

Targeted Earlier Intervention Program

Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Northern Sydney

Northern 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 Northern Sydney District

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

1. Children, young people and families 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

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

- 45% of divorces in NSW involved children aged under 18 in 2017 (n=6,083).¹
- 14,417 people (1.7%) were separated and 49,298 people (5.8%) were divorced, in the Northern Sydney district in 2016, which is 7.5% of the population. This is lower than the 11.5% of the average population in NSW getting separated or divorced.²
- 25,852 families are one parent families in the Northern Sydney district, this is 11.3% of all families in the district. The highest percentage of one parent families is in the Ryde LGA, with 12.5%.³
- Of the nine LGAs in the Northern Sydney district, Ryde (11%), Northern Beaches (10%) and Lane Cove (10%) had the highest proportions of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness. The other LGAs had similar proportions (8% or 9%).⁴
- North Sydney (13%), Northern Beaches (12%), Hornsby (12%) and Lane Cove (12%) had the highest proportions of children and young people aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness. The other LGAs had proportions of 9% and under.
- In the Northern Sydney district, cannabis related offences were the most common drug offences in all LGAs (at a rate of 146.5 per 100,000 of the population), except North Sydney. In North Sydney, the most common drug offence was possession and/or use of ecstasy, at a rate of 213.6 per 100,000 of the population.⁵
- In the Northern Sydney district, 1,283 domestic violence related assaults and 1,546 non-domestic violence related occurred between January and December 2018. Domestic violence related assault was most likely to occur in Ryde, with a rate of 204.0 per 100,000 people.⁶

¹ ABS Marriages and Divorces Australia 2017

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

² ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016 QuickStats](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Their Futures Matter

⁵ 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

⁶ 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



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

In 2016-17, 198,381 children and young people aged 18 and under were living in the Northern Sydney district. 0.2% (n=374) of these children and young people were in out-of-home care (OOHC). The majority of these children and young people were in the Northern Beaches (n=144) and Hornsby (n=99) LGAs.⁷

- In 2016-17, of the 198,381 children and young people aged 18 and under, 1.5% (n=3,035) of children and young people were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). The majority of these children were in the Northern Beaches (n=1,020).⁸

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

- In the Northern Sydney district, 0.4% (n=3,251) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The majority of these people are children and young people; 47% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Northern Sydney district are under 25 years of age. This is 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.⁹

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.¹⁰

⁷ FACS Datacube

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 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>

¹⁰ <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/docs/default-source/factsheets/depressionduringpregnancy.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Children not reaching their developmental milestones

- Ryde LGA (19.1%) has the highest percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain across the Northern Sydney district with the district rate being 17.3%.¹¹
- Mosman LGA (7.7%) has the highest percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains across the Northern Sydney district with the district rate of 6.0%.¹²
- 20% of children aged 0 to 5 in the Hornsby and Northern Beaches LGAs are identified as being vulnerable. This is followed by 19% in Ryde LGA and 18% in Mosman LGA.^{13 14}

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

- In the Northern Sydney district, 35.5% of children were either vulnerable or at risk socially and emotionally.¹⁵
- In the Northern Sydney district, 6.2% (n=717) of children were found to be vulnerable socially and 5.4% (n=624) of children were found to be vulnerable emotionally on the AEDC developmental domains. The highest proportions of both socially and emotionally vulnerable children were in the Pittwater region of the Northern Beaches LGA (10.1% socially and 6.6% emotionally).¹⁶
- 12.1% (n=1,384) of children were found to be at risk socially, and 11.6% (n=1,332) of children were found to be at risk emotionally in the Northern Sydney district. The highest proportions of children both at risk socially and emotionally were in the Lane Cove LGA (19.2% socially and 13.2% emotionally).¹⁷

5. Young people disengaging from school

- The three schools with the lowest attendance rate across the Northern Sydney district are in the Northern Beaches LGA. These are Northern Beaches Secondary College Balgowlah Boys Campus (88), The Forest High School (89.9) and Narrabeen Sports High School (90.5).¹⁸

¹¹ AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

¹² Ibid

¹³ Their Futures Matter

¹⁴ 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 Northern Sydney district information pack.

¹⁵ AEDC data explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ 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>

- There was a total of 1,033 short suspensions (840 students; 0.9% of enrolments), and 454 long suspensions (371 students; 0.4% of enrolments), in the Northern Sydney district in 2018.¹⁹
- There were 6 expulsions for misbehaviour and less than 5 expulsions for unsatisfactory participation in the Northern Sydney district in 2018.²⁰
- In 2018 there were 2,687 crimes committed by 10-17 year olds in the Northern Sydney district.²¹

6. Families and communities living in social housing experiencing vulnerability

- In the Northern Sydney district, 1% of those children aged 0-5 identified as vulnerable (due to one or more risk factors) had parents who have been in social housing.²²
- 3% of children aged under 15 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.²³
- 5% of children aged between 15 and 18 affected by mental illness had parents who have been in social housing.²⁴
- The following areas are priority locations for the Northern district, most of which correspond to locations with social housing:
 - Ryde – 5.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$756 per week, and 5.9% of people are unemployed.
 - Hornsby / Waitara – In Hornsby 4.3% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$746 per week, and 6.1% of people are unemployed; In Waitara 3.1% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$837 per week, and 6.7% of people are unemployed.
 - Northern Beaches – Narrabeena, Allambie Heights, Brookvale: In Narrabeena 8.8% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$654 per week, and 3.3% of people are unemployed; In Allambie Heights 5.3% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$777 per week, and 3.2%

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ 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>

²¹BOCSAR, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx

²² Their Futures Matter

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

of people are unemployed; In Brookvale 5.4% of people have a year 9 or below level of education, personal income is \$910 per week, and 3.8% of people are unemployed.²⁵

7. Grandparents who care for grandchildren or kin carers experiencing vulnerability

- Based on the knowledge of local service providers, we know that there are pockets within the Northern Sydney district where grandparents, specifically those from non-English speaking backgrounds, provide care for their grandchildren in place of formal care, such as pre-school. 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.²⁶
- 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, which was most likely if that parent were relatively young, had a lower level of education attainment, or was from a non-English speaking background.²⁷
- 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. These carers raised concerns about physical and mental health, and relationship and social issues.²⁸

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (CALD)

- 41.6% of residents in the Northern Sydney district were born outside of Australia, which is higher than the New South Wales state average of 34.5%.²⁹
- 32.5% of residents in the Northern Sydney district spoke a non-English language at home, which is close to the New South Wales state average of 31.5%.³⁰

²⁵ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016 QuickStats](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats)


²⁶ 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)

²⁷ First Five Years: <https://www.firstfiveyears.org.au/lifestyle/raising-grandchildren-grandparent-carers>

²⁸ AIFS: <https://aifs.gov.au/publications/families-policy-and-law/12-grandparents-primary-carers-their-grandchildren-policy-and>

²⁹ ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016 QuickStats](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats)

³⁰ Ibid.

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- The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Ryde (51.1%), Willoughby (44.5%) and Hornsby (34.8%).³¹
 - Of the total number of migrants arriving in NSW between 1 January to 31 December 2017, 15.8% migrated to the Northern Sydney district.³²

³¹ Ibid.

³² 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>