

Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney

South Eastern 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 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 South Eastern Sydney District

In no particular order

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 and transition to school, adolescence, high school or the workforce)
5. Young people at risk of or disengaging from school
6. Families and communities living in social housing experiencing vulnerabilities
7. Grandparents caring 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

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 affected by mental health issues

- Randwick has the highest proportion of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness the South Eastern Sydney district at 11%. 10% of this group are Aboriginal children. In both the Bayside and Sydney LGAs, 10% of children aged under 15 are affected by mental illness. In Bayside, 6% of this group identify as Aboriginal. In Sydney LGA, 13% of this group identify as Aboriginal.¹
- Sydney LGA has the highest proportion of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness, at 16%. 20% of these children and young people identify as Aboriginal. This is followed by Randwick at 15%. 11% of these children and young people identify as Aboriginal.²

Young people and families affected by substance misuse

- The most common drug-related offence in Sydney LGA is possession or use of cannabis (707.5 per 100,000). This is followed by ecstasy possession or use, at 425.5 per 100,000.³

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).⁴
- 19,895 people (2%) were separated and 62,015 people (6.3%) were divorced, in the South Eastern Sydney district in 2016, which is 8.3% of the population, slightly lower than the 11.5% of the average population in NSW getting separated or divorced.⁵
- 31,865 families are one parent families in the South Eastern Sydney district, this is 13.2% of all families in the district. The highest percentage

¹ Their Futures Matter

² Ibid.

³ NSW Local Government Area excel crime tables, BOCSAR:

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

⁴ ABS Marriages and Divorces Australia 2017

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3310.02017?OpenDocument>

⁵ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census, <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

of one parent families is in the Botany Bay area of the Bayside LGA, with 16%.⁶

Families experiencing domestic violence

- In the South Eastern Sydney district, 3,085 domestic violence related-assaults and 5,637 non-domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence related assaults were most likely to occur in the Sydney LGA, with a rate of 431.9 per 100,000 people.⁷

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

- In 2016-17, 183,606 children and young people aged 18 and under were living in the South Eastern Sydney district. 0.4% (n=717) of these children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC). The highest number of these children and young people were in the Sutherland Shire LGA (n=229).⁸
- In 2016-17, of the 183,606 children and young people aged 18 and under, 2.4% (n=4,382) were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). Sutherland Shire LGA had the highest number of children found to be at ROSH (n=1,284).⁹
- Of the 7 LGAs in the South Eastern Sydney district, the highest proportion of children aged 0-5 identified as vulnerable (due to one or more risk factors) were in the Bayside (24%), Georges River (24%) and Sutherland Shire (23%) LGAs.¹⁰¹¹

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

- In the South Eastern Sydney district, 1.0% (n=9,773) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The majority of these people are children and young people. 46.8% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is under 25 years old.¹²
- In Sydney LGA, 10,638 children were under the age of five. Of these children, 21% were identified as vulnerable and 11% of these vulnerable children identified as Aboriginal. By comparison, in Woollahra, 16% of

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ FACS Datacube

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Their Futures Matter

¹¹ 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 South Eastern Sydney district information pack.

¹² 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>

children under the age of five were vulnerable and 1% of these children identified as Aboriginal.¹³

- 11% of children under the age of 15 were affected by a mental illness in Randwick LGA. 10% of these children identified as Aboriginal. In Woollahra, 8% of this group were affected by a mental illness. 2% of these children identified as Aboriginal.¹⁴
- 16% of young people between the ages of 15 and 18 were affected by a mental illness in the Sydney LGA. 20% of this group were Aboriginal. In comparison, 9% of young people between the ages of 15 and 18 were affected by a mental illness in Woollahra LGA. None of the people in this group were Aboriginal.¹⁵

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.¹⁶
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a report identifying the key indicators associated with perinatal depression. These indicators are: being under 25 years old, being a smoker, being born in Australia, living in an English-speaking household, living in an area of disadvantage, and being overweight or obese. Of these factors, Botany (SA3) has high rates in 4 of the 6 indicators. Sutherland-Menai-Heathcote and Cronulla-Miranda-Caringbah (SA3s) have high rates for 3 of the 6 indicators. This means women in these areas have a higher risk of experiencing perinatal depression.¹⁷

Children not reaching their developmental milestones

- Bayside LGA has the highest percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain in the district (22% compared to district proportion of 16.6%).¹⁸
- Bayside LGA is also the only LGA within South Eastern Sydney district to be above the state proportion for children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains (9.9% compared to 9.6%).¹⁹

¹³ Their Futures Matter

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/docs/default-source/factsheets/depressionduringpregnancy.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

¹⁷ <https://www.cesphn.org.au/documents/communications-1/1887-cesphn-mental-health-suicide-prevention-needs-assessment/file>

¹⁸ AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

¹⁹ Ibid

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

- In the South Eastern Sydney district, 37.2% of children were either vulnerable or at risk socially and emotionally on the AEDC developmental domains.²⁰
- In the South Eastern Sydney district, 7.5% (n=727) of children were found to be vulnerable socially, and 5.3% (n=521) were found to be vulnerable emotionally on the AEDC developmental domains. The highest proportion of children found to be vulnerable socially were in the Botany Bay area of the Bayside LGA (11.7%), and the highest proportion found to be vulnerable emotionally was in the Woollahra LGA (8.4%).²¹
- 12.5% (n=1,211) of children were found to be at risk socially and 11.8% (n=1,138) of children were found to be at risk emotionally in the South Eastern Sydney district. The highest proportion of children found to be at risk both socially and emotionally were in the Kogarah region of the Georges River LGA (16.9% social and 15.8% emotional).²²

5. Young people disengaging from school

- School attendance is lowest at Plunkett St Public School (83.3%) in Sydney LGA, followed by JJ Cahill Memorial High in Bayside LGA (87), La Perouse Public School in Randwick LGA (87) and Georges River College Hurstville Boys Campus in Georges River LGA (87.9%).²³
- There was a total of 1,746 short suspensions (1,250 students; 1.8% of enrolments), and 543 long suspensions (433 students; 0.6% of enrolments), in the South Eastern Sydney district in 2018.²⁴
- There were less than 5 students expelled for misbehaviour and 11 for unsatisfactory participation in the South Eastern Sydney district in 2018.²⁵
- In 2018 there were 7,726 crimes committed by 10-17 year olds in the South Eastern Sydney district.²⁶

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ 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>; Student attendance rate by individual government schools (2011-2017): <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/student-attendance-rate-by-school>

²⁴ 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>

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 BOCSAR, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx

6. Families and communities living in social housing experiencing vulnerability

- In the South Eastern Sydney district, 5% of those children aged 0-5 identified as vulnerable (due to one or more risk factors) had parents who have been in social housing.²⁷
- 9% of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.²⁸
- 16% of children aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.²⁹
- The following areas are priority locations for the South Eastern Sydney district, most of which correspond to locations with social housing:
 - Maroubra, Matraville, Malabar – In Maroubra 5.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$774 per week, and 5.4% of people are unemployed. In Matraville 7.3% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$701 per week, and 4.7% of people are unemployed. In Malabar 5.4% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$694 per week, and 4.9% of people are unemployed.³⁰
 - Hillsdale, Eastlakes, Daceyville – In Hillsdale 6.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$668 per week, and 6.6% of people are unemployed. In Eastlakes 9.5% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$495 per week, and 8.6% of people are unemployed. In Daceyville 10.5% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$400 per week, and 13.2% of people are unemployed.³¹
 - Rockdale / Arncliffe – In Rockdale 6.3% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$651 per week, and 7.5% of people are unemployed. In Arncliffe 8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$629 per week, and 6.3% of people were unemployed.³²
 - Jannali/Como – In Jannali 6.3% of people had a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$780 per week, and 4.5% of people are unemployed. in Como 4.6% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$948 per week, and 2.9% of people are unemployed.³³

²⁷ Their Futures Matter

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census, <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

- Woolloomooloo – 4.2% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$1,107 per week, and 5.5% of people are unemployed.³⁴
- Surry Hills – 2.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$1,160 per week, and 4.6% of people are unemployed.³⁵

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 South Eastern Sydney district where grandparents, specifically those 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.³⁶
- 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.³⁷
- 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 carers surveyed raised concerns about physical and mental health, and relationship and social issues.³⁸

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD)

- 52.8% of residents in the South Eastern Sydney district were born outside of Australia, which is much higher than the New South Wales state average of 34.5%.³⁹

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ ABS: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/4402.0Media+Release1+June+2014>

³⁷ First Five Years: <https://www.firstfiveyears.org.au/lifestyle/raising-grandchildren-grandparent-carers>

³⁸ AIFS: <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/families-policy-and-law/12-grandparents-primary-carers-their-grandchildren-policy-and>

³⁹ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census, <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>

- 40.9% of residents in the South Eastern Sydney district spoke a non-English language at home, which is higher than the New South Wales state average of 31.5%.⁴⁰
- The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Bayside (59.4%) and Georges River (56.1%).⁴¹
- Of the total number of migrants arriving in NSW between 1 January to 31 December 2017, 22.8% (n=18,382) migrated to the South Eastern Sydney district.⁴²

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² 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>