



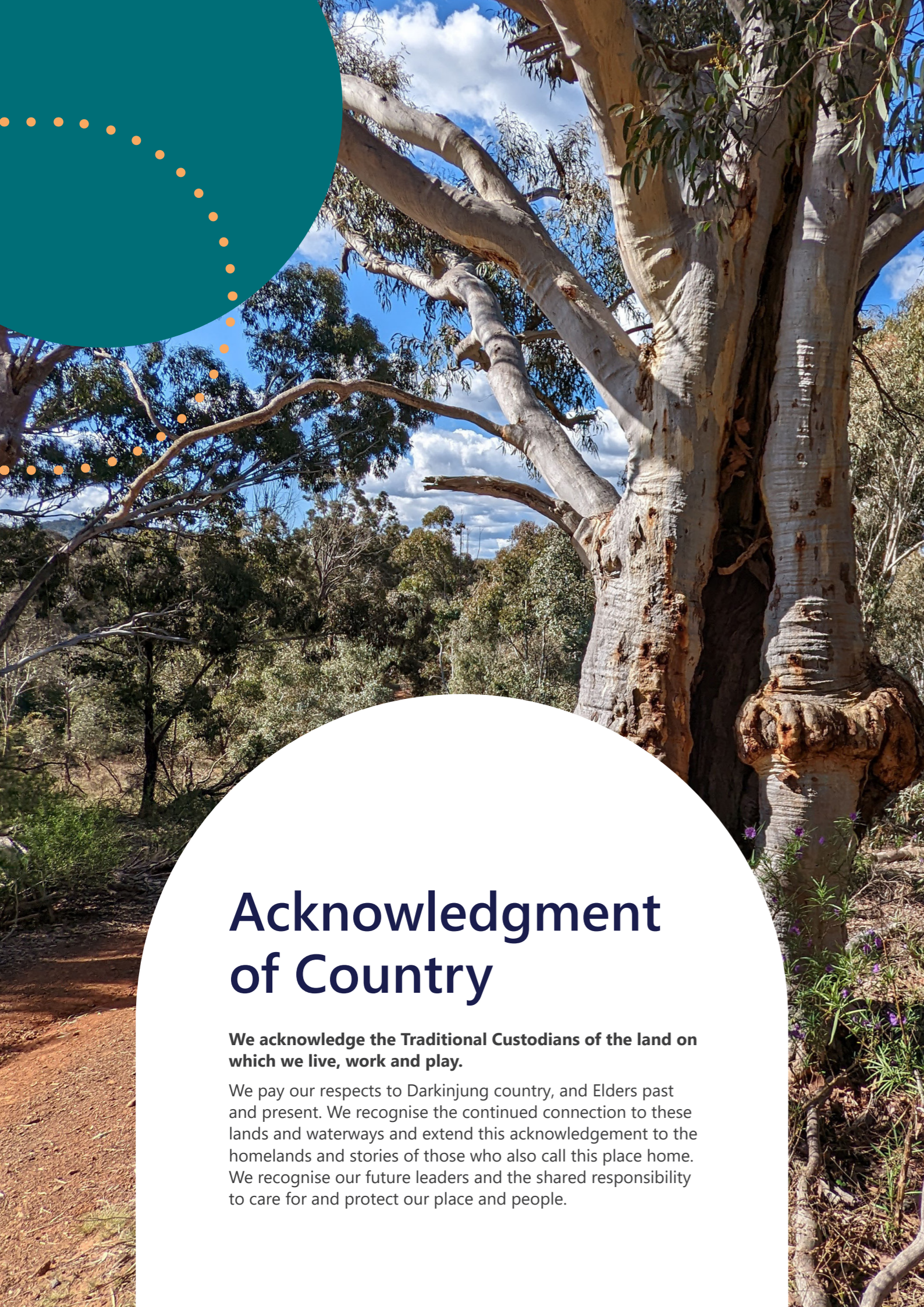
Central Coast Council

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# Social Profile

# 2024

Central  
Coast  
Council



## Acknowledgment of Country

**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.**

We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present. We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home. We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

### Foreword by David Farmer, CEO, Central Coast Council

The Central Coast is a dynamic region experiencing significant growth and change. With a projected population increase to over 400,000 by 2041, it is crucial that we understand the evolving demographics and social and economic conditions that shape our community. The Central Coast Social Profile 2024 offers a detailed snapshot of who we are today, providing valuable insights into our strengths and areas for improvement.

Our community is characterised by its rich diversity, encompassing a wide range of cultures, languages, lifestyles, and abilities. This diversity is a source of strength and vibrancy, contributing to the unique identity of the region. The Central Coast Social Profile highlights the importance of fostering an inclusive and engaged community, where everyone feels safe, connected, and supported. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all residents have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Education, employment, and housing are key areas of focus in this report. The data presented reveals the educational progression of our residents, from early childhood education to post-school qualifications. Understanding these trends helps us to better plan and support lifelong learning opportunities. Additionally, the report provides insights into the current employment landscape, highlighting the industries that drive our local economy and the employment status of our workforce. As we continue to grow, addressing the challenges of affordable housing and ensuring access to quality living conditions remain in top priorities for the community.

Health and wellbeing are also central themes in the Central Coast Social Profile 2024. The report examines various factors that impact the quality of life on the Central Coast, from physical and mental health to social connectivity and safety. The findings underscore the importance of creating a healthy, active, and resilient community. As we plan, we must prioritise initiatives that promote overall wellbeing and address health disparities.



The preparation of this Central Coast Social Profile was a collaborative effort, drawing on extensive social research and community engagement. Over 1,900 residents participated in the Central Coast Wellbeing Survey 2024, sharing their experiences and perspectives on living in our region. This valuable input has been instrumental in shaping the findings and recommendations presented in this report. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed their time and insights.

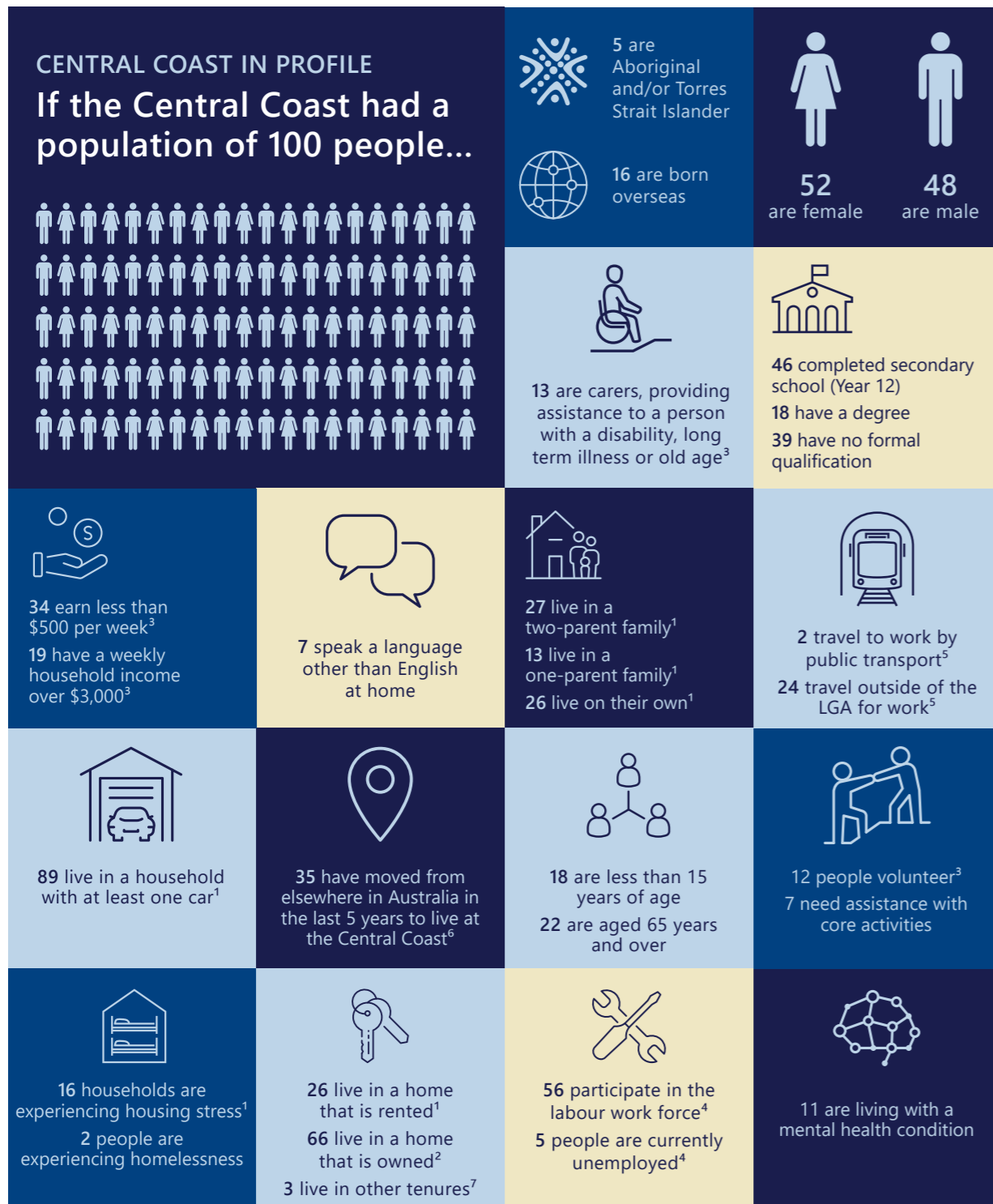
As we move forward, the Central Coast Social Profile 2024 will serve as a foundational document for the Council's strategic planning and decision-making. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the current state of our community and the challenges we face. By leveraging the data and insights contained within this report, we can work together to create a thriving, safe, attractive, and healthy Central Coast for all.

In conclusion, I encourage you to read this report, to reflect on its findings, and to engage in the ongoing conversation about the future of our community. The Central Coast is a region of great potential, and together, we can build a brighter, more inclusive future for all who call it home.

**David Farmer**  
CEO, Central Coast Council

# Social Profile at a glance

## If the Central Coast was a group of 100 people



## Contents

Acknowledgment of Country .....	2
Social Profile at a glance .....	4
Contents .....	5
Introduction .....	7
How was the Central Coast Social Profile prepared?.....	8
Our People and Neighbourhoods.....	10
Employment, Knowledge and Skills.....	12
Households .....	13
Income and Wealth .....	14
Health .....	14
Our Community Growth.....	16
Households .....	16
Our Growing Region.....	16
Population Growth and Trends.....	17
Our Community's Voice.....	19
Households .....	19
Our Community Strengths .....	19
Our Opportunities .....	20
Our Community Diversity .....	22
Understanding Our Community.....	35
Safety .....	41
Health and Wellbeing.....	44
Health .....	48
Income and Wealth .....	54
Support and Connectedness .....	60
Community Districts .....	66
References.....	92

# Introduction

## Why have a social profile?

The Social Profile 2024 draws on a range of sources to examine who the people of the Central Coast are – a snapshot of our characteristics, where we live, where we work, our education, our health, the strengths of the communities we belong to and the challenges we face as they grow and change.

The Social Profile provides a comprehensive picture of our community – its strengths, challenges, and opportunities, including those of population growth and density; of rapid increase in demand for infrastructure; of maintaining our standard of living; and of responding to the changing needs and aspirations of our residents, visitors, and workers.

The Profile will support Council in our continuing work to make the Central Coast a thriving, safe, attractive and healthy place that balances the needs of the people who live, work, play and visit here.

## What is in a social profile?

A social profile captures the community's characteristics at a specific point in time, including its demographics, state of wellbeing, aspirations, strengths and challenges. This profile offers a snapshot of various census-related topics, providing insights into the residents living at the Central Coast.

To understand for our social situation and the aspirations and concerns of our community, we have approached our region as eight Social Planning Districts – areas bounded by natural creek systems, parklands or transport corridors. Each district is serviced by a strategic centre, and each has its own economic, social and environmental characteristics that will influence how it grows and develops.

These eight Social Planning Districts are:

- East Brisbane Water and Costal
- Gosford Central
- Mountains and Valleys
- Narara Valley and Ourimbah
- Northern Lakes, San Remo-Budgewoi and Toukley
- Southern Lakes and The Entrance
- West Brisbane Water and Peninsula
- Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan

The Social Profile 2024 reflects these eight districts and the differing priorities and opportunities in each district.

This profile considers:

- the **demographic characteristics** of our region and patterns of future growth
- our **diversity**, considering ancestry, race, culture, language, lifestyle, age, and ability
- how **engaged** and **inclusive** our community is by examining how safe and connected residents feel
- our **educational progression** from early childhood education to post-school qualifications
- the **current employment** status of our region and the industries that employ our workforce
- **strengths** and **opportunities** within our community
- the **housing market** and the impacts of **affordability** on local residents
- our **wellbeing, health, and health risk factors**
- how **connected and supported** people feel living at the Central Coast
- the impact of **perceptions of the region** on our overall wellbeing.

# How was the Central Coast Social Profile prepared?

**The Social Profile 2024 was prepared through extensive social research and input from community engagement activities.**

The inputs to the Social Profile 2024 were:



**Over 1,900**  
individual responses to our wellbeing survey



Local social, demographic, economic and environmental trends within the Central Coast



Analysis of forecast population data and trends for the Central Coast



Comparative data sets for New South Wales and Australia



Key information and statistics on a wide range of health and social issues



Demographic, social and economic data from 2021 Census of Population and Housing

## Wellbeing Survey 2024

To better understand the community's perception of their own wellbeing and quality of life, a wellbeing survey was undertaken as an opportunity to establish a baseline of how our community thinks and feels about living in the Local Government Area (LGA) and the experience of wellbeing at the neighbourhood level.

Over 1,900 people took part in the wellbeing survey, with residents of all ages and backgrounds invited to share how they felt on topics such as community connectedness and support, their neighbourhood, personal safety, access to services and facilities, health and wellbeing – and generally living, playing, working, and growing on the Coast.

The survey captured the residents perspectives highlighting the strengths and opportunities within communities living on the Central Coast, and the key factors that they believe contribute to or enhance their overall quality of life.

Residents accessed the wellbeing survey (Central Coast Wellbeing Survey 2024) on the Central Coast Council's community engagement hub Your Voice Our Coast from 15 April 2024 to 13 May 2024. Additionally, Woolcott Research and Engagement (Woolcott) engaged by Council to assist with the delivery of the survey, conducted telephone interviews using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). The CATI interviews were aimed at ensuring a representative sample of the population across the eight planning districts were selected, following the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights to achieve the best community engagement outcomes.

**The wellbeing survey contained important questions to help inform themes about belonging, health and wellbeing, connections, safety, likes, dislikes and ways of improving life on the Central Coast, including:**

- ✓ Overall, how would you rate the quality of life you have, living in the Central Coast LGA?
- ✓ If you needed to, could you access or raise \$2,000 within two days of an emergency?
- ✓ I feel safe walking alone in my local area at night (graded response)
- ✓ I feel part of my local neighbourhood community (graded response)
- ✓ As a direct result of housing costs, have you unwillingly had to sacrifice spending on other things?
- ✓ How many days per week do you eat 5 serves of vegetables and 2 serves of fruit?
- ✓ I feel like I have a balance between work and life (graded response)
- ✓ How connected or engaged do you feel with the people, business, and other aspects of your local area?
- ✓ Do you feel there are enough opportunities to have a say on local issues that are important to you?

# Our People and Neighbourhoods

**Social wellbeing on the Central Coast is defined and shaped by the unique characteristics of our community, neighbourhoods and places.**

The Central Coast is experiencing a period of significant growth. The growth in our communities is both an opportunity and a challenge to be managed that requires us to prioritise social sustainability for all. The Social Profile offers insights into the diversity of local communities, how those communities are changing and highlights the social issues impacting them.



**Top three languages spoken at home other than English<sup>9</sup>**  
**Mandarin, Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog**



**351,934**

Population in 2023  
(ERP June 2023)<sup>1</sup>



**400,878**

Projected population  
in 2041<sup>2</sup>



**25,728**

additional dwellings  
estimated by 2041



**16.1%**

(55,675 people)  
People born overseas<sup>1</sup>



**22.2%**

(76,941 people)  
are aged 65 years and older<sup>3</sup>



**94,861**

Families<sup>4</sup>



**7.1%**

speak a language other than  
English at home



**4.9%**

are Aboriginal and/or  
Torres Strait Islander<sup>1</sup>



**12.1%**

(34,473 people)  
Volunteer<sup>5</sup>



**11.6%**

or **4,499** young people  
aged 15 years to 24 years  
are disengaged<sup>6</sup>



**43**

Median age<sup>1</sup>



**18%**

(62,352 people)  
are less than 15 years  
of age<sup>3</sup>



**24.1%**

(36,355 people) live in the  
area, but travel outside the  
Central Coast LGA for work<sup>7</sup>



**9.5%**

(11,043 people)  
work in the area, but live  
outside the Central Coast LGA<sup>7</sup>



**Health Care and  
Social Assistance**

is the largest industry of  
employment<sup>8</sup>

Sources:  
 1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 2. id, 2024, Population and household forecasts. Central Coast Council area Forecast Population  
 3. id, 2021b, Five-year age groups. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 4. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021a, Central Coast (NSW) 2021 Census All persons QuickStats  
 5. id, 2021c, Volunteering. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 6. id, 2021d, Disengagement by age. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 7. id, 2021e, Journey to work. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 8. id, 2021f, Industries. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 9. id, 2021g, Language used at home. Central Coast Council area Community Profile.

# Employment, Knowledge and Skills

Every day across Council and the region, we have conversations about the Central Coast. We talk about its places, its potential to thrive with vibrancy and diversity, how it is changing and the aspirations we have for the future. Ultimately, it is the people who live, work, learn and play in the area that make the Central Coast unique.



55.7%

Participate in the labour force<sup>1</sup>



4.7%

are currently unemployed<sup>1</sup>



45.6%

completed Year 12 schooling<sup>10</sup>



18%

have a university qualification<sup>1</sup>



2.2%

use public transport to travel to work<sup>11</sup>



25%

have a vocational qualification<sup>1</sup>

# Households



65.9%

of households are owned or being purchased<sup>12</sup>



26.4%

of households are rented<sup>12</sup>



3.2%

population are living in social housing<sup>12</sup>



27.1%

are couples with children<sup>13</sup>



12.8%

are one parent families



26%

are lone person households<sup>13</sup>



2.8%

of households are group households<sup>13</sup>



16% or 21,759

households are experiencing housing stress<sup>14 15</sup>



6,600 people

estimated persons experiencing homelessness on any given year<sup>16</sup>

Sources:  
 1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 10 .id, 2021h, Schooling. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 11 .id, 2021i, Travel to work. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 12 .id, 2021j, Housing tenure. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 13 .id, 2021k, Dwellings. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 14 .id, 2021l, Household mortgage stress. Atlas.id  
 15 .id, 2021m, Household rental stress. Atlas.id  
 16 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia  
 17 .id, 2021n, Long term health conditions. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Income and Wealth



**\$1,534**

median weekly household income<sup>1</sup>



**\$461**

median weekly mortgage repayment<sup>1</sup>



**\$400**

median weekly rent<sup>1</sup>

# Health



**82 years**

life expectancy<sup>1</sup>



**38%**

(131,339 people)  
population with at least one long-term health condition<sup>17</sup>



**11%**

(37,984 people)  
experiencing a mental health condition<sup>17</sup>

Sources:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
10 .id, 2021h, Schooling. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
11 .id, 2021i, Travel to work. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
12 .id, 2021j, Housing tenure. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
13 .id, 2021k, Dwellings. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
14 .id, 2021l, Household mortgage stress. Atlas.Id  
15 .id, 2021m, Household rental stress. Atlas.Id  
16 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2020 General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia  
17 .id, 2021n, Long term health conditions. Central Coast Council area Community Profile





# Our Community Growth

## Our Growing Region

**376,777**  
projected population for 2031<sup>2</sup>

**1 in 74**  
Australians live on the Central Coast<sup>2</sup>

**1 in 24**  
New South Wales residents live at the Central Coast<sup>2</sup>

By 2046 the Central Coast local government area will have over **412,000** residents

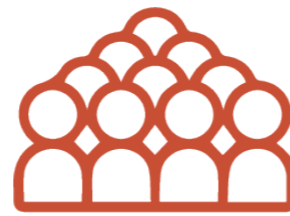
**3.5%**  
population growth between 2016 and 2021 at the Central Coast<sup>2</sup>

**4.7%**  
population growth between 2016 and 2021 in NSW<sup>2</sup>

**5.7%**  
dwelling growth between 2016 and 2021 at the Central Coast<sup>2</sup>

**9.7%**  
dwelling growth between 2016 and 2021 in NSW<sup>2</sup>

- The working age population (aged 15 to 64) is estimated to increase from 208,964 in 2021 to 235,408 in 2046 – an additional 26,444 people of working age<sup>2</sup>.
- The number of children aged 14 and under is estimated to increase by 4,869 children, from 63,656 in 2021 to 68,525 in 2046<sup>2</sup>.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is estimated to increase from 75,758 in 2021 to 108,569 by 2046 – an increase of 32,811 people aged over 65<sup>2</sup>.

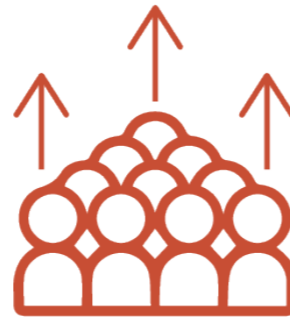


2021 population  
**347,475**

Population change over 20 years  
**9,650**  
Natural change (Births less deaths)

+

**47,140**  
Migration (Arrivals less departures)



**404,265**  
2041 population

(Source: Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2021).

## Population Growth and Trends

**70 to 84 years**  
Fastest growing age group in the Central Coast LGA<sup>2</sup>

**19.3%** 2016-2021<sup>2</sup>  
**12.6%** 2011-2016<sup>2</sup>

### From 2016 to 2021...

The Central Coast's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has experienced a **36.6% increase**<sup>2</sup>

The number of residents born overseas has experienced a **16% increase**

The number of people who speak a language other than English at home has experienced a **29.5% increase**<sup>2</sup>

An additional **72,811 people** moved to the Central Coast<sup>2</sup>





# Our Community's Voice

The Central Coast is recognised as a region of great strengths drawn from the diversity and involvement of the people in our community.

## Our Community Strengths



### High Standard of Living

**82%** of residents rate their quality of life on the Central Coast positively

**62%** of residents are satisfied/completely satisfied with their standard of living



### The Local Area

**69%** of residents are likely or very likely to recommend the Central Coast as a place to live

**70%** of residents are satisfied/completely satisfied with the home they live in



### Access to Parks and Open Spaces

**64%** of residents are satisfied/completely satisfied with access to parks and open spaces

**52%** of residents walk to or through a park, oval or bushlands in a usual week



### Healthy Lifestyles

**60%** of residents are satisfied/completely satisfied with their mental health

**55%** of residents are satisfied/completely satisfied with their physical health

**66%** of residents participate in some form of physical activity or walking for at least 30 minutes that increases their heart rate 3 to 4 times per week or more

Source: Central Coast Council 2024

# Our Opportunities

This section provides insights into residents quality of life and connection and engagement with their local community on the Coast. It highlights some key areas of community need, bringing into focus the opportunities for collective responses from Council, local service providers, government agencies and community organisations on social issues.

## Connection and Engagement with the Local Area



**35%** of residents indicated that their *desired* level of connection and engagement with their local area is higher than their *current* level of connection and engagement. Overall, residents were more likely to say that there were fewer opportunities to have a say on issues important to them. Those who live in the Gosford District were significantly more likely to suggest that they wanted to increase their level of engagement with their local area.

## Mental Health



Satisfaction with personal relationships, mental health and other personal wellbeing indicators such as 'I generally do not feel lonely' and 'I feel like my life has a sense of purpose' are key drivers of quality of life. Young residents are more *likely* to feel lonely and *less likely* to feel a sense of purpose in life (although not significantly). Single parents living at the Central Coast are *less likely* to feel like their life has a sense of purpose and experience positive emotions *less frequently*.

## Financial Concerns and Affordability



**21%** of residents said they would be unable to access or raise \$2,000 within two days in case of an emergency. This is *significantly higher* among young people, as well as those who are single parents. The inability to access or raise funds in an emergency is *slightly higher* among those single/living alone, those living with a disability, or who are renting.

As a direct result of housing costs, **68%** of residents had to unwillingly sacrifice spending on 'other things' (e.g., eating out, arts & cultural activities, sports & recreation). Young residents aged 16 to 29 years and those aged 30 to 49 years are significantly more likely to have had to sacrifice spending (80% and 83% respectively).



## Inclusion and Diversity



**36%** of residents have seen or experienced discriminatory attitudes in the past 12 months. Young people and those living with a disability or who provide ongoing care are more likely to have seen or experienced discriminatory attitudes.

## Social Involvement



Volunteering, involvement in social groups and political/civic actions have all lower rates among residents, which has most likely been impacted by COVID-19.

**30%** of residents believe there are **not any opportunities** to have a say on local issues. This is significantly higher among residents who live in the Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi District or the Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District. Residents aged 50 to 69 years and those who have lived in the area for more than 6 years are more likely to say there are fewer opportunities to have a say.

# Our Community Diversity

**Providing support for all ages – a vibrant community is characterised by strong community connections and an inclusive environment that offers diverse opportunities to people of all ages, allowing them to thrive and actively participate in community life.**

## Children

There are 49,162 children aged 0 – 11 years living in our region who account for 14.2% of our total population<sup>18</sup>.

- 52%** of children are male<sup>18</sup>
- 48%** of children are female<sup>18</sup>
- 3%** of children were born overseas and 93% were born in Australia<sup>18</sup>
- 6.8%** of primary school aged children are bilingual<sup>18</sup>
- 9.6%** of children are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background<sup>18</sup>
- 74%** of children live in coupled parent households<sup>18</sup>
- 20%** of children live in single parent households<sup>18</sup>
- 63%** of children live in owner occupied homes<sup>18</sup>
- 2%** of children live in social housing and 30% live in private rentals<sup>18</sup>
- 10%** of children live in medium or high-density housing<sup>18</sup>
- 70%** of children are attending an education institution<sup>18</sup>
- Mandarin** is the top language spoken at home other than English for primary school aged children<sup>18</sup>

## Early childhood development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the early childhood development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. It measures this across five domains that predict later health, education and social outcomes including physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge.

In the 2021, 55.7% of children in the Central Coast district were developmentally on track for each of the five AEDC domains. 9.9% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains<sup>19</sup>.

Table 1. Children developmentally vulnerable in Central Coast district, 2021.

	Developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domain		Total no. of children measured	Developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains		Total no. of children measured
	No.	%		No.	%	
Central Coast	793	20.5	3,859	384	9.9	3,871
NSW	19,067	21.2	90,137	9,510	10.5	90,331



<sup>18</sup> .id, 2021o, Age groups, Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
<sup>19</sup> Public Health Information Development Unit 2024, Social Health Atlas of Australia: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory. Data by Local Government Area (2021 ASGS)



## Young People

There are 51,954 young people aged 12 – 24 years living in our region who account for 15% of our total population<sup>18</sup>.

**51%**  
of young people are male<sup>18</sup>

**49%**  
of young people are female<sup>18</sup>

**26%**  
of young people are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background

**6.5%**  
of young people were born overseas and 89% were born in Australia

**4.7%**  
of young people speak a language other than English at home<sup>18</sup>

**59%**  
of young people live in coupled parent households<sup>18</sup>

**25%**  
of young people live in single parent households<sup>18</sup>

**63%**  
of young people live in owner occupied homes<sup>18</sup>

**2%**  
of young people live in social housing and 29% live in private rentals<sup>18</sup>

**10%**  
of young people live in medium or high-density housing<sup>18</sup>

**6%**  
provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long-term illness or old age<sup>18</sup>

**6.7%**  
of those aged 15 to 24 years need assistance with core activities<sup>1</sup>

## Employment, knowledge, and skills



**4%**

of young people attend primary school<sup>18</sup>



**42%**

of young people attend secondary school<sup>1</sup>



**7.4%**

of young people attend TAFE<sup>18</sup>



**11%**

of young people attend University<sup>18</sup>



**90%**

of young people aged 15 to 24 years are employed (29% full-time and 44% part time)<sup>18</sup>



**17%**

of young people aged 15 to 24 years have a formal qualification<sup>18</sup>

## Health and wellbeing

**12.4%** of young people aged 12 – 24 years living in the Central Coast region are affected by mental illness<sup>18</sup>.

**This is representative of 6,453 young people**

**This is higher than the NSW average of 8.8%**

## Our future youth population

The number of young people aged under 17 years living on the Central Coast is forecast to increase by 1,510 between 2021 and 2031 and will comprise 20.7% of the total population<sup>2</sup>.

**2031: 77,824**

**2046: 81,976**

## The Future

Projected growth of young population: increase of **7.4%** between **2021** and **2046**<sup>2</sup>

Sources:  
2 .id, 2024, Population and household forecasts. Central Coast Council area Forecast Population  
18 .id, 2021o, Age groups. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Older People

Empty nesters and retirees  
(60-69 years)



**43,148**

**12.4%**  
of population<sup>1</sup>

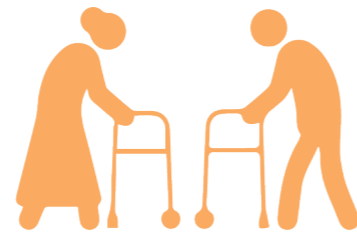
Seniors  
(70-84 years)



**45,642**

**13.2%**  
of population<sup>1</sup>

Elderly  
(85+ years)



**10,545**

**3%**  
of population<sup>1</sup>

An estimated 76,941 people who are 65 years and over reside on the Coast<sup>18</sup>.

The Central Coast has a higher percentage people aged 65 years and over (22.2%) than NSW (17.6%) and Australia (17.2%). We have over 10 suburbs with people aged 65 years and over representing more than one quarter (25%) of the population and three suburbs with people in this age group representing more than one third of the population (33%). These suburbs include Green Point (27.9%), Toukley (31.1%), Ettalong Beach, (34.4%), Lake Munmorah (37.8%) and Erina (46.1%)<sup>20</sup>.

**45%**  
of older people  
are male<sup>18</sup>

**55%**  
of older people are female<sup>18</sup>

**6%**  
of older people are of  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander background<sup>18</sup>

**6%**  
speak a language other  
than English at home<sup>18</sup>

**49%**  
live in a household without  
children and 28% live in  
lone person dwellings<sup>18</sup>

**3%**  
live in social housing and 9%  
live in private rentals<sup>18</sup>

**24%**  
live in medium or high  
density dwellings<sup>18</sup>

**35,293**  
older people do not have a  
formal qualification<sup>18</sup>

**46%**  
are in low income households  
(less than \$800/week)<sup>1</sup>

**7%**  
are in households with an  
income of \$3,000 per week  
or more<sup>1</sup>

**24%**  
of older people are born  
overseas<sup>18</sup>

**66%**  
of older people have at  
least one long-term health  
condition<sup>18</sup>

Sources:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
18 .id, 2021o, Age groups. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
20 .id, 2021p, Age structure. Atlas.id  
21 Australian Department of Veteran Affairs, 2024, DVA Pensioners and Treatment Card Holders by  
Local Government Area - March 2024



**7,615**  
people aged over 65  
years are employed, of  
which 33% are working  
full time and 50% part  
time<sup>18</sup>

**67%**  
own their own homes  
and 12% have a  
mortgage<sup>18</sup>

**4,409**  
are Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
pensioners<sup>21</sup>

**11.5%**  
are carers who provide  
unpaid assistance  
to a person with a  
disability, long-term  
illness or old age<sup>18</sup>

**7%**  
provide unpaid  
care for children<sup>18</sup>

## People with a Disability

More than 24,000 people living on the Central Coast need help in their day to day lives due to disability<sup>23</sup>

**7%**  
of the Central Coast population have a profound or severe disability<sup>19</sup>

**6.7%**  
of people needing assistance with core activities are aged 15 to 24 years<sup>23</sup>

**53.4%**  
people who need assistance with core activities are aged 65+ years<sup>23</sup>

**6.5%**  
of people living with a disability speak a language other than English at home<sup>23</sup>

**7.4%**  
of people living with a disability are born overseas<sup>23</sup>

**9.3%**  
of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are living with a disability<sup>23</sup>

**64%**  
of people living with a disability live owner occupied households<sup>23</sup>

**26.3%**  
of people living with disability live in couple families with children<sup>23</sup>

**20%**  
of people living with disability live in lone person dwellings<sup>23</sup>

## Carers



**35,488 people (12.5%)**

provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or due to old age<sup>23</sup>



**13 in every 100 women**

provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or due to old age in 2018<sup>22</sup>



**10 in every 100 men**

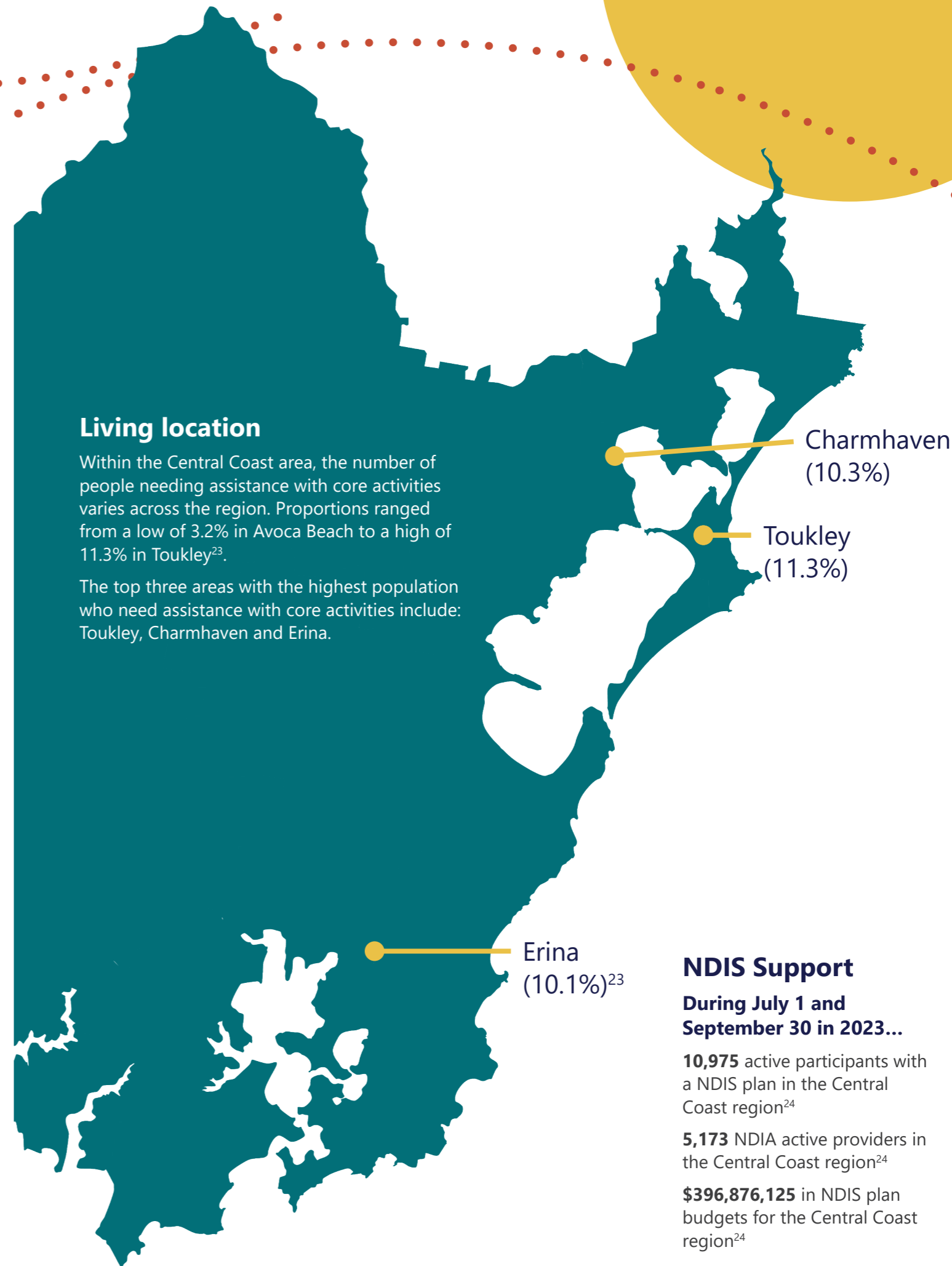
provided unpaid assistance to a person with disability, health condition or due to old age in 2018<sup>22</sup>

## Children requiring assistance

**1.4%** children aged 0 to 4 years need assistance with core activities equivalent to 1.4% for NSW<sup>23</sup>

**5.5%** children aged 5 to 9 years need assistance with core activities compared to 4.3% for NSW<sup>23</sup>

Sources:  
19 Public Health Information Development Unit 2024, Social Health Atlas of Australia: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory. Data by Local Government Area (2021 ASGS)  
22 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2019, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2018  
23 .id, 2021q, Need for assistance. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
24 NDIA 2024, NDIS Data Dashboard



## Living location

Within the Central Coast area, the number of people needing assistance with core activities varies across the region. Proportions ranged from a low of 3.2% in Avoca Beach to a high of 11.3% in Toukley<sup>23</sup>.

The top three areas with the highest population who need assistance with core activities include: Toukley, Charmhaven and Erina.

Charmhaven (10.3%)

Toukley (11.3%)

Erina (10.1%)<sup>23</sup>

## NDIS Support

During July 1 and September 30 in 2023...

**10,975** active participants with a NDIS plan in the Central Coast region<sup>24</sup>

**5,173** NDIA active providers in the Central Coast region<sup>24</sup>

**\$396,876,125** in NDIS plan budgets for the Central Coast region<sup>24</sup>

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

The traditional custodians of the land and waterways that includes the Central Coast, are the Darkinjung people. Sharing our diverse traditions, values, beliefs, experiences make the Central Coast a great place to live.

The Central Coast of NSW is home to one of Australia's largest First Nations populations. In 2021, the Central Coast had an Estimated Resident Population of 17,049 people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, 4.9% of the total population<sup>25</sup>.

Analysis of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander age groups on the Central Coast in 2021 compared to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait across NSW shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a similar proportion of people in the older age group (65+ years)<sup>25</sup>.



**23**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population median age<sup>25</sup>



**41%**

(6,975 people)  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 0-17 years<sup>25</sup>



**6.2%**

(1,055 people)  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population aged 65 years and over<sup>25</sup>

From 2016 to 2021, the Central Coast's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by **4,565** people (36.6%). This represents an average annual population change of 6.43% per year over the period<sup>25</sup>.



**39%**

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people currently attend an educational institution<sup>25</sup>



**34%**

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged over 15 years have completed Year 12 schooling<sup>25</sup>



**59.3%**

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participate in the labour force<sup>25</sup>

**9.3%** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need assistance with core activities, compared with 8.8% for New South Wales<sup>25</sup>.

Source:  
25 .id, 2021r, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

The most common long-term health condition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Central Coast is mental health condition, with **17.4%** of the population experiencing a mental health condition<sup>25</sup>.

## Households summary



**15.9%**

of the population own their dwelling<sup>25</sup>



**31.8%**

of the population are have a mortgage<sup>25</sup>



**49.4%**

of the population are renting<sup>25</sup>





## Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Community

The Central Coast is a community of diverse birthplaces, languages and cultures.

Communities that work collaboratively towards shared goals and aspirations and towards equal access to opportunity create places where everyone can thrive



84

languages spoken<sup>9</sup>



55,657

overseas born<sup>26</sup>



124

different ancestries<sup>26</sup>



5,040

(9.1% of overseas born have lived in Australia 5 years or less<sup>26</sup>)



2,841

(11.5%) speak another language and English not well or not at all<sup>9</sup>



18,798

(33.8%) Overseas born are an older population aged 65 years and over<sup>26</sup>



137,615

(39.7%) Identifies as being of 'no religion'<sup>26</sup>



24,647

Speak a language other than English at home<sup>9</sup>



Higher

workforce participation rate among recently arrived residents (69.1%) compared to our total overseas born (54.9%)<sup>26</sup>



## Language Spoken at Home

In 2021, 87.7% of Central Coast residents spoke only English while 7.1% of residents spoke a language other than English at home<sup>9</sup>.

The proportion of the population who spoke a language other than English at home increased from 5.8% in 2016 to 7.1% in 2021. This was an increase of 5,608 people (29.5%)<sup>9</sup>.

## Country of Birth

16.1% of Central Coast residents are born overseas (55,675 people). Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people born overseas increased by 7,724 or 16.1%<sup>26</sup>.

## Overseas born residents' top 3 countries of birth

United Kingdom



18,560 people

(5.4%)<sup>26</sup>

New Zealand



5,863 people

(1.7%)<sup>26</sup>

Philippines



2,487 people

(0.7%)<sup>26</sup>



Sources:  
9 .id, 2021g, Language used at home. Central Coast Council area Community Profile.  
26 .id, 2021s, Overseas born community. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



# Understanding Our Community

## Socio-economic data and insights

### Employment, Knowledge, and Skills

Education provides the knowledge and skills that create better job opportunities and provides the tools that can help individuals deal with stress and overcome obstacles in life, and is positively associated with trust, civic engagement, and social networks and support. Stable employment results in financial security, can provide a sense of purpose and identity, and opportunities to socialise.

### Educational opportunities

#### Early childhood education

The Central Coast has lower rates of preschool program enrolment than is typical across NSW and Australia<sup>19</sup>. In 2022, 9.4% of children aged 4 to 5 years were enrolled in a preschool, compared with 13.4% for NSW 19.5% for Australia<sup>19</sup>.

#### Primary school

The Central Coast has a similar proportion of the population attending primary school, compared to NSW and Australia – with 8% of our residents attending primary school, compared to 8.1% and 8.2% respectively<sup>27</sup>.

#### Secondary school

The Central Coast has a high school age population similar with NSW and Australia – with 6.3% of residents attending high school on the Central Coast compared with 6.3% NSW and 6.4% for Australia<sup>27</sup>.

Lower rates of Central Coast residents complete Year 12 than is average for NSW. However, the Australian-wide trend of increased Year 12 completion rates is reflected in our region rising from 40.3% (107,604 students) in 2016 to 45.6% (129,524 students) in 2021<sup>27</sup>.

#### Tertiary education

There are currently 19,693 university or technical institution students in our region, representing 5.7% of all people attending an education institution<sup>27</sup>.

52.5% of our residents aged 15 years and over have a post-school qualification – either a Certificate level III or level IV, diploma, Bachelor degree or above. This is lower than both NSW (55.3%) and Australia (54.7%)<sup>27</sup>.



In 2022, **12%** of children aged 4 years and **7%** of children aged 5 years were enrolled in a preschool program at the Central Coast<sup>19</sup>



**45.6%** of Central Coast residents have completed Year 12<sup>10</sup>

19,787 students attending Government Primary Schools<sup>27</sup>

4,605 students attending Catholic Primary Schools<sup>2</sup>

3,375 students attending Independent Primary schools<sup>27</sup>

Sources:  
 10 .id, 2021h, Schooling, Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 19 Public Health Information Development Unit 2024, Social Health Atlas of Australia: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory. Data by Local Government Area (2021 ASGS)  
 27 .id, 2021t, Education institution attending, Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Employment and workers

### Employment rates

Employment offers people with meaningful occupations, avenues for personal growth and social interaction, as well as financial and personal independence.



55.7%

Total labour participation<sup>1</sup>



50.1%

(79,291 people) are employed full-time<sup>1</sup>



33.4%

(52,926 people) are employed part-time<sup>1</sup>

The 'youth earning or learning rate' reflects levels of participation in education and the labour market by young people aged 15–24 years.

## Youth employment and engagement

The Central Coast has a large amount of young people aged 15 to 24 years who are unemployed (9.8%), however the youth unemployment rate is not equally distributed across the region. The youth unemployment rate is as low of 4.5% in the Mountains and Valleys and as high as 16.9% in Gorokan<sup>6</sup>.

Our 'youth earning or learning' rate (66.4%) is lower than NSW (72.0%), Australia (72.3%) and surrounding local government areas with the exception of Cessnock (61.3%)<sup>6</sup>.

11.6% of young people aged 15 years and over are disengaged and not currently participating in education or the labour market<sup>6</sup>.

### Jobs

The Central Coast has a different employment profile to NSW. Like NSW, we have a large number of people employed in health care, social assistance, construction and retail. We are however more reliant on employment in the manufacturing, accommodation and food service sectors than is common across the state.

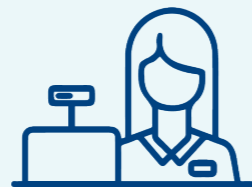
### Top 5 Central Coast industries of employment<sup>8</sup>



Health Care and Social Assistance



Construction



Retail Trade



Education and Training



Accommodation and Food Services

## 2021 Central Coast unemployment rate<sup>28</sup>

Central Coast LGA 4.7%

Gwandalan 5.0%

Toukley 7.8%

Wyong 8.2%

The Entrance 7.9%

Ourimbah 2.8%

Mountains and Valleys 3.3%

Gosford 4.9%

Erina 4.2%

Terrigal 3.3%

Woy Woy 6.1%

Sources:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
6 .id, 2021d, Disengagement by age. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
8 .id, 2021f, Industries. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
28 .id, 2021u, Unemployment rate. Atlas.id

## Housing and Homelessness

The design and development of our places and spaces has a significant impact on our quality of life. It influences how we get around and the level of social connectivity we experience.

### Dwelling type

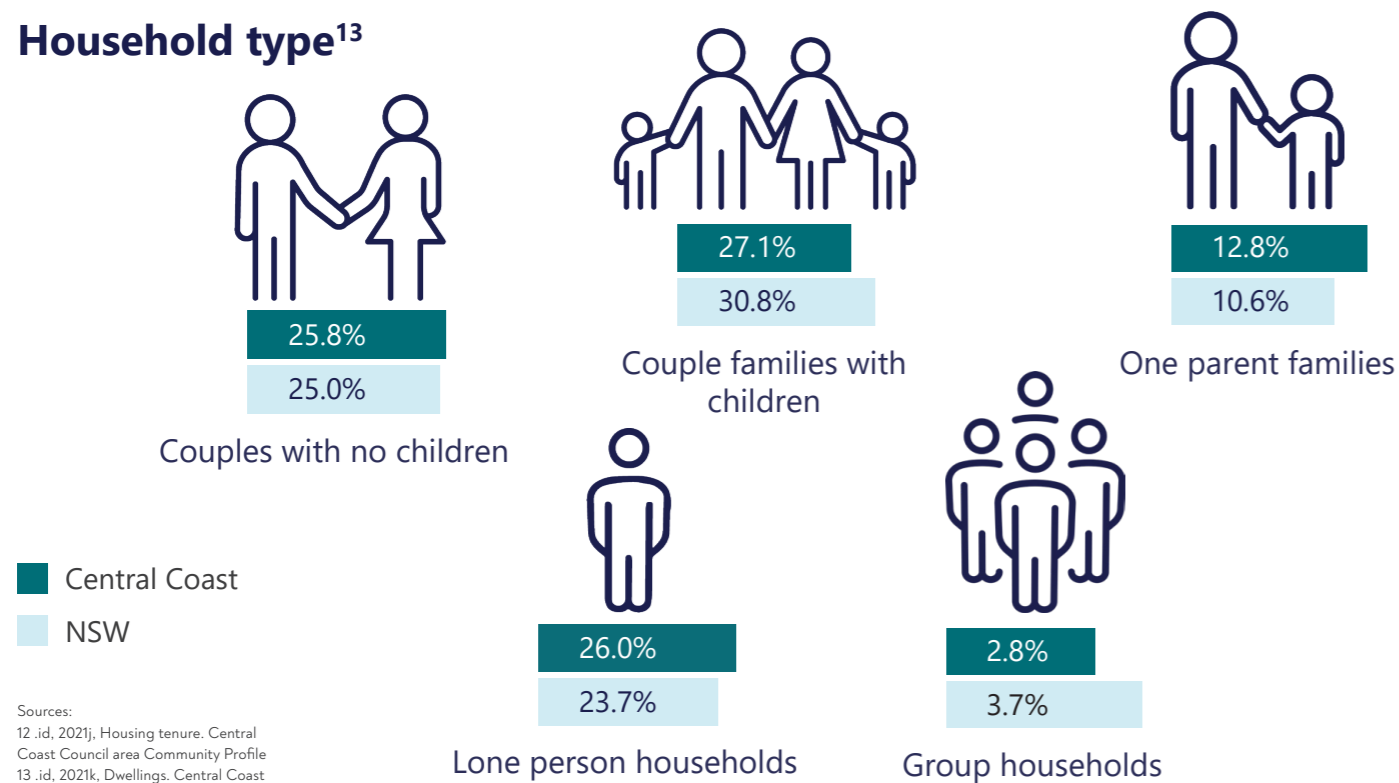
Housing type has a major influence on the socio-economic status of an area. The Central Coast has a larger proportion (over 75%) of separate dwellings than is typical in New South<sup>13</sup>.

The number of dwellings in Central Coast LGA has increased by 5.7% between 2016 and 2021. The number of 'separate houses' also increased by 5.4% and now make up 18.1% of dwellings. High density housing increased by 40.5% and in 2021 made up 4.5% of all dwellings<sup>13</sup>.

Table 2. Dwellings (enumerated), trend, Central Coast Council Area, 2016 to 2021.

Central Coast Dwellings (Enumerated)	2021			2016			Change
	Number	%	New South Wales %	Number	%	New South Wales %	
Separate house	116,684	76.4	63.8	110,673	76.6	64.9	+6,011
Medium density	27,566	18.1	17.2	26,433	18.3	17.9	+1,133
High density	6,819	4.5	17.8	4,853	3.4	15.3	+1,966
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	1,100	0.7	0.5	1,286	0.9	0.8	-186
Other	209	0.1	0.4	540	0.4	0.6	-331
Not stated	322	0.2	0.3	635	0.4	0.5	-313
<b>Total Private Dwellings</b>	<b>152,700</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>144,420</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+8,280</b>

## Household type<sup>13</sup>



Sources:  
 12 .id, 2021j, Housing tenure, Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 13 .id, 2021k, Dwellings, Central Coast Council area Community Profile

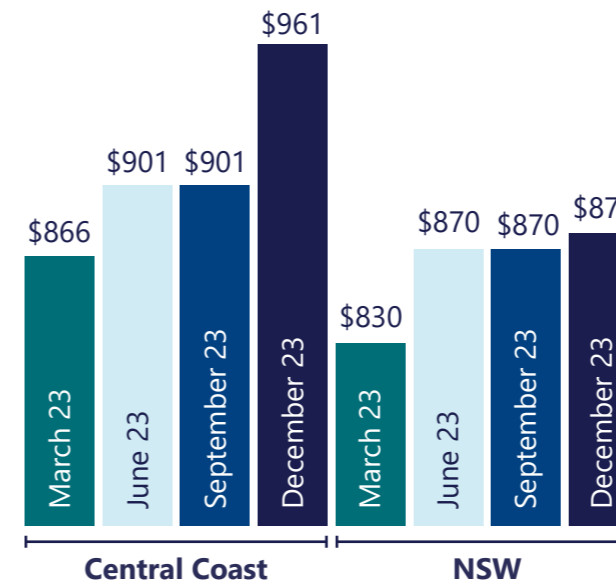
## Housing tenure

In the Central Coast LGA, at the 2021 Census, 66% of households were purchasing or fully owned their home, little change from 2016, which recorded 65.9% of such households. Approximately 26.4% of dwellings were rented, either privately or from government or community housing providers<sup>12</sup>.

## Affordable housing

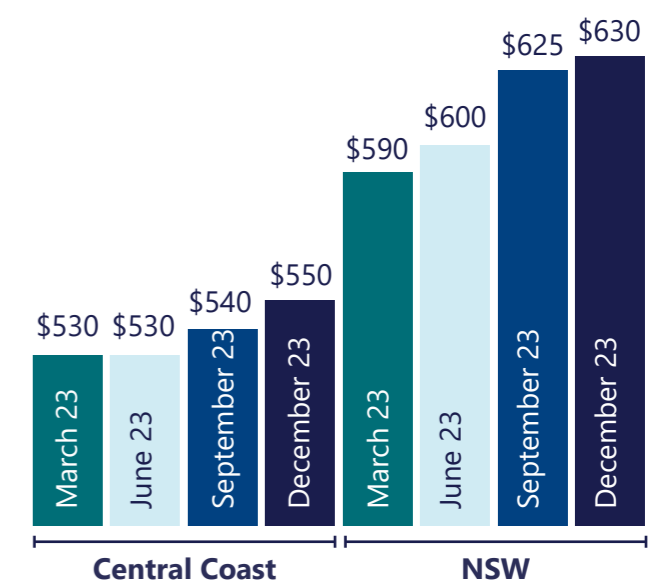
Housing affordability has become a significant social and economic problem in recent years. The increase in housing values have seen home buyers, especially new entrants to the market, spending a large proportion of their income to service mortgages. Median house prices on the Central Coast are greater than the NSW average, while median rental prices are lower than the NSW average.

Central Coast Median sales prices (\$'000s), 2023



Source: Department of Communities and Justice 2024a

Central Coast Median weekly rent, 2023



Source: Department of Communities and Justice 2024a

## Housing stress

More than **21,000 households** on Central Coast are in housing stress<sup>14 15</sup>. Housing Stress is defined as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on housing costs.



**14.7%** of households with a mortgage experience mortgage stress<sup>14</sup>

**42%** of renter households experience rental stress<sup>15</sup>

## Social housing

More than **4,000 households** are social housing dwellings<sup>12</sup>. As of 31 May 2024, 3,064 households on the Central Coast are on the general waitlist for social housing with a further 205 households on the priority waiting list, who can expect to wait on average 5 to 10 years for a dwelling<sup>29</sup>



**Social housing<sup>12</sup> Central Coast 3.2%**

Sources:  
 1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights, Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 12 .id, 2021j, Housing tenure, Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 14 .id, 2021i, Household mortgage stress, Atlas.Id  
 15 .id, 2021m, Household rental stress, Atlas.Id

29 Department of Communities and Justice 2024b, Social housing applicant households on the NSW Housing Register by Allocation Zone (as at 31 May 2024)

### Low income households

In 2021, there were **48,101 people** in low income households living in the Central Coast area. **More than 25%** of the Central Coast area's total households were classified as low-income households, having earned less than \$800 per week (4.4 per cent higher than NSW)<sup>1</sup>.

### Homelessness

The Central Coast's homeless population is primarily composed of those living in inadequate dwellings; those with no (or limited) tenure; and those whose living arrangements do not allow them to have control and access of a space for social relations.

Developing a realistic estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within the Central Coast is challenging. The ABS General Social Survey estimates that 6,600 people are experiencing homeless on the Central Coast in any given year.

The hidden nature of homelessness is evident from the different living arrangements of local people experiencing homelessness.

# Safety

## Perceptions of safety

Perceptions of community safety, real or perceived, impact on the way people feel and interact in their community. Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing injury and crime. It is also about building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities.

**1 in 3 residents reported feeling unsafe walking in their local area at night.**

## Central Coast Wellbeing Survey 2024

### Feelings of safety

- 79%** feel safe alone in their home during the day
- 65%** feel safe alone in their home at night
- 54%** feel that people in their local area can be trusted

### Safety in public spaces

- 55%** feel safe in public places in the Central Coast area
- 73%** feel safe walking in their local area during the day
- 42%** feel safe walking in their local area at night

### Social Cohesion

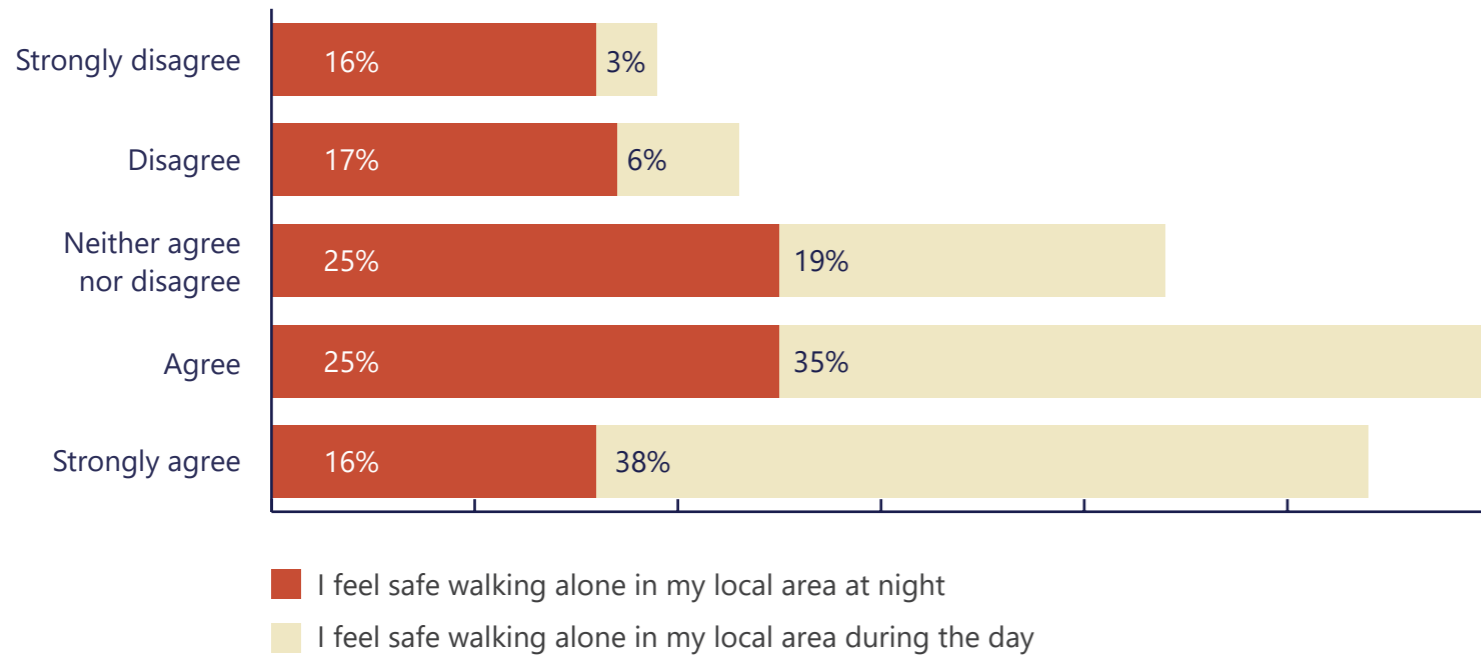
- 6 out of 10** feel proud to live in their neighbourhood
- 52%** feel that there is a good community spirit in their local area
- 49%** feel that their local community has a bright future

## Perceptions of safety

While the majority of people feel safe living on the Central Coast, there are varying perceptions of safety depending on the time of day and night or gender.

Responses to our wellbeing survey show women's experience of walking in their street at night differs to those of men, with 44% females and 22% of males reporting feeling unsafe walking alone in their local area at night.

**Perceptions of safety in the local area, varying times of day, %, Central Coast Council, 2024**



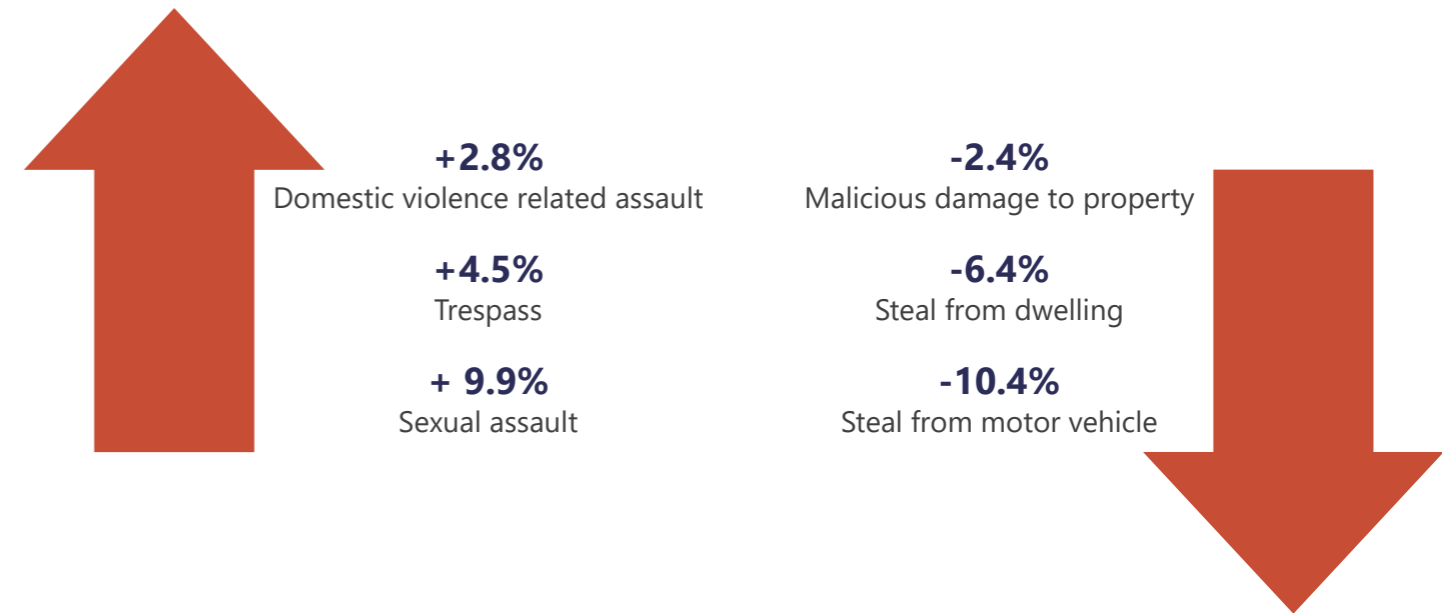
**Crime in our community**

Crime impacts the social, cultural, economic and environmental development of a community. Crime statistics for our region highlight our major offence categories are domestic violence related offences and opportunistic crime<sup>30</sup>.

Table 3. Opportunistic crime, by category, Central Coast Council, 2023-24

	Robbery	Non-domestic violence assault	Steal from dwelling	Steal from motor vehicle	Steal from retail store	Break and enter – non dwelling	Motor vehicle theft	Malicious damage
Number of incidents	67	1,504	527	1,261	1,076	277	618	2,394
Rate per 100,000	19.2	430.7	150.2	361.1	308.2	79.3	177.0	685.6
Ranking among NSW LGA's	46	54	86	54	42	88	62	58
2 year trend	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Up 39.2%	Up 3.8%

**Crime rates in the Central Coast during April 2019 to March 2024<sup>30</sup>**



Break and enter offences on the Central Coast have increased by **22.1%** and motor vehicle theft by **39.2%** in the two year period to March 2024.<sup>31</sup>

**During April 2022 to March 2023...**

**574** break and enters<sup>30</sup>      **444** motor vehicle thefts<sup>30</sup>

**During April 2023 to March 2024**

**701** break and enters<sup>30</sup>      **618** motor vehicle thefts<sup>30</sup>

**Domestic and family violence**

Domestic and family violence is a complex issue with significant impact on the social, cultural and economic fabric of our community, and on the health and wellbeing of individuals and the wider community.

Domestic violence in the five years to March 2024 was trending upwards, up **2.8% per year** on average.<sup>30</sup>

**1,778** reported incidents in April 2023 to March 2024<sup>30</sup>

**509.2** incidents per 100,000 population<sup>30</sup>

# Health and Wellbeing

When we feel happy and healthy, we live more engaged and meaningful lives. Having access to services that help us with both our physical and mental health, and opportunities to be active and connected to our community supports positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

## Wellbeing

Wellbeing encompasses quality of life and the ability of people and societies to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose. Focusing on wellbeing supports the tracking of the equitable distribution of resources, overall thriving and sustainability. A community's wellbeing can be determined by the extent to which it is resilient, builds capacity for action, and is prepared to transcend challenges (WHO 2024).

## Quality of Life

Our wellbeing survey reveals that the majority of our residents (82%) rated their quality of life on the Central Coast **positively**.

While around half of respondents (46%) felt quality of life had remained the same over the past two years, there were more who felt it had declined than improved (15% net decline). Those who felt it had declined were more likely to be **aged 50-69 years**.



## Satisfaction with Quality of Life Aspects

### Top 5 Quality of Life Aspects

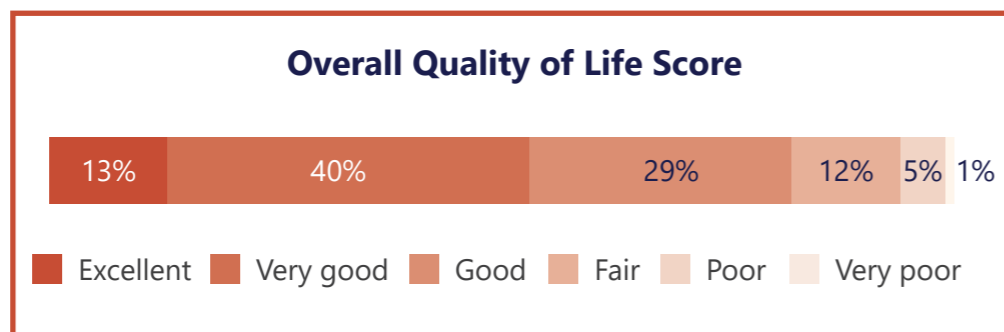
- Personal relationships
- The home residents live in
- Access to parks and open spaces
- Standards of living
- Mental health

### Bottom 5 Quality of Life Aspects

- Feeling part of the broader Central Coast community
- Feeling part of the local neighbourhood community
- Future security
- Opportunities to participate in sporting and recreation activities in the local area
- The local area



Residents overall average quality of life rating was **4.4** (out of 6)



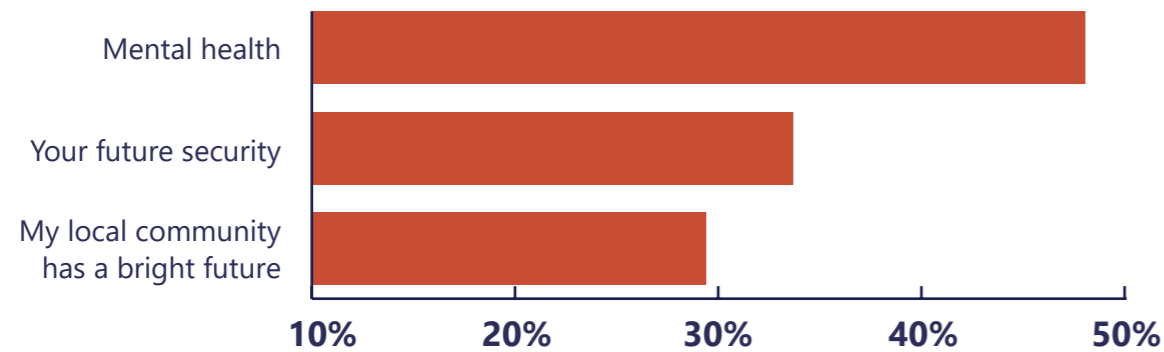
## Drivers of quality of life

In the quality of life survey, residents identified that the top key factors driving variability in perceptions of quality of life on the Central Coast were:

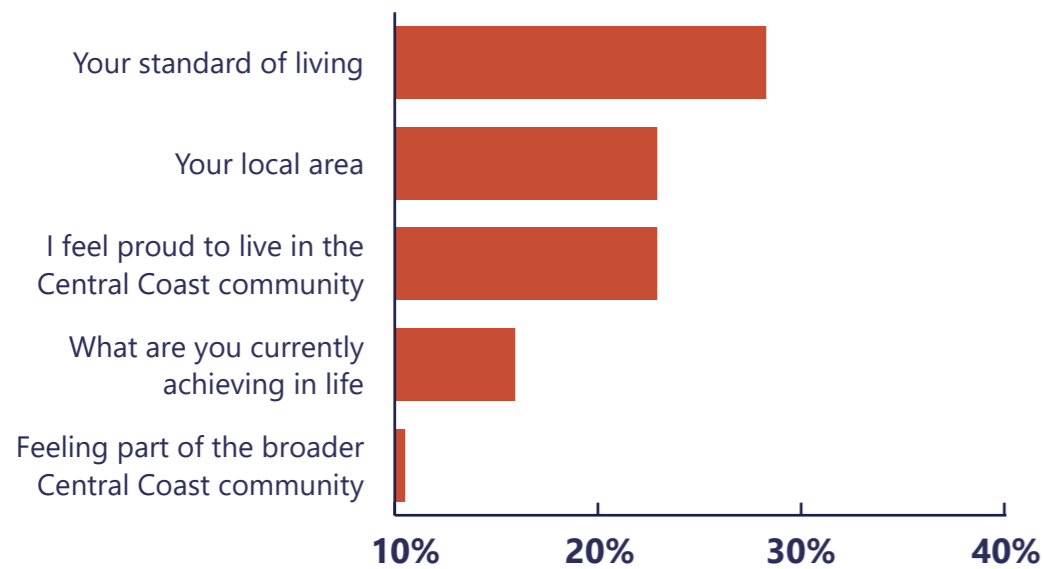


Interestingly the contributors impacting quality of life varied by age. Young respondents to the wellbeing survey identified mental health as the greatest factor influencing their overall quality of life. For older residents aged 70 years and over, quality of life was driven by living standards, their local community having a bright future and a feeling of safety.

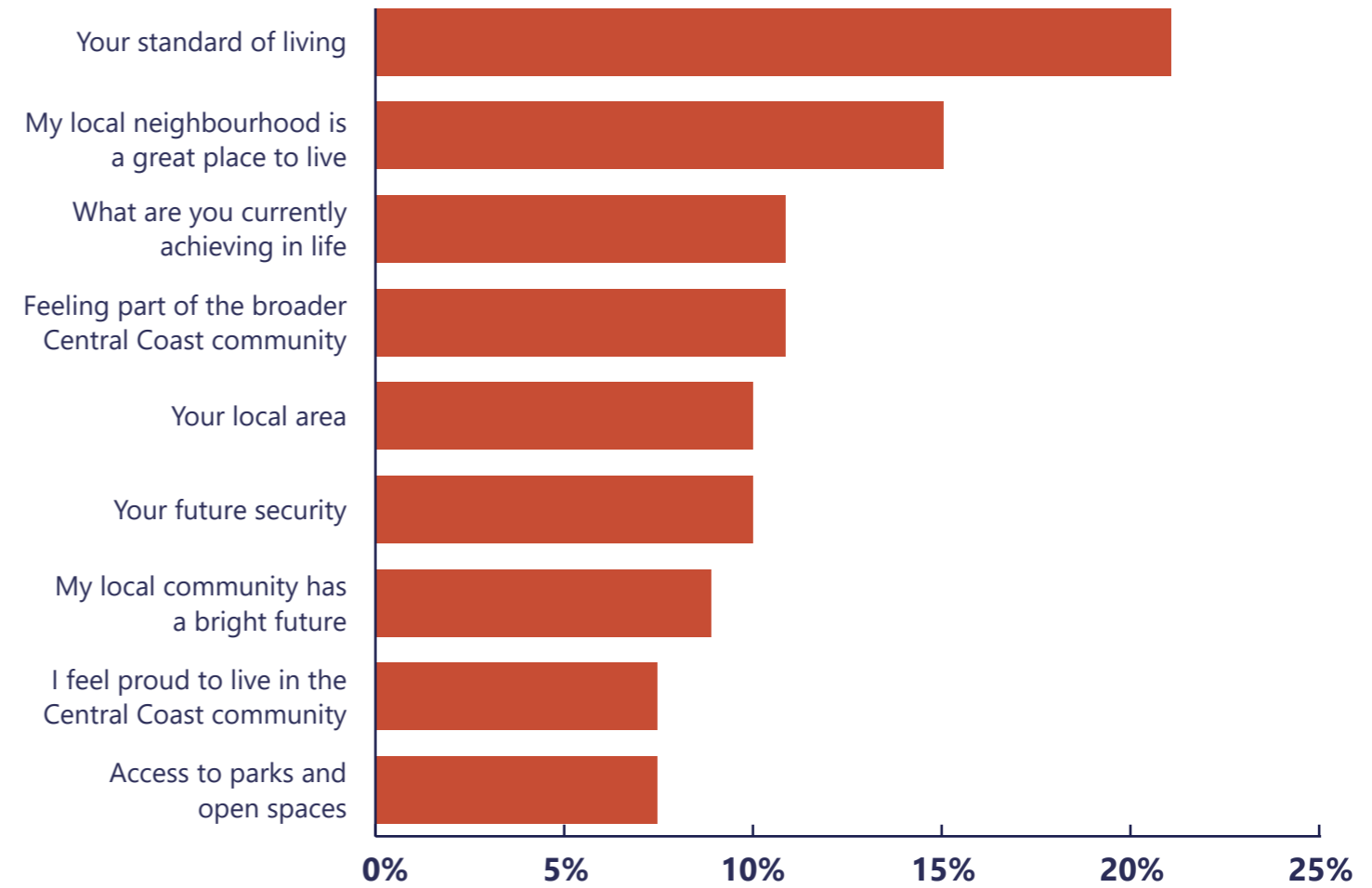
**Drivers to a positive quality of life, 16-29 year olds, %, Central Coast Council, 2024.**



**Drivers to a positive quality of life, 30-49 year olds, %, Central Coast Council, 2024.**



**Drivers to a positive quality of life, 50-69 year olds, %, Central Coast Council, 2024.**



**Drivers to a positive quality of life, 70+ year olds, %, Central Coast Council, 2024.**





# Health



## Life expectancy

Central Coast Life expectancy **82.1 years**<sup>31</sup>

NSW life expectancy **83.3 years**<sup>31</sup>



**79.9 years**

Central Coast male life expectancy<sup>31</sup>



**84.3 years**

Central Coast female life expectancy<sup>31</sup>

## Children and Youth

In 2020-2022 **18.7%** of children aged 5-16 years were overweight or obese in the Central Coast Local Health District (LHD) (NSW 23%)<sup>32</sup>

## Mums and Bubs

In 2022, the total fertility rate for the Central Coast LGA was **1.98** (NSW 1.72)<sup>19</sup>

**12.1%** of mothers in the Central Coast LGA smoked during pregnancy in the 2019-2021 (NSW 8.6%)<sup>19</sup>

In 2022, **89%** of pregnant women in the Central Coast LHD commenced comprehensive antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (NSW 79.4%)<sup>33</sup>

## Older Persons

63.1% of people aged 65+ years in the Central Coast LGA **received an aged pension** in June 2020 (NSW 56%)<sup>19</sup>

In June 2023, **10.4%** of the population aged 65+ years in the Central Coast LGA had a **seniors health card** (NSW 12%)<sup>19</sup>

## Mental health

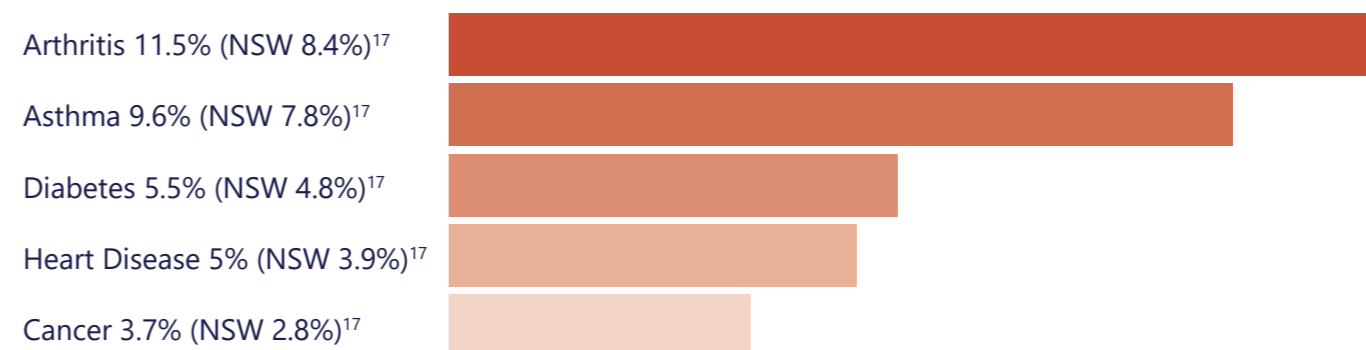
**1 in 9** people (11%) experience a mental-health related condition. This is **higher than the NSW average** (8%)<sup>17</sup>

**17.4%** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on the Central Coast experience mental health conditions as compared with **15.3%** across NSW<sup>25</sup>

In 2021, the **suicide rate** (12.9 per 100,000) for the in the Central Coast LHD was **2.4% higher** than the NSW average (10.5 per 100,000)<sup>34</sup>

In 2021, **17.4%** of adults experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress in in the Central Coast LHD (NSW 16.9%)<sup>35</sup>

## Long-term Health Conditions among Central Coast residents



## Potentially Preventable Diseases (PPH) in the Central Coast LHD

In 2021-22, there were **8,068 potentially preventable hospitalisations** at a rate of 1832.9 per 100,000 population (NSW 1718.8)<sup>36</sup>

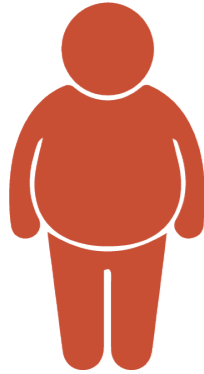
Sources:  
 17 .id, 2021n, Long term health conditions. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 19 Public Health Information Development Unit 2024, Social Health Atlas of Australia: New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory. Data by Local Government Area (2021 ASGS)  
 25 .id, 2021q, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Central Coast Council area Community Profile  
 31 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023, Life expectancy 2020-2022  
 32 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023a, Overweight and obesity in children. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health  
 33 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023b, Comprehensive antenatal care by gestational age. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health  
 34 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023c, Suicide. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health  
 35 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023d, High or very high psychological distress in adults. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health  
 36 Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2023e, Potentially preventable hospitalisations: Conditions. HealthStats NSW. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health

## Health risk factors

### Central Coast Local Health District



The **daily smoking rate** of adults aged 16 years and over was **9.1%** (NSW 8.2%) in 2023<sup>37</sup>



**27.8%** of adults aged 16 years and over were **obese** (NSW 24.6%) and **35.7%** were **overweight** (NSW 34.9%) in 2023<sup>38</sup>



**32.7%** of adults aged 16 years and over **consumed alcohol at high risk\*** (NSW 27.1%) 2023<sup>39</sup>



**15.7%** of children aged 5-15 years **met adequate physical activity levels** (NSW 20%) and **55.7%** undertook sedentary behaviour<sup>\*\*\*</sup> (NSW 57.4%) in 2022-2023<sup>41</sup>



**35.3%** of adults aged 16 years and over **insufficiently physically active\*\*** (NSW 35.5%) 2023<sup>40</sup>

Estimated number of people aged 15 years and over with fair or poor self-assessed health (modelled estimates) 2017-2018		
Area	Number	Standard rate per 100
Central Coast	42,082	14.2
Lake Macquarie	23,880	13.5
Hawkesbury	6,576	12.6
The Hills	12,253	9.4
Northern Beaches	20,058	9.1
Hornsby	11,261	9.3
Penrith	21,000	14.0
Liverpool	26,092	16.8
Campbelltown	19,301	15.8
Camden	6,953	11.7
Wollongong	26,664	15.0
NSW	897,768	14.1



## Nutrition

The Australia Dietary Guideline recommends minimum daily intakes of 5 key food groups – vegetables and legumes/beans, fruit, dairy and alternatives, lean meats and alternatives and grain foods (NHMRC 2013). Most Australians aged over 2 years do not meet their recommended intake of fruit and vegetables.

In 2022, based on self-reported daily consumption data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2022 National Health Survey (NHS), it was estimated that 96% of Australians did not consumed the recommended daily serves of fruit and vegetables (AIHW 2024a).

### Central Coast Wellbeing Survey 2024



**45%** of respondents to our wellbeing survey indicated that they ate the recommended serve of fruit and vegetables 5 days a week or more often.



**87%** of respondents indicated that fresh fruit is readily available in the area

\*defined in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guideline 1 as more than 10 standard drinks a week, or more than 4 standard drinks on any one day.

\*\*undertook less than 150 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity a week, or fewer than five sessions of moderate or vigorous physical activity a week or no moderate or vigorous activity

\*\*\* Sedentary behaviour includes children who spent more than 2 hours per day on sedentary leisure activities.

## Physical activity

Physical activity is important across all ages. Being physically active contributes to improved mental and musculoskeletal health and reduces other risk factors such as overweight and obesity, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol (AIHW 2024b).



**1,045.58 ha**  
of land for recreation  
and sport



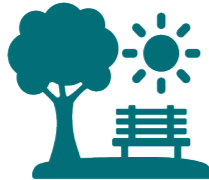
**270+**  
Playspaces



**13** turf and **44**  
synthetic cricket  
wickets and **18**  
cricket net facilities



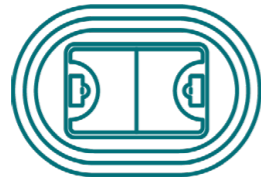
**6** Aquatic and  
leisure centres



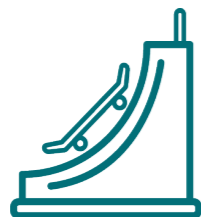
**647.59 ha**  
of land for recreation  
(general parkland)



**71** competition  
and **29** training  
netball courts



**162** Sports fields



**24** Skateparks



**4** BMX facilities

### Estimated number of people aged 18 years and over who undertook low, very low or no exercise in the previous week (modelled estimates) 2017-2018

Area	Number	Standard rate per 100
Central Coast	174,159	65.6
Lake Macquarie	96,775	60.8
Hawkesbury	32,782	65.6
The Hills	78,122	62.3
Northern Beaches	108,286	52.1
Hornsby	70,561	62.0
Penrith	106,096	70.4
Liverpool	118,704	75.6
Campbelltown	89,133	73.4
Camden	40,416	65.5
Wollongong	103,063	62.3
NSW	3,948,414	65.3

Source: Public Health Information Development Unit 2024



**66%** of respondents to our wellbeing survey indicated that they did 30 minutes of activity that increased their heart rate 3-4 times per week or more

#### Satisfaction with quality of life aspects

**55%** of respondents identified that they were satisfied with their physical health

**51%** of respondents identified that they were satisfied with access to public sports and recreation facilities

**50%** of respondents were satisfied with their opportunities to participate in sporting and recreation activities in the local area



# Income and Wealth

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001) identifies 'the distribution of economic resources across the population is important for the wellbeing of people and society as a whole. Societies with a more equitable distribution of economic resources are more likely to have better health and education outcomes, higher levels of trust and social cohesion, lower rates of crime, and greater innovation'.

## Varying incomes across the LGA

The median weekly household income of residents is \$1,534, which is lower than the NSW median income of \$1,8491. However, there is some income inequality throughout the Central Coast region.

### The areas with the **highest median weekly household incomes** are:

- Holgate - Matcham - Erina Heights (\$3,051)<sup>1</sup>
- Valleys (\$2,482)<sup>1</sup>
- Avoca Beach (\$2,311)<sup>1</sup>
- Woongarrah (\$2,269)<sup>1</sup>



### Highest

weekly median household income  
Holgate - Matcham - Erina Heights  
**\$3,051<sup>1</sup>**

### Lowest

weekly median household income  
Toukley - Canton Beach  
**\$931<sup>1</sup>**

### The areas with the **lowest median weekly household incomes** are:

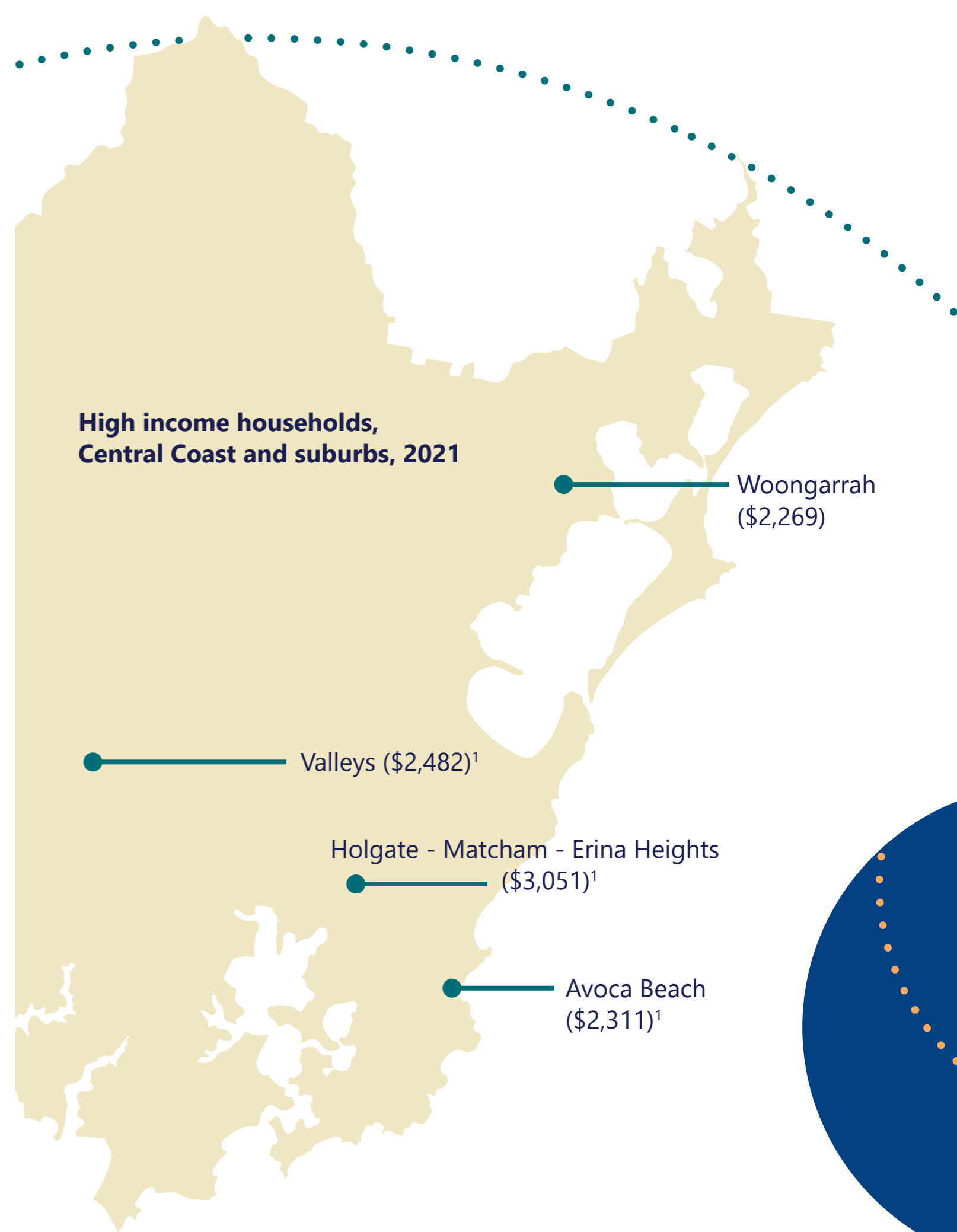
- Toukley – Canton Beach (\$931)<sup>1</sup>
- Lake Munmorah - Chain Valley Bay (\$952)<sup>1</sup>
- Erina (\$1,029)<sup>1</sup>
- The Entrance (\$1,114)<sup>1</sup>

### Some areas also have a **high proportion of low-income households** (median weekly income lower than \$800 per week), specifically:

- Toukley - Canton Beach (40.5%)<sup>1</sup>
- Erina (38.8%)<sup>1</sup>
- Lake Munmorah - Chain Valley Bay (38%)<sup>1</sup>
- Ettalong Beach - Booker Bay (34.8%)<sup>1</sup>

Source:

1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



Source:

1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Income Security – Financial Wellbeing

The sharp rise in the price of essential goods and services over the last 12 months has had a significant impact on the household budgets of NSW residents (UTS 2023). According to the 2023 Cost of Living in NSW research conducted by the Institute for Public Policy and Governance at the University of Technology Sydney, **almost half (43%) of households on the Central Coast have been unable to pay their utility bills on time at least once in the past 12 months** (UTS 2023). Similarly, responses to our wellbeing survey indicate that cost-of-living pressures and a turbulent economy are impacting on the financial wellbeing of our residents.



### Accessing funds

**71%** of residents said they could access or raise \$2,000 within two days in an emergency



**21%** of residents indicated they would not be able to access or raise emergency funds if needed

Groups **significantly more likely** to have been unable to access/raise emergency funds:

- Single parents (51%)
- 16-29 years (29%)
- Those living with a disability (29%)
- Singles/those living alone (26%)

Those who were unable to access/raise emergency funds were also more likely to:

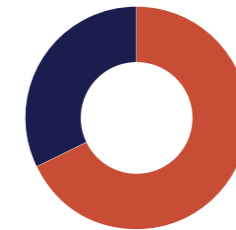
- Live in rental households (46%)

Those in the Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District were least likely to say they could access/raise emergency funds, with 31% saying they could not



### Housing costs

**30%** of residents did not have to sacrifice spending on other things as a direct result of housing costs



**68%** of residents said that as a direct result of housing costs, they had to unwillingly sacrifice spending on other things

Groups **significantly more likely** to have sacrificed spending on other things:

- Single parents (87%)
- 30-49 years (83%)
- 16-29 years (80%)
- Couples (with children at home) (80%)
- Those living with a disability (74%)

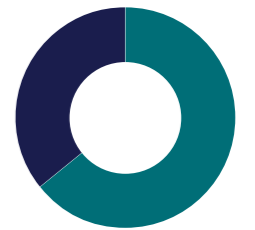
The main things that the community had sacrificed spending on included:

- Dining out (79%)
- Food / groceries (55%)
- Arts / cultural activities (49%)



### Sacrifice spending

**9%** of residents had received a donation from charity



**63%** had brought a cheaper brand of food than their normal brand and **35%** brought other products in place of fresh fruit and vegetables

Groups **significantly more likely** purchase a cheaper brand of food than their normal brand:

- Single parents (76%)
- 30-49 years (75%)
- 16-29 years (73%)
- Newcomers (5 years or less in LGA) (71%)
- Those living with a disability (69%)

Groups **more likely** to sacrifice spending on fresh fruit or vegetables:

- 30-49 years (48%)
- Those living in rental households (48%)
- Single parents (47%)
- Couples (with children at home) (41%)

## Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage

Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage are complex and multifaceted concepts. Australian Bureau of Statistics generated 'Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas' use four indexes based on census data. Each index looks at different aspects of socio-economic advantage and creates a rank for each suburb (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2018). The scores are standardised to a mean of 1,000 with low values indicating disadvantage and high values indicating advantage.

### The SEIFA indicators related by the ABS in 2021 show:

The Central Coast had an Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage score of **978<sup>42</sup>**

The Central Coast's highest SEIFA score was the Index of Economic Resources at **1005<sup>42</sup>**

*This suggests there are areas within the region that have high household wealth and income.*

The Central Coast lowest SEIFA score was the Index for Education and Occupation at **967<sup>42</sup>**

*This suggests there are areas within the region with low educational attainment or employment levels.*

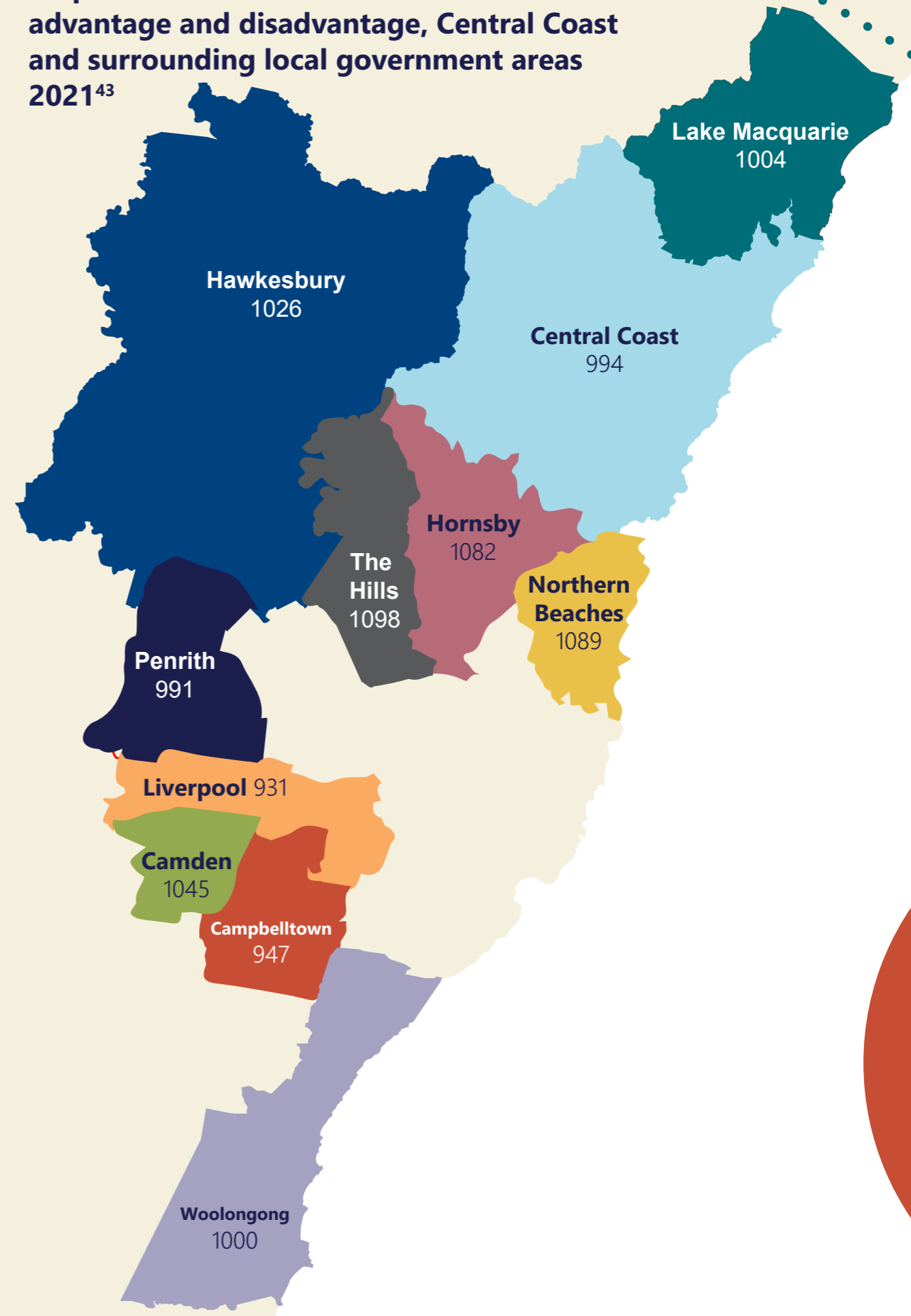
Table 4. Comparative LGA SEIFA scores 2021<sup>42</sup>.

LGA	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage	Index of Economic Resources	Index of Education and Occupation	Usual Resident Population
Lake Macquarie	1004	981	1011	963	213,845
Hawkesbury	1026	1008	1056	969	67,207
The Hills	1098	1136	1132	1112	191,876
Northern Beaches	1089	1125	1087	1109	263,554
Hornsby	1082	1116	1082	1121	151,811
Penrith	991	981	1015	949	217,664
Liverpool	931	968	999	976	233,446
Campbelltown	947	952	981	949	176,519
Camden	1045	1050	1098	1002	119,325
Wollongong	1000	1000	993	999	214,564

Sources:  
42 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021b, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia  
43 .id, 2021v, SEIFA Index of Advantage and Disadvantage, Atlas Id

The SEIFA scores are a relative measure, not an absolute measure, so rather than comparing an area's score over time, they should be used to compare different areas during the same period.

## Map of index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, Central Coast and surrounding local government areas 2021<sup>43</sup>



Source:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights, Central Coast Council area Community Profile

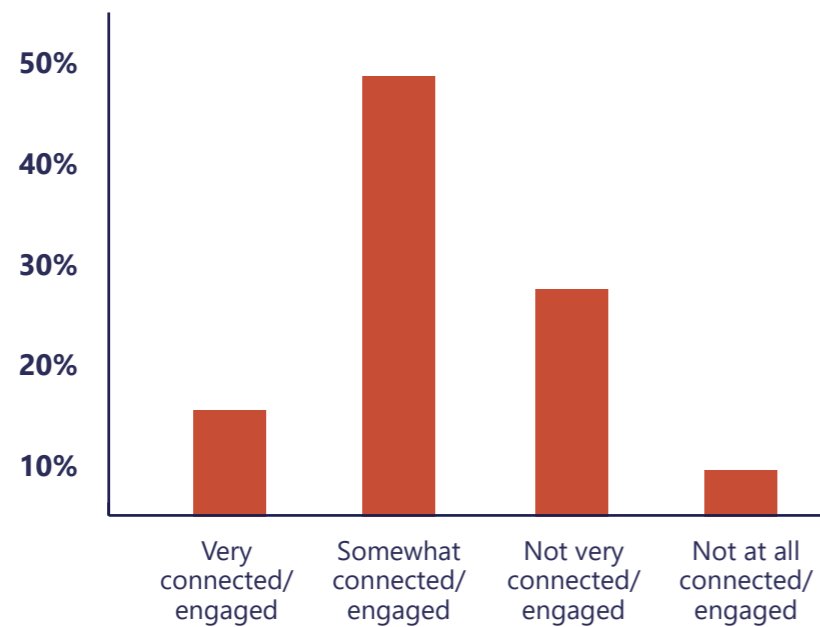
# Support and Connectedness

## Neighbourhood Connection

Community connection is critical for our wellbeing. Feeling connected to those around us provides a sense of belonging, safety and support (NSW Department of Health, 2020).

The significant majority of Central Coast residents (64%) either felt somewhat (49%) or very connected or engaged (15%) with their local area.

Extent to which a 'local area' connection is felt, LGA total, %, Central Coast Council, 2024



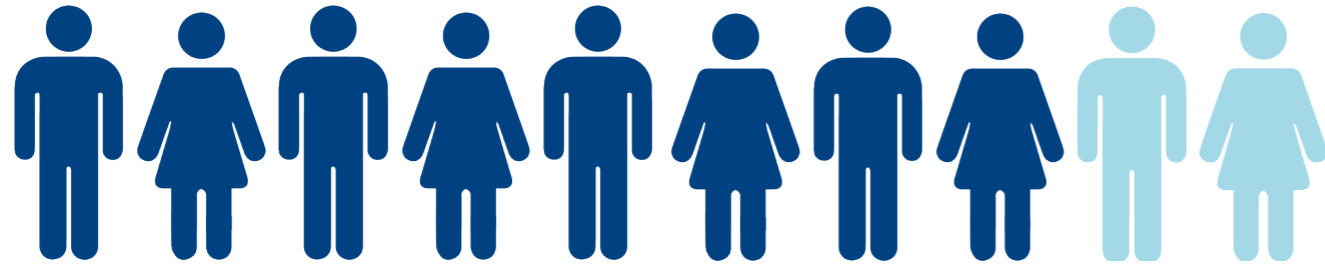
The sense of connection varies in different parts of our region. It was highest in Mountains and Valleys (77%) and East Brisbane Water and Coastal (75%) Districts.

Residents living in the Gosford Central District experienced lower levels of connection with 30% feeling not very connected or engaged and 14% feeling not connected or engaged at all.

Extent to which a 'local area' connection is felt, by district, %, Central Coast Council, 2024



A simple measure of connection is the extent to which neighbours know each other and can rely on each other for help. Responses to our wellbeing survey show that the significant majority of Central Coast residents feel connected and engaged with neighbours and friends.



**8 in 10** residents said they could get help from neighbours or local friends when needed.

The main circumstances where people felt they could ask neighbours or local friends for help were:



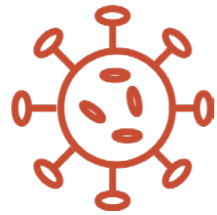
Help water plants, mind pets, check letterbox



Borrow tools, equipment, food items



Receive advice



In case of illness



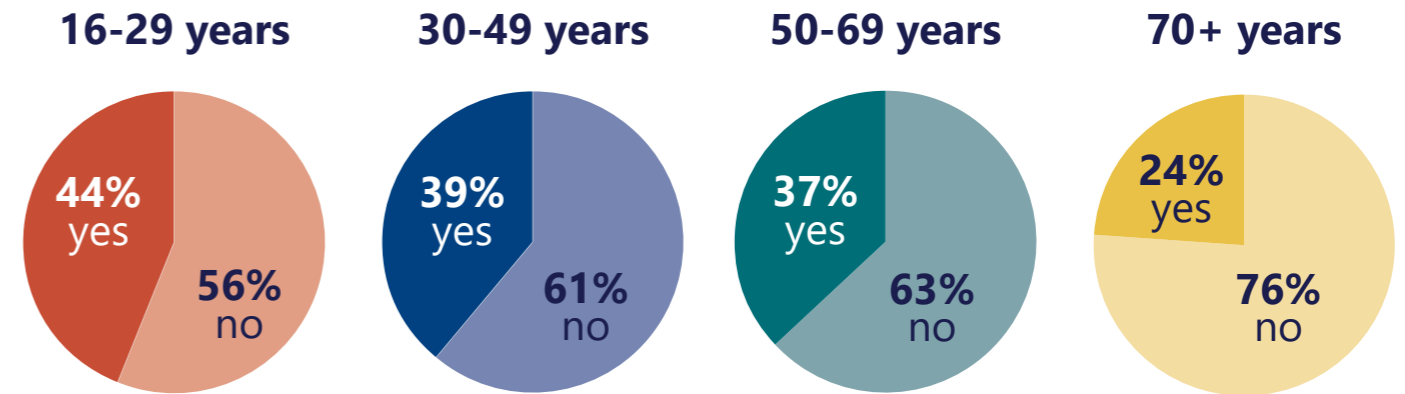
Transportation

### Community Support

Socially sustainable communities are equitable, promote wellbeing and support public participation in both decision-making and community activities. Communities are more sustainable when they are made up of a diverse range of people who support each other and future generations to be safe and well.

Our wellbeing survey included responses to a question which aimed to assess acceptance of diversity and experience of discrimination in locations across the region. On the Central Coast, **more than one third (36%) of the community had seen or experienced discriminatory attitudes towards themselves or other people in the past 12 months.**

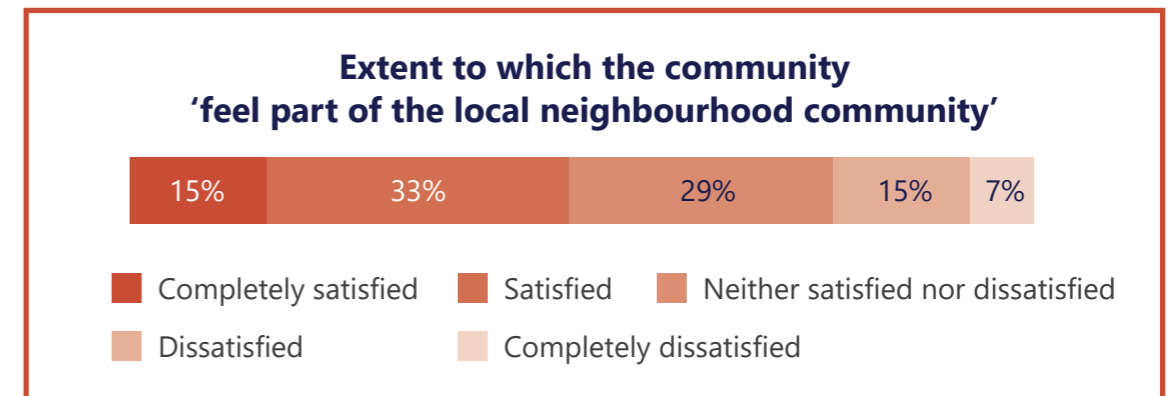
### Extent to which a 'local area' connection is felt, by district, %, Central Coast Council, 2024



### Social and Community Engagement

Community engagement is a way of ensuring that community members have access to valued social settings and activities, feel that they are able to contribute meaningfully to those activities, and develop functional capabilities that enable them to participate fully.

Overall, almost half (49%) of respondents to our wellbeing survey indicate that they are satisfied/ completely satisfied with feeling part of their local neighbourhood community.



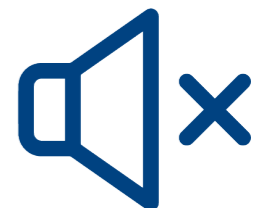
### Involvement in Social and Community Activities



**60%** of community members are involved in a sport or recreation group, or a special interest/lobby group



**85%** have engaged in signing a petition, writing or speaking to a Government MP, and online discussions about political/community issues in the last year



**30%** of residents do not feel they have an opportunity to have a say on local issues, especially those aged 50 to 69 years



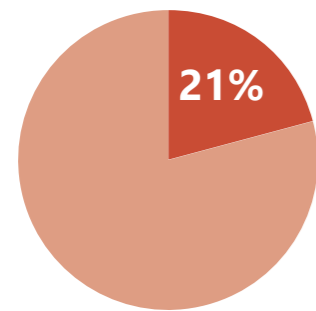
## Volunteering

An increase in a person's civic and social participation, including as a volunteer, increases their personal wellbeing and that of the people they are helping through their voluntary efforts.

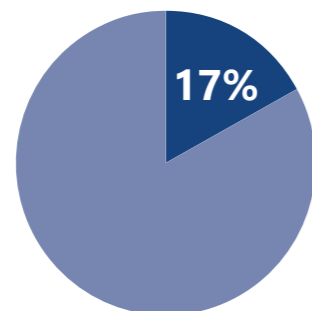
On the Central Coast, 12.1% of the population report doing some form of voluntary work compared to 13% for NSW. The number of volunteers on the Central Coast decreased by 11,633 people between 2016 and 2011.

## Central Coast Wellbeing Survey 2024

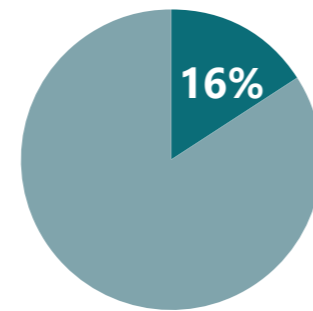
**57%** of respondents to our wellbeing survey volunteered to help an organisation in the past 12 months.



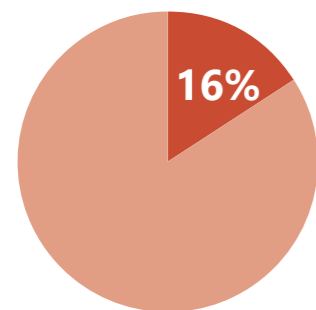
Charity or welfare organisation



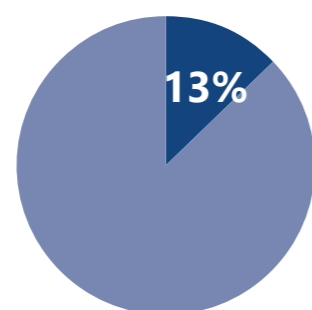
Volunteer organisation (e.g. Rural Fire SES, St Johns First Aid etc.)



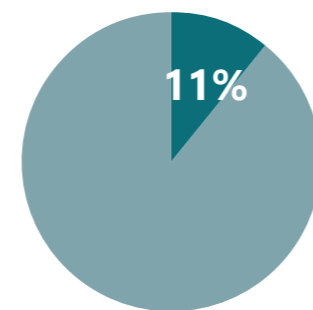
A civic organisation such as helping a local sporting team



Local school (e.g. working in the canteen on the P&F Committee etc.)



Religions group or church



A service club such as the RSL, Rotary, Lions etc.

## Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion is about ensuring that all Australians can access and use digital technologies effectively. We are experiencing an accelerating digital transformation in many aspects of economic and social life (Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2024).

According to the Australian Digital Inclusion Index, the Central Coast Council LGA is below the national average for digital inclusion, measured as our access to the internet and digital technologies, our capacity to pay for these things, and our ability to use digital technologies skilfully. It should be also noted that at the national level some groups, including people in very remote areas (32.6%), First Nations people (21.3%), and those on the lowest incomes (20.7%) continue to be overrepresented in their reliance on mobile-only access, that is, only use a mobile device to access the internet<sup>44</sup>.



Australian Digital Inclusion Index Scores 2022<sup>44</sup>

Central Coast LGA  
**71.6**  
NSW  
**73**



Source: 1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council Community Profile

Source: 44 Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2024, The national picture 2022

# Community Districts

## Central Coast Social Planning Districts

Analysis presented in this the following section includes an overview of the demography of the Central Coast by Social Planning Districts. The Social Planning Districts (SPDs) are shown below.

District	Included Areas
<b>East Brisbane Water and Costal</b>	Avoca Beach, Bensville, Bouddi, Box Head, Copacabana, Daleys Point, Davistown, Empire Bay, Erina Heights, Forresters Beach, Green Point, Hardys Bay, Holgate, Killcare, Killcare Heights, Kincumber, Kincumber South, MacMasters Beach, Matcham, North Avoca, Picketts Valley, Pretty Beach, Saratoga, St Huberts Island, Terrigal, Wagstaffe, Wamberal and Yattalunga.
<b>Gosford Central</b>	East Gosford, Erina, Springfield, Gosford, Point Frederick and West Gosford.
<b>Mountains and Valleys</b>	Alison, Bar Point, Calga, Cedar Brush Creek, Central Mangrove, Cheero Point, Cogra Bay, Dooralong, Durren, Glenworth Valley, Greengrove, Gunderman, Jilliby, Kiar, Kulnura, Lemon Tree, Little Jilliby, Little Wobby, Lower Mangrove, Mangrove Creek, Mangrove Mountain, Marlow, Mooney Mooney, Mooney Mooney Creek, Mount White, Peats Ridge, Ravensdale, Somersby, Spencer, Upper Mangrove, Wondabyne, Wyong Creek, Yarramalong, Ten Mile Hollow, Wisemans Ferry and Wendoree Park.
<b>Narara Valley and Ourimbah</b>	Kangy Angy, Lisarow, Mount Elliot, Narara, Niagara Park, North Gosford, Ourimbah, Palm Grove, Palmdale and Wyoming.
<b>Northern Lakes, San Remo-Budgewoi and Toukley</b>	Blue Haven, Budgewoi, Budgewoi Peninsula, Buff Point, Canton Beach, Chain Valley, Colongra, Doyalson, Doyalson North, Frazer Park, Freemans, Gwandalan, Halekulani, Kingfisher Shores, Lake Munmorah, Norah Head, Norville, Point Wolstoncroft, Mannering Park, Moonee, San Remo, Summerland Point, Toukley, Wybung and Crangan Bay.
<b>Southern Lakes and The Entrance</b>	Bateau Bay, Berkeley Vale, Blue Bay, Chittaway, Fountaindale, Glenning Valley, Killarney Vale, Long Jetty, Magenta, Shelly Beach, The Entrance, The Entrance North, Toowoan Bay and Tumby Umbi.
<b>West Brisbane Water and Peninsula</b>	Blackwall, Booker Bay, Ettalong Beach, Horsfield Bay, Kariong, Koolewong, Patonga, Pearl Beach, Phegans Bay, Point Clare, Tascott, Umina Beach, Woy Woy and Woy Woy Bay.
<b>Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan</b>	Bushells Ridge, Charmhaven, Chittaway Point, Gorokan, Halloran, Hamlyn Terrace, Kanwal, Lake Haven, Mardi.



# East Brisbane Water and Coastal District

## ...at a glance

The East Brisbane and Coastal District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Avoca Beach, Bensville, Bouddi, Box Head, Copacabana, Daleys Point, Davistown, Empire Bay, Erina Heights, Forresters Beach, Green Point, Hardys Bay, Holgate, Killcare, Killcare Heights, Kincumber, Kincumber South, MacMasters Beach, Matcham, North Avoca, Picketts Valley, Pretty Beach, Saratoga, St Huberts Island, Terrigal, Wagstaffe, Wamberal and Yattalunga.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>68,677<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>29,947<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>45 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>1,826</b> people (2.7%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>12,050</b> <b>17.7%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>22.3%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>30.1%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>32.5%</b> Higher than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>21.6%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities

United Kingdom



New Zealand



South Africa



China



Language other than English at home **5.6%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

## Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>

Spanish, Mandarin, German, Afrikaans, Italian, French



University qualification  
**25.9%**

Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**22.4%**

Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>



Workforce participation  
**58.4%**

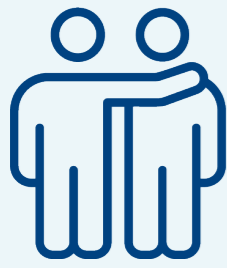
Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>



Unemployment rate  
**3.1%**

Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1 .id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

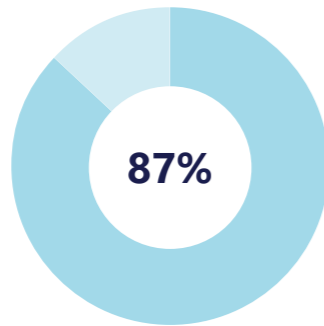


Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

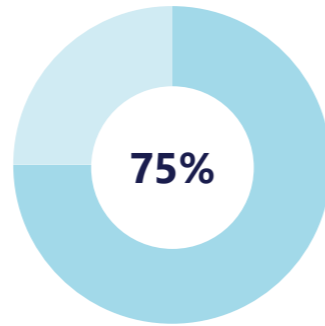
**3,374 people or 5%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

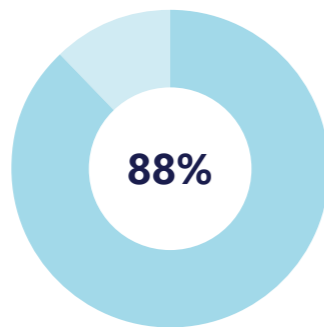
## What the East Brisbane Water and Coastal District told us...



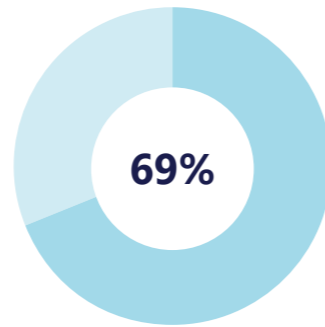
rate **quality of life positively**  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



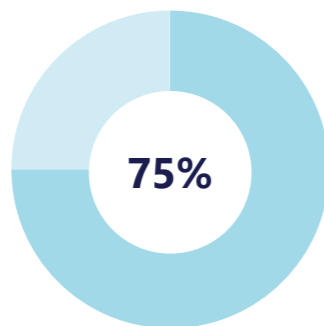
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



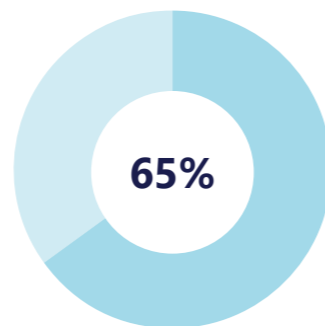
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Gosford Central District

## ...at a glance

The East Brisbane and Coastal District encompasses the suburbs and localities of East Gosford, Erina, Springfield, Gosford, Point Frederick and West Gosford.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>23,038<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>11,217<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>43 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>739</b> people (3.3%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>5,474</b> <b>24.4%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>17%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>31.3%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>18.9%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>36.1%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities



Language other than English at home **15%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

**Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>**  
Mandarin, Nepali, Filipino/Tagalog, Korean, Spanish, Punjabi



University qualification  
**24.2%**  
Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**19.8%**  
Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>

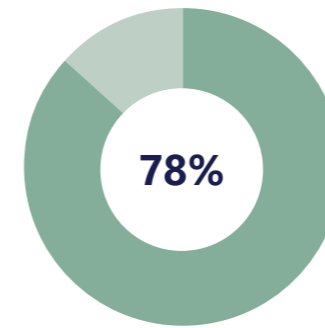


Workforce participation  
**54.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>

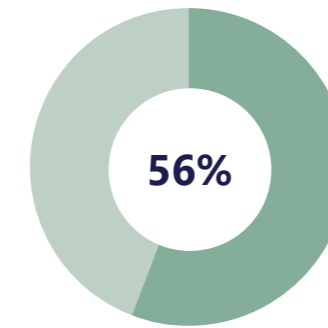


Unemployment rate  
**4.9%**  
Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

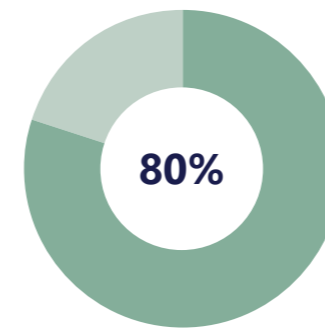
## What the Gosford Central District told us...



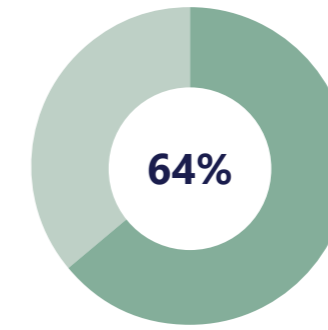
rate **quality of life** positively  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



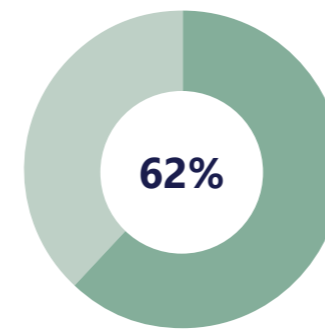
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



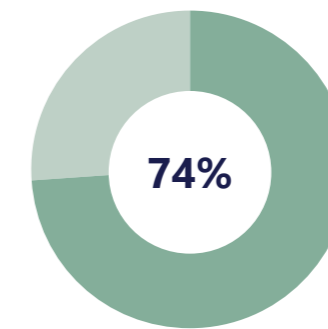
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

**1,634 people or 7.3%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

# Mountains and Valleys District

## ...at a glance

The Mountains and Valleys District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Alison, Bar Point, Calga, Cedar Brush Creek, Central Mangrove, Cheero Point, Cogra Bay, Dooralong, Durren, Glenworth Valley, Greengrove, Gunderman, Jiliby, Kiar, Kulnura, Lemon Tree, Little Jiliby, Little Wobby, Lower Mangrove, Mangrove Creek, Mangrove Mountain, Marlow, Mooney Mooney, Mooney, Mooney Creek, Mount White, Peats Ridge, Ravensdale, Somersby, Spencer, Upper Mangrove, Wondabyne, Wyong Creek, Yarramalong, Ten Mile Hollow, Wisemans Ferry and Wendoree Park.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>8,138<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>3,397<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>46 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>280</b> people (3.5%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>1,134</b> <b>14%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>19.7%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>27.5%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>33.6%</b> Higher than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>17.9%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile





## Growing communities



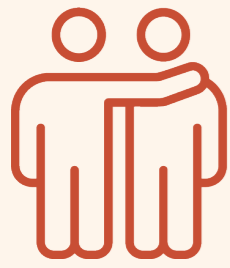
Language other than English at home **6.5%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

### Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>

Greek, Italian, Maltese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic

 University qualification <b>19.1%</b> Central Coast LGA 17.9% <sup>1</sup>	 Trade qualification <b>24.5%</b> Central Coast LGA 24.9% <sup>1</sup>	 Workforce participation <b>61.4%</b> Central Coast LGA 55.7% <sup>1</sup>	 Unemployment rate <b>3.3%</b> Central Coast LGA 4.7% <sup>1</sup>
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Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

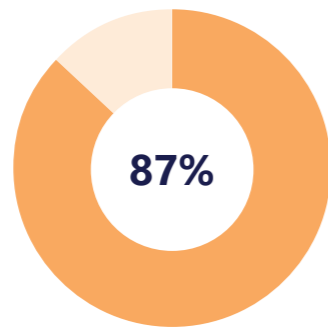


Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

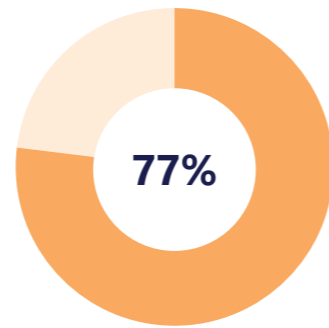
**338 people or 4.2%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

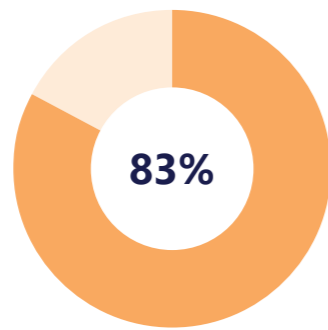
### What the Mountains and Valleys District told us...



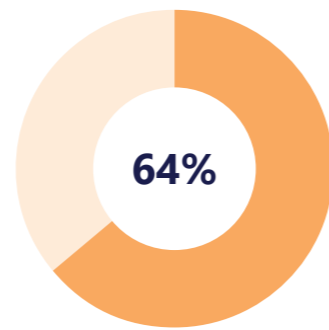
rate **quality of life positively**  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



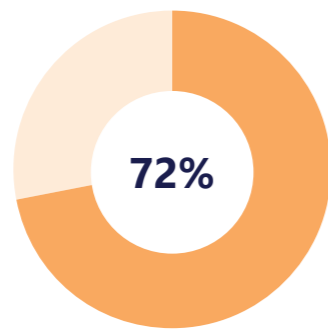
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



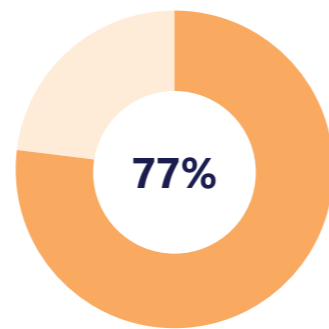
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Narara Valley and Ourimbah District

## ...at a glance

The Narara Valley and Ourimbah District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Kangy Angy, Lisarow, Mount Elliot, Narara, Niagara Park, North Gosford, Ourimbah, Palm Grove, Palmdale and Wyoming.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>35,640<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>14,006<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>39 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>1,505</b> people (4.3%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>6,598</b> <b>18.7%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>23.2%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>24%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>32%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>23.1%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities



Language other than English at home **9.6%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

**Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>**  
Filipino/Tagalog, Korean, Spanish, Mandarin, Malayalam, Russian



University qualification  
**21%**  
Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**24.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>

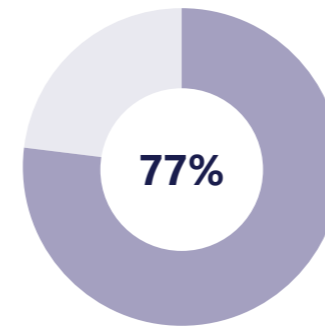


Workforce participation  
**60.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>

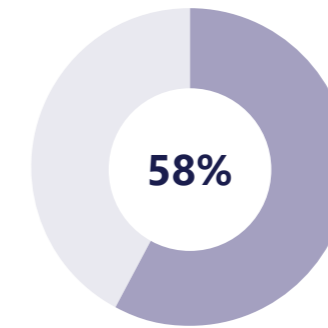


Unemployment rate  
**4.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

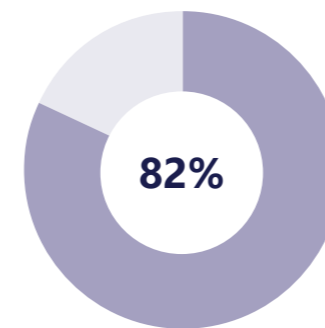
## What the Narara Valley and Ourimbah District told us...



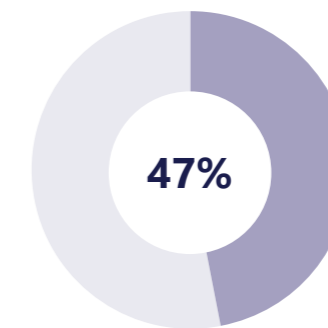
rate **quality of life** positively  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



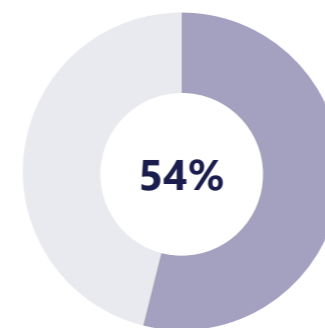
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



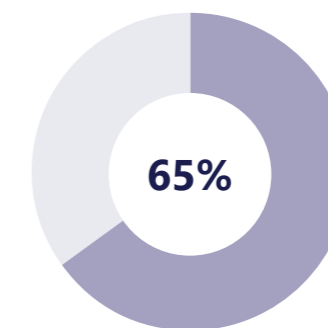
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

**1,634 people or 7.3%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%



# Northern Lakes, San Remo- Budgewoi and Toukley District

## ...at a glance

The Northern Lakes, San Remo-Budgewoi and Toukley District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Blue Haven, Budgewoi, Budgewoi Peninsula, Buff Point, Canton Beach, Chain Valley, Colongra, Doyalson, Doyalson North, Frazer Park, Freemans, Gwandalan, Halekulani, Kingfisher Shores, Lake Munmorah, Norah Head, Noraville, Point Wolstoncroft, Mannering Park, Moonee, San Remo, Summerland Point, Toukley, Wybung and Crangan Bay.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>49,170<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>21,948<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>44 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>3,640</b> people (7.5%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>5,244</b> <b>10.8%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>20.8%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>31.1%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>22.8%</b> Higher than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>27.7%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities

Philippines



South Africa



Germany



United States



Language other than English at home **3.4%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

## Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>

Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog, Maltese, Italian, Greek, Arabic



University qualification  
**9.6%**

Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**28.9%**

Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>



Workforce participation  
**50.7%**

Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>



Unemployment rate  
**5.8%**

Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

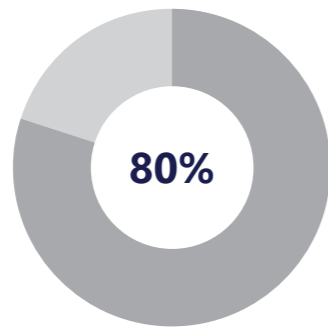


Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

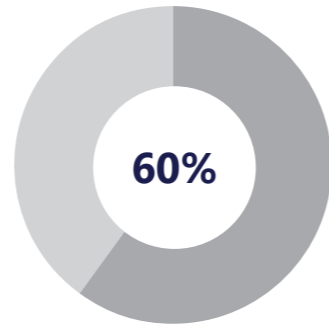
**4,156 people or 8.6%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

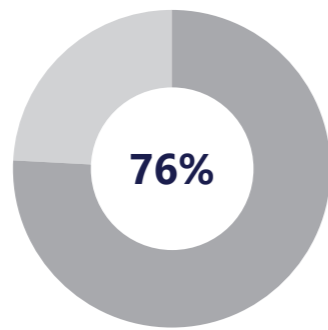
## What the Northern Lakes, San Remo-Budgewoi and Toukley District told us...



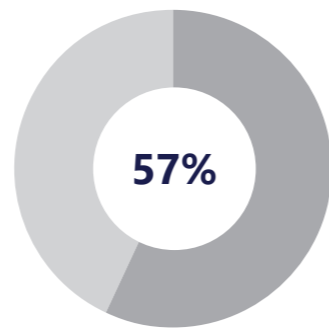
rate **quality of life positively**  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



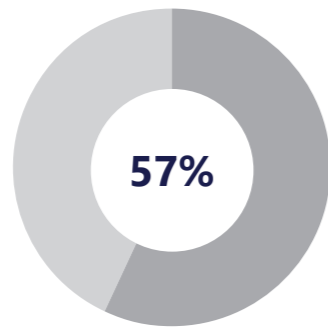
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



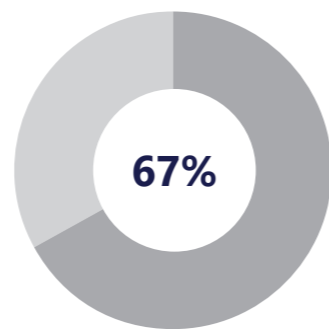
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Southern Lakes and The Entrance District

## ...at a glance

The Southern Lakes and The Entrance District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Bateau Bay, Berkeley Vale, Blue Bay, Chittaway, Fountaindale, Glenning Valley, Killarney Vale, Long Jetty, Magenta, Shelly Beach, The Entrance, The Entrance North, Toowoan Bay and Tumbi Umbi.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>55,394<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>25,239<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>42 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>2,913</b> people (5.3%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>6,852</b> <b>12.5%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>21.5%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>29%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>26.4%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>26.7%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities



Language other than English at home **5%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

**Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>**  
Spanish, Mandarin, Punjabi, Italian, Filipino/Tagalog, Greek



University qualification  
**15.5%**  
Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**26.3%**  
Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>

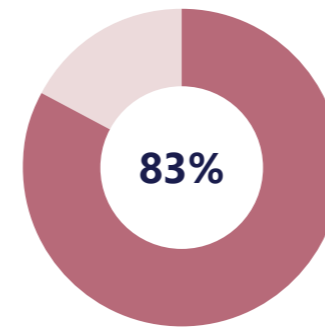


Workforce participation  
**55.6%**  
Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>

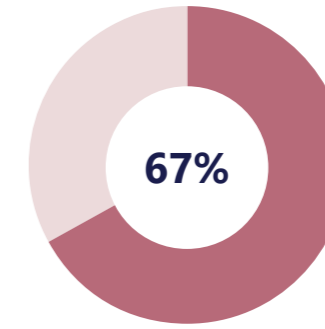


Unemployment rate  
**4.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

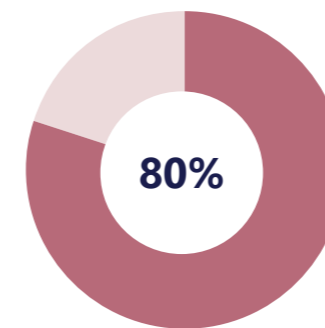
## What the Southern Lakes and The Entrance District told us...



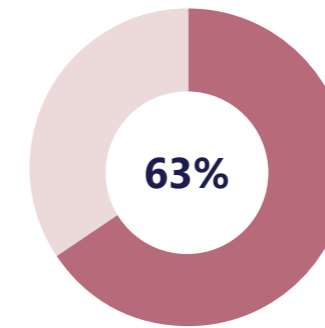
rate **quality of life** positively  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



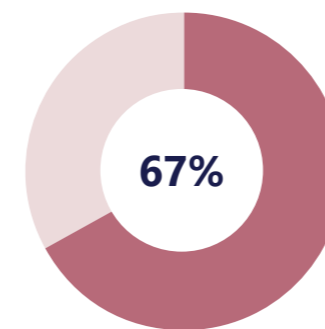
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



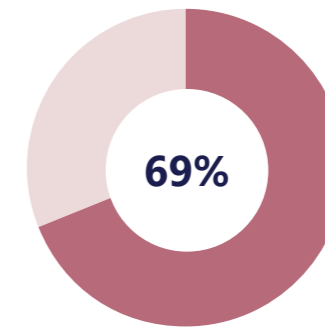
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

**3,877 people or 7.1%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

# West Brisbane Water and Peninsula District

## ...at a glance

The West Brisbane Water and Peninsula District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Blackwall, Booker Bay, Ettalong Beach, Horsfield Bay, Kariong, Koolewong, Patonga, Pearl Beach, Phegans Bay, Point Clare, Tascott, Umina Beach, Woy Woy and Woy Woy Bay.



## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>52,484<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>24,453<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>43 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>2,248</b> people (4.3%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>9,600</b> <b>18.4%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>20.1%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>31.3%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>23.8%</b> Higher than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>29.4%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

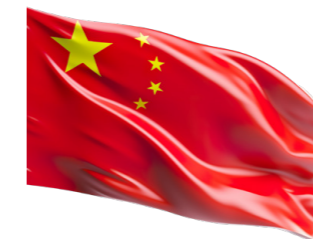
Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities

United Kingdom



China



India



New Zealand



Language other than English at home **8.2%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

## Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>

Mandarin, Filipino/Tagalog, Italian, Spanish, Cantonese, Thai



University qualification  
**18.4%**

Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**23.7%**

Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>



Workforce participation  
**53.1%**

Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>



Unemployment rate  
**5.3%**

Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1. id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

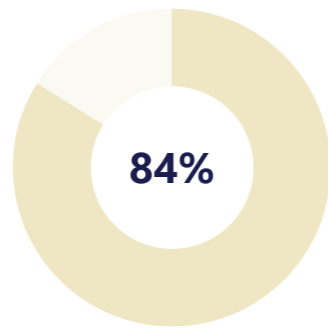


Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

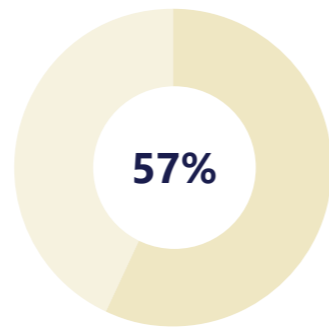
**3,850 people or 7.4%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

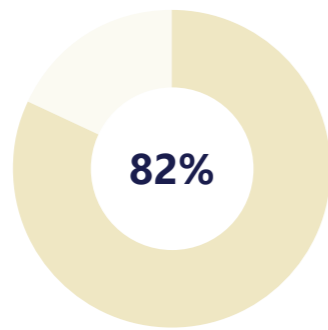
### What the West Brisbane Water and Peninsula District told us...



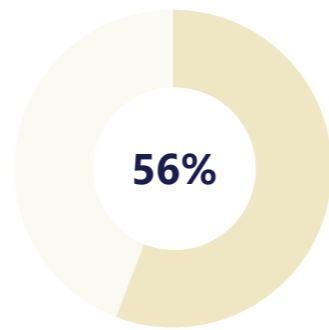
rate **quality of life positively**  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



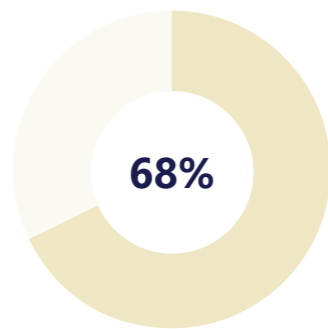
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



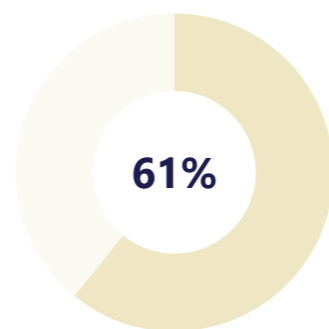
feel they could **ask for help** from neighbours and local friends  
81% for the Central Coast LGA



are involved in a **sport or recreation** group, or a **special interest/lobby group**  
60% for the Central Coast LGA



feel their local neighbourhood is a **great place to live**  
65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

# Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District

## ...at a glance

The Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District encompasses the suburbs and localities of Bushells Ridge, Charmhaven, Chittaway Point, Gorokan, Halloran, Hamlyn Terrace, Kanwal, Lake Haven, Mardi, Rocky Point, Tacoma, Tacoma South, Tuggerah, Tuggerawong, Wadalba, Wallarah, Warnervale, Watanobbi, Woongarah, Wyong and Wyongah.

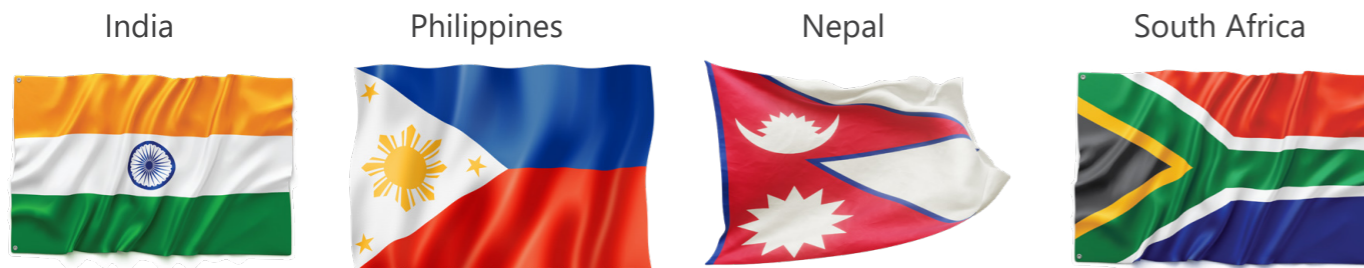


## Population Highlights

2023 Estimated resident population <b>59,390<sup>1</sup></b>	Dwellings <b>22,666<sup>1</sup></b>	Median age <b>38 years</b> Central Coast LGA 43 years
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background <b>3,901</b> people (6.8%) Central Coast LGA (4.9%) <sup>1</sup>	Overseas born <b>8,750</b> <b>15.3%</b> 16.1% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	0-17 years <b>24%</b> 21.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>
60 years and over <b>24%</b> 28.6% for Central Coast LGA <sup>1</sup>	Couples with children <b>28.7%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 27.1% <sup>1</sup>	Lone person households <b>23.2%</b> Lower than the Central Coast LGA 26% <sup>1</sup>

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile

## Growing communities



Language other than English at home **8.4%**  
Central Coast LGA 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

**Top languages spoken<sup>1</sup>**  
Malayalam, Mandarin, Cantonese, Filipino/Tagalog, Spanish, Korean



University qualification  
**12.3%**  
Central Coast LGA  
17.9%<sup>1</sup>



Trade qualification  
**26.6%**  
Central Coast LGA  
24.9%<sup>1</sup>

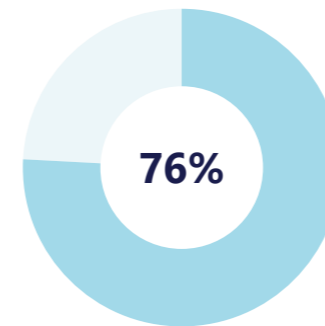


Workforce participation  
**55.7%**  
Central Coast LGA  
55.7%<sup>1</sup>

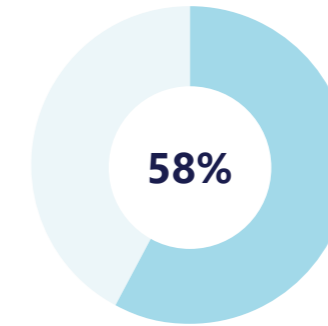


Unemployment rate  
**5.6%**  
Central Coast LGA  
4.7%<sup>1</sup>

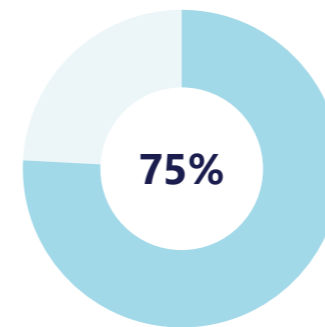
## What the Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District told us...



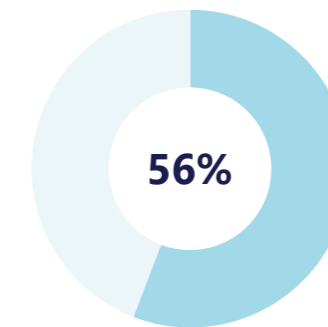
rate **quality of life** positively  
82% for the Central Coast LGA



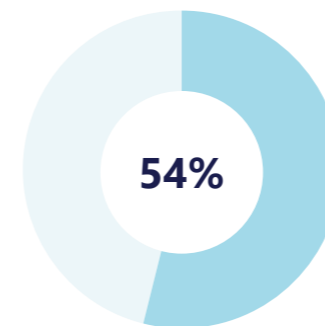
feel either somewhat or very **connected or engaged** with their local area  
64% for the Central Coast LGA



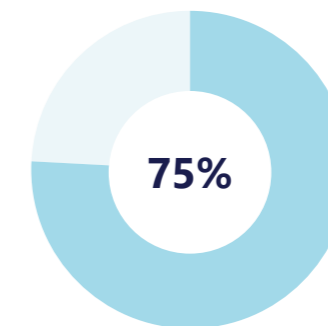
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65% for the Central Coast LGA



had unwillingly **scarified spending** as a direct result of housing costs  
68% for the Central Coast LGA

Source:  
1.id, 2021a, Population highlights. Central Coast Council area Community Profile



Need day-to-day help with core activities<sup>1</sup>

**4,661 people or 8.1%**

Central Coast LGA  
7%

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## Central Coast Council Social Profile 2024

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