

In the Far West, with an Aboriginal population at 9.8% of the total – 4 times the state average, it is crucial that Aboriginal people can take ownership of determining solutions for their communities. Self-determination for local Aboriginal peoples and communities should be central to how problems are solved – putting control over developing and implementing solutions in their hands.

All forms of transport – planes, trains, buses, taxis and cars – are unaffordable and insufficient in this region. They make accessing employment and education hard, but also travel to healthcare services.

The health needs of children and young people are also a priority, along with mental health. Work should be done to tap into preschools and primary schools to have those children accessing healthcare and in particular targeting health outcomes for 2-3 year olds. Employment and education are critical issues, with a need for economic growth and investment in the region, but also programs to connect young people to skills and work. Maintenance of social housing in this region is also a significant issue, with people living in terrible conditions.

Cost of living

- Latest figures show the average annual personal income in the region was \$41,490, which was nearly \$10,000 less than the state average
- In the year to July 2015 an average yearly electricity bill cost \$2,600, which is over \$500 more than the equivalent in Sydney and Newcastle

“ Access to health care is a basic human right. ”

- Latest median weekly rental figures for 2 bedroom dwellings in the Broken Hill and Far west region are \$200
- Latest figures show Local Government rate assessments in the region ranged from \$208 in Balranald, \$214 in Central Darling, \$533 in Wellington, \$647 in Broken Hill, against a rural average of \$531



Children and young people

- Nearly 27% of children in Central Darling are developmentally vulnerable according to the Australian Early Development Census. This is the second highest proportion of children in any LGA in NSW

“ The Justice system is not fair on our youth. Too many of our young people are getting caught in the system and locked up for mental charges. This locks them out of work and housing. ”

- Latest figures show 104 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm reports and nearly 16 in 1000 were in out-of-home care
- Despite having some of the highest rates of vulnerable children, there are no Sustaining NSW Families nurse home-visiting sites in the Far West
- 861 children in the region live below the poverty line, with a child poverty rate of 22.45%. The child poverty rate in the region is nearly double the state average of 13.8%
- 16% of hospitalisations due to intentional self-harm were young people aged between 15 and 24

Dental wait list

- 19 children and 413 adults are on the NSW public dental waiting list

Social Housing wait list

- Latest figures show there were 235 social housing properties, with 141 applicants still on the waiting list for housing
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015 39 applicants were housed, with the expected waiting times for those still on the waiting list in Broken Hill between 2-5 years, and up to 10 years in other areas of the region

“ We need models of shared home ownership in Aboriginal communities. This could be overseen by the Land Council. It needs to be run out of communities for communities. ”