



On the Mid-North Coast housing and homelessness, with their link with drugs and alcohol, opportunities for young people and mental health were the key priorities. In this area even housing at the bottom end of the market is not affordable for many people. Services for people at risk of homelessness are overwhelmed and cannot meet the demand.

This community wants to see ongoing support for families prioritised to ensure children and young people are supported and not at risk. We also need to see children and young people empowered, and their voices amplified in policy discussions about them.

“ Many clients are trying to access super because their income is just not enough to cover the cost of living. ”

Mental health was identified as impacting on all service systems, as were the current service gaps and lack of clear pathways to services where the gaps occur.

Cost of living

- Latest figures show the average annual personal income in the region was \$38,830, which is \$12,000 less than the state average

- In the year to July 2015 an average yearly electricity bill cost \$2,600, which is more than \$500 more than the equivalent in Sydney and Newcastle
- Latest median weekly rental figures for 2 bedroom dwellings range from \$250 in Kempsey/Nambucca, \$300 in Coffs Harbour, to \$310 in Port Macquarie
- Latest figures show Local Government rate assessments in the region ranged from \$648 in Kempsey, \$717 in Nambucca, \$785 in Coffs Harbour, to \$880 in Port Macquarie, against a rural average of \$531

Children and young people

- Latest figures show 69 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm reports and over 14 in 1000 were in out-of-home care
- Despite having high rates of vulnerable children there are no Sustaining NSW Families nurse home-visiting sites in the Mid North Coast

“ Young people are ending up at the pointy end of support services because they can't get the early support to stop them ending up there, and then it's too late. ”

- 9,899 children in the region living below the poverty line, at a rate nearly double the state average at 21.8%.

Nambucca's child poverty rate of 26.7% is one of the highest in the state

- In 2014-15, 111 young people aged 15-24 were hospitalised due to intentional self-harm

Dental wait list

- 509 children and 5612 adults are on the NSW public dental waiting list
- Only 42.2% of children age 5-6 years are free of dental caries
- On average, children age 5-6 years have 3.07 decayed, missing or filled teeth

Social Housing wait list

- Latest figures show there were 3,580 social housing units in the Mid North Coast, with a further 2,057 people still waiting to be housed

“ There is not enough social housing. There needs to be a business model around sustainable affordable housing, to maintain a sustainable industry. ”

- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015, 201 people were housed, with expected waiting times ranging from 2-5 years in Wauchope, 5-10 years in places like Bellingen and Macksville, to over 10 years in places like Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga and Port Macquarie