

Sydney – Inner West

Gadigal and Wangal Country

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Poverty & Demographics



Poverty Rate

10.35%

13.4%



Single Parent Families

13.3%

15.8%



Median Household Income

\$2,250

\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



82%

of people living in the Inner West are living in housing stress¹

50%

of people have gone without meals because they were short of money.

53%

of people have been unable to pay a utility bill on time at least once.

Health



18.2%

of people have waited longer than acceptable to see a specialist.³



370%

The number of people delaying or avoiding seeing a GP due to cost has increased 370% since 2020.

45%

of people in the region have gone without prescribed medication because of cost.

Children and Young People



8.5%

of children are living in poverty at a cost of \$4.7 billion.⁴

315

young offenders across the region in the last 12 months. Decreasing from 370 in the previous year.⁵

7.7%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁶

Local Challenges



806

number of DV assaults recorded in Inner West over the 12 months to March 2025.⁷

1,973

people in the Inner West are on the social housing waitlist.⁸

57.7

Ashfield – South, in the Inner West, has 57.7 pokie machines per 1000 people, the 8th highest in NSW.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. ⁴ Lasting Impacts of Child Poverty. NCOSS. ⁵ Trends in youth offending in NSW 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ⁶ Australian Early Development Census 2024. Data by SA4. ⁷ NSW Recorded Crime Statistics. March 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ⁸ Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2. ⁹ Social housing applicant households on the NSW Housing Register by Allocation Zone. May 2025. NSW Department of Communities and Justice ⁹ Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2 ¹⁰ 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.