



Southern Highlands & Shoalhaven

Gundungurra, Jerrinja & Wandí Wandian

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Poverty & Demographics

	Southern Highlands & Shoalhaven	NSW
Poverty Rate	14.01%	13.4%
Single Parent Families	15.2%	15.8%
Median Household Income	\$1,357	\$1,829

Housing and Financial Stress



77%

people are living in housing stress.¹

50%

have gone without meals because they were short of money.

54%

have been unable to pay utility bills on time at least once.

Health



40%

One in four people have delayed seeing a dentist due to the cost. Significantly higher than NSW overall (21%).³

46%

people went without a prescribed medication due to costs.

↑ Over 10-fold

The increase in people who have delayed or avoided seeing a GP due to cost – **the highest increase in NSW.**

Children and Young People



15.8%

children are living in poverty at a cost of \$1.1 billion.⁴

317

young offenders across the region in the last 12 months; 50% accessed diversionary pathways.⁶

10.4%

children are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.⁵

Local Challenges



14%

have had their home severely damaged due to extreme weather or a natural disaster compared to the NSW average of 7%.¹

24.3%

In the Whitlam Electorate, 24.3% of people identified climate as a key issue facing the community.⁸

15.23

pokie machines for every 1000 people across the Shoalhaven LGA, just above the NSW average (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. ³ NSW Street Count results. NSW Government. 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 Social Justice Stocktake 2025. Salvation Army ⁹ SBS. (2023). Just 35 Per Cent of GP Clinics Bulk Bill New Patients. Here's How Your Area Compares. 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.