

NCOSS Pre-Budget Submission 2018-18

The Western NSW Picture

Children and young people

- 17% children live below the poverty line.
- 30.4% young people aged 12-17 are overweight or obese.
- 86 in every 1000 children were involved in risk of significant harm report.
- 22 in every 1000 children were in out of home care.

Housing and homelessness

- 268 people per 100,000 are homeless.
- Over 10 years wait time for social housing in Mandurama, Yeoval and Boorowa.

Aboriginal communities and the justice system

- In 2016-7, 74% of people incarcerated in the Far West were Aboriginal.
- In 2016, 16% of Aboriginal people convicted of a driving offence were from the Western NSW region.

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.¹

Mental health

- 12.1% people aged over 16 years experience high or very high psychological distress.
- Communities across Western NSW have higher than average rates of mental and behavioural conditions

Gender equity

- 3-5 weeks to see a Financial Counsellor in Bathurst.

¹ 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.