

## Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

### Hunter and Central Coast District

#### Hunter 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 Hunter

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

1. Young parents experiencing vulnerabilities
2. Families experiencing domestic violence
3. Families with multiple risk factors
4. Young people and families affected by substance misuse
5. Young people at risk of disengaging from school
6. Children, young people and families experiencing mental health issues
7. Aboriginal children and young people are engaged in school and with their community and culture

- 8. Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities have access to culturally safe services
- 9. Children, young people and families who are socially or geographically isolated

## Evidence

### 1. Young parents experiencing vulnerabilities

- Of the vulnerable children in the Hunter district, 19% of young children aged 0-5 and 21% of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness had mothers aged under 21 at childbirth.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.7% (n=191) of mothers who gave birth in 2018 were aged 19 years and under, the highest proportion being in Cessnock (5.1% of mothers who gave birth were aged 19 and under).<sup>2</sup>
- Cessnock ranked very high compared to the other LGAs in the Hunter district in the Australian Mothers Index. This indicates that mothers in Cessnock have much greater hardships than other mothers in the Hunter district (rank = 114, compared with the closest rank of 77 for Port Stephens).<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Families experiencing domestic violence

- 2,623 instances of domestic violence-related assaults occurred in the Hunter district in 2018. Maitland LGA had the highest rate of domestic violence-related assaults at 597.6 per 100,000 of the population.<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Families with multiple risk factors

- 9,583 (6.9%) children and young people were at risk of significant harm in 2016-17, in the Hunter district.<sup>5</sup>
- Cessnock ranked in the lowest Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) decile for NSW (1), indicating a highly disadvantaged community compared to others in NSW and the Hunter district.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>2</sup> NSW Healthstats: [http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab\\_mbth\\_age/mab\\_mbth\\_age\\_lgamap](http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_mbth_age/mab_mbth_age_lgamap)

<sup>3</sup> State of Australia's Mothers, Save the Children, Sydney: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2016/05/apo-nid63692-1201431.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research:

[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>5</sup> FACS Datacube

<sup>6</sup> ABS, Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia:

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

- 6.3% of people (n=36,744) in the Hunter district have need for assistance with core activities, which is higher than the state average of 5.4%.<sup>7</sup>
- 14.2% of households in Newcastle LGA are facing rental stress, 30% or more of their household income goes towards rent payments.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4. Young people and families affected by substance misuse

- There were 2,286 recorded drug offences in the Hunter district in 2018.<sup>9</sup>

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

- In 2018, 6.1% of students had short suspensions and 2.7% of students had long suspension in the Hunter district.<sup>10</sup>
- 48 students were expelled for misbehaviour in 2018 in the Hunter district. This represents 27.5% of the total expulsions for misbehaviour in the state (n=175).<sup>11</sup>
- 3,407 crimes were committed by 10-17 year-olds in 2018 in the Hunter district.<sup>12</sup>

#### 6. Children, young people and families experiencing mental health issues

- 19% of children under 15 in Cessnock are affected by mental illness.<sup>13</sup>
- 21% of young people aged 15-18 in Cessnock are affected by mental illness.<sup>14</sup>
- 4,816 15-18 year olds and 12,286 children under 15 are affected by mental illness in the Hunter district.<sup>15</sup>

#### 7. Aboriginal children and young people are engaged in school and with their community and culture

<sup>7</sup> ABS, 2016 Census Community Profiles: [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016\\_Census\\_Community\\_Profiles](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016_Census_Community_Profiles)

<sup>8</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census

<sup>9</sup> Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research:

[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> NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation: <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/suspensions-and-expulsions-in-nsw-government-schools>

<sup>11</sup> NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation: <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/suspensions-and-expulsions-in-nsw-government-schools>

<sup>12</sup> Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research:

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<sup>13</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>14</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>15</sup> Their Futures Matter

- 54.9% of people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the Hunter district are aged under 25 years old. This is significantly higher than the state average of 28.6%.<sup>16</sup>
- The proportion of children under 15 affected by a mental illness who identified as Aboriginal was highest in Cessnock (27%) and Singleton (29%).<sup>17</sup>
- The proportion of children and young people aged 15-18 years affected by mental illness who identified as Aboriginal was highest in Maitland and Newcastle (both 22%).<sup>18</sup>
- In the Newcastle LGA, the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attend Waratah West Public School (51%) and Biraban Public School (47%). Waratah West Public school has an attendance rate of 91.7% and Biraban Public school has an attendance rate of 89.3%.<sup>19</sup>

## 8. Aboriginal children, young people, families, and communities have access to culturally safe services

- 4.5% of the population in the Hunter region identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (n=26,665).<sup>20</sup>
- The LGAs with the highest proportions of people who identify as Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander are Cessnock (7.2%) and Singleton (5.7%).<sup>21</sup>
- There were 183 Indigenous Community Housing dwellings in the Hunter district in 2018. The highest number of Indigenous Community Housing dwellings are in Lake Macquarie (n=67).<sup>22</sup>
- There were 330 Aboriginal Housing Office tenancies in the Hunter district in 2018, the highest number being in Lake Macquarie (n=133).<sup>23</sup>

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

<sup>16</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census

<sup>17</sup> Their Futures Matter

<sup>18</sup> Their Futures Matter


<sup>19</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>20</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census

<sup>21</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census

<sup>22</sup> FACS Administrative Data

<sup>23</sup> FACS Administrative Data

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- 6.3% of people in the Hunter district had need for assistance with core activities in the 2016 census. This is higher than the NSW average of 5.4%.<sup>24</sup>
  - 36,339 dwellings (16.8%) had no one accessing the internet in the Hunter district in 2016, slightly higher than the state average of 14.7%; Cessnock had the highest proportion at 21.1%.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> ABS, 2016 Census Community Profiles: [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016\\_Census\\_Community\\_Profiles](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016_Census_Community_Profiles)

<sup>25</sup> ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census