

NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

The Central Coast Picture

Children and young people

- 16% children live below the poverty line, 9,662 children.
- 13.6% young people aged 12-17 are overweight or obese.
- 55 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm report.

Housing and homelessness

- 245 people per 100,000 are homeless.
- Over 10 years wait time for social housing in Gosford, Newcastle and Wyong.

Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- 44% of people incarcerated people in Hunter New England and the Central Coast are Aboriginal.
- In 2016, 22% of Aboriginal people convicted of a driving offence in NSW were from Hunter New England and the Central Coast.

Energy and the cost of living

- Across most of regional NSW, average market electricity bills are \$275 higher than those covering Sydney.
- The 2017 Cost of Living Survey showed the average energy bill for people on low incomes in Hunter/Newcastle is \$472 for electricity, substantially higher than for those living in metropolitan Sydney (\$362).

Mental health

- 10.1% people aged over 16 years experience high or very high psychological distress.
- This percentage is higher for young people aged 12-17 at 12.2%.
- 1 in 7 people in Hunter New England and the Central Coast experience chronic mental and behavioural problems.

Gender equity

- 2-4 weeks wait to see a Financial Counsellor in Hunter New England.

Disability

- The rate of profound or severe disability across the Hunter New England and Central Coast region (5.8%) is higher than the state average of 4.9%.