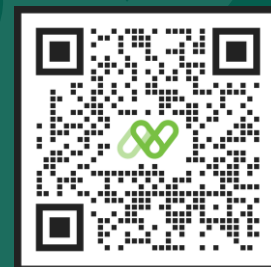


Illawarra Dharawal Country



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full report



Poverty & Demographics



Poverty Rate

Illawarra

13.33%

NSW

13.4%



Single Parent Families

17.5%

15.8%



Median Household Income

\$1,450

\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



66%

people are living in housing stress.¹

74%

Nearly three quarters of people have gone without essential items due to cost.

41%

people in the Illawarra have skipped meals because they were short of money.

Health



22%

One in five people went to ED because they couldn't access a GP.²

46%

people went without a prescribed medication due to costs.



630%

35% of residents have delayed or avoided seeing a GP due to cost. This has increased over 630% since 2020.

Children and Young People



13.5%

children are living in poverty at a cost of \$1.9 billion.⁴

765

young offenders recorded in the Illawarra in the last 12 months. 67.8% who proceeded to court.⁶

11%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁵

Local Challenges



55.6

pokie machines in Wollongong for every 1000 people, almost 4 times the NSW average of 14.⁷

35.2%

In the Robertson electorate, 35.2% of people identified climate change as an issue across the community.⁸

47%

Low income earners make up 47% of people experiencing some of the poorest patient experience across all NSW Regions.⁹

¹ Impossible Choices: Decisions NSW families shouldn't have to make. Regional Snapshot. NSW Council of Social Service. Following statistics have come from the NCOSS Cost of Living report. ² Access Denied: Australians Locked Out of Quality Healthcare Patient Experience and Socioeconomic Disadvantage in NSW. NCOSS 2024/2024. ³ NSW Street Count results. NSW Government. ⁴ Lasting Impacts of Child Poverty. NCOSS. ⁵ Australian Early Development Census 2024. Data by SA4. ⁶ Trends in youth offending in NSW 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ⁷ Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2. ⁸ Social Justice Stocktake 2025. Salvation Army ⁹ Poverty rate is defined as 15.27% of households. Single parent families is defined as 18.5% of all families. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022. 2021 Census Quickstats.