



Mapping Economic Disadvantage in New South Wales

Yogi Vidyattama, Robert Tanton and NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS)

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ABOUT NCOSS

NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) is the peak body for health and community services in NSW. NCOSS works to progress social justice and shape positive change toward a NSW free from inequality and disadvantage. We are an independent voice advocating for the wellbeing of NSW communities. At NCOSS, we believe that a diverse, well-resourced and knowledgeable social service sector is fundamental to reducing economic and social inequality.



NEW SOUTH
WALES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standards
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
IGPA	Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis
NATSEM	National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling
NSW	New South Wales
SA2	Statistical Areas Level Two
SPRC	Social Policy Research Centre

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DESPITE NSW'S STRONG ECONOMY AND ABUNDANT RESOURCES, MANY IN THE STATE EXPERIENCE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF DISADVANTAGE. EVEN IN THE MOST PROSPEROUS AREAS, MORE THAN ONE IN 25 PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN POVERTY. IN SOME COMMUNITIES THIS IS THE SITUATION FOR OVER A QUARTER OF THE POPULATION.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Not having sufficient resources to cover the basics and achieve a reasonable standard of living can have profound and long-lasting impacts. Poverty and disadvantage impact on social and emotional wellbeing, physical health, life expectancy and the ability to create a stable home environment. It can prevent communities from thriving.

This report, and its accompanying maps at <https://maps.ncoss.org.au/>, examine where disadvantage occurs in NSW and those affected by it.

By using complex modelling techniques, NATSEM has produced poverty estimates for small areas (ABS SA2 geography) across NSW. The research breaks down poverty rates and gives us a sophisticated picture of where people living with disadvantage are located and who they are – including their age, sex, employment, family arrangements, and housing tenure. It shows us that the characteristics of people living with disadvantage can vary strikingly from one community to another.

Poverty is often talked about in terms of deficits, a lack of resources and the result of poor decision making or personal failure. This ignores the resilience, resourcefulness and fortitude required to get by each day. It also overlooks the structural issues contributing to significant economic disadvantage – the changing nature of work; declining opportunities in regional areas; a shortage of affordable housing; the impact of gender inequality; and inadequate income support policies that prevent people getting their

lives on track. In this report we have used the term 'poverty' interchangeably with 'significant economic disadvantage' to help highlight the systemic nature of many barriers that people face.

Governments continue to place a strong emphasis on the importance of evidence-informed, data-driven policies and programs that result in measurable outcomes. This research is intended to feed into this evidence base by helping us see and understand how poverty affects our communities.

01 More than **888,000 people in NSW** live with significant economic disadvantage – living below the poverty line – which is **13.3%** of the total **NSW population**.

02 There is wide variation in the distribution of significant economic disadvantage – with overall poverty rates for different locations ranging from a low of **4.1% (Queanbeyan region)** to a high of **28.3% (Guildford-South, Granville)**.

03 Of all age groups, children were the cohort most likely to be living in poverty. More than **1 in 6 children** in NSW live below the poverty line.

04 Women have higher poverty rates than men. In terms of composition, of all people over the age of 15 living below the poverty line in NSW, **women** make up **53.6%** compared to **46.4%** who are **men**.

05 People without a job, including those **unemployed** and others **not in the labour force**, had **higher rates of significant economic disadvantage** than those who were working.

06 Having a job is not necessarily a guarantee of economic security – poverty rates for people in **full-time and part-time work** across the state were **5.0% and 7.0%** respectively. But those who are **unemployed** have a significantly higher poverty rate at **33.8%**.

KEY FINDINGS



07 Being **single**, either in a lone parent household or living alone, **increases the likelihood of living in poverty**.

08 Being a **single parent** in regional NSW is particularly challenging – **ten regional locations** featured poverty rates of **over 50%** (and **up to 65.6%**) for this group.

09 Significant economic disadvantage among **renters** is concentrated in **outer suburban** and **regional areas** which have tended to be considered more affordable.

10 Households renting in the private market face a **higher rate of significant economic disadvantage** than those who own their own home or are paying off a mortgage. **Social housing tenants** were the **most likely to be living in poverty**.

11 Owning your own home does not make you immune to poverty. **Homeowners without a mortgage still experience poverty at a rate of 7.4%**.

12 Cumulative risk factors and socio-economic barriers result in **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people¹** and **people with disability** experiencing **double the rates of significant economic disadvantage** compared to the general NSW population.

13 On nearly all characteristics, those **living outside Sydney** are faring worse and are **more likely to be living in poverty** than their metropolitan counterparts.

1. Note: This report uses the term 'Aboriginal' to be inclusive of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



INTRODUCTION

This report looks at poverty rates, or the experience of significant economic disadvantage, for different population groups within NSW, as well as investigating which population groups are in poverty - the composition of poverty. Along with the accompanying maps, it also analyses the spatial distribution of poverty across the state. This enables us to identify trends and patterns for different groups experiencing poverty and different locations, and to draw on other evidence to examine contributory factors and impacts.

In so doing, the intention is to better understand the nature and extent of significant economic disadvantage in NSW. This can assist with targeting resources to where they are most needed and improve the wellbeing of people and communities.

It is intended for use by state and local governments, policy makers, community planners and service providers to guide decision making. This resource will assist decision makers to allocate resources where they are needed and deliver targeted solutions that alleviate disadvantage.

METHODOLOGY

This report and the accompanying maps provide estimates of significant economic disadvantage, or poverty rates, across NSW by local area and demographic group. The report also provides the composition of those in poverty, which is the proportion of different demographic groups among those in poverty.

The distinction between these two indicators is important. The composition is important for service providers as it gives an indication of who is in poverty in an area, rather than what proportion of a certain group is in poverty.

The ABS's Statistical Area 2 (SA2) has been used for this report, which broadly equates to suburbs in the Greater Sydney area. In terms of defining where Sydney ends, the ABS geography Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA) is used to define Greater Sydney. This is a standard geography for defining Greater Sydney.

Calculating poverty/significant economic disadvantage

People experience significant economic disadvantage when their household's disposable income (after paying tax) falls below a level considered adequate to achieve an acceptable standard of living. For the purposes of this report, the benchmark of middle or median incomes across Australia is used, with the threshold of 50% below this benchmark being the 'poverty line'. This method is widely used in national research on poverty.²

Calculations have included making adjustments for the number and age of people living in each household given the impact of household size on the level of

2. Davidson P., Saunders P., Bradbury B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No.2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.18

disposable income required to meet living costs. Housing costs (such as rent, mortgage payments and water and property rates) have also been taken out of the equation to allow for a fairer comparison of disposable income. This is because housing costs can vary significantly depending on location, size and whether a household owns their own home or is renting.

This is the same definition of poverty used for the ACOSS national and state poverty rates, allowing comparisons between this report and national poverty rates.

Small area estimation

Estimates of poverty are not typically available at a small area level, particularly when cross-tabulated with other data. However in recent years the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra, world leaders in microsimulation methods, has developed spatial synthetic estimates based on ABS survey and Census data using a technique called spatial microsimulation.

This model enables the calculation of rates of poverty, or significant economic disadvantage, by geographic location, by estimating the percent of people in each area who live in households with incomes that fall below the poverty line.

Data sources

The estimates have been calculated from the 2015-16 ABS Survey of Income and Housing combined with the 2016 Census of Population and Housing.³ Small area estimates of poverty rates were calculated using NATSEM's spatial microsimulation model. They are available for SA2s across NSW using the online maps that accompany this report.

A detailed description of the methodology is available in the technical appendix linked at the end of this report.

Estimating poverty rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability and culturally and linguistically diverse communities by geographic area cannot be done using spatial microsimulation as neither Aboriginal status nor other cultural status are included on the ABS Survey of Income and Housing. While disability is identified on the survey, the definition is different to the indicator for disability on the Census, so again, we cannot derive estimates from our model. We have therefore used household income data from the Census to identify people in these groups on low incomes (rather than living below the poverty line).

Insufficient data for areas with small populations

Less populous areas have been excluded from the modelling as there are not enough people in these areas to derive a reliable estimate. This was the case for 12 SA2s containing 0.9% of the NSW population.

When looking at particular population groups within a geographical location, areas where the population of the different groups was less than 30 are excluded as the estimated rate is unreliable. This meant 150 SA2s where the population of people living in public housing was less than 30 were excluded, and 62 SA2s where the number of Aboriginal people was less than 30. A full list of exclusions for each population group is in the technical appendix.

3. The 2015-16 ABS Survey of Income and Housing is used in preference to the latest ABS data because the NATSEM model takes a unit record file and reweights it to small area benchmarks taken from the Census. The latest Census data was taken in 2016, making it a more compatible data set.



Way out

Way out



Overview of Significant Economic Disadvantage in NSW

Despite a strong economy and abundant resources, many people in NSW continue to experience unacceptable levels of disadvantage.

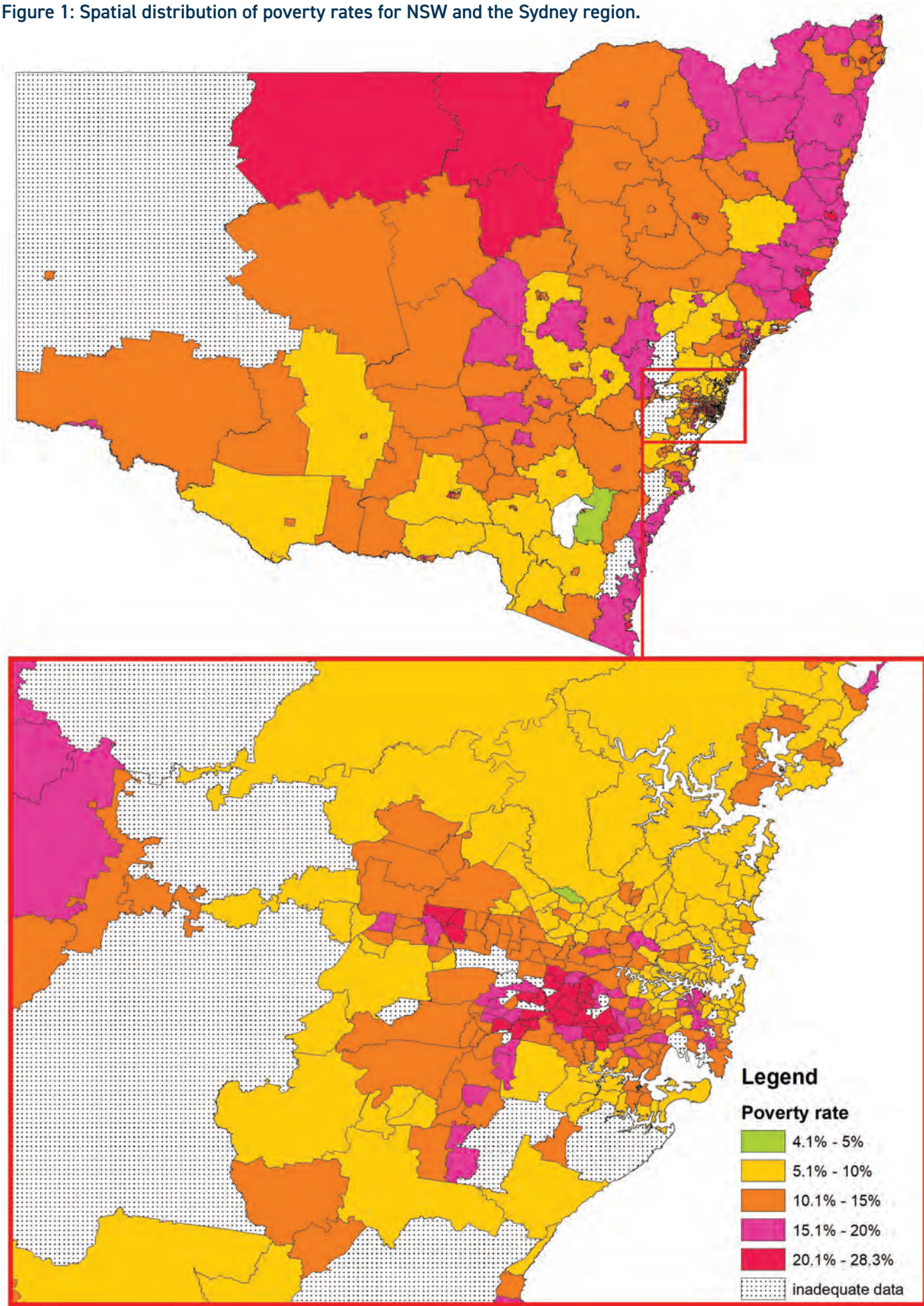
In 2015-16 there were more than 888,000 people in NSW living with significant economic disadvantage – below the poverty line. The overall poverty rate for NSW was 13.3%, slightly higher than the overall rate for Australia (13.2%).⁴ Sydney's poverty rate was 12.6% while in the rest of NSW the rate was 14.6%.

Figure 1⁵ shows higher concentrations of poverty along the Mid and Far North Coasts, Northern NSW, North Western NSW and parts of the Central West. Within Sydney, increased rates of significant economic disadvantage are prevalent in Western and South Western suburbs and on the metropolitan fringes. While there are geographic locations with higher concentrations of significant economic disadvantage, the maps show us that poverty occurs in every community in NSW including in suburbs and localities that are normally considered 'well off'.

4. Davidson P., Saunders P., Bradbury B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No.2, Sydney: ACOSS.

5. All maps in this report use categories of 5% so they are comparable across maps. This is close to the 'natural breaks' for the NSW poverty rate at SA2 level

Figure 1: Spatial distribution of poverty rates for NSW and the Sydney region.



Poverty rates for all groups considered in this report are provided in Table 1, highlighting results for NSW as a whole, Sydney and areas in the rest of NSW.

Table 1: Poverty rates by different groups

	NSW (%)	Sydney (%)	Rest of NSW (%)
Rate			
Overall	13.3	12.6	14.6
Overall (over 15)	12.2	11.4	13.6
Men	11.6	10.8	13.0
Women	12.7	12.0	14.1
Children (aged 0-14)	17.7	17.2	18.7
Young people (aged 15-24)	13.4	13.2	13.8
People of working age (aged 25-64)	12.2	11.3	14.1
Older people (aged 65 and over)	11.2	10.4	12.2
Couple only households	7.4	6.3	8.8
Couple with children households	11.8	12.3	10.7
Single parent households	27.2	22.6	35.0
Single person households	21.1	18.7	24.2
Other household type	9.0	9.5	6.9
People employed full-time	5.0	5.4	4.0
People employed part-time	7.0	7.0	7.0
People who are unemployed	33.8	31.3	38.6
People aged 15-64 not in labour force	29.3	26.7	34.2
Older people not in labour force	11.9	10.7	13.5
Homeowners	7.4	5.4	10.3
Home purchasers (mortgagors)	8.5	10.1	5.3
Private renters	21.4	17.6	30.5
Public renters	53.4	52.6	54.9
Other household tenure	16.6	13.9	21.4
Low Income Households			
Overall	11.3	10.4	13.1
People with disability	21.3	21.1	21.6
People without disability	10.7	9.8	12.5
Aboriginal people	26.5	21.1	29.1
Non Aboriginal people	10.8	10.2	12.1
Speak other language at home	15.5	15.4	16.7
Speak only English at home	9.9	7.4	13.0

Overall poverty rates are higher in areas outside Sydney. Research has identified factors contributing to higher rates of poverty in regional areas as being:

- generally lower incomes and net household worth for those living in regions outside of Sydney
- increased cost of essentials such as food, petrol, energy and health care
- distance and isolation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being more likely to live outside our capital cities and being disproportionately impacted by poverty.⁶

A survey undertaken by NCOSS in 2019 on perceptions of inequality in NSW found that respondents outside metropolitan Sydney were more likely to report that inequality has stagnated or increased (and that improved health care and mental health support should be seen as urgent priorities for the Government).⁷

Figure 2 shows the percentage of SA2s with different poverty rates – from a low range (4.1%-5%) to a high range (20.1%-28.3%) – experienced across NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW. In general, Sydney SA2s have lower poverty rates, with most rates (applying to 39.9% of Sydney SA2s) being in the range of 5.1%-10%. Outside Sydney, the most common rates (applying to 42.2% of SA2s) were in the range of 10%-15% followed by SA2s with poverty rates in the range of 15%-20%.

Despite this, the percentage of SA2s which have poverty rates higher than 20% in Sydney (9.6%) is higher than in the rest of NSW (7.8%). This indicates that poverty is more widespread outside of Sydney, but that Sydney has a greater number of 'pockets' where poverty is more extreme.

Figure 3 shows the frequency distribution of poverty rates across the whole of NSW. Most SA2s have a poverty rate of around 10%, with very few having a poverty rate below 2% or above 28%. The majority of SA2s in NSW had poverty rates between 8% and 16%.

Table 2: The areas with the lowest and highest rates of disadvantage in Sydney and the rest of NSW

	Poverty rate (%)
Rest of NSW	
Queanbeyan Region	4.1
Queanbeyan West - Jerrabomberra	4.5
Valentine - Eleebana	5.4
Helensburgh	5.6
Yass Region	5.8
Nambucca Heads	24.2
Tamworth - West	24.6
Mount Hutton - Windale	24.8
Port Kembla - Warrawong	25.6
Shortland - Jesmond	27.0
Sydney	
Glenhaven	4.6
Loftus - Yarrawarrah	5.7
North Sydney - Lavender Bay	6.2
Winston Hills	6.2
Blaxland - Warrimoo - Lapstone	6.3
Greenacre - Mount Lewis	26.8
Lakemba	26.8
Fairfield	27.4
Ashcroft - Busby - Miller	27.7
Guildford - South Granville	28.3

6. National Rural Health Alliance, 2017. 'Poverty in Rural and Remote Australia factsheet'.

7. NSW Council of Social Services, 2019. 'NCOSS Issues Paper: Insights on Priorities'

Figure 2: Percentage of SA2s in each poverty rate category for NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW

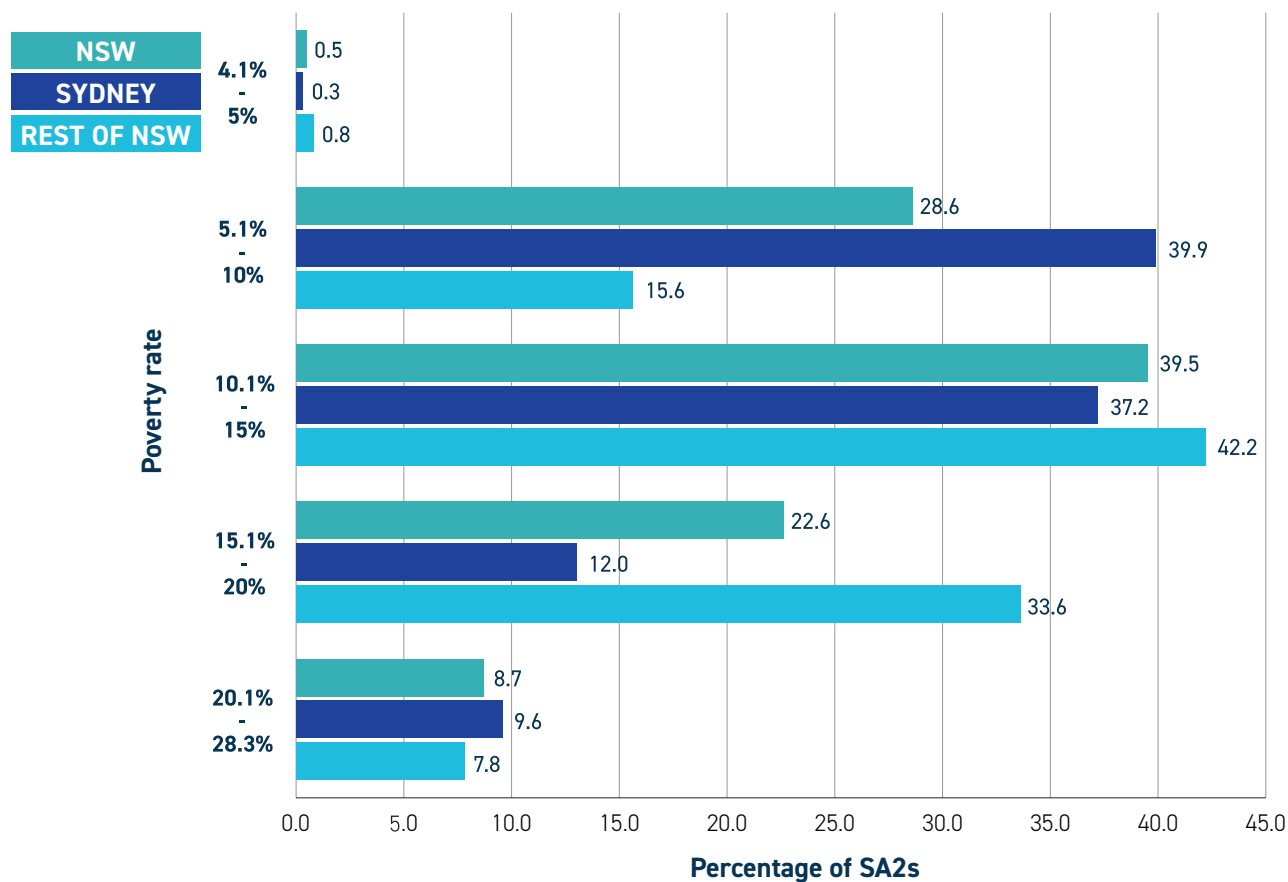
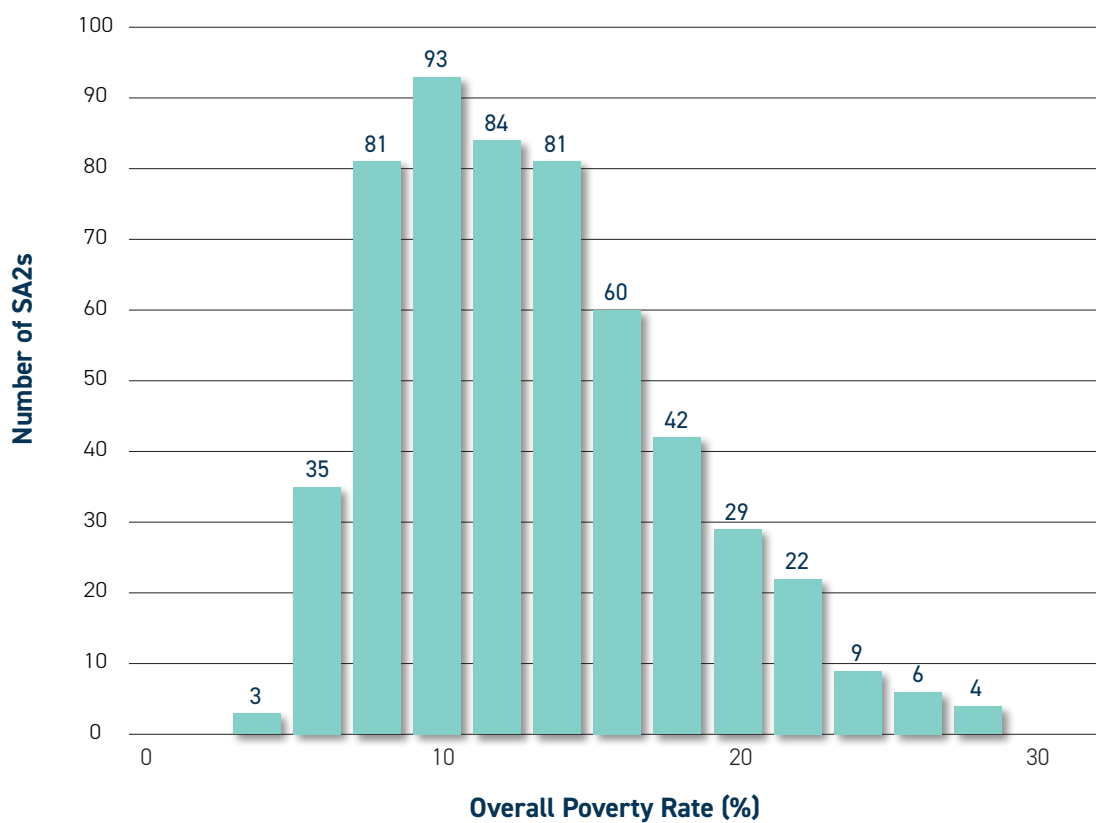


Figure 3: Frequency distribution of poverty rates across NSW SA2s





The composition of poverty for different demographics

Rates of significant economic disadvantage by geographic location can provide a useful snapshot. However they do not provide a full picture of how disadvantage affects diverse groups of people and communities. The causes of disadvantage and poverty are complex. Disadvantage can be intergenerational, situational, and gendered, exacerbated by geographic location and access to employment and essential services.

This section of the report looks in greater detail at the composition of poverty for different demographic groups. Table 3 looks at the total NSW population living below the poverty line and breaks it down by gender, age, household type, employment status and other characteristics.

Table 3: Number and composition of people of different demographics in poverty in NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW ⁸

	Total NSW		Sydney		Rest of NSW	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Men	46.4	302,500	45.6	182,300	47.7	120,200
Women	53.6	349,900	54.4	217,900	52.3	131,900
Total person 15 and over	100.0	652,400	100.0	400,200	100.0	252,100
Children (aged 0-14)	26.6	236,100	27.5	151,500	25.1	84,600
Young people (aged 15-24)	12.2	108,100	13.1	72,300	10.6	35,700
People of working age (aged 25-64)	48.4	429,600	48.6	268,400	47.9	161,300
Older people (aged 65 and over)	12.9	114,600	10.8	59,500	16.4	55,100
Total person	100.0	888,400	100.0	551,700	100.0	336,700
Couple only households	10.8	96,100	8.4	46,200	14.8	50,000
Couple with children households	44.9	399,200	51.7	285,200	33.8	114,000
Single parent households	23.2	206,400	19.5	107,700	29.3	98,800
Single person households	14.6	129,400	11.7	64,500	19.3	64,900
Other household type	6.4	57,300	8.7	48,200	2.7	9,100
Total person	100.0	888,400	100.0	551,800	100.0	336,800
People employed full-time	16.5	107,600	20.5	82,000	10.2	25,600
People employed part-time	11.8	76,800	12.3	49,200	10.9	27,600
People who are unemployed	10.2	66,800	10.2	40,800	10.3	26,000
People aged 15-64 not in labour force	45.3	295,800	44.1	176,600	47.3	119,200
Older people not in labour force	16.2	105,400	12.9	51,600	21.3	53,700
Total person 15 and over	100.0	652,400	100.0	400,200	100.0	252,100
Homeowners	15.3	136,100	10.8	59,400	22.8	76,700
Home purchasers (mortgagors)	26.2	232,500	33.2	183,300	14.6	49,200
Private renters	42.4	377,000	39.5	217,900	47.3	159,100
Public renters	13.8	122,800	14.6	80,300	12.6	42,500
Other household tenure	2.3	20,000	2.0	10,900	2.7	9,200
Total person	100.0	888,400	100.0	551,800	100.0	336,700
Low income households						
People with disability	9.3	61,900	9.1	36,200	9.7	25,700
People without disability	90.7	602,500	90.9	363,500	90.3	239,000
Total person*	100.0	664,400	100.0	399,700	100.0	264,700
Aboriginal people	6.7	44,600	2.9	11,700	12.3	32,900
Non Aboriginal people	93.3	625,400	97.1	391,500	87.7	233,900
Total person*	100.0	670,000	100.0	403,200	100.0	266,800
Speak other language at home	36.3	251,000	55.7	230,000	7.5	21,000
Speak only English at home	63.7	440,100	44.3	182,900	92.5	257,200
Total person*	100.0	691,100	100.0	412,900	100.0	278,200

* excluding not stated and not applicable category

8. Numbers are to the nearest 100. Rounding means there will be slight differences in totals. The data population consists of total population, not including households with negative and zero incomes, but including those with their own source of income. This is the same treatment as the ACOSS poverty numbers.



GENDER AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

*There is a higher rate of women than
men experiencing significant
economic disadvantage.*

Figure 4 shows that for both men and women, rates of poverty are higher in the rest of NSW. In Sydney, the rate of significant economic disadvantage for women is higher (12.0%) than men (10.8%). Outside of Sydney, 14.1% of women and 13.0% of men live below the poverty line.

Figure 4: Poverty rates for men and women



The online maps show that higher rates of significant economic disadvantage outside of Sydney are clustered in a few areas. For women, this includes coastal areas on the fringes of large urban centres including the Central Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong. For men, there is a higher concentration of significant economic disadvantage in the remote northern NSW areas of Bourke and Walgett.

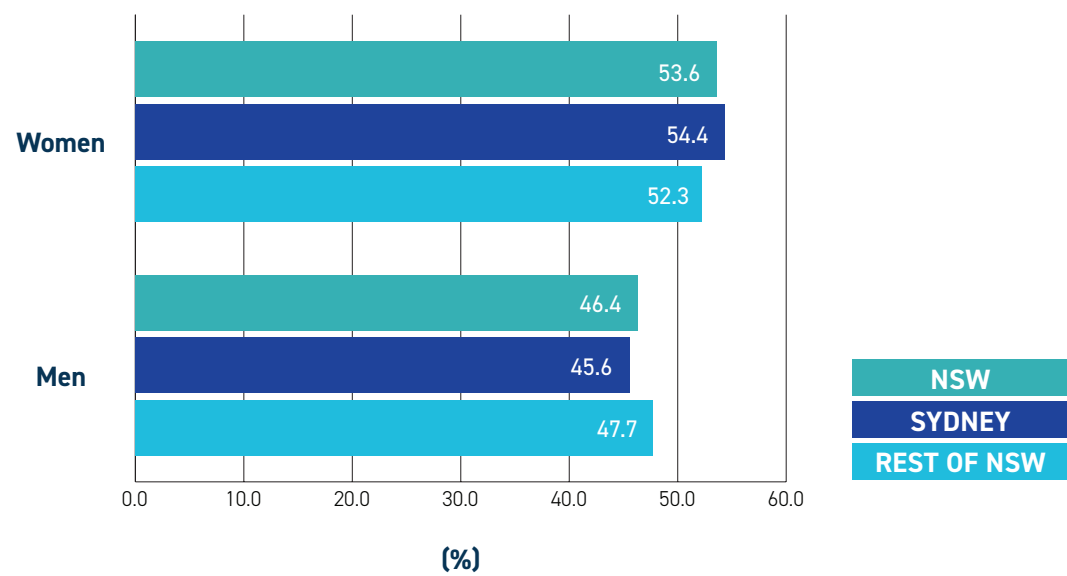
Women are more likely to experience poverty than men. Women make up 53.6% of the population over the age of 15 living with significant economic disadvantage. Figure 5 shows that in NSW 349,900 women, as compared to 302,500 men, are finding themselves living below the poverty line.

Figure 5: Gender of NSW people in poverty




Figure 6 shows that the proportion of women among those facing significant economic disadvantage is even higher in Sydney; 54.4%, compared to 52.3% in the rest of NSW.

Figure 6: Composition of poverty by gender, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW



As identified in other research, the higher rates of significant economic disadvantage for women are likely to reflect the lower incomes of female headed households, including sole parent families (the vast majority of which are headed by women) and older women living alone.⁹

9. Australian Human Rights Commission, 2016. 'A conversation in gender equity'. Sydney, p.24



AGE AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

On average, one's chance of poverty decreases with age, however certain risk factors increase the likelihood that a person will experience significant economic disadvantage.

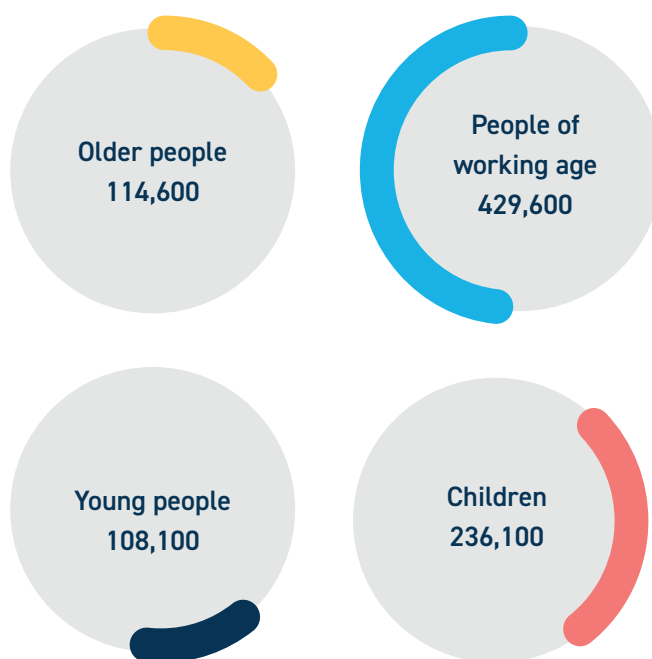
The data indicates that the overall rate of significant economic disadvantage declines as people get older. This makes sense in the context of people being able to pay off their home, reduce the costs associated with caring for children and have greater opportunity to save over the course of a lifetime.

Figure 8 shows that children aged 0 to 14 experience the highest poverty rates of all age groups in NSW, at 17.7%.¹⁰ Figure 7 shows that around 236,000 children in NSW live below the poverty line. Figure 8 also shows that 13.4% of young people experienced significant economic disadvantage across NSW. This is the same as the figure calculated by a recent report from ACOSS, that found that 13.4%, or approximately 1 in 7 young people (aged 15 – 24) experienced poverty across Australia.¹¹

The greater likelihood of home ownership for older people would be a significant contributor to their lower rates of poverty, particularly if they live in Sydney.

However, for those older people who don't own their own home and who may face other challenges such as ill-health, disability or social isolation, things can be particularly tough. The data also tells us that even people who own their own home can still be living in circumstances that place them below the poverty line.

Figure 7: Numbers of people in poverty by age group



10. We have used some broad age groups for analysis of economic disadvantage by age: children (under 15); young people (15 – 24); working age (25 – 64); and retirement age (65 and over).

11. Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia, 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.42

Figure 8: Poverty rates by age group, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW

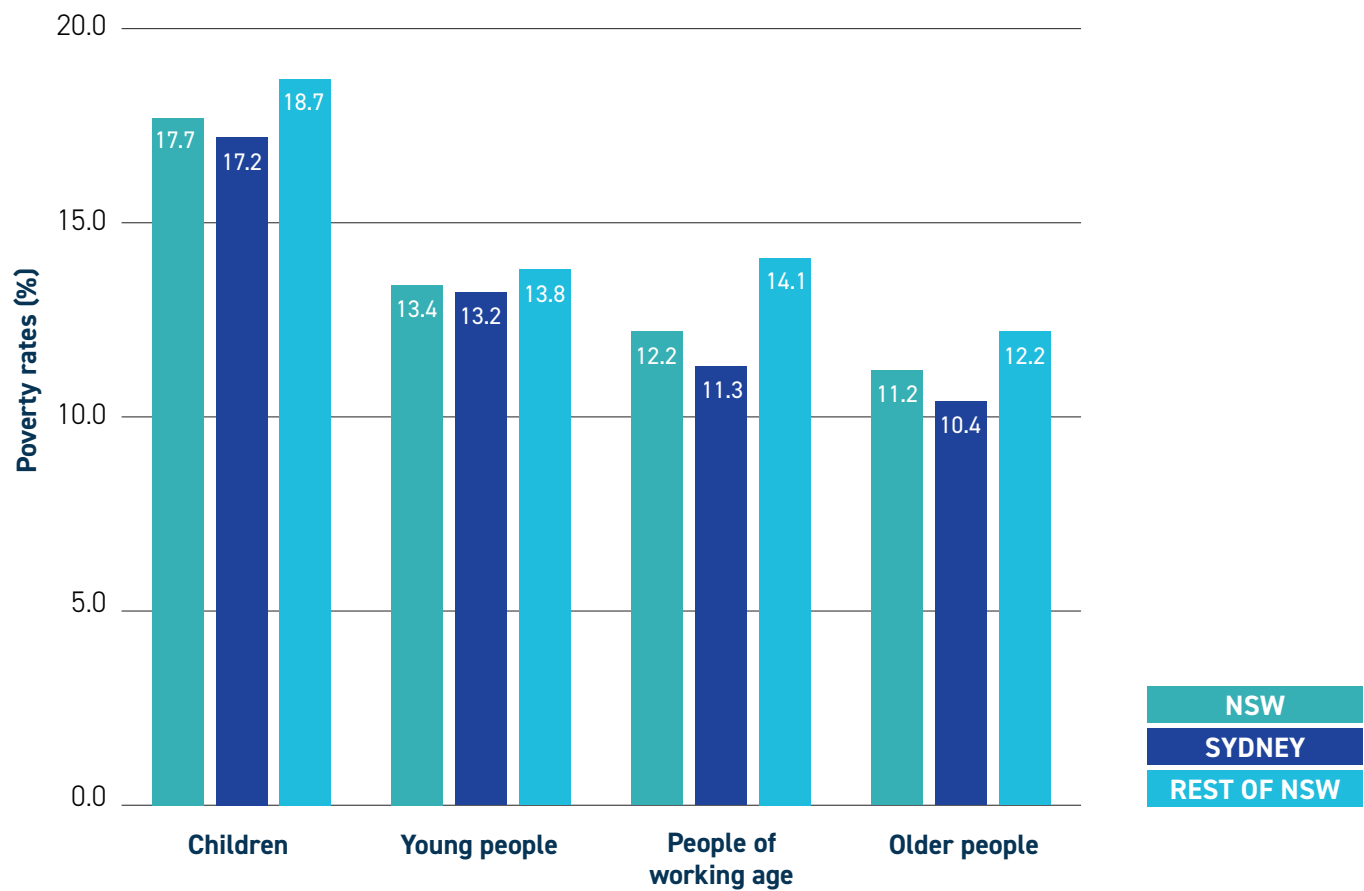


Figure 9: Composition of poverty by age group, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW

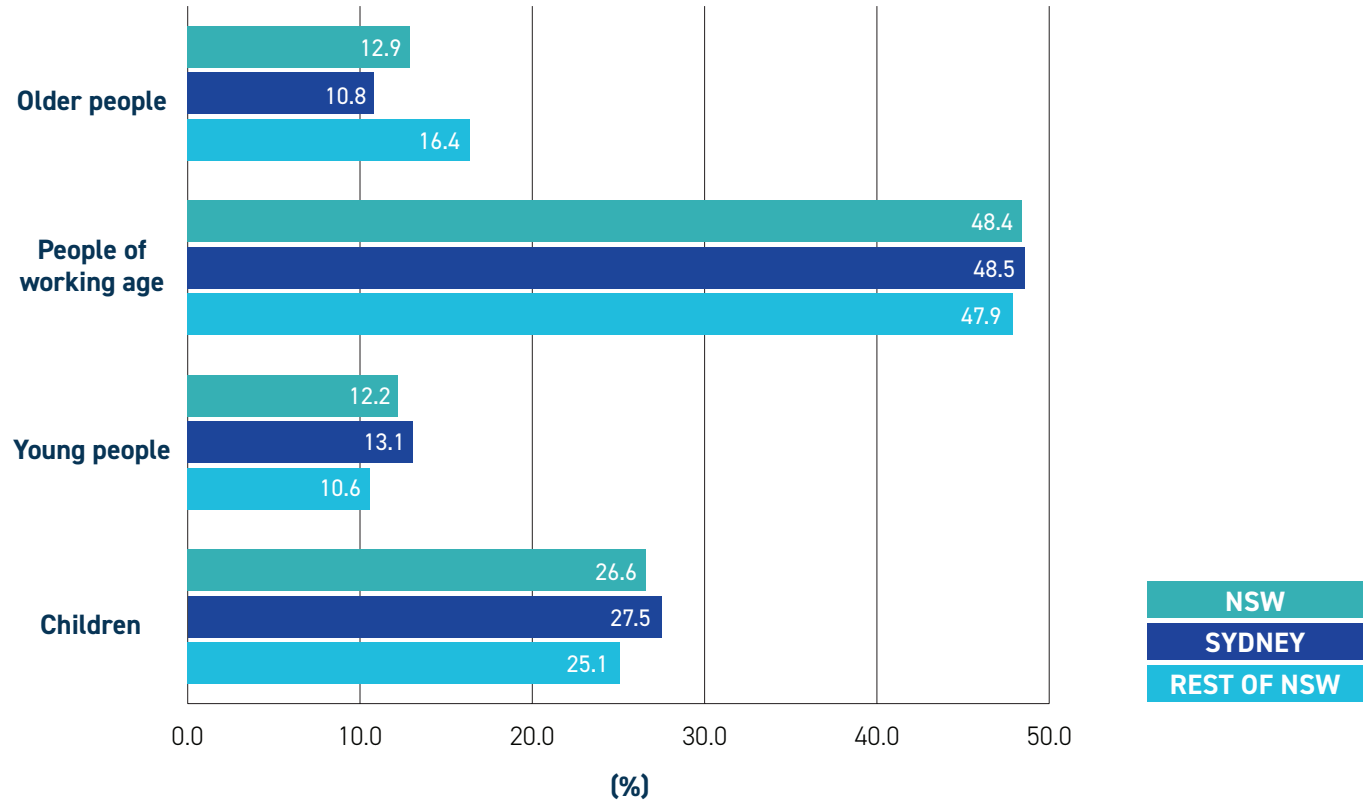


Figure 8 shows that overall rates of significant economic disadvantage are higher outside of Sydney for all age groups.

More than 1 in 6 Sydney children (17.2%) are living in households experiencing poverty. This rate is higher for children living outside of Sydney (18.7%). Figure 10 shows that the areas with the highest poverty rates for children were found in Sydney's western and south western suburbs and in the coastal areas of regional NSW, particularly on the North Coast.

The rate of significant economic disadvantage for older people is high in Sydney's western suburbs - such as Auburn and Parramatta. However Table 4 shows that the highest poverty rates for older people in Sydney

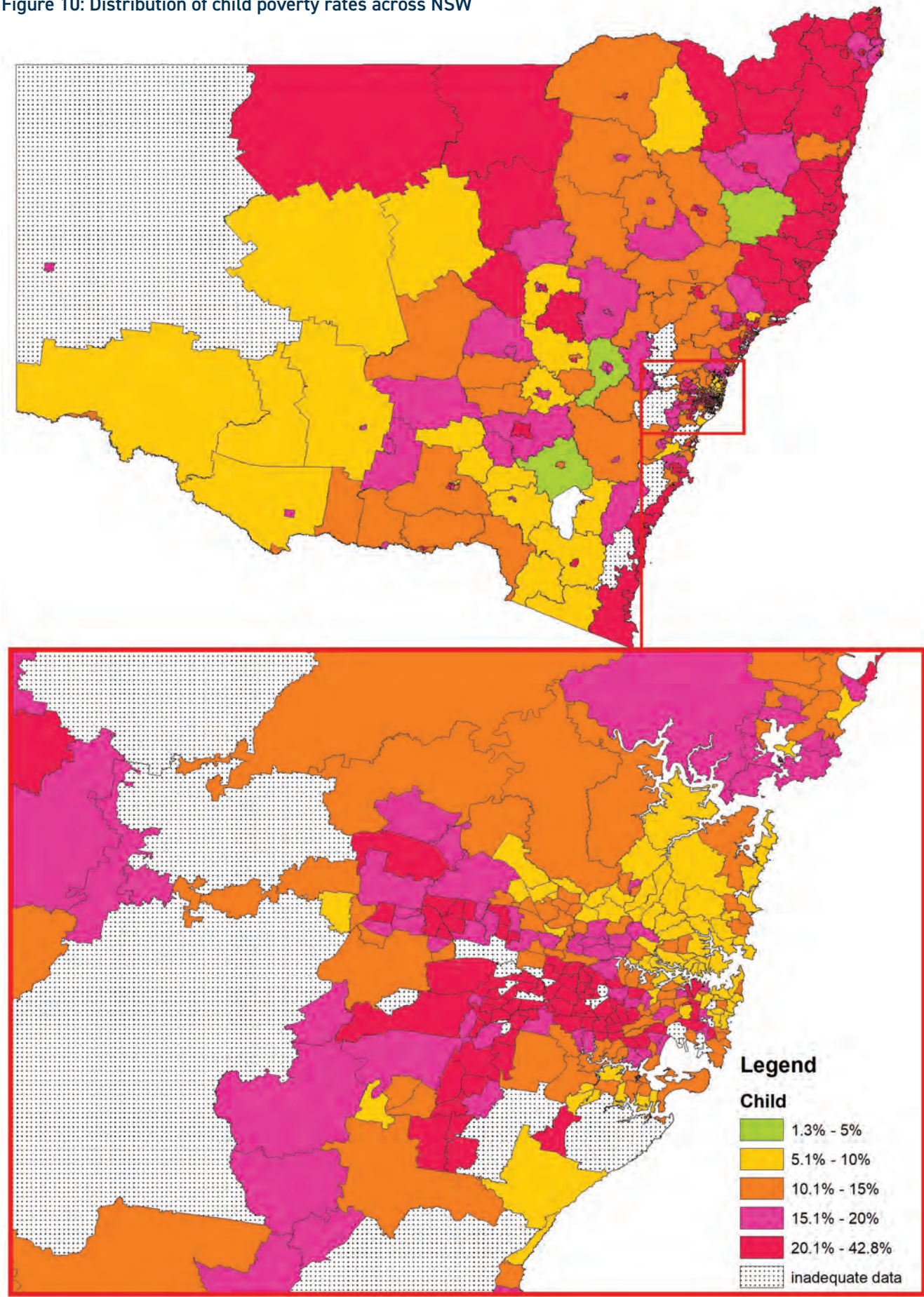
were in and around the CBD in areas like Surry Hills, Redfern and Waterloo. This may reflect the large number of public housing residences in these areas.

Table 4 and Figure 10 show that areas in Sydney had higher rates of poverty for children and older people compared to areas in the rest of NSW. Guildford and Ashcroft recorded the highest poverty rates for children, with Kensington and Waterloo recording the highest rates for older people. In the rest of NSW, areas on the coast such as Wollongong - West and Shortland - Jesmond have high rates at 24.2% and 26.3% for older people, respectively, while for children the highest rates are again coastal, being Nambucca Heads and Callala Bay.

Table 4: Areas with the lowest and highest poverty rates for children and older people

	Children poverty rate (%)		Older people poverty rate (%)
Rest of NSW		Rest of NSW	
Walcha	1.3	Hill Top - Colo Vale	4.8
Yass Region	4.4	Valentine - Eleebana	5.3
Bathurst Region	4.6	Byron Bay	5.5
Queanbeyan West - Jerrabomberra	4.9	Southern Highlands	7.1
Tumut Region	5.4	Bowral	7.4
Mount Hutton - Windale	34.2	Waratah - North Lambton	20.3
Batemans Bay	34.4	Tamworth - West	21.3
Lemon Tree Passage - Tanilba Bay	36.3	Parkes Region	21.9
Callala Bay - Currarong	37.2	Wollongong - West	24.2
Nambucca Heads	41.7	Shortland - Jesmond	26.3
Sydney		Sydney	
North Sydney - Lavender Bay	5.4	Wahroonga (East) - Warrawee	3.3
Loftus - Yarrawarrah	5.6	North Rocks	3.9
Glenhaven	5.9	Avalon - Palm Beach	4.0
Double Bay - Bellevue Hill	6.0	Glenhaven	4.1
Cremorne - Cammeray	6.7	Hunters Hill - Woolwich	4.1
Fairfield	40.9	Wiley Park	24.4
Auburn - Central	40.9	Surry Hills	25.6
Auburn - South	41.5	Redfern - Chippendale	30.3
Ashcroft - Busby - Miller	42.0	Kensington	31.6
Guildford - South Granville	42.8	Waterloo - Beaconsfield	33.5

Figure 10: Distribution of child poverty rates across NSW





HOUSING TENURE AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

Appropriate, affordable and sustainable housing is essential to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. A home provides a secure foundation for looking after ourselves and our families and participating in education, employment and community life.

Across all housing tenures, public housing tenants experience the highest rates of significant economic disadvantage.

Figure 11 shows that there are a high number of private renters across NSW living in poverty, higher than any other housing tenure. However, when we look at rates in Figure 12, private renters have the second highest poverty rates, behind public renters.

Owning a home without a mortgage means less risk of living with significant economic disadvantage, but it does not remove the risk altogether. Figure 11 shows that there are 136,100 homeowners across NSW in poverty, while Figure 12 shows that those who own their own home mortgage free still experienced a poverty rate of 10.3% in the rest of NSW and 5.4% in Sydney

Figure 11: Number of people in poverty by housing tenure

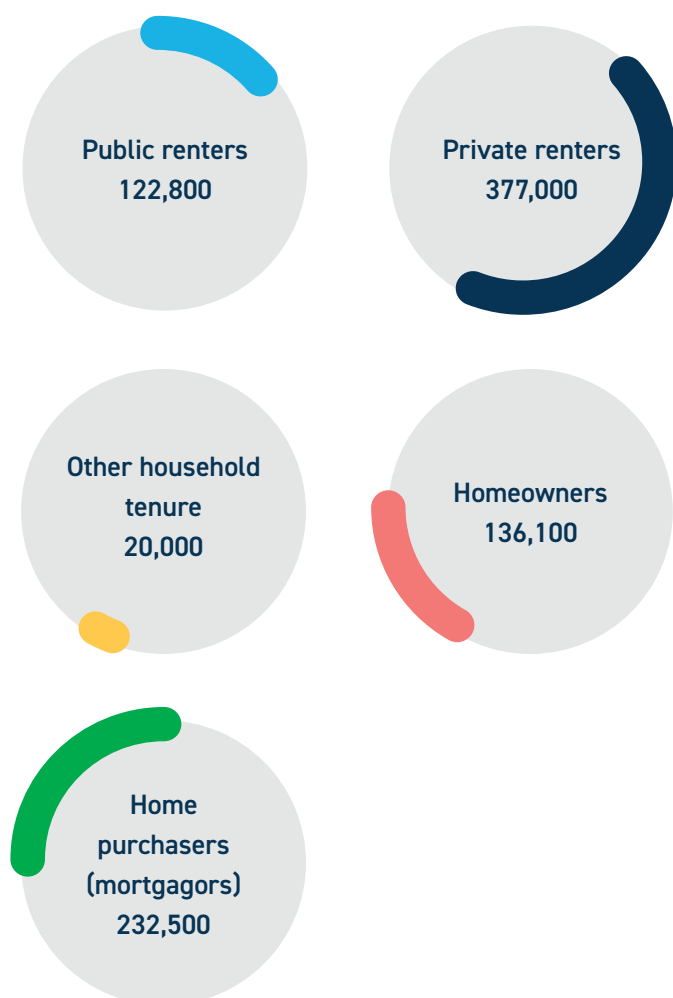


Figure 12 also shows that 8.5% of home purchasers (those with a mortgage) across NSW experience significant economic disadvantage. There is a much higher rate of people living in Sydney and paying a mortgage in significant economic disadvantage compared to regional NSW (10.1% compared to 5.3%).

Overall the rates of significant economic disadvantage for homeowners and those in the process of buying their own home were much lower than for renters. However, because these groups make up a larger proportion of the overall population in NSW, these smaller percentages can mask the size of the problem in absolute terms.

In raw numbers, across NSW, Figure 11 shows that around 136,100 homeowners and 232,500 home purchasers are living below the poverty line compared to a total of around 377,000 private renters.

Figure 12 shows that in Sydney, more than half (52.6%) of those living in public housing are experiencing poverty. For the rest of NSW, an even greater percentage of public housing tenants (54.9%) live below the poverty line.

Figure 12 shows that 21.4% of people renting privately in NSW are living with significant economic disadvantage. Private renters in Sydney have a poverty rate of 17.6%. Outside of Sydney, the rate of private renters living below the poverty line jumps to 30.5%.

Figure 13 shows rates of poverty for private renters in Sydney intensifying across western, south western and north western suburbs. We know that as rents become more unaffordable, those on low incomes are pushed to the outer suburbs and further away from the CBD or regional centres.

Figure 12: Poverty rates by housing tenure

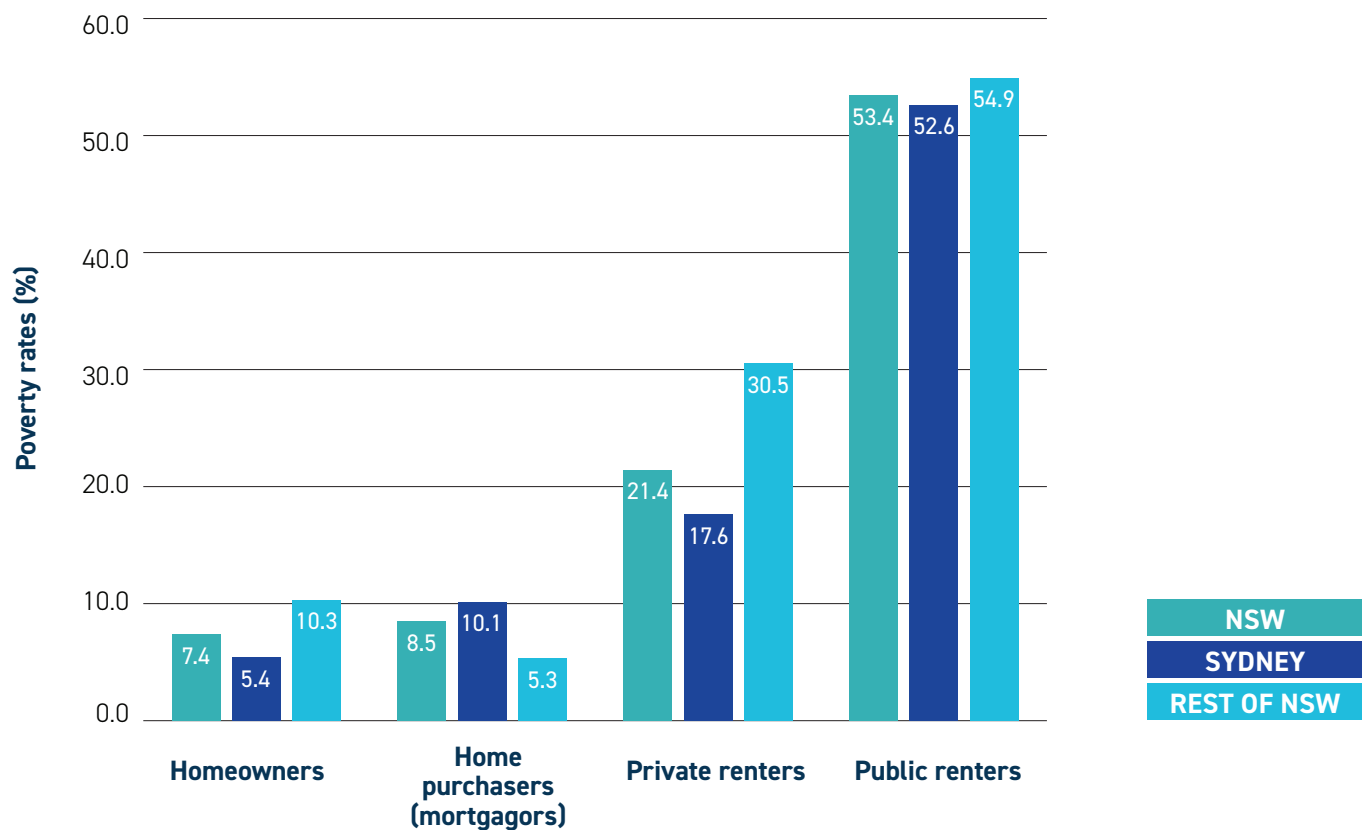


Figure 13: Distribution of private renters and home purchasers in poverty across NSW

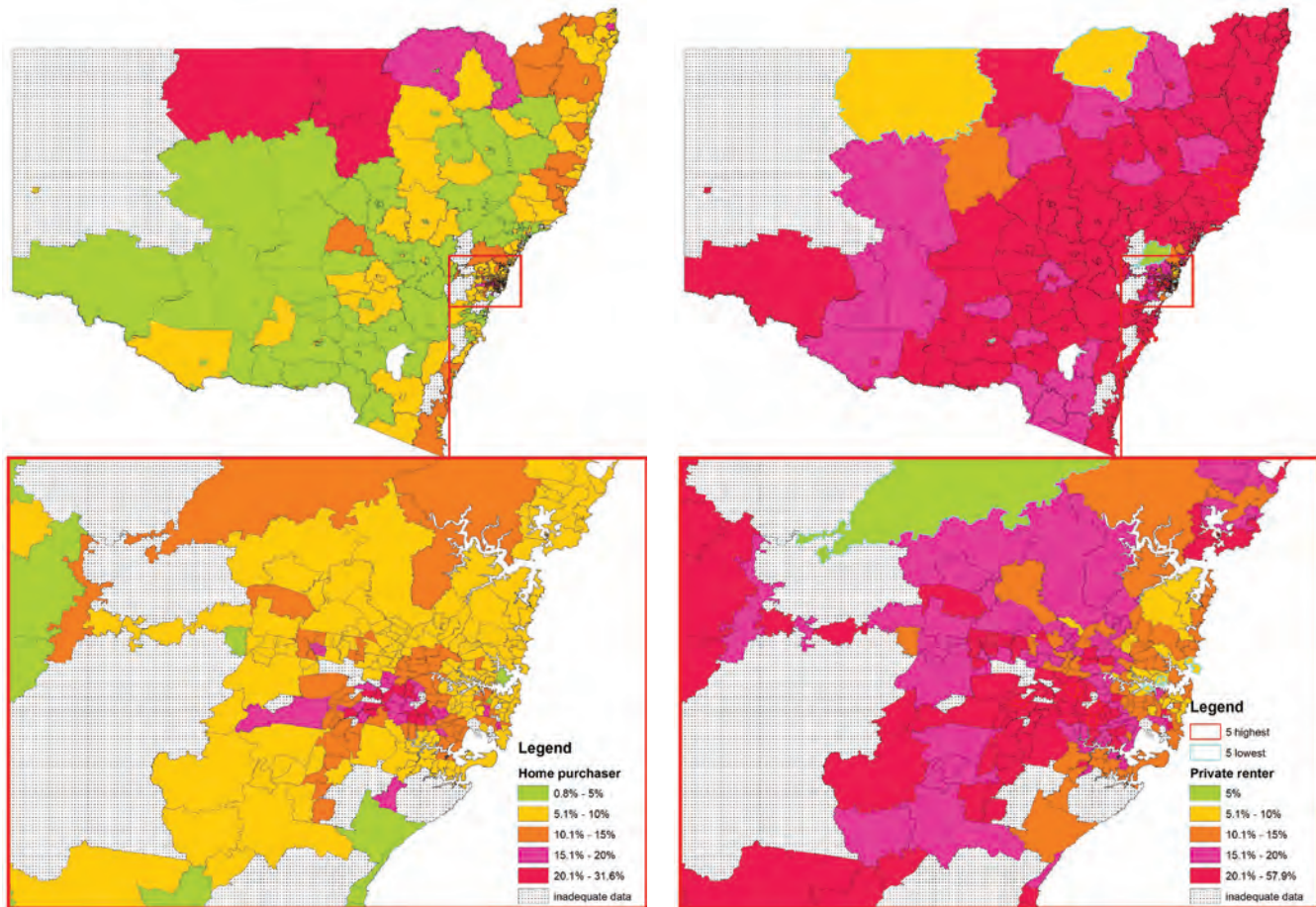
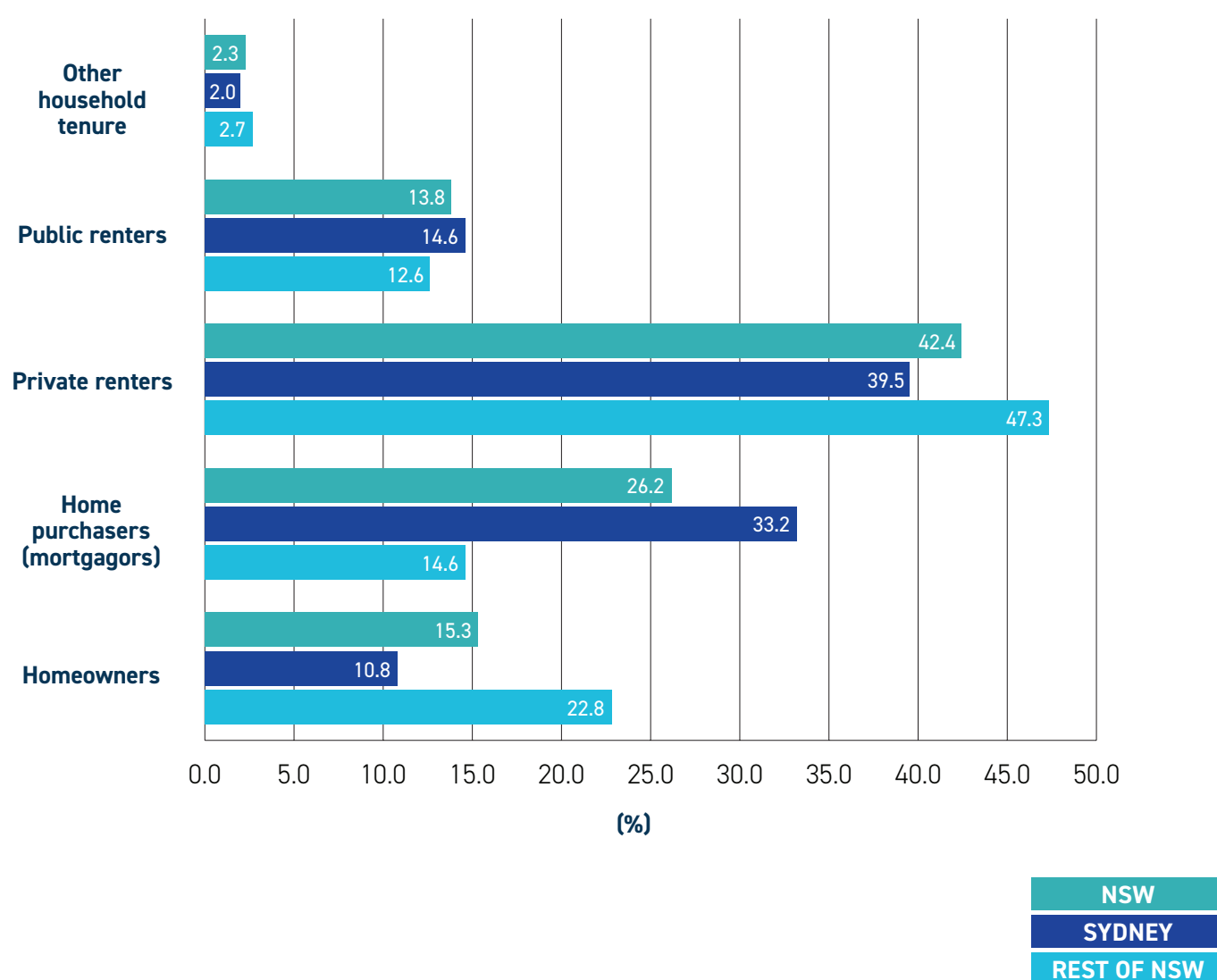


Table 5 shows that for the rest of NSW, rates of poverty for private renters vary from 7% up to 58%. Four of the areas with the highest rates of poverty (above 50%) for private renters outside of metropolitan Sydney are located along the coast. As well as the growing popularity of these areas for those seeking a 'sea change', it is also likely that the growing short term rentals market is exacerbating affordability pressures.¹²

Research by the University of NSW for the *Everybody's Home* campaign confirms that rental stress is being concentrated in outer suburban and regional areas, which have traditionally been seen as more affordable.¹³ The Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot reinforces the picture of chronic rental stress spreading to almost every area of the state.¹⁴

Figure 14: Composition of poverty by housing tenure, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW



12. Gurran, N. & Phibbs, P., 2017. 'When tourists move in: how should urban planners respond to Airbnb.' *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:1, pp. 80 - 92

13. Liu, E., Martin, M. & Easthope, H., 2019. 'Poor quality housing and low income households.' City Futures Research Centre, UNSW Built Environment, UNSW Sydney.

14. Bellamy, J., Andersen, P. & Bijen, G., 2019. 'Rental affordability snapshot, 2019. Greater Sydney and the Illawarra'. Anglicare Diocese of Sydney, Social Policy & Research Unit, Sydney.

Table 5: Areas with the lowest and highest poverty rate for home purchasers and private renters

	Home purchasers Poverty rate (%)		Private renters Poverty rate (%)
Rest of NSW		Rest of NSW	
Nyngan - Warren	0.8	Bourke – Brewarrina	7.2
Oberon	1.0	Wagga Wagga – North	9.1
Queanbeyan West - Jerrabomberra	1.2	Moree Region	9.8
Maitland - North	1.3	Newcastle - Cooks Hill	10.7
West Wyalong	1.4	Queanbeyan West – Jerrabomberra	12.0
Moree Region	18.3	Lemon Tree Passage - Tanilba Bay	50.4
Inverell Region - East	19.1	Callala Bay – Currarong	50.5
Coonamble	24.4	Taree Region	50.8
Bourke - Brewarrina	30.8	Forster-Tuncurry Region	53.9
Walgett - Lightning Ridge	31.6	Ulladulla Region	57.9
Sydney		Sydney	
Blaxland - Warrimoo - Lapstone	4.8	Bilpin - Colo - St Albans	5.0
Surry Hills	4.9	North Sydney - Lavender Bay	5.9
Mosman	5.0	Balmain	6.3
Woronora Heights	5.1	Manly – Fairlight	6.8
Potts Point - Woolloomooloo	5.3	Neutral Bay – Kirribilli	6.9
Ashcroft - Busby - Miller	25.9	Guildford - South Granville	36.6
Guildford - South Granville	25.9	Condell Park	36.8
Auburn - Central	26.0	Punchbowl	37.1
Lakemba	26.8	Bonnyrigg Heights – Bonnyrigg	41.8
Cabramatta - Lansvale	27.8	Greenacre - Mount Lewis	44.7

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

Single person and single parent households experience higher rates of significant economic disadvantage.



Poverty rates are highest for single parent households, both in Sydney and the rest of NSW. Figure 15 shows that more than a quarter of single parent households are in significant economic disadvantage, experiencing rates of poverty across NSW of 27.2% on average. This may be reflected in the high poverty rates experienced by children in NSW.

Couple only households – those without children – are the household type least likely to face significant economic disadvantage. This is particularly so in Sydney where Figure 15 shows that the poverty rate experienced by these couples (6.3%) is lower than for other household types.

Figure 15: Poverty rates by family type

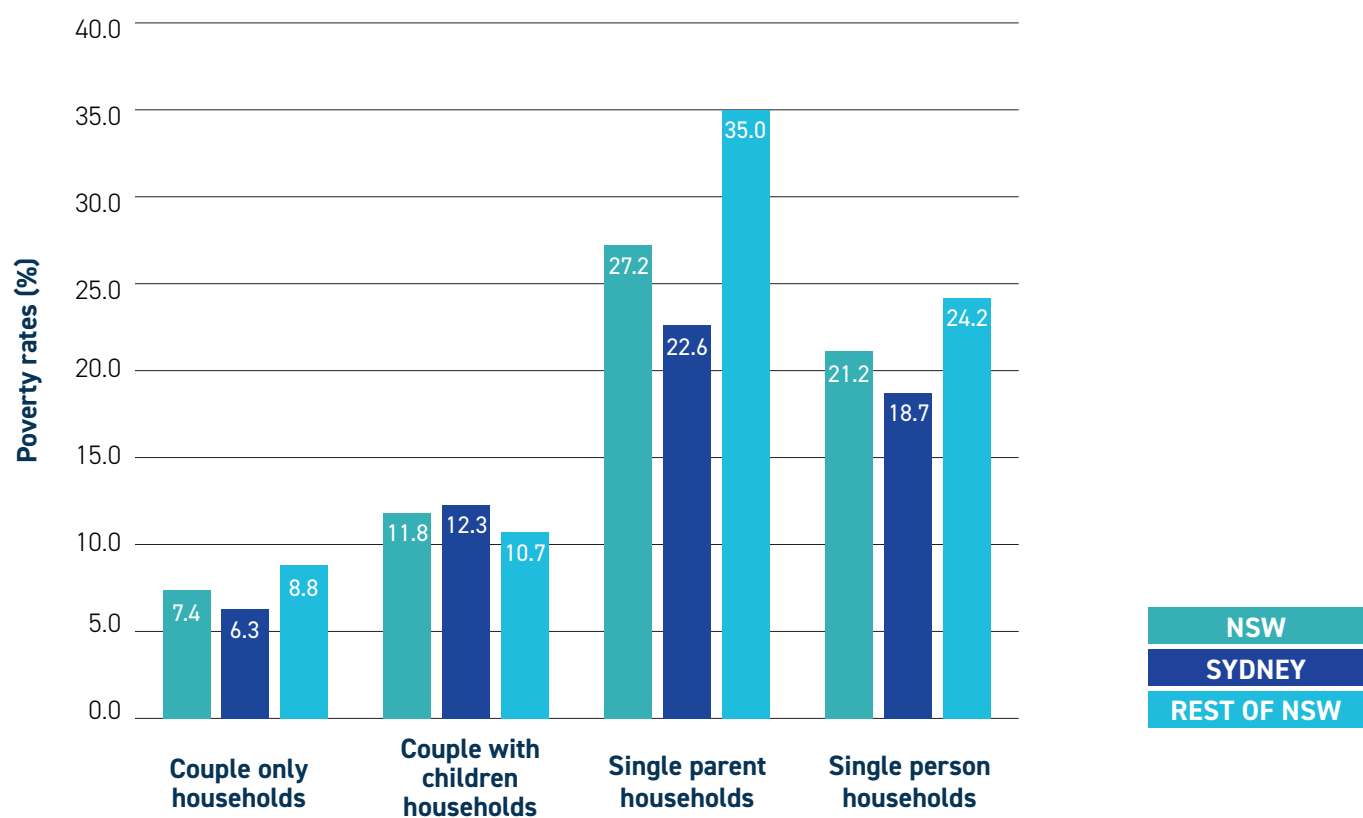
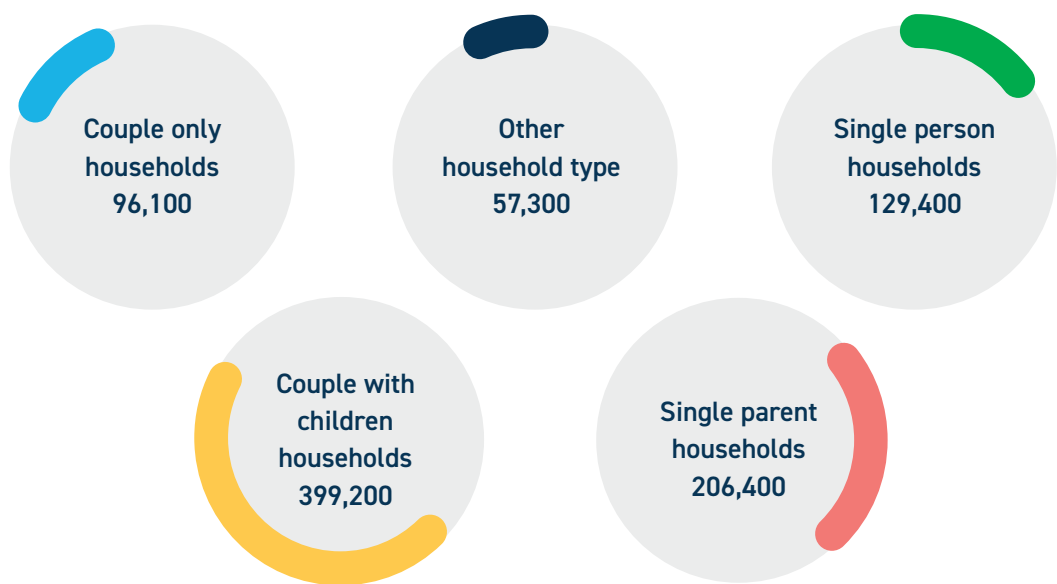


Figure 16: Number of people in poverty by household type



Higher rates of significant economic disadvantage for single parent households may reflect income support policy changes which occurred in 2013. These changes mean that single parents move off the Parenting Payment Single and onto the lesser Newstart Allowance when their youngest child turns eight.

Another group more likely to experience significant economic disadvantage is those who live alone, with poverty rates of 21.2% for single person households.

ACOSS research attributes high rates of poverty for single person households in part to their limited ability to benefit from economies of scale in living costs, and reliance upon one income.¹⁵

Most household types in the rest of NSW had higher rates of significant economic disadvantage than in Sydney. The exception was couples with dependent children. Figure 15 shows that families with two parents or carers had a higher rate of poverty in Sydney at 12.3% in comparison to the rest of NSW at 10.7%.

Table 6 indicates that being single and having children in regional NSW is particularly economically challenging. Single parent households in regional NSW experienced much higher rates of significant economic disadvantage. Five regional locations featured poverty rates for single parent households of over 50%, including one area as high as 65.6% in the Murray Darling basin. Not shown in this top five list, there are five other areas in regional NSW with poverty rates just over 50%.

In contrast, Sydney localities with the highest rates of significant economic disadvantage for single parent households were still high but considerably below this level (at 37% to 40%), and clustered around the inner city, close to the CBD.

Table 6: Areas with the lowest and highest poverty rate for single parent families

	Single parent Poverty rate (%)
Rest of NSW	
Seaham - Woodville	1.6
Walcha	8.7
Helensburgh	9.9
Queanbeyan West - Jerrabomberra	10.4
Yass Region	11.9
West Wyalong	51.9
Narrandera	54.2
Braidwood	54.3
Tomerong - Wandandian - Woollamia	58.9
Parkes Region	65.6
Sydney	
Castle Hill - East	1.7
Glenhaven	1.8
Terrey Hills - Duffys Forest	2.3
Jilliby - Yarramalong	2.4
Putney	2.8
Kensington	37.1
Auburn - North	37.8
Pymont - Ultimo	38.0
Sydney - Haymarket - The Rocks	39.3
Waterloo - Beaconsfield	40.5

15. Davidson P., Saunders P., Bradbury B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No.2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.44

Figure 17: Composition of poverty by household type, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW

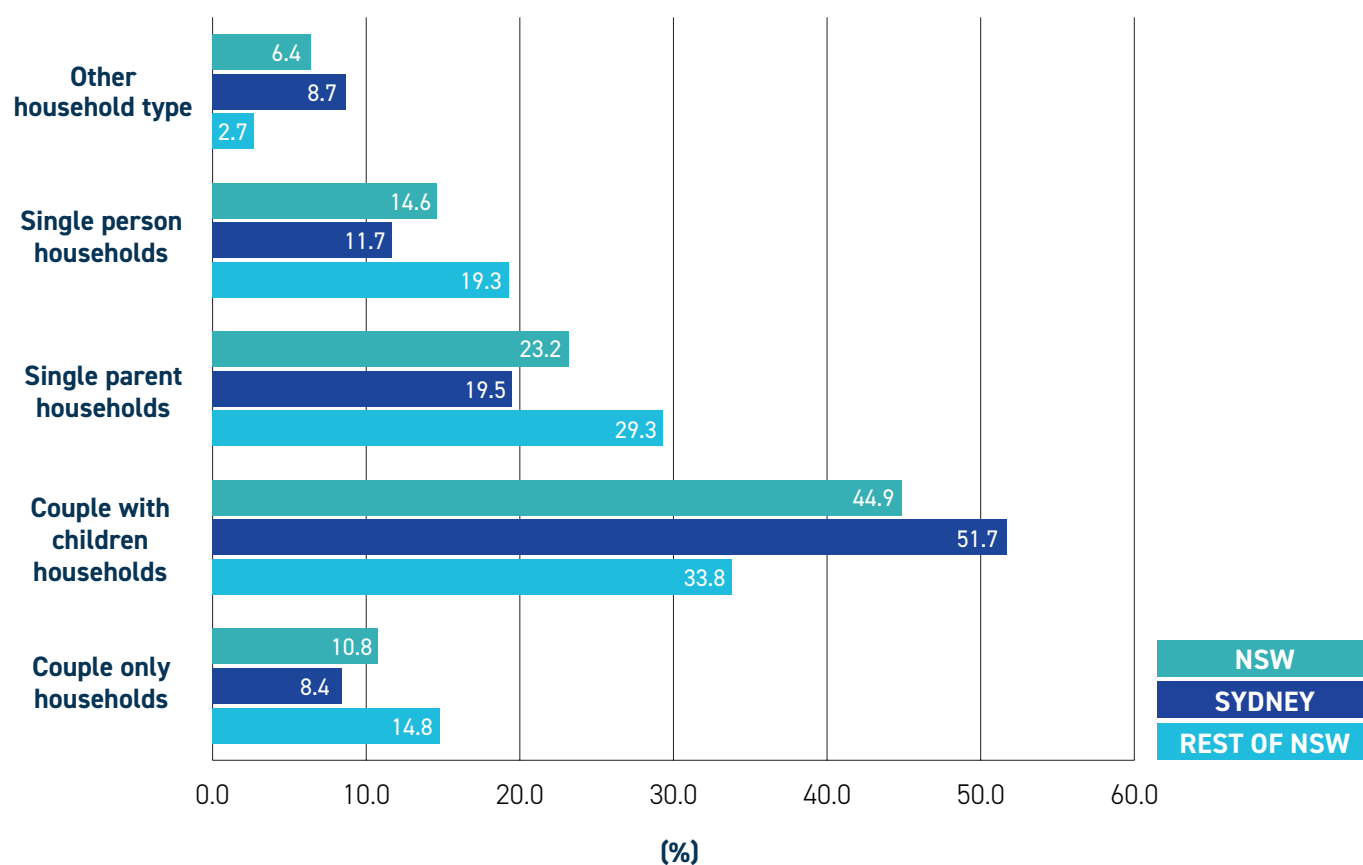


Figure 15 tells us that single people in NSW have higher rates of significant economic disadvantage compared to people who are coupled. This is especially the case for single person households outside of Sydney for whom the poverty rate is 24.2%.

Living alone increases the risk of both significant economic disadvantage and isolation. Research shows that struggling to make ends meet as a single person is linked with social isolation. Higher levels of loneliness are associated with higher levels of social interaction anxiety, fewer occasions of social interaction, poorer psychological wellbeing and poorer quality of life. Lonely Australians also have significantly worse physical health outcomes and are likely to work less or not at all.¹⁶

16. Lim, M., 2018. 'Australian Loneliness Report', Australian Psychological Society and Swinburne University

A man with a beard and safety glasses is shown in profile, working on a piece of wood with a power tool. A large cloud of dust is kicked up by the tool, filling the air. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic effect. The man is wearing a light blue t-shirt and work gloves.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

*Employment is not always a
protective factor against poverty.*

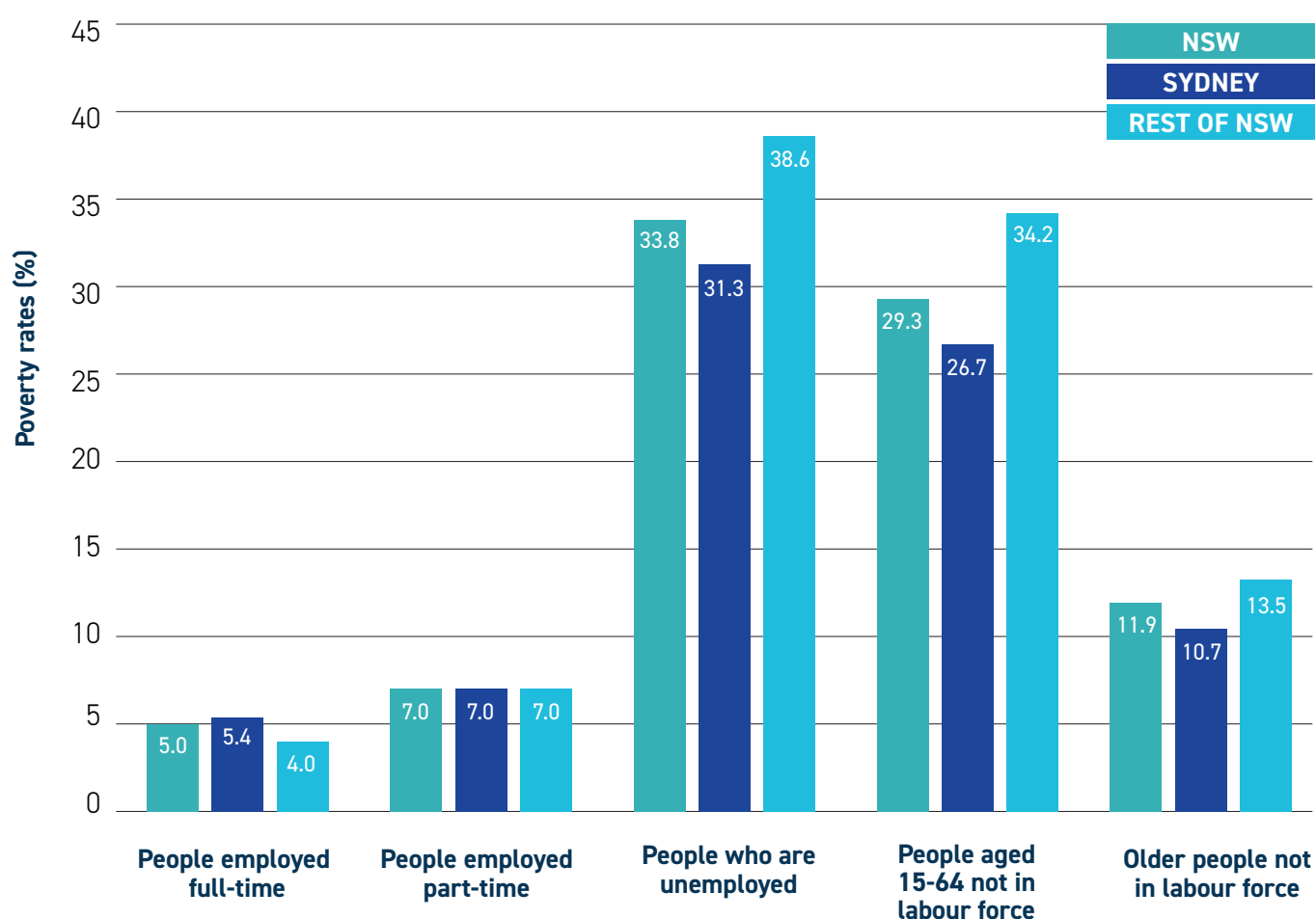
Five categories were identified for the purposes of analysing employment status: full-time employment; part-time employment; unemployed; aged 15-64 and not in the labour force; and aged 65 and over (older people) and not in the labour force. Unsurprisingly, when it comes to employment status, Figure 18 shows that people who are unemployed (aged 15 years and older) have the highest rates of poverty at 33.8% across NSW.

A person defined as 'not in the labour force' is someone who is not actively looking for paid employment. After those who are unemployed, people aged 15-64 in this group experienced the highest rate of poverty at 29.3%.

However, employment does not always mitigate the risk of poverty. While those in the labour force have much lower rates of poverty, around 5% of full-time workers and 7% of part-time workers are experiencing significant economic disadvantage. Nationally, those in full-time employment experience poverty at a rate of 6%.¹⁷

Looking at the raw numbers in Figure 19, there are more people who are working than not, who are living with significant economic disadvantage in NSW. While there are 66,800 people who are unemployed and living below the poverty line, there are over 107,000 people working full-time and over 76,000 people who have part-time jobs who are in poverty.

Figure 18: Poverty rates by labour force status



17. Davidson P., Saunders P., Bradbury B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No.2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.56

Figure 19: Number of people in poverty by labour force status



The scarcity of affordable housing and high housing costs, discussed elsewhere in this report, impact on the ability of people in the workforce on low to moderate incomes to make ends meet. Research undertaken for the Reserve Bank of Australia highlights that continued low wage growth is hurting a growing number of workers, with those on lower incomes who are more likely to derive their financial wellbeing from increasing wages most at risk.¹⁸ Australia's continued high underemployment rate – at 8.5% as at August 2019 – would also contribute to those in the workforce experiencing poverty, particularly young people who are more likely to be impacted by too few work hours.¹⁹

Table 7 shows that areas in Sydney with the highest rates of people in full-time employment living below the poverty line were primarily concentrated in the western suburbs. Many of these suburbs are located considerable distances from employment centres with higher paying jobs. The exception to this concentration in the western suburbs was Kensington, in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Kensington is home to the University of NSW and a high number of students living on campus or nearby (including overseas students), many of whom would be working to support themselves through university. This may explain the deviation in

expected poverty rates for people employed full-time in this location.

People in regional NSW in full-time employment were less likely to be living below the poverty line compared to full-time workers in Sydney. However, where this was the case the highest rates of poverty among employed people were in coastal areas in Northern NSW. Tourism may affect the types of jobs available in these areas, with many in the hospitality industry being seasonal, casual and low paid.

For those unemployed or not in the labour force there were higher rates of poverty being experienced in regional areas compared to metropolitan Sydney. Outside of Sydney, the highest concentrations of people being unemployed and living below the poverty line were found on the North Coast and South Coast, as well as in inland areas in the Riverina, Central West and South-Eastern NSW.

For Sydney, areas with the highest poverty rates for people experiencing unemployment included inner city areas such as Glebe, Redfern-Chippendale, Newtown and Waterloo-Beaconsfield. These suburbs feature high concentrations of public housing and boarding houses.

18. Lowe, P. (Governor of Reserve Bank of Australia), 2019. 'Monetary Policy Decision', Media Release, 2 July 2019

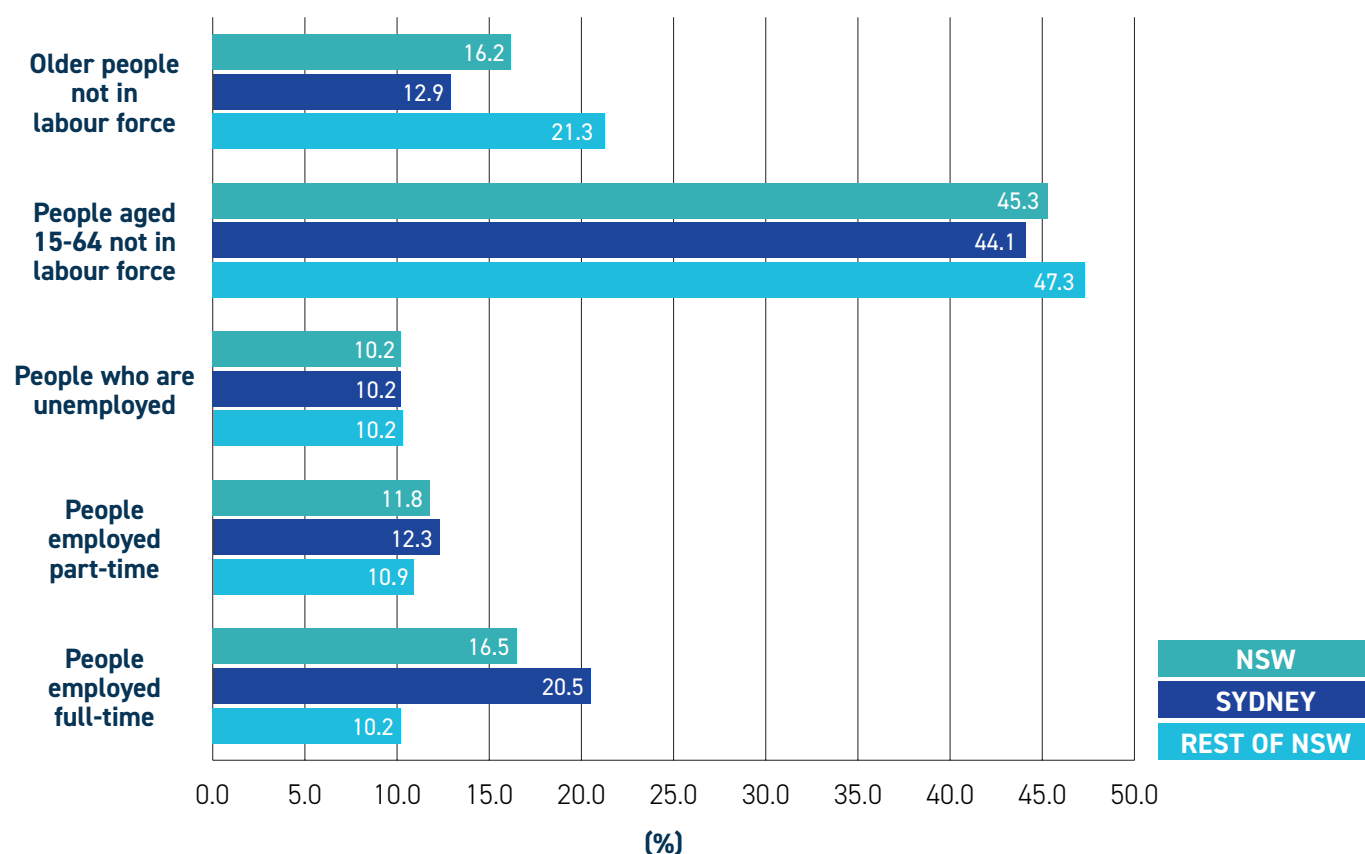
19. ABS, 6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Jul 2019. Available here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6202.0>

Table 7: Areas with the lowest and highest poverty rate for those employed full-time and unemployed

Employed full-time Poverty rate (%)		Unemployed Poverty rate (%)	
Rest of NSW		Rest of NSW	
Muswellbrook Region	0.2	Queanbeyan West - Jerrabomberra	5.4
Inverell Region – East	0.3	Queanbeyan Region	6.0
Goulburn Region	0.3	Jindabyne - Berridale	9.1
Moree Region	0.3	Horsley - Kembla Grange	10.3
Tumbarumba	0.3	Maitland - North	10.4
Tweed Heads	8.8	Mullumbimby	64.3
Warilla	8.9	Wagga Wagga - West	64.7
Ballina	9.2	Grenfell	74.4
Tweed Heads South	9.5	Eden	77.4
Nambucca Heads	10.0	Bombala	85.0
Sydney		Sydney	
Narara	1.8	Terrey Hills - Duffys Forest	1.9
Budgewoi - Buff Point - Halekulani	2.1	Acacia Gardens	4.6
Wyoming	2.6	Bilpin - Colo - St Albans	6.4
Chittaway Bay - Tumbi Umbi	2.6	Prestons - Edmondson Park	6.8
Lake Munmorah - Mannering Park	2.7	Cherrybrook	8.4
Guildford - South Granville	10.1	Glebe - Forest Lodge	56.3
Kensington	10.1	Redfern - Chippendale	56.4
Punchbowl	10.6	Loftus - Yarrawarra	60.0
Strathfield South	10.8	Newtown - Camperdown - Darlington	64.0
Greenacre - Mount Lewis	11.8	Waterloo - Beaconsfield	65.4

Figure 20 shows that people aged 15-64 not in the labour force constitute 45.3% of those in poverty across NSW. The next major group across NSW was the 'working poor' – those employed full-time but in poverty – at 16.5%.

Figure 20: Composition of poverty by employment status, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW







ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER
PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH A
DISABILITY AND
CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTICALLY
DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal people on low incomes

Aboriginal people are currently more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to live in households that have a low income in NSW.

The Aboriginal population of NSW is socioeconomically diverse. In many areas of the state, the Aboriginal population ranks in the bottom half of the socioeconomic distribution of the Aboriginal population across Australia. However, NSW also has some of the least socioeconomically disadvantaged Aboriginal populations in the country.²⁰ When compared with non-Aboriginal households, Aboriginal people are more than twice as likely to live in low income households, at 26.5% of all Aboriginal people (Figure 22).

Aboriginal people experience widespread and structural socioeconomic disadvantage, and social and health inequality. Aboriginal people are more likely to be subject to indicators of higher risk of disadvantage including income, unemployment and housing.

In 2014-15, the median weekly household income for Aboriginal households in NSW was \$550, compared with \$850 for non-Aboriginal households.²¹

In 2016, 46% of Aboriginal people in NSW (15 years and over) were employed, compared to 59% of non-Aboriginal people. In the same year, the unemployment rate in NSW for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was 15% and 6% of the total labour force, respectively. Unemployment amongst Aboriginal people was highest for 18-24 year olds, at 24%.

With regard to housing, a smaller proportion of Aboriginal households own or have a mortgage on their own home; 42% compared to 65% of non-Aboriginal households.²² More than half of Aboriginal households in NSW are renting.²³

In 2016, Aboriginal households with children were more likely to have one parent, 47% compared with 24% of non-Aboriginal households. Our results above showed that single parent households are at the highest risk of significant economic disadvantage (Figure 15).

Aboriginal people have significantly higher rates of disability than non-Aboriginal people across all age groups.²⁴ As discussed in the next section, disability further compounds risk factors for poverty.

The geographic distribution of the population of Aboriginal people in NSW in 2016 was 46.3% living in major cities, 34.5% in inner regional areas, 15.5% in outer regional areas, 2.8% in remote, and 0.9% in very remote areas.²⁵ There is rapid population growth among Aboriginal populations across all regions in NSW, with the highest growth on the Central and North Coast, followed by Sydney and Wollongong.²⁶

20. Biddle, N., Allen, L. & Markham, F., 2018. '2006-16 Aboriginal population change in New South Wales', Working paper 11/2018. ANU Centre for Social Research Methods, ACT. p.1

21. NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2019, 'Key data about Aboriginal people in NSW', Sydney, p.1. Available here: <https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/new-knowledge/KEY-DATA-ABORIGINAL-PEOPLE-AUGUST-2019.pdf>

22. NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2019, 'Key data about Aboriginal people in NSW', Sydney, p.1. Available here: <https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/new-knowledge/KEY-DATA-ABORIGINAL-PEOPLE-AUGUST-2019.pdf>

23. NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2019, 'Community portrait: New South Wales. A portrait of the Aboriginal community of New South Wales, compared with Australia, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses. Sydney, p.12

24. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015. 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people with disability.' 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, Canberra. Available here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4430.0Main%20Features802015?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4430.0&issue=2015&num=&view=>

25. NSW Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2019, 'Key data about Aboriginal people in NSW', Sydney, p.1. Available here: <https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/new-knowledge/KEY-DATA-ABORIGINAL-PEOPLE-AUGUST-2019.pdf>

26. Biddle, N., Allen, L. & Markham, F., 2018. '2006-16 Aboriginal population change in New South Wales', Working paper 11/2018. ANU Centre for Social Research Methods, ACT. p.4 Note: the growth of population in this research is explained by natural increase (a greater number of births than deaths during the period), a net inward migration from other parts of Australia, and largely a net increase in the number of people who identify as being Aboriginal on the census and other data collections.

Figure 21: Number of Aboriginal people living in low incomes households, NSW

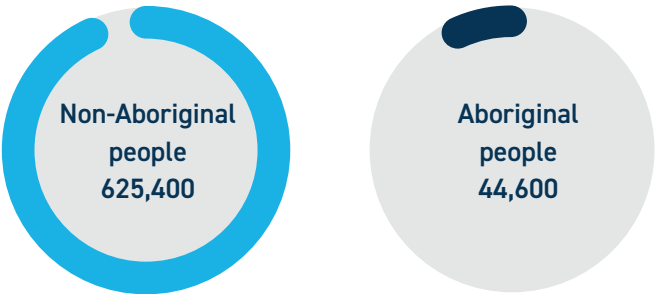


Figure 22: Proportion of Aboriginal people on low income

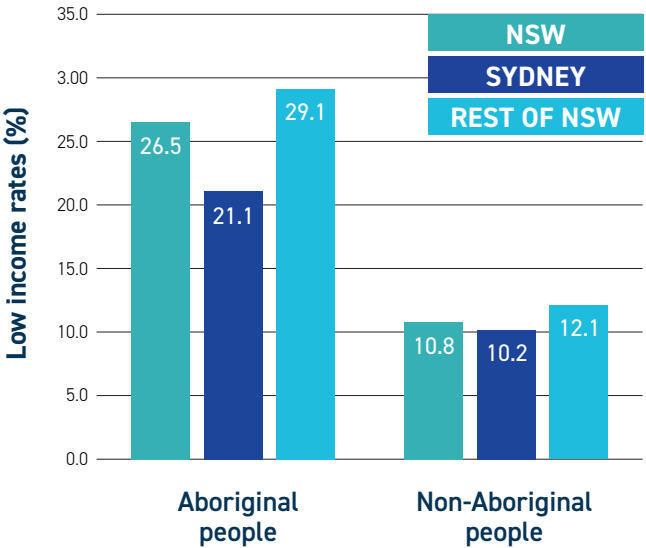
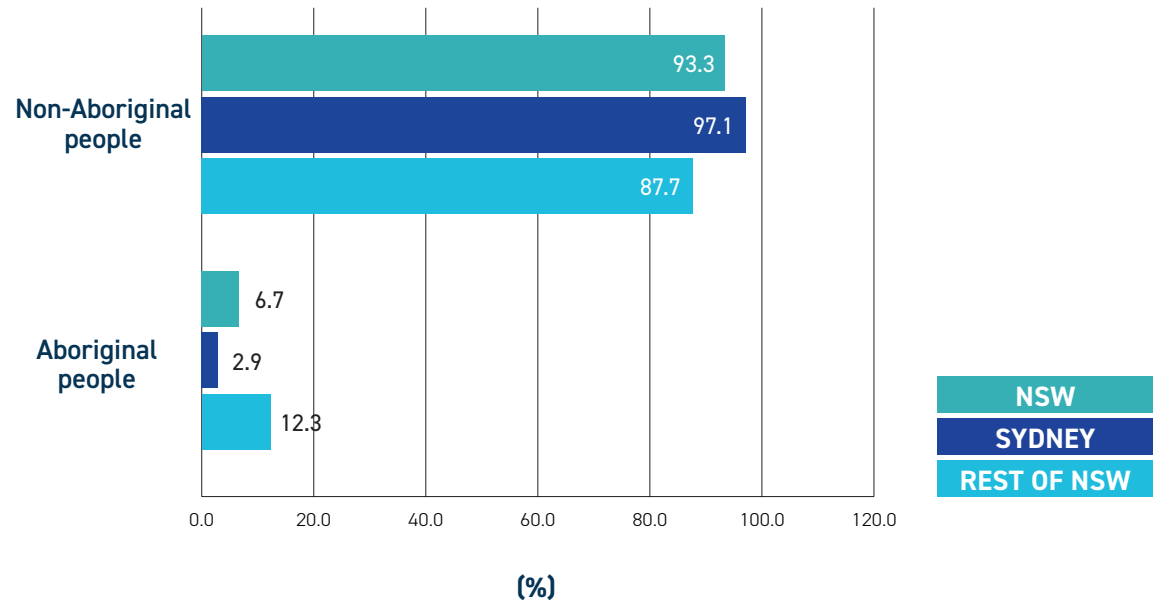


Figure 23: Composition of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people on low incomes in NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW



People with disability on low incomes

People with disability are more than twice as likely to live in a low income household compared to people without disability. Social, environmental and policy barriers continue to entrench this disadvantage.

Disability in this report is defined as 'a person who needs assistance with core activities'.²⁷ Using this definition, there are over 664,000 people living with disability in NSW. Around 403,000 people with disability live in Sydney.

This research has found that there are around 61,900 people with a disability on a low income across NSW (Figure 24), and the low income rate for those with disability is double that for those without (Figure 25). Others experience low income rates at around 10%, while for people with disability the rate is around 20%. There is little difference in the low income rate for people with disability in Sydney and those in the rest of NSW.

Throughout much of NSW, people with disability are living in households with low incomes at a rate of between 20.1% and 42.3%. In regional centers such as Orange, Young, Parkes and Tamworth, more than a quarter of the population of people with disability live in households experiencing low incomes.

There are many factors experienced by people with disability that contribute to their heightened risk of experiencing economic disadvantage. These have been identified in this report as contributing to increased poverty overall and include higher rates of

unemployment, renting in the private market or living in public housing and living alone.

In 2015, only 53.4% of people with disability in Australia were participating in the labour force, compared with 83.2% of people without disability.²⁸ This figure has changed very little over the past 20 years.

Australians with disability have lower rates of labour force participation and employment, higher rates of unemployment and longer duration of unemployment.²⁹

Social and environmental barriers to employment mean people with disability may have to rely on income support payments, especially the Disability Support Pension and Newstart Allowance. Research has found that, to provide the same standard of living as households without disability, families receiving the disability support pension would need \$183 more per week on average.³⁰ This research also found that two of every five Aboriginal households relying on the disability support pension as their source of income ran out of money for basic living expenses in the last 12 months.

As the rules for access to the Disability Support Pension have become stricter, more people with disabilities have been diverted to the lower Newstart Allowance, exacerbating their economic challenges.³¹ For the 200,000 people with a disability receiving Newstart, an additional \$343 per week is needed to close the standard of living gap.³²

Almost a third of people with disability rent their homes and are four times more likely to rent from a state or territory housing authority.³³ 20% of people with disability rent privately. 42% of social housing households include a person with disability (at June 2018).³⁴

27. ABS, 2017, 'Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016' Cat. No. 2900.0

28. Joenpera, J. & Murdoch, F., 2017. 'Disability in Australia: changes over time in inclusion and participation in employment', AIHW ACT, p.2

29. People with disability were significantly more likely to still be looking for a job 13 weeks or longer after they first started (65.5%) compared with those without disability (56.1%), Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Disability and Labour Force Participation, 2012* (2015), and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2019. People with disability in Australia 2019: in brief. Cat. no. DIS 74. Canberra: AIHW

30. Li, J., La. H.N., Brown, L., Miranti, R., & Vidyattama, Y., 2019. 'Inequalities In Standards of Living: Evidence for Improved Income Support for People with Disability', NATSEM, Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA), University of Canberra. Report commissioned by the Australia Federation of Disability Organisations

31. Davidson P., Saunders P., Bradbury B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia 2018'. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No.2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.58

32. Li, J., La. H.N., Brown, L., Miranti, R., & Vidyattama, Y., 2019. 'Inequalities In Standards of Living: Evidence for Improved Income Support for People with Disability', NATSEM, Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA), University of Canberra. Report commissioned by the Australia Federation of Disability Organisations

33. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), 2019. 'People with disability in Australia 2019: in brief' Cat. no. DIS 74. Canberra: AIHW.

34. AIHW, 2019. (Ibid.)

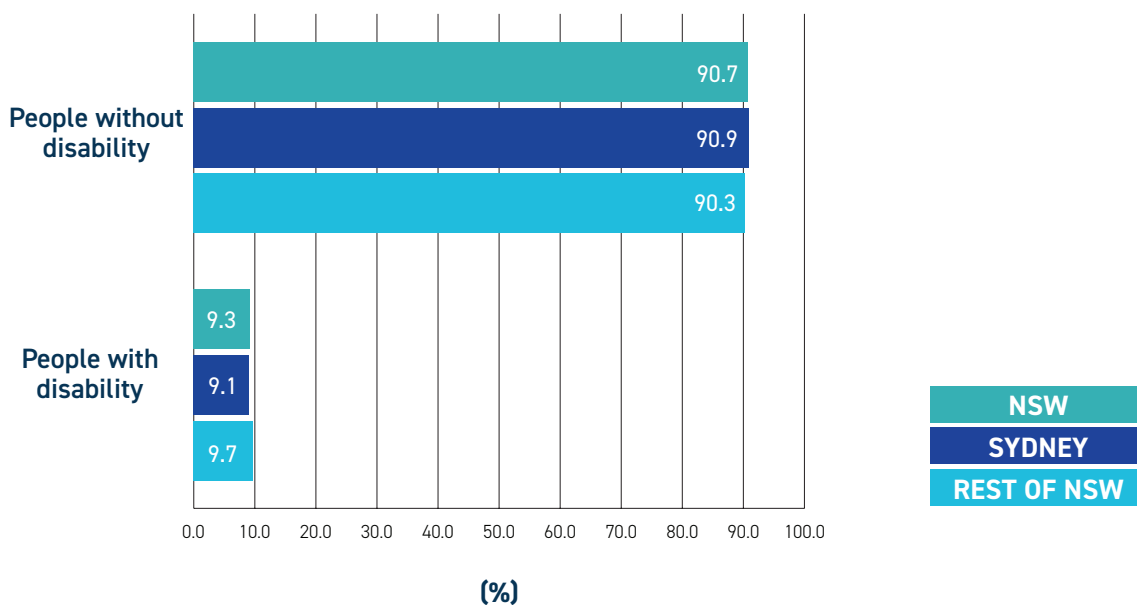
Figure 25: Proportion of people with disability on low income



Figure 24: Number of people with disability living in low income households, NSW



Figure 26: Composition of low income rates for people with disability and people without disability



Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

More than a third of the NSW population was born overseas. While the overall percentage of low income households is lower than for people from other groups considered in this report, the online maps demonstrate that significant economic disadvantage impacts culturally diverse communities all over the state.

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities are defined as those who use a language other than English at home.³⁵ This reflects the notion that the use of a language by a particular group that is different to the dominant community language demonstrates cultural identity and membership.³⁶

This research found that 15.5% of people who use a language other than English at home in NSW are living in low income households.

ABS data shows that migrant populations are concentrated around a number of key urban centres in Sydney such as the inner city including Haymarket and Ultimo. In Western Sydney migrant populations are concentrated in Rhodes and Homebush to Parramatta and surrounding suburbs like Harris Park, Westmead, Cabramatta and Fairfield.³⁷ The online maps show that the highest rates of households from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who live in low

income households are clustered in these areas of Western Sydney at rates from 20.1% to 46.2%.

Figure 29 shows that for all those on low incomes in Sydney, they are more likely to be culturally and linguistically diverse compared to those in the rest of NSW. This may reflect the high proportion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Sydney.

The spread of low income culturally and linguistically diverse households also largely mirrors that of overall significant economic disadvantage in NSW; higher rates feature in Western Sydney and the north and south coastal areas. However, low income households among culturally and linguistically diverse communities are dispersed evenly throughout NSW.

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities are disproportionately disadvantaged in areas such as access to government services and employment. Barriers can include challenges to understanding government services, workplace training and job application processes, the legal system, public transport, workplace culture, language barriers and access to translating and interpreting services. Access to specialist service provision to assist culturally and linguistically diverse communities also has an impact. A lack of familiarity with overseas qualifications, visas and work rights also act as barriers for migrants finding employment, particularly for those from non- English speaking countries.^{38&39}

35. See Miller, J. M., 2000. 'Language use, identity, and social interaction: Migrant students in Australia'. Research on language and social interaction, 33(1), 69-100 and Burnley, I. H., 2005. 'Immigration and housing in an emerging global city, Sydney, Australia'. Urban Policy and Research, 23(3), 329-345.

36. Vidyattama, Y., 2017. 'Assessing the Association between Trust and Concentration Area of Migrant Ethnic Minority in Sydney'. Australian Economic Review, 50(4), 412-426

37. ABS, 2014. 'Australian Social Trends, Where do migrants live?' No. 4102.0

38. Shamshad, R., Mulder, S., Onsando, G. & O'Dwyer, M., 2016. 'Transition to employment and education for new migrants in Australia.' AMES Australia, p.5

39. Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. & Wong, M., 2018. 'Poverty in Australia, 2018' ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS. p.60

Figure 27: Number of CALD people living in low income households, NSW



Figure 28: Low income rate for CALD people, NSW, Sydney and rest of NSW

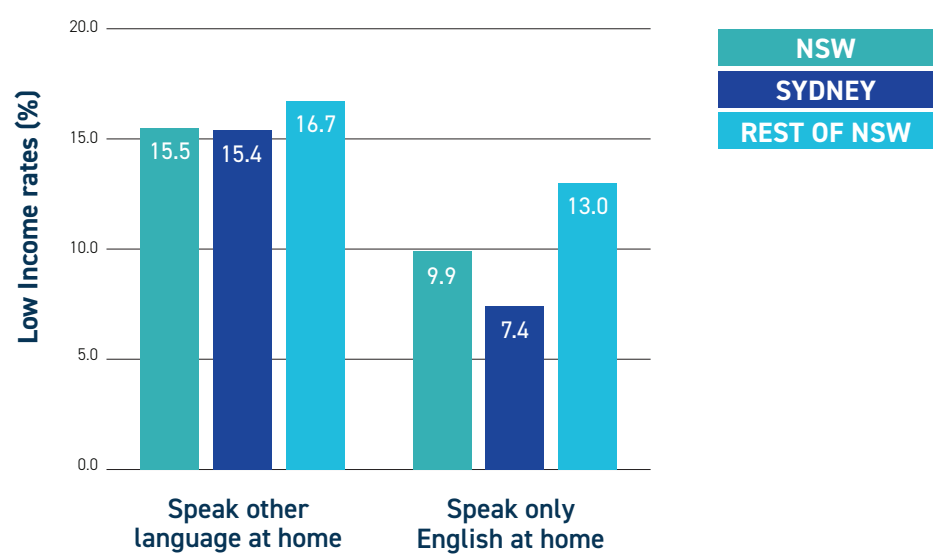
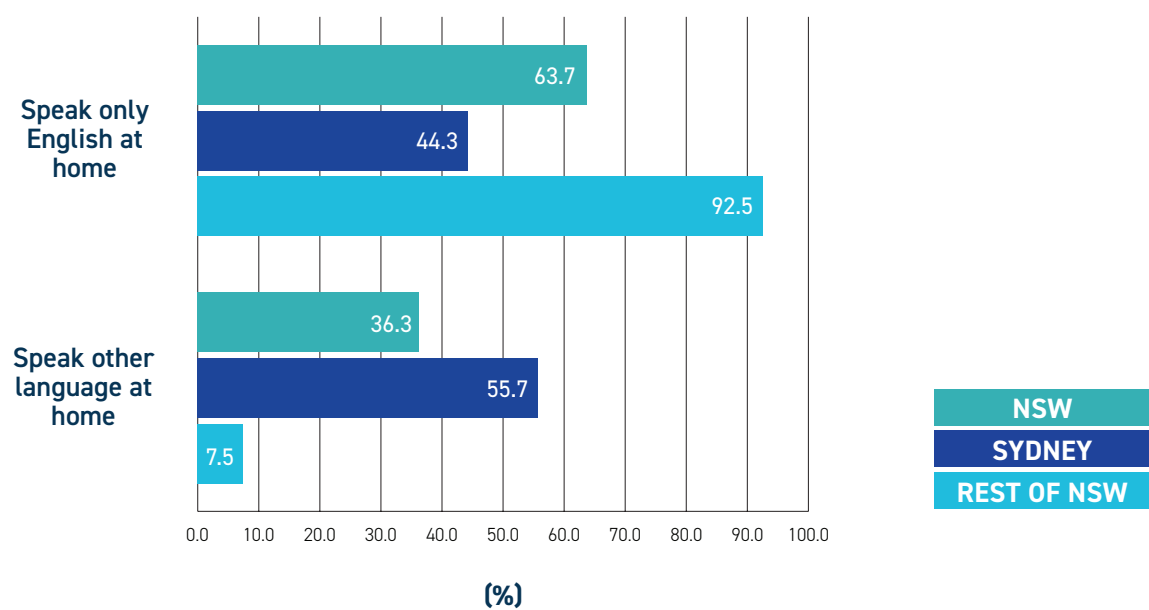


Figure 29: Composition of low income for CALD people

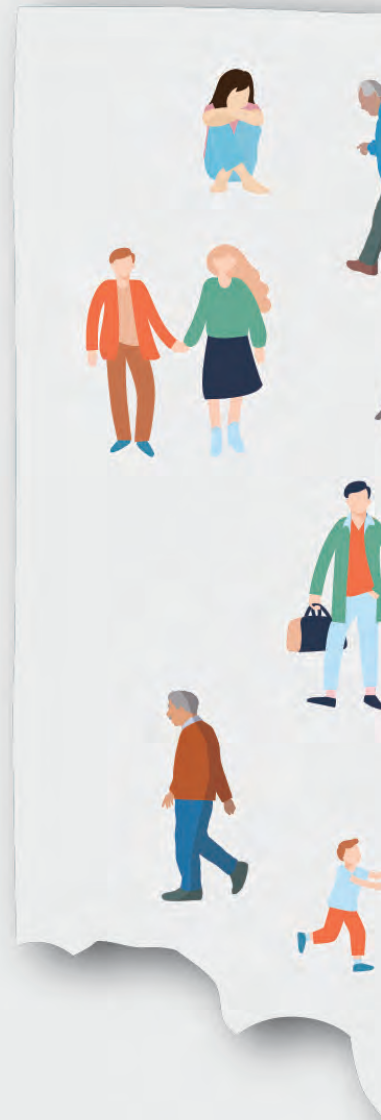


CONCLUSION

Low incomes and significant economic disadvantage impose lower standards of living on individuals and families. Understanding the demographic and geographic dimensions of poverty can help to dispel some of the myths.

This research reveals there are particular risk factors associated with an increased likelihood of significant economic disadvantage, such as housing tenure, household type and employment status. The findings also show that poverty can impact people of any age group, any gender and at any time in a person's life. It can occur in communities that are generally considered 'well-off' and in regional areas that are popular tourist destinations.

The maps of significant economic disadvantage in NSW that have resulted from this research are intended to inform improved decision making, policy development, program planning and service provision to deliver the right solutions in the right location. Yet the data provides only the beginning of the story. The realities and lived experiences behind these findings are what is most important for policy makers, service providers and researchers to know; why poverty clusters in the way that it does, why some people are disproportionately exposed to disadvantage and what systemic changes can be made to level the playing field.



A stylized map of New South Wales, Australia, filled with numerous small, colorful illustrations of diverse people of various ages and ethnicities. The text "NEW SOUTH WALES" is prominently displayed in the center in a large, black, hand-drawn font. The map itself is white with a torn-edge effect, set against a dark grey background. The illustrations include people walking, pushing strollers, using wheelchairs, riding bicycles, and using mobility scooters, representing a wide range of human diversity and mobility needs.

GLOSSARY

Poverty rates (Significant economic disadvantage): the estimated overall rates of people living in poverty in individual suburbs and localities (Statistical Areas Level 2 or SA2s) of NSW. Poverty is estimated based on the ACOSS household income adequacy measure, which is people who fall below one half of the median household disposable income after taking account of housing costs.

Housing costs: These are rent payments, mortgage repayments, and general and water rates payments for owners.

Men: males aged 15 and over.

Women: females aged 15 and over

Children: children aged under 15

Young people: people aged 15-24

People of working age: people aged 25-64

Older people: people aged 65 and above

People employed full-time: people with full-time employment

People employed part-time: people with part-time employment

People who are unemployed: people looking for employment

People aged 15 to 64 not in labour force: people aged 15-64 not actively looking for paid employment

Older people not in labour force: people aged 65 and over not actively looking for paid employment

Couple only households: people in couple only households

Couple with children households: people in couple with children households

Single parent households: people in single parent households

Single person households: people in lone person households

Homeowners: people who own their home outright (no mortgage)

Home purchasers (mortgagors): people in their home with a mortgage

Private renters: people renting privately

Public renters: people renting in public, community and Aboriginal housing

Low income households: the estimated rates of people who are living in households with an equivalized gross household income of less than \$400 per week (\$20,800 per year) in individual suburbs and localities (SA2s) of NSW.

People with disability: people with need for assistance for their core activities.

Aboriginal people: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Culturally and linguistically diverse: people who speak a language other than English at home

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

View a detailed technical methodology at <https://www.ncoss.org.au/sites/default/files/Poverty%20in%20NSW%20report%20-%20Technical%20appendix%200.pdf>

An excel spreadsheet with all the data for all communities is available from NCOSS on request.

