

## NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

### The Hunter Picture

#### Children and young people

- 14% children live below the poverty line.
- 22.9% young people aged 12-17 are overweight or obese.
- 65 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm report.

#### Housing and homelessness

- 289 people per 100,000 are homeless.
- Over 10 years wait time for social housing in Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Maitland.

#### Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- 44% of people incarcerated 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 \$417 for electricity and \$166 for gas, higher than for those living in metropolitan Sydney (\$362 and \$162 respectively).

#### Mental health

- 12.2% people aged over 16 years experience high or very high psychological distress.
- This percentage is higher for young people aged 12-17 at 14.8%.
- 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.

#### 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%.