

Central Coast Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD)
Population:	Approximately 357,258 people
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 4.9% of the population (for Central Coast Local Government Area)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 8.32% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>CCLHD presents a unique set of population health and service delivery considerations for the Community Living Supports (CLS) program. The region has a significantly higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples compared to both the NSW and Australian averages, necessitating culturally safe and responsive CLS supports. CCLHD also has a higher percentage of people aged over 65 years, which has implications for tailored psychosocial supports (e.g. around dementia care, complex comorbidities, and carer support).</p> <p>Socioeconomic disadvantage is pronounced in parts of the Central Coast, particularly in the northern Wyong region. This area experiences higher rates of unemployment than the NSW average, limited access to public transport, and increased financial vulnerability. These factors contribute to barriers in accessing timely and appropriate mental health support, particularly during weekends and after hours when fewer services operate.</p> <p>Mental health conditions are more prevalent across the Central Coast than in NSW or nationally, with an estimated 11% of the population affected, compared to 8% for NSW and 8.8% for Australia. Medication usage patterns further reflect this burden. In 2018–19, the Wyong region recorded the second highest number of both subsidised and under co-payment mental health-related prescriptions dispensed nationally (354,868 prescriptions), and the second highest number of patients receiving these medications (38,337 individuals).</p> <p>These factors highlight the need for locally tailored, accessible, and equitable mental health services that are responsive to the demographic and geographic diversity of CCLHD. This includes addressing weekend and after-hours service gaps, enhancing transport accessibility, and integrating culturally appropriate care, particularly for Aboriginal communities and older adults.</p> <p>For more information about CCLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name Central Coast</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Central Coast LGA</p>
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While CCLHD is only comprised of one region for pricing and benchmark purposes, CCLHD's expectation is that CLS will be provided in the following areas:

- Gosford
- Wyong

There is also a preference for an Aboriginal specific CLS service within the Central Coast Region.

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$4,585,918
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	164
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	94
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	15
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	47
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	6

Far West Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Far West Local Health District (FWLHD)
Population:	Approximately 27,335 people
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 12% of the population
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 13.99% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>The Far West has a large geographical area with an ageing population. There is a higher proportion of Aboriginal people compared to the rest of NSW. Some of our towns have more than 30% Aboriginal identified residents. Some areas are expected to have a growth over the next 10 years (border towns close to other states) and some areas are expected to have a drop in population. This will depend on several factors including infrastructure, mining and birth rates and addressing community needs. There are limited onsite resources in the Far West and virtual care is relied on heavily outside of the local Broken Hill area. Strong relationships and governance structures with potential Community Living Supports (CLS) service providers is critical to support in delivery of services across an expansive area especially on weekends and evenings.</p> <p>For more information about FWLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Broken Hill</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: City of Broken Hill, Unincorporated NSW</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Balranald – Bordering Victoria</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Balranald Shire</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: Wentworth – Bordering South Australia</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Wentworth Shire</p>
Region D	<p>Region Name: Central Darling – Menindee, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe and White Cliffs</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Central Darling Shire</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

It should be noted that while the daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers and anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day is labelled ‘-’, CLS service providers will be required to contribute to a district wide benchmark as follows:

- Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers for FWLHD: 4
- Daily minimum number of consumers who receive more than 5 hours of support a day for FWLHD: 1

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$258,126
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	9
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	5
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	-
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	3
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	-
B	Budget (for this region)	\$35,979
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	1
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	1
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	-

Region	District	Benchmark
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	1
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	-
C	Budget (for this region)	\$102,508
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	4
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	2
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	-
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	1
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	-
D	Budget (for this region)	\$58,942
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	2
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	1
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	-
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	1
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	-

Hunter New England Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)
Population:	Approximately 984,437
Aboriginal Population:	Over 71,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 10.44% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>HNELHD covers a geographical area of approximately 132,000 kilometres and is the only district in NSW with 1 major metropolitan centre, a mix of several large regional centres and many smaller rural centres and remote communities.</p> <p>There are currently 7 Community Mental Health “hubs” in HNELHD with other smaller outreach sites supporting people with mental health challenges in the district. There are 7 inpatient units within HNELHD consisting of 4 adult acute mental health units, 2 non-acute/rehab mental health units, and 1 voluntary unit. There are 2 community residential rehabilitation centres in HNELHD, the Independent Living program in Lake Macquarie which has a 5 bed capacity, and the Nimoola Residential Rehabilitation program in Taree which has a 7 bed capacity.</p> <p>There are currently a few district developments taking place in HNELHD to support the increased care for people experiencing mental health challenges. The PRS Morisset program is being relocated to the Maitland Hospital site and will include an increase in beds for forensic patients. Additionally, the new Tamworth Mental Health Unit is going to create 37 new bed spaces for people requiring mental health care, including beds for adults, adolescents and older people.</p> <p>There is increased complexity in delivering services in HNELHD due to size of the district. HNELHD aims to achieve increased access and Community Living Supports (CLS) opportunities to consumers who have to date, not been able to receive a service due to resource limitations. Additionally, HNELHD requires services to implement innovative ideas to meet the needs of consumers located remotely, this is not limited to travelling far distances to reach consumers.</p> <p>Other local considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Aboriginal population requiring culturally safe, responsive and appropriate CLS service provision and Aboriginal identified staff. • Housing stock shortages, usage of Temporary Accommodation requiring supports in place – CLS highly regarded and sought after • Referral/waitlist management – high numbers of referral received and regular waitlists in place across the district. <p>For more information about HNELHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

The regions provided below include current and preferred “hub” centres of CLS provision across HNELHD with proven demand, linkages to community mental health teams and inpatient facilities, and areas where the district would like to maintain service provision.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Greater Newcastle</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Region: Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens</p> <p>Preferred: Hubs based in Newcastle/Lake Macquarie area with outreach into Port Stephens LGA, including Raymond Terrace area</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Hunter Valley Lower Mid North Coast</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Maitland, Cessnock, Mid Coast, Singleton, Muswellbrook, Taree, Upper Hunter and Dungog.</p> <p>Preferred: Hubs based in Maitland LGA with outreach up to Singleton and Muswellbrook, and Taree with service provision across the LGA</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: New England North West</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Region: Armidale, Tamworth Regional, Moree Plains, Inverell*, Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Tenterfield, Gwydir, Walcha, Uralla and Liverpool Plains.</p> <p>Preferred: Hubs based in Tamworth, Armidale, Moree and Inverell* with outreach up to 1 hr. radius (particularly Glen Innes, Gunnedah, Narrabri, Tenterfield)</p> <p>*Inverell currently has a small CLS program, the district would like to retain some service provision but not in the same scope as the larger programs operating from the above hubs</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local Community Living Supports (CLS) budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$3,594,864
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	129
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	74
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	17
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	37
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	5
B	Budget (for this region)	\$2,604,234
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	94
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	54
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	12
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	27
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	3
C	Budget (for this region)	\$4,013,584
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	144
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	83
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	18
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	41
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	5

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD)
Population:	Approximately 448,567
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 4.1% of the population (of all ISLHD Local Government Areas)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 15.24% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>ISLHD has diverse populations in terms of income, employment status, caring responsibilities, cultural heritage, health status, and housing security.</p> <p>ISLHD has notable numbers of residents who were born overseas and who continue to speak a language other than English at home, with greater concentration in the Wollongong local government area (LGA).</p> <p>As you travel south in the district, there is an increase in residents of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population there are high unemployment rates, high rates of mental health conditions and other long term health issues. There is also decreased housing stability with approximately half the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population renting. Homelessness rates are particularly high in the Wollongong LGA with approximately 400/10,000 people experiencing homelessness, and between 21-40/10,000 people experiencing homelessness in the Shellharbour and Shoalhaven LGAs.</p> <p>ISLHD residents carry a high disease burden with approximately 10% living with chronic mental health challenges and 9% living with other chronic conditions.</p> <p>In ISLHD, residents can access after-hours mental health care by calling the Mental Health Line for assessment or triage. Alternatively, a call can be placed to 000, with a likely presentation to a hospital emergency department (ED) for assessment and triage. Wollongong residents can access Safe Haven during ED push hours for support and referral to ED. Safe Haven is a place where people can go to get calm and culturally sensitive support if experiencing distress or suicidal thoughts.</p> <p>For more information about ISLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Illawarra</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Shoalhaven</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Shoalhaven</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$2,763,699
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	99
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	57
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	8
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	29
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	4
B	Budget (for this region)	\$1,842,466
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	66
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	38
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	6
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	19
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2

Mid North Coast Local Health District Profile

District Details

LHD Name:	Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD)
Population:	Approximately 233,133
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 8.2% of the population
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 6.55% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	MNCLHD identifies a need for a focus on providing services to the Aboriginal population, particularly in the Kempsey and Nambucca regions. In MNCLHD there is a current need for afterhours support on weekends, particularly for supporting social networks and daily medication support. Coffs Harbour has a large refugee community. Mental Health Community Living Supports for Refugees (MH-CLSR) provides support to the refugee community, however this program is currently oversubscribed. There is a need for provision of support to individuals in smaller more remote locations and communities particularly in Nambucca and Macleay valleys. For more information about MNCLHD go to the NSW Health website .

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Support (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	Region Name: Coffs Harbour Local Government Areas within Regions: Coffs Harbour, Bellingen
Region B	Region Name: Port Macquarie Local Government Areas within Regions: Port Macquarie
Region C	Region Name: Macleay Valley Local Government Areas within Regions: Kempsey
Region D	Region Name: Nambucca Valley Local Government Areas within Regions: Nambucca Valley

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$1,111,554
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	40
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	23
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	11
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1
B	Budget (for this region)	\$926,295
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	33
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	19
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	9
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1
C	Budget (for this region)	\$524,900
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	19
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	11

Region	District	Benchmark
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	2
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	5
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1
D	Budget (for this region)	\$524,900
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	19
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	11
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	2
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	5
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1

Murrumbidgee Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD), including Albury
Population:	Approximately 308,080
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 5.9% of the population (of all MLHD Local Government Areas)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 7.59% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>MLHD spans 125,243 square kilometres across southern NSW, stretching from the Snowy Mountains in the east, to the plains of Hillston in the northwest and along the Victorian border. The large geographical footprint of MLHD is a significant challenge in providing equitable services to the population distributed across the region.</p> <p>In MLHD, 19.2% of the population are aged under 15 years and 21.8% are aged 65 years or over. The age demographics differ by local government area (LGA) with some areas having 29 to 33% of the population aged 65 years and over. MLHDs population has an increasing proportion and number of older people which impacts the demand on health services. In MLHD the population has increased by more than 1300 people aged 65+ every year since 2019, with a projected increase of 7800 people aged 75+ years from 2021 to 2031.</p> <p>MLHD has 18,560 people who speak a language other than English at home which accounts for 7.5% of the population (2021 Census). In MLHD, approximately 3,200 people having trouble with spoken English.</p> <p>Currently 9% of the MLHD population live in areas of the highest socioeconomic disadvantage in Australia (2021 Census). Many LGAs, such as Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Murray River, Narrandera and Junee, have areas of very high disadvantage.</p> <p>Access to non-government support services is limited across MLHD in all areas outside of Wagga Wagga and Albury, in particular afterhours from Monday to Friday, and on weekends. In both the eastern and western regions of MLHD, most current psychosocial support service providers provide outreach from Wagga Wagga due to difficulties recruiting and retaining staff in smaller regional towns. However, these smaller regional towns have higher proportions of Aboriginal people and are where social disadvantage is most prevalent and where support is most needed.</p> <p>For more information about MLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Eastern MLHD Region (Tumut, Temora and Young)</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Snow Valleys, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Temora, Junee, Bland, Hilltops, Lachlan (part)</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Western MLHD Region (Deniliquin and Griffith)</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Edward River, Murray River, Berrigan, Murrumbidgee, Hay, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera, Carrathool</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: Wagga Wagga Region</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Wagga Wagga, Coolamon, Lockhart</p>
Region D	<p>Region Name: Albury Region</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Albury, Greater Hume, Federation Council</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$1,139,490
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	41
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	23
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	12
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2

Region	District	Benchmark
B	Budget (for this region)	\$1,499,355
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	54
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	31
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	6
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	15
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
C	Budget (for this region)	\$1,410,531
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	51
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	29
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	6
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	14
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
D	Budget (for this region)	\$1,021,268
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	37
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	21
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	10
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)
Population:	Approximately 389,402
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 4.7% of the population
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 9.16% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>NBMLHD includes diverse geographical regions, including both rural and regional areas, as well as metropolitan areas. A broad range of support services are more readily accessible within metropolitan areas. There is an ongoing need to ensure that consumers within the regional and rural areas have equitable access to mental health support services.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are concentrated within various regions of the NBMLHD, spanning three First Nations Countries (Darug, Gundungurra and Wiradjuri). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up a larger proportion of the population within Penrith local government areas (LGA) (5%), Hawkesbury LGA (4.8%) and Lithgow LGA (7.8%), compared with the Australian average (3.4%) (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021).</p> <p>NBMLHD is made up of people from 165 countries, who speak 135 languages.</p> <p>While there is social housing throughout NBMLHD, there is more availability in suburbs such as Penrith/St Marys, Katoomba, Lithgow, and Richmond/Windsor areas. Temporary Accommodation housing options for people experiencing primary homelessness can be limited.</p> <p>Establishment of a high volume of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Supported Independent Living (SIL) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) properties within NBMLHD has resulted in higher numbers of people who are experiencing a broad range of disability and mental health challenges with broad support needs.</p> <p>For more information about NBMLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Penrith/St Marys</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Penrith LGA</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Windsor/Richmond</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Hawkesbury LGA</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: Blue Mountains/Lithgow</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Blue Mountains LGA, Lithgow LGA</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$2,747,494
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	99
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	57
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	8
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	28
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	4
B	Budget (for this region)	\$876,481
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	32
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	18
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	3
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	9

Region	District	Benchmark
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1
C	Budget (for this region)	\$1,235,276
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	44
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	25
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	13
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2

Northern NSW Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD)
Population:	Approximately 314,905
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 4.5% of the population
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 4.76% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>The population demographics for NNSWLHD is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A higher ratio of people aged 65 years and over (26%) compared to NSW and Australia, at 18.5% and 15.7% respectively. • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 4.5% of the total population. This is higher than the overall NSW average of 3.4%. Approximately 19-20% of Community Living Supports (CLS) referrals are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. • Tweed and Byron regions are experiencing consistent high population growth rates. <p>The Northern Rivers is also a disaster impacted region, with a high proportion of socioeconomically disadvantaged people and the second highest rate of homelessness in NSW.</p> <p>Within NNSWLHD, there is a lack of local housing and accommodation availability which increases the complexity of support delivery for CLS. There are also many rural locations, which means there is a need for service providers to travel longer distances to reach consumers. For example, servicing primary producers around the Clarence region.</p> <p>Current CLS consumers in NNSWLHD require after-hour support and weekend support.</p> <p>There are also high rates of cultural acceptance of substance use which increases the complexity of support needs for individuals seeking psychosocial support. NNSWLHD's Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug services work within the Stepped Care Framework in partnership with both service providers and the primary health network.</p> <p>For more information about NNSWLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Richmond Valley</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Tweed</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Tweed, Byron</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: Clarence Valley</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Clarence Valley (including, Grafton, Yamba, Maclean suburbs)</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$1,508,161
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	54
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	31
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	16
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
B	Budget (for this region)	\$1,569,655
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	56
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	32
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5

Region	District	Benchmark
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	16
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
C	Budget (for this region)	\$667,857
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	24
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	14
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	2
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	7
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1

Northern Sydney Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)
Population:	Approximately 971,927
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 0.3% of the population (of all NSLHD Local Government Areas)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 7.23% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	NSLHD has a high percentage of population from cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) backgrounds. According to the 2021 Census, 39.7% of NSLHD residents were born overseas and 30.8% speak a language other than English at home. The top 3 community languages spoken in NSLHD are Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean. NSLHD welcomes community managed organisation (CMO) staff from diverse backgrounds to improve communication with consumers and their families. Bi-lingual / Multi-lingual Support Workers have proven to be highly beneficial in the program. CMOs are also encouraged to be actively engaged in local interagency networks and to collaborate with other service providers in Northern Sydney. For more information about NSLHD go to the NSW Health website .

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	Region Name: Northern Sydney Local Health District areas Local Government Areas within Regions: North Sydney, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Mosman, Northern Beaches, Ryde, Willoughby, Parramatta (part)
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Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$6,069,033
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	218
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	125
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	63
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	8

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)
Population:	Approximately 936,302
Aboriginal Population:	10,350 people identifying as Aboriginal (2021 census)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 8.53% during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>In SESLHD, 40% of residents are born overseas and 34% speak a language other than English. The St George area is the most culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) with 58% speaking a language other than English at home. The top 5 languages other than English spoken by St George residents are: Mandarin (21%); Cantonese (14%); Greek (12%), Arabic (10%); Nepali (6%). Potential Community Living Supports (CLS) service providers should consider employing bi-lingual workers (particularly Mandarin and Cantonese speaking) and service collaboration with local CALD communities</p> <p>SESLHD has had significant growth in people aged over 65 years, particularly in the Georges River and Sutherland local government areas (LGAs) (both had a 17% increase between 2016-2021) and projected to continue to grow. Service providers should consider tailored supports and staff training to meet the needs of older people living with a mental health condition.</p> <p>Sutherland has the largest percentage of Aboriginal communities in SESLHD with 32%, then Randwick (23%) and Bayside (19%). Service providers should consider employment of Aboriginal support workers, collaboration with local Aboriginal services and staff training for these areas in particular.</p> <p>Of the population identified as experiencing homelessness in NSW (2021 Census), 16% were residing in SESLHD. Mental health inpatient wards have a high number of complex consumers who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. A snapshot survey of the eleven mental health inpatient units in SESLHD (September 2024) identified 18% as homeless and overall, 36% needed intervention around their homelessness and housing. Their experience of homelessness complicates both their ability to be referred to and plan for community follow-up and support as well as influences and destabilises their mental health. As a priority group as part of the CLS service model, service providers in SESLHD will need to enable access for people who experience homelessness, staff training to work with this cohort and supports to facilitate access and maintain stable accommodation.</p> <p>For more information about SESLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Eastern Suburbs</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Woollahra, Waverley, Randwick, Sydney (partial), Bayside (partial)</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: St George and Sutherland</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Georges River, Sutherland Shire, Bayside (partial)</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$4,913,277
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	177
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	101
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	7
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	50
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	7
B	Budget (for this region)	\$4,381,995
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	158
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	90
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	6

Region	District	Benchmark
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	45
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	6

South Western Sydney Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)
Population:	Approximately 936,902
Aboriginal Population:	Over 11,000 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 16.92% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>SWSLHD serves a diverse and rapidly growing population. The district spans a large geographical area that includes both metropolitan and rural communities, presenting unique challenges in Community Living Supports (CLS) service accessibility and delivery.</p> <p>SWSLHD has over 11,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, requiring culturally safe and responsive mental health services. The district also has one of the highest proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) populations in NSW, particularly in areas such as Bankstown, Fairfield, and Liverpool. This diversity requires tailored approaches to mental health support that respect cultural values and language needs.</p> <p>Socioeconomic disadvantage is prevalent across several local government areas (LGAs) within the district, contributing to higher rates of mental health conditions and complex psychosocial needs. This is compounded by the rapid expansion of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers establishing accommodation services in the region, which has led to concerns around quality, coordination, and continuity of care for individuals with psychosocial disabilities.</p> <p>The mix of urban centres and rural communities, such as those in Wingecarribee and Wollondilly, requires flexible service models that can adapt to local infrastructure limitations and workforce shortages. Transport barriers and limited weekend support options further impact service accessibility in these areas. Applicants for CLS in SWSLHD must be equipped to navigate this complexity, ensuring equitable access to high-quality, person-centred support across all regions of the district.</p> <p>For more information about SWSLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Bankstown Community Mental Health Service</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Canterbury-Bankstown</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Liverpool/Fairfield Community Mental Health Service</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Liverpool, Fairfield</p>
Region C	<p>Region Name: Macarthur/Wingecarribee Community Mental Health Service</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Camden, Campbelltown, Wingecarribee, Wollondilly</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$2,785,098
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	100
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	57
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	6
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	29
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	4
B	Budget (for this region)	\$4,712,765
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	169
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	97
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	10
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	48

Region	District	Benchmark
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	6
C	Budget (for this region)	\$4,030,351
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	145
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	83
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	9
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	41
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	5

Southern NSW Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD)
Population:	Approximately 226,296
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 4.2% of the population
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 21,597 people during the next 10 years, representing a 9.5% overall increase in population
Local Considerations:	SNSWLHD spans 44,534 square kilometres over seven local government areas (LGAs), with a population density of 5.1 people per square kilometre. In 2024, an estimated 22.6% of the total population was aged 65 years and over, higher than overall NSW percentage (17.9%). Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA is the most disadvantaged LGA in the district, followed by Eurobodalla and Bega Valley. For more information about SNSWLHD go to the NSW Health website .

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	Region Name: Inland Local Government Areas within Regions: Goulburn-Mulwaree, Yass Valley, Upper Lachlan, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro Regional
Region B	Region Name: Coastal Local Government Areas within Regions: Bega Valley, Eurobodalla

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$1,524,590
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	55
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	31
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	16
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
B	Budget (for this region)	\$1,016,393
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	37
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	21
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	10
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	1

Sydney Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Sydney Local Health District (SLHD)
Population:	Approximately 732,733
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 1% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 17.4% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	Within SLHD there are areas of high cultural and linguistic diversity, predominantly in the Western Sector, where up to 34% of residents were born in a non-English speaking country. SLHD has the largest proportion of boarding houses in NSW. Redfern in the Eastern sector is recognized as the symbolic heartland of the Aboriginal community in SLHD and there are thriving similar sized populations of Aboriginal people in the Western sector also. Additionally, SLHD contains suburbs with the highest proportions of same sex couples in the country. For more information about SNSWLHD go to the NSW Health website .

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for Community Living Supports (CLS) service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	Region Name: Eastern Sector Local Government Areas within Regions: City of Sydney Council (part), Inner West
Region B	Region Name: Western Sector Local Government Areas within Regions: Canada Bay, Burwood, Strathfield, Canterbury Bankstown (part)

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	2,547,978
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	92
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	52
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	26
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	3
B	Budget (for this region)	\$3,821,967
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	137
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	79
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	7
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	39
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	5

Western NSW Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD)
Population:	Approximately 287,337 people
Aboriginal Population:	Approximately 14.5% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 5.42% during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>WNSWLHD is geographically large, covering 31% of NSW. It has large remote areas in the North and West sectors. With its large size and population ranging from the east of the district where there are larger centres such as Orange, Bathurst and Dubbo, out to the west of the district where there are very remote and more vulnerable areas and populations, providing an equal and uniform standard of support with the Community Living Supports (CLS) Program across the LHD has been logistically difficult.</p> <p>In some areas, there is often limited NSW Health and community managed organisations (CMO) infrastructure to support services, coupled with the distances needed to travel to provide supports for these clients adds to the difficulty level compared to metropolitan districts.</p> <p>Aboriginal people make up 42% of the CLS cohort. Providing culturally responsive supports is an essential aspect in providing CLS in WNSWLHD. CMO's outreaching from larger centres result in less choice and support hours for consumers in more remote areas (with even higher Aboriginal populations in these areas).</p> <p>WNSWLHD has very limited public transport options for people engaging with the CLS program, which creates a barrier for access and places a greater need on the CLS providers to transport for supports.</p> <p>For more information about WNSWLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	<p>Region Name: Southern Sector</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Orange, Cabonne, Bathurst, Oberon, Blayney, Mid-Western, Cowra, Weddin, Forbes, Parkes, Lachlan (part)</p>
Region B	<p>Region Name: Northern Sector</p> <p>Local Government Areas within Regions: Dubbo, Narromine, Bogan, Warren, Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrine, Walgett, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warrumbungle</p>

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

*It should be noted that the anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day for all of WNSWLHD is 5. CLS service providers will be required to contribute to this district wide benchmark.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$1,837,405
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	66
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	38
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	12
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	19
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day*	2
B	Budget (for this region)	\$1,837,405
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	66
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	38
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	12
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	19
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day*	2

Western Sydney Local Health District Profile

District Details

District Name:	Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)
Population:	Approximately 1,089,181 people
Aboriginal Population:	Over 16,000 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people (with greater proportion of people in Mt Druitt and Blacktown areas)
Population Increase:	The population is expected to increase by a further 20.02% people during the next 10 years.
Local Considerations:	<p>WSLHD has a culturally diverse population, with 52.6% of people born outside Australia (which is significantly higher than the NSW average of 34.5%) and significant recent refugee settlement, particularly in Auburn and Parramatta local government areas (LGAs).</p> <p>Given WSLHDs diverse population, it is critical that successful Community Living Supports (CLS) service providers deliver holistic and culturally responsive mental health support that considers individual needs such as language barriers, cultural stigma around mental health and varying health literacy levels.</p> <p>The population of WSLHD also experiences substantial socioeconomic disadvantage, with areas like Mount Druitt ranking in the lowest socioeconomic status quintiles nationally.</p> <p>Other considerations for potential CLS service providers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of services given the geographical spread and limited public transport in WSLHD. Applicants should consider how they will incorporate mobile outreach to reach isolated communities and to a homeless population (the highest concentration of homelessness is in the Cumberland LGA). • The complexity of mental health conditions and the need for integrated community-based psychosocial supports across the continuum of care. • The need to develop and maintain partnerships with other local service providers to facilitate appropriate referrals and seamless support. <p>For more information about WSLHD go to the NSW Health website.</p>

Regions

Where the district is broken down into regions for CLS service delivery, these are outlined below.

Region A	Region Name: Cumberland Local Government Areas within Regions: Cumberland
Region B	Region Name: Parramatta Local Government Areas within Regions: Parramatta
Region C	Region Name: The Hills Shire Local Government Areas within Regions: The Hills Shire
Region D	Region Name: Blacktown Local Government Areas within Regions: Blacktown

Budgets and Benchmarks

The following provides information about the local CLS budget and benchmarks for the district and included regions.

Region	District	Benchmark
A	Budget (for this region)	\$2,487,070
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	89
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	51
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	26
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	3
B	Budget (for this region)	\$2,324,089
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	84
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	48

Region	District	Benchmark
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	5
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	24
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	3
C	Budget (for this region)	\$1,756,113
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	63
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	36
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	4
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	18
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	2
D	Budget (for this region)	\$3,879,091
	Number of hours of support to be funded per day	139
	Daily minimum number of consumers in the program	80
	Daily minimum number of Aboriginal consumers	9
	Number of referrals accepted from the district (50% of the total benchmark number of consumers)	40
	Anticipated number of consumers requiring more than 5 hours of support per day	5