

Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW District

Illawarra Shoalhaven 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.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven District will work with you to identify the needs and priorities of your community. We will look at:


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

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

ISSD Principles – How we are going to work

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

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



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

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

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

Focus Areas

Focus locations for Illawarra and Shoalhaven

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

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

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

For the Illawarra, these locations are:

Barrack Heights, Cringila, Port Kembla, Lake Illawarra, Albion Park Rail, Koonawarra, Unanderra, Brownsville and former Penrose, Warrawong, Warilla, Bellambi and Berkeley.

For Shoalhaven, these locations are:

Bomaderry, Nowra East, Nowra, South Nowra, West Nowra, Sanctuary Point and Ulladulla and surrounding smaller villages.

The Shoalhaven priority locations are also characterised by limited public transport and relative geographic isolation.

Local Priorities for the Illawarra Shoalhaven district

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

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

Evidence

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

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 33% of children aged 0-5 were identified as vulnerable. Of these vulnerable 0-5 year olds, 18% identify as Aboriginal.¹
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 13% of children under 15 were affected by mental illness. Of these children, 21% identify as Aboriginal.²
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 15% of children and young people aged 15-18 were affected by mental illness. Of these children and young people, 18% identify as Aboriginal.³
- In 2017-18, 5,511 children and young people were reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH). Of these children and young people, 1,207 (21.9%) were Aboriginal.⁴
- As of the 30 June 2018, 1,213 children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC) in the Illawarra Shoalhaven. Of these children and young people, 457 (37.7%) were Aboriginal.⁵

¹ Their Futures Matter

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ FACS Administrative data, unpublished.

⁵ Ibid.

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

Vulnerable Children and Young People

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 33% of children aged 0-5 were identified as vulnerable. Shoalhaven had the largest proportion of vulnerable 0-5-year olds, at 43%. This was followed by Shellharbour at 37% and Wollongong at 29%.⁶
- Of the vulnerable 0-5 year olds in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 27% had a concern report, 33% had a parent who had interacted with the justice system and 32% had a mother who smoked during pregnancy.⁷
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 13% of children under 15 were affected by mental illness. Shoalhaven had the largest proportion of children under 15 years old affected by mental illness at 19%. This was followed by Shellharbour at 13% and Wollongong at 12%.⁸
- Children aged under 15 who were affected by mental illness are also vulnerable in other ways. For example, 44% have had a concern report (reports made to the helpline), 33% had a mother who smoked during pregnancy and 33% had parents who have interacted with the justice system.⁹
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 15% of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 were affected by mental illness. Shoalhaven had the largest proportion of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness at 21%. This was followed by Shellharbour at 15% and Wollongong at 14%.¹⁰
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 5,466 children were reported at ROSH in 2016-17, comprising 6.1% of all children. Wollongong LGA had the largest number of children reported at ROSH, at 2,503. This was followed by Shoalhaven, at 1,766.¹¹
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 1,313 children were in OOHC as of 30 June 2017. Shoalhaven had the largest number of children in OOHC, at 498. This was followed by Wollongong, at 481.¹²

Education, Employment and Income

- In the Illawarra, 18.4% of people aged 15 and over reported completing a bachelor degree level or above. This is lower than the NSW average of

⁶ Their Futures Matter

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ FACS Datacube.

¹² Ibid.

23.4%. Only 12.7% of people had completed year 12, again this is lower than the NSW average of 15.3%.

- Shellharbour has significantly lower levels of educational attainment compared to the rest of the district. Only 10.4% of the population reported completing a bachelor level degree or above. 17.1% of the Shellharbour population had completed only Year 10, compared to 11.5% in NSW.¹³
- The unemployment rate in Illawarra Shoalhaven is 6.8%. This is similar to the NSW average of 6.3%. Shellharbour (6.9%), Shoalhaven (6.7%) and Wollongong (7.1%) all have slightly larger proportions of people who are unemployed, compared to the NSW average.¹⁴
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, the average family weekly income was \$1,580. This is less than the NSW average of \$1,780. Shoalhaven has the lowest average family weekly income, at \$1,226. This was followed by Shellharbour at \$1,562.¹⁵
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven district, Shoalhaven and Wollongong had the highest proportions of low-income households. In Shoalhaven, 27.9% of households had a weekly income of less than \$650. This was followed by Wollongong, at 23.1%.¹⁶

Community Safety and Crime (Domestic Violence)

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 1,332 domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence-related assault was most likely to occur in the Shoalhaven LGA, with a rate of 416.5 per 100,000 people. This is higher than the NSW rate of 376.2 per 100,000.¹⁷
- Across each LGA within Illawarra Shoalhaven, 20-29 year olds committed the largest number of offences.¹⁸

Substance Misuse

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, drug offences related to cannabis possession or use were most common. Kiama has the highest rate of cannabis-related drug offences, at 372.9 per 100,000 of the population. This was followed by Shoalhaven at 260.2 per 100,000 of the population.¹⁹
- Drug offences related to amphetamine possession or use were the next most common offences in the Illawarra Shoalhaven. Shoalhaven has the highest rate of amphetamine-related drug offences, at 130.1 per 100,000 of

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

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ 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

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

the population. This was followed by Wollongong at 113.5 per 100,000 of the population.²⁰

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

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 7.1% of households had no registered motor vehicle. Wollongong had the highest proportion of households with no registered motor vehicle, at 9.1%.²¹
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 17.4% of households had no internet access. The highest proportion of households with no internet access was in Shoalhaven at 19.4%. This was followed by Wollongong at 17.2% and Shellharbour at 16.7%.²²

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

- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 9.5% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more AEDC domains. Shellharbour (10.4%), Shoalhaven (10.3%) and Wollongong (10.2%) had the highest proportions of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains. Kiama was much lower, at 2.5%.²³
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 17.8% of children were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains. Shoalhaven LGA has the highest proportion of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains at 20.7%. This was followed by Wollongong LGA at 18.9% and Shellharbour LGA at 18.6%. Again, Kiama LGA was much lower at 8.3%.²⁴
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 5.3% of students received short suspensions in 2018. This is higher than the NSW state average of 4.0%.²⁵
- 1.6% of students in the Illawarra Shoalhaven received long suspensions. This is similar to the NSW state average of 1.5%.²⁶
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 16 students were expelled for misbehaviour in 2018, which is 9.1% of the total expulsions for misbehaviour in the state.²⁷

²⁰ Ibid.

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

²² Ibid.

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

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ 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>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

5. Refugee and emerging communities

- In 2017, 1,436 migrants settled in the Illawarra Shoalhaven. 117 of these migrants were humanitarian entrants. All of these humanitarian migrants settled in the Wollongong LGA.²⁸
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 24.6% of people were born overseas. Wollongong had the highest proportion of overseas born residents at 27.3%.²⁹
- In the Illawarra Shoalhaven, 15.3% of households spoke a language other than English at home. Wollongong (20%) and Shellharbour (14%) had the highest proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home.³⁰

²⁸ 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>

²⁹ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

³⁰ Ibid.