2 and 218.1 per 100,000).<sup>4</sup>
- Burwood LGA has slightly higher rates than the NSW rate for amphetamine related offences (96.7 per 100,000 compared to 90.7 per 100,000).<sup>5</sup>

#### **Children, young people and families or carers affected by separation**

- 45% of divorces in NSW involved children aged under 18 in 2017 (n=6,083).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> NSW Local Government Area excel crime tables, BOCSAR:  
[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>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> ABS Marriages and Divorces Australia 2017  
<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3310.02017?OpenDocument>

- 20,181 people (2.2%) were separated and 57,388 (6.4%) were divorced in the Sydney district in 2016. This is 8.6% of the Sydney district population, slightly lower than the state average of 11.5%.<sup>7</sup>
- 31,805 families are one parent families in the Sydney district, which is 14.8% of all families in the district. The highest proportion of one parent families is in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA, where 18.2% of families have only one parent.<sup>8</sup>

### **Families experiencing domestic violence**

- In the Sydney district, 2,802 domestic violence-related assaults and 5,210 non-domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence-related assaults were most likely to occur in Sydney LGA, with a rate of 431.9 per 100,000 people.<sup>9</sup>

## **2. Children, young people and families with multiple risk factors**

- In 2016-17, 171,638 children and young people aged 18 and under were living in the Sydney district. 0.4% (n=672) of these children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC). Canterbury-Bankstown had the largest number of children in OOHC, at 324.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2016-17, of the 171,638 children and young people aged 18 and under, 2.8% (n=4,818) were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). Canterbury-Bankstown (n=2,846) had the largest number of children at ROSH.<sup>11</sup>
- In Canterbury-Bankstown, 28,985 children were under the age of five. Of these children, 26% (n=7,459) were identified as vulnerable.<sup>12, 13</sup>
- When looking at children under the age of 15, 12% were affected by mental illness in the Inner West, compared to 6% in Strathfield and 9% in both Canada Bay and Canterbury-Bankstown.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census, <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</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>10</sup> FACS Datacube, accessed 9 October 2019

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>13</sup> TFM defines a child as vulnerable if they have one or more risk factors associated with higher service usage and poorer outcomes later in life. See TFM Sydney district information pack.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

- When looking at children and young people between the ages of 15 and 18, 16% were affected by mental illness in the Sydney LGA, compared to 8% in Strathfield and 9% in Canada Bay.<sup>15</sup>

### 3. Aboriginal children and young people are connected to their community, identity and culture

- In the Sydney district, 0.9% (n=7,670) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. People aged 25 years and under make up 42.4% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Sydney district. This proportion 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 of age.<sup>16</sup>
- In the Sydney LGA, 21% of children aged between 0-5 were identified as vulnerable (due to one or more risk factors) and 11% of those identified as Aboriginal.<sup>17</sup>
- In the Sydney LGA, 10% of children aged under 15 years were affected by a mental illness and 13% of those identified as Aboriginal.<sup>18</sup>
- In the Sydney LGA, 16% of children aged between 15 and 18 years were affected by a mental illness and 20% of those identified as Aboriginal.<sup>19</sup>

### 4. Children and families at key transition points (birth to 12 months, transition to school, adolescence, high school or the workforce)

#### Pre-natal and post-natal health

- Around 14% of women experience post-natal depression in Australia, 40% of which have symptoms beginning during pregnancy.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> 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>

<sup>17</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/docs/default-source/factsheets/depressionduringpregnancy.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

## Children not reaching their developmental milestones/not school-ready

- Canterbury and Burwood LGAs have the highest proportion of developmentally vulnerable children in the AEDC across the district.
- Canterbury LGA (23.9%) had the highest proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain, followed by Burwood LGA (21.1%). This is compared to the NSW rate of 19.9%.<sup>21</sup>
- Burwood LGA (12.3%) had the highest proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains, closely followed by Canterbury LGA (11.9%). Both are above the NSW state average of 9.6%.<sup>22</sup>

## School-aged children with poor social and emotional skills and resilience

- In the Sydney district, 37.5% of children were either vulnerable or at risk socially and emotionally on the AEDC developmental domains.<sup>23</sup>
- In the Sydney district, 8.4% (n=527) of children were found to be vulnerable socially, and 5.7% (n=356) were found to be vulnerable emotionally on the AEDC developmental domains. The highest proportion of children who were vulnerable socially was in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA (11.5%), and the highest proportion of children who were vulnerable emotionally were in the Sydney LGA (6.5%).<sup>24</sup>
- 11.8% (n=740) of children were found to be at risk socially, and 11.6% (n=728) were found to be at risk emotionally in the Sydney district. The highest proportion of children who were socially at risk were in the Strathfield LGA (13.9%). The highest proportion of children who were at risk emotionally were in the Burwood LGA (16.5%).<sup>25</sup>

## 5. Young people at risk of, or disengaging from school

- Canterbury-Bankstown LGA has the highest number of schools with attendance under 90, with nine schools.<sup>26</sup>
- One in four children aged 0 to 5 in Sydney district are vulnerable. 19% of these children have parents who have interacted with the justice system and 17% had a concern report.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> AEDC data explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Master dataset: NSW government school locations and student enrolment numbers (2017) <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/nsw-public-schools-master-dataset> (accessed 7 October 2019), Student attendance rate by individual government schools (2011-2017): <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/student-attendance-rate-by-school>

<sup>27</sup> Their Futures Matter,

- In total, there were 1,355 short suspensions (917 students), and 468 long suspensions (340 students) in the Sydney district, in 2018.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2018, seven students were expelled for misbehaviour and less than 5 students expelled for unsatisfactory participation in the Sydney district.<sup>29</sup>
- Strathfield South High School has an attendance rate of 85.7%. This was the lowest attendance rate of the Sydney LGA district.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2018 there were 4,891 crimes committed by 10-17 year olds in the Sydney district.<sup>31</sup>

## 6. Families and communities living in social housing experiencing vulnerability

- In the Sydney district, 6% of children aged 0-5 identified as vulnerable (due to one or more risk factors) had parents who have been in social housing.<sup>32</sup>
- 11% of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.<sup>33</sup>
- 19% of children aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.<sup>34</sup>
- The following areas are priority locations for the Sydney district, most of which correspond to locations with social housing:
  - Former Canterbury Local Government Area, Punchbowl and Riverwood – In Canterbury (suburb) 8.5% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$666 per week, and 6.2% of people are unemployed. In Punchbowl 11.1% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$424 per week, and 10.4% of people are unemployed. In Riverwood 10.6% of people have a year 9 or

<sup>28</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>29</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>30</sup> NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Master dataset: NSW government school locations and student enrolment numbers (2017) <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/nsw-public-schools-master-dataset>

<sup>31</sup> BOCSAR, 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>32</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

below level of education, personal income is \$457 per week, and 9.5% of people are unemployed.<sup>35</sup>

- Redfern and Waterloo – In Redfern 3.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$991 per week, and 5.5% of people are unemployed. In Waterloo 4.1% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$786 per week, and 8.2% of people are unemployed.<sup>36</sup>
- Glebe and Ultimo – In Glebe 4.1% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$834 per week, and 6.7% of people are unemployed. In Ultimo 2.4% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$386 per week, 12.7% of people are unemployed.<sup>37</sup>
- Marrickville South – In Marrickville South 9.8% of people are unemployed, 5% have a year 9 or below level of education, and median personal income is under \$500. There are 416 social housing properties in Marrickville, most of these clustered in two ‘mini-estates in South Marrickville.’<sup>38, 39</sup>
- Canada Bay, Rhodes, Homebush West – In Canada Bay 8.6% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$819 per week, and 5.7% of people are unemployed. In Rhodes 1.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$736 per week, and 9.4% of people are unemployed. In Homebush West 3.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$681 per week, and 8.3% of people are unemployed.<sup>40</sup>
- Green Square and Alexandria - In Alexandria 1.7% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$1,341 per week, and 3.5% of people are unemployed.<sup>41</sup> Green Square has significant additional residential development, with anticipated future demand for service, with 40,000 new residents from 2015-2030.
- Burwood and Enfield – In Burwood (suburb) 5.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$552 per week, and 10% of people are unemployed. In Enfield 8.4% of people have a year 9 or below level of education,

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<sup>35</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> FACS Housing Tenant profile data 30 June 2018

<sup>39</sup> Demographics: Community Insight Australia heat map

<https://communityinsightaustralia.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/march-2019-indicator-list.xlsx>

<sup>40</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.



personal income is \$640 per week, and 5.5% of people are unemployed.<sup>42</sup>

## 7. Grandparents caring for grandchildren or kin carers experiencing vulnerability

- Based on the knowledge of local service providers, we know that there are pockets within the Sydney district where grandparents from non-English speaking backgrounds provide care to their grandchildren in place of formal care such as day care. This care supports their adult children with work commitments and financial stress.
- 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.<sup>43</sup>
- The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) reports that one in four children who were living with only one parent were also co-residing with a grandparent who provided care. This was most likely if their parent was relatively young, had a lower level of educational attainment, or was from a non-English speaking background.<sup>44</sup>
- A survey conducted by researchers from the University of NSW 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.<sup>45</sup>

### **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities (CALD)**

- 51.8% of residents were born outside of Australia in the Sydney district. This is much higher than the NSW state average of 34.5%.<sup>46</sup>
- 54.2% of residents in the Sydney district spoke a non-English language at home. This is much higher than the NSW state average of 31.5%.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid.


<sup>43</sup> ABS: [https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/4402.0Media Release1June 2014](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/4402.0Media%20Release1June%202014)

<sup>44</sup> First Five Years: <https://www.firstfiveyears.org.au/lifestyle/raising-grandchildren-grandparent-carers>

<sup>45</sup> AIFS: <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/families-policy-and-law/12-grandparents-primary-carers-their-grandchildren-policy-and>

<sup>46</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

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- The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Strathfield (68.5%), Burwood (67.4%) and Canterbury-Bankstown (63.7%).<sup>48</sup>
  - Between 1 January to 31 December 2017, 21.6% (n=17,515) of the total number of migrants arriving in NSW migrated to the Sydney district.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</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>