



In Southern NSW young people, housing, mental health and health were the major issues. This community wants to see trauma informed services and supports for young people, along with outreach services in mental health. We need services that support people before they reach crisis point and need acute care. We need to target children from zero up, to help them connect to their community, building into schools and existing programmes, and working with children before the crisis cycle begins.

Southern NSW also need more housing, with a significant wait list for accessible housing in all areas in this region. People have to travel out of town to find affordable housing and this has flow on impacts of cost of transport and access to employment.

Cost of living

- Latest figures show the average annual personal income in the region was \$54,383
- 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 \$180 in the Lachlan Valley, \$200 in the Snowy Mountains, \$240 in Goulburn/Yass, \$250 in the South Coast, to \$295 in Queanbeyan

“ People are having to travel out of town to find affordable housing, the cost of transport takes away from the basics, like prescriptions, utilities and food. ”

- Latest figures show Local Government rate assessments in the region ranged from \$477 in Bombala, \$608 in the Snowy River and Yass Valley, \$680 in Cooma-Monaro, \$688 in Eurobodalla, \$767 in Goulburn-Mulwaree, \$789 in the Bega Valley, to \$935 in Queanbeyan, against a state median of \$672

Children and young people

- Latest figures show 51 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm reports and 10 in 1000 were in out-of-home care
- 6,925 children in the region living below the poverty line, with a child poverty rate of 14% that is higher than the state average. Eurobodalla has one of the highest child poverty rates in the state, at 23.2%.

- In 2014-15, 112 young people aged 15-24 were hospitalised due to intentional self-harm

Dental wait list

- 311 children and 1761 adults are on the NSW public dental waiting list
- Only 55.5% of children age 5-6 years are free of dental caries
- On average, children age 5-6 years have 1.98 decayed, missing or filled teeth

Social Housing wait list

- The latest figures show there were 2,878 social housing units in Southern NSW, with 1,276 people still on the list waiting to be housed
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2015 275 people were housed, with expected waiting times for those still on the list exceeding 2-5 years in Bega, 5-10 years across much of the region, and exceeding 10 years in places like Queanbeyan

“ Young people with emerging mental health issues can't get to see a practitioner until it becomes acute – there is a major gap around accessing support. ”