



On the Central Coast health, housing and young people were the key priority issues. In health the community wants to see community based health services, particularly for women and people experiencing mental ill health. Unaffordable dental health is a key issue for people on the Central Coast and there is a six week wait list for dental care that is not acute.

More social and affordable housing and supported accommodation is needed in this region. There is only a 3% availability of accommodation on the Coast. Rents are very high and people moving from Sydney have pushed up the cost of housing.

Finally the Central Coast needs a strategy focussed on young people, with more investment in early intervention. There is significant need in this region, particularly for 0-13 year olds, but no growth in funding in this area.

Cost of living

- In the year to July 2015 an average yearly electricity bill cost \$2,100
- Latest figures show the average annual personal income in the region was \$45,005, more than \$5,000 less than the state average

- Latest median weekly rental figures for 2 bedroom dwellings (March Qtr 2016) range from \$325 in Wyong, to \$360 in Gosford
- Latest figures show Local Government rate assessments in Gosford were \$767.90 and \$784.19 in Wyong, compared to the State median of \$672

Children and young people

- Latest figures show 55 in every 1000 children are involved in risk of significant harm reports and 15.1 were in out-of-home care
- 9,662 children in the region are living below the poverty line, with a child poverty rate of 15.98%, compared with a state average rate of 13.8%
- Last year 128 young people aged 15-24 were hospitalised due to intentional self-harm

“ If you want to stop the flow, you have to break the poverty cycle for children... over 33% of homeless are young people and we have higher youth unemployment than the state average. ”

Dental wait list

- 1239 children and 8161 adults are on the NSW public dental waiting list
- Only 55.1% of children age 5-6 years are free of dental cavities
- On average, children age 5-6 years have 1.57 decayed, missing or filled teeth

“ Poor teeth impact on other areas of your life - employment, social life and internal health issues. ”

Social Housing wait list

- Latest figures show there were 4,978 social housing units, with 3,141 people still on the waiting list
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015, 284 people were successfully housed, but expected waiting times for those still on the list exceed 10 years

“ A house is essential to everything, you can't have good health without a home. ”