

## NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

### The Illawarra Shoalhaven Picture

#### Children and young people

- 15% children live below the poverty line, 10,363 children.
- 16.6% young people aged 12-17 in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Sydney and South Eastern Sydney regions are overweight or obese.
- Over 55.9 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm reports.
- Nearly 16 in 1000 children are in out of home care.

#### Housing and homelessness

- 323 people per 100,000 are homeless.
- Over 10 years wait time for social housing in Kiama, Nowra, Wollongong and Ulladulla.

#### Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- In 2016, 7.5% of Aboriginal people convicted of a driving offence in NSW were from the Shoalhaven area.

#### 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 Illawarra is \$347 for electricity and \$80 for gas.

#### Mental health

- 11.8% people aged over 16 years in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Sydney and South Eastern Sydney experience high or very high psychological distress.
- This percentage is higher for young people aged 12-17 at 13.5%.

#### Gender equity

- 2 week wait to see a Financial Counsellor in Illawarra and 6 weeks in Shoalhaven.

#### Disability

- Over 22,000 non-indigenous residents in the Illawarra Shoalhaven are living with a profound or severe disability (approximately 6% of total residents), as are 6% of the Indigenous population (658).