

Outer West & Blue Mountains

Dharug and Gundungurra Country

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Poverty & Demographics

Outer West & Blue Mountains

NSW



Poverty Rate

12.96%

13.4%



Single Parent Families

18.4%

15.8%



Median Household Income

\$1,854

\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



80%

Of people living in the Outer West and Blue Mountains are living in housing stress¹

45%

Have gone without meals because they were short of money.

70%

Of people have been unable to pay a utility bill on time at least once.

Health



21%

One in five people have gone to an ED because the GP was unavailable.³



245

The number of people who delayed or avoided seeing a GP due to the cost has increased 245% since 2020.

61%

Of people in the region have gone without prescribed medication because of cost.

Children and Young People



13%

Of children are living in poverty across the Outer West and Blue Mountains at a cost of \$2.25 billion.⁴

822

young offenders across the region in the last 12 months. Just under 50% accessed diversion options.⁶

12.1%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁵

Local Challenges



1,791

People were on the general waitlist for social housing across Penrith and the Blue Mountains at June 2024. The wait time on average 10 years+.⁹

60

Penrith LGA is currently ranked 60 in NSW for recorded incidents of DV related assaults.⁸

51.6

North St Marys has 51.6 pokie machines per 1000 people, significantly higher than the NSW average of 14/1000.⁷

¹ Impossible 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. ² Access Denied: Australians Locked Out of Quality Healthcare Patient Experience and Socioeconomic Disadvantage in NSW. NCOSS 2024/2024. ⁴ Lasting Impacts of Child Poverty. NCOSS. ⁵ Australian Early Development Census 2024. Data by SA4. ⁶ Trends in youth offending in NSW 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ⁷ Liquor and Gaming NSW. Electronic Gaming Machines by SA2. ⁸ NSW Domestic Violence Quarterly Report. March 2025. NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. ⁹ NSW FACS (2024) Expected Waiting Times ¹⁰ Poverty 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.