

## NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

### The Far West Picture

#### Children and young people

- 22% children live below the poverty line, 861 children.
- 30.4% young people aged 12-17 in the Western NSW and Far West regions are overweight or obese.

#### Housing and homelessness

- 272 people per 100,000 are homeless.

#### Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- In 2016-7, 61% of people incarcerated in the Far West were Aboriginal.

#### Energy and the cost of living

- Across most of regional NSW, average market electricity bills are \$275 higher than those covering Sydney.
- The 2017 Cost of Living Survey showed the average energy bill for people on low incomes in Western NSW was \$2 656, compared to \$1 448 in Metropolitan Sydney.<sup>1</sup>

#### Disability

- The rate of profound or severe disability across the Mid North Coast (6.7%) is nearly 25% higher than the state average of 4.9%.

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<sup>1</sup> These figures were obtained before a 20% increase in retail prices, and are based upon levels of usage that are at or below what is needed to maintain a basic standard of healthy quality of life.