

# District Profile: Hunter New England District

This accessible text document provides a descriptive summary of indicators presented in the Hunter New England District Profile Dashboard. It accompanies the [interactive dashboard](#), published on our Department's website.

## Overview

Statistics presented in the Dashboard are mainly derived from data products published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (e.g., 2016 Census and Estimated Resident Population of Australia) and from our performance results in 2018-19. The indicators are reported under the following five topics:

1. **Demographics:** Eight indicators are included under this topic to provide a comparison of the district with the whole of NSW. These include population growth rate, age distribution, and the size of disadvantaged groups (e.g., Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, and people aged under 65 years who need assistance with core activities).
2. **Our clients:** Statistics presented under this topic highlight nine selected service delivery indicators from our child protection and social housing services in the district compared the whole of NSW.
3. **Families and homelessness:** This section compares the district with the whole of NSW on three indicators:
  - a. the proportion of families with children aged under 15 years;
  - b. the proportion of one-parent families with children aged under 15 years and a weekly family income less than \$650; and
  - c. the homelessness rate.
4. **Employment and income:** This section compares the district with the whole of NSW on three indicators:
  - a. average annual employee income;
  - b. the proportion of Newstart Allowance recipients; and

c. the proportion of Disability Support Pension recipients.

5. **Health and safety:** This section compares the district with the whole of NSW on two indicators:

- a. hospitalisations rates for all causes; and
- b. the rate of domestic assaults.

## 1. Demographics

According to ABS Estimate Resident Population of Australia 2018-19:

- The estimated population growth rate from 2018 to 2019 for Hunter New England District was **0.9** per cent. Compared to the overall NSW growth rate at **1.4** per cent for the same period, the population in Hunter New England District grew slower than that in NSW.

The ABS 2016 Census data show that:

- The proportion of people aged 0-17 years was **22.3** per cent in Hunter New England District. This is similar to the overall NSW result of **22.1** per cent.
- People aged 18-64 years made up **58.2** per cent of the population in Hunter New England District. This is lower than the overall NSW result of **61.6** per cent.
- In Hunter New England District, **19.5** per cent of the population were people aged 65 years and over. Proportionately more people aged 65 years and over were in Hunter New England District than in NSW (**16.3** per cent).
- Aboriginal people accounted for **5.9** per cent of the population in Hunter New England District. This is higher than the overall NSW result of **2.9** per cent.
- People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background accounted for **9.5** per cent of the population in Hunter New England District. This is lower than the overall NSW result of **27.7** per cent.

- People aged under 65 years who need assistance with core activities accounted for **6.3** per cent of the total population in Hunter New England District. Proportionately more people aged under 65 years who need assistance with core activities were in Hunter New England District than in NSW (**5.4** per cent).
- The percentage of carers for people with disability in Hunter New England District was **10.3** per cent, which is slightly higher than the overall NSW result of **9.5** per cent.

## 2. Our clients

### Child protection services – Hunter District

- In 2018-19, the rate of children and young people involved in risk of significant harm (ROSH) reports in Hunter District was **73** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years, about **1.1** times the rate of children and young people involved in ROSH reports in NSW (**64** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years).
- In Hunter District, the rate of children and young people involved in ROSH reports who were seen by DCJ caseworkers was **17** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in 2018-19. This is lower than the rate of **19** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in NSW.
- At 30 June 2019, the rate of children and young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) was **16** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in Hunter District, **1.6** times the rate of children and young people in OOHC in NSW (**10** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years).
- In 2018-19, **70.4** per cent of children and young people entering OOHC, entered for the first time in Hunter District. Compared to **73.5** per cent in NSW, proportionately fewer new children and young people entered OOHC in Hunter District than that in NSW.
- At 30 June 2019, **51.7** per cent of children and young people have been in OOHC for at least five years in Hunter District. This is higher than the overall NSW result of **49.4** per cent.

## Child protection services – New England District

- In 2018-19, the rate of children and young people involved in risk of significant harm (ROSH) reports in New England District was **128** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years, about **double** the rate of children and young people involved in ROSH reports in NSW (**128** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years).
- In New England District, the rate of children and young people involved in ROSH reports who were seen by DCJ caseworkers was **27** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in 2018-19. This is higher than the rate of **19** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in NSW.
- At 30 June 2019, the rate of children and young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) was **19** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years in New England District, **1.9** times the rate of children and young people in OOHC in NSW (**10** per 1,000 population aged 0-17 years).
- In 2018-19, **71.2** per cent of children and young people entering OOHC, entered for the first time in New England District. Compared to **73.5** per cent in NSW, proportionately fewer new children and young people entered OOHC in New England District than that in NSW.
- At 30 June 2019, **47.7** per cent of children and young people have been in OOHC for at least five years in New England District. This is lower than the overall NSW result of **49.4** per cent.

## Social housing services

- In 2018-19, **20.3** per cent of households exited from public housing and Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) properties to private rental market/ownership in Hunter New England District. Compared to **14.0** per cent in NSW, proportionately more households moved to private rental market/ownership from public housing and AHO properties in Hunter New England District.
- At 30 June 2019, single parents with dependent children accounted for **28.9** per cent of applicant households on the NSW Housing Register in Hunter New England District. Compared to **23.5** per cent in NSW, Hunter New England District had proportionately more applicant households who were single parents with dependent children on the Register.

- In 2018-19, **27.0** per cent of newly housed applicants in public housing and AHO properties received a Newstart Allowance in Hunter New England District. This is lower than the overall NSW result of **28.3** per cent.
- In 2018-19, **2.5** per cent of the households in Hunter New England District were in public housing or a property of AHO Compared to **3.3** per cent in NSW, Hunter New England District had relatively fewer households living in public housing or a property of AHO.

### 3. Families and homelessness

The ABS 2016 Census data show that:

- The rate of families with children under 15 years per 1,000 families in Hunter New England District was **230**, which is slightly lower than the overall NSW result of **246**.
- The percentage of one-parent families with children aged under 15 years and a weekly income less than \$650 was **2.4** per cent in Hunter New England District. This is slightly higher than the overall NSW result of **1.9** per cent.
- The homelessness rate was **306** per 100,000 people in Hunter New England District. This is much lower than the rate of **504** per 100,000 people in NSW. Hunter New England had relatively fewer homeless people than NSW overall.

### 4. Employment and income

- According to ABS, the average annual employee income in 2016 was **\$55,421** in Hunter New England District. This is **\$6,528** or **10.5** per cent lower than that in NSW (**\$61,949**).
- In 2018-19, **5.6** per cent of the total working age population received a Newstart Allowance in Hunter New England District, which is higher than the overall NSW result of **3.9** per cent.

- In 2018-19, **4.5** per cent of the population in Hunter New England District received Disability Support Pensions. This is higher than the overall NSW result of **2.9** per cent.

## 5. Health and safety

- In 2018-19, the rate of hospitalisations for all causes per 1,000 population was **442** in Hunter New England District, which is higher than the overall NSW result of **409**.
- The rate of domestic assaults per 100,000 population in Hunter New England District was **430** in 2018-19. This is higher than the overall NSW result of **372**.

## Endnotes

If you need more information on this DCJ District, please contact us on [FACSIAR@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FACSIAR@facs.nsw.gov.au).

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Visit the [DCJ Statistics](#) website to view key DCJ performance data.