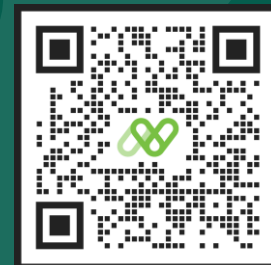


Hunter Valley (excl. Newcastle)

Wonnarua Nation



Scan QR for full report



Poverty & Demographics



Poverty Rate

13.09%

13.4%



Single Parent Families

17.7%

15.8%



Median Household Income

\$1,557

\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



69%

people are living in housing stress¹

45%

have gone without meals because they were short of money.

32%

people in the region rely solely on government payments compared to the NSW average of 17%.

Health



28%

Over a quarter of people attended the ED because they could see a GP.²

65%

people have a long-term health condition, significantly higher than the NSW average (51%)

55%

people have gone without prescribed medication due to the associated cost.

Children and Young People



15.6%

children are living in poverty at a cost of \$2.3 billion.⁴

964

young offenders across the region in the last 12 months making up 4.5% of young offenders in NSW.⁶

13.7%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁵

Local Challenges



23.6%

people identified climate as a key issue facing the community, with 24.5 seeing it as a direct issue for themselves.⁹

5 x LGAs

5 of the LGAs across the Hunter were severely impacted by flooding in 2025 and are eligible for assistance through the Disaster Recovery Fund.¹⁰

40

In the 2025 street count there 40 people sleeping rough in Port Stephens, compared to 4 people in 2020.³

¹Impossible Choices: Decisions NSW families shouldn't have to make. Regional Snapshot. NSW Council of Social Service. Following statistics have come from the NCOSS Cost of Living report. ²Access Denied: Australians Locked Out of Quality Healthcare Patient Experience and Socioeconomic Disadvantage in NSW. NCOSS 2024/2024. ³NSW Street Count results. NSW Government. ⁴Lasting Impacts of Child Poverty. NCOSS. ⁵Australian Early Development Census 2024. Data by SA4. ⁶Trends in youth offending in NSW 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ⁷Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2. ⁸NSW Government Disaster Relief Grants www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding ⁹Social Justice Stocktake 2025. Salvation Army ¹⁰Poverty rate is defined as 15.27% of households. Single parent families is defined as 18.5% of all families. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022. 2021 Census Quickstats.