

## NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

### The Mid North Coast Picture

#### Children and young people

- 22% children live below the poverty line.
- 18.2% young people aged 12-17 are overweight or obese.

#### Housing and homelessness

- 405 people per 100,000 are homeless.
- Over 10 years wait time for social housing in Port Macquarie, Bellingen and Woolgoolga.

#### Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- 49% of people incarcerated in the Mid North Coast region are Aboriginal.
- In 2016, 5.5% of Aboriginal people convicted of a driving offence in NSW were from the Mid North Coast region.

#### Energy and the cost of living

- Across most of regional NSW, average market electricity bills are \$275 higher than those covering Sydney.
- The Cost of Living Report showed that average annual bills for low income people in the Sydney metropolitan area were \$1448, when across the rest of the State they were \$1602, with average bills in the west/central west of the State \$2656. <sup>1</sup>

#### Mental health

- 14.5% of people aged over 16 years experience high or very high psychological distress.

#### Gender equity

- An average of 3 weeks (Coffs Harbour 8 weeks, Kempsey 5 weeks) to see Financial Counsellor.

#### Disability

- The rate of profound or severe disability across the Mid North Coast (7.2%) is significantly higher than the state average of 4.9%.

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<sup>1</sup> These figures were obtained before a 20% increase in retail prices, and are based upon levels of usage that are at or below what is needed to maintain a basic standard of healthy quality of life.