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Illawarra Aboriginal community profile: a snapshot of an urban Aboriginal community

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Illawarra Aboriginal community profile: a snapshot of an urban Aboriginal community

Abstract

This community profile report provides information about the Aboriginal population of the Illawarra Region. It is intended to begin a discussion about how research can contribute to the social health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. The report highlights disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians that are apparent not only in the health statistics but also in almost every key socioeconomic indicator.

However the report is not just about ill-health and disadvantage. The Illawarra region has numerous well-established Aboriginal-controlled organisations which provide important leadership and social health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal people, many of which have survived within the region for more than 30 years. These hard working and resilient Aboriginal-controlled organisations have played a fundamental role in facilitating the engagement of the most marginalised and vulnerable sector of the community with mainstream society, contributing to social inclusion.

Keywords

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Authors

Kathleen F. Clapham, Scott F. Winch, Valerie Harwood, Peter James Kelly, Paul A. Chandler, Kate Senior, and Darcelle Wu



ILLAWARRA ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PROFILE:

A snapshot of an urban Aboriginal community
A Report by the University of Wollongong Indigenous
Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition

GLOBAL
CHALLENGES

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



ILLAWARRA ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PROFILE:

A snapshot of an urban Aboriginal
community

A report by the University of Wollongong Indigenous
Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition

APRIL 2016

For the University of Wollongong

Global Challenges: Transforming Lives and Regions

Caring for Community

Indigenous Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition

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UOW INDIGENOUS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY HEALTH RESEARCH COALITION

The University of Wollongong (UOW) Indigenous Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition brings together researchers from across Schools and Faculty Research Institutes. The coalition is led by Aboriginal researchers, combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers who possessed the passion and cultural capacity to work respectfully with Aboriginal communities. The researchers together form a diverse range of skills, experience, and methodological expertise from three Faculties (Science, Medicine & Health; Social Sciences and Business) and cross-disciplinary research activity with three Research Institutes: the Australian Health Services Research Institute; the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute; and the Early Start Research Institute. This places the coalition in a prime position not only to conduct initial research but also to develop the broader research agenda and attract further research funding. These researchers provided a global research perspective to the challenge of transforming the lives of Indigenous peoples living in regional areas and to promote greater health and social equity and aim to build a strong regional community partnership, national and international networks.

Governance of the research conducted by the coalition will take place via two key committees; Core Project Team and an Advisory Panel.

The core project team consist of a group of senior, mid-career and early career researchers who have demonstrated track record in research collaboration. This team will manage and oversee the research design, ethics and research activities.

The advisory panel will provide high level scientific advice, guidance and support for the research as well as cultural advice and direction. This group involves UOW academics and Aboriginal community partners. It brings together academics from across UOW with the core project team and Aboriginal and community leaders.

The forming of this coalition enabled UOW researchers to build a collaborative research relationship with regional Aboriginal communities with the purpose of developing a broad social health research agenda for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven communities to serve as a model for Aboriginal communities in other urbanised regions, both nationally and internationally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



ART: Story of the Star Fish.

This is the story of the star fish which is now better known as the star of the sea. These incredible creatures when harmed can regenerate a lost arm and has been used in the art work to represent renewal. The blue and brown dots surrounding the sea star are the rock pools full of water where you can often find the wonderful lifeforms of the ocean.

Artist: Kevin Butler was born in Nambucca Heads, New South Wales in 1962 and is part of the Gumbaingirr People. At the age of just 2 weeks he was removed by the Aboriginal protection Board and raised by a non Aboriginal family in Sydney. He moved to Wollongong in 1990 and these days he is employed part time as a school teacher and also is involved with many community art projects within the Illawarra area, having done several murals at various schools and local council projects.

As a child Kevin always had the ability to draw and it wasn't until 1988, when he was 26 years old, that he began painting Aboriginal art. Kevin is a self taught artist and this was his way of rediscovering his lost culture and heritage.

Further information on Kevin Butler can be found at: <https://www.daa0.org.au/bio/kevin-butler/>

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A LETTER FROM UOW INDIGENOUS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY HEALTH RESEARCH COALITION

A Letter from the University of Wollongong (UOW) Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition

This community profile report provides information about the Aboriginal population of the Illawarra Region. It is intended to begin a discussion about how research can contribute to the social health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. The report highlights disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians that are apparent not only in the health statistics but also in almost every key socioeconomic indicator.

However the report is not just about ill-health and disadvantage. The Illawarra region has numerous well-established Aboriginal-controlled organisations which provide important leadership and social health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal people, many of which have survived within the region for more than 30 years. These hard working and resilient Aboriginal-controlled organisations have played a fundamental role in facilitating the engagement of the most marginalised and vulnerable sector of the community with mainstream society, contributing to social inclusion.

The Global Challenge Program: 'Transforming lives and regions' research project driven by the UOW Indigenous Multi-Disciplinary Health Research Coalition seeks to address the social determinants of Indigenous health but also draws inspiration from traditions within the social sciences, which links research to action and participation. The Coalition consist of expertise and experience to observe the vital role of Aboriginal-controlled organisations creating new knowledges to build an improved degree of understanding and utilises innovative approaches to important, complex and urgent problems of health and social inequalities gaps, to achieve a more inclusive society. A key outcome is to develop a model of how effective sustainable Aboriginal-controlled organisations can contribute to transforming lives of Indigenous peoples living in regional areas and to promote greater health and social equity.

The information contained in this report is not exhaustive. The main purpose is to provide a snapshot of the strengths within the Illawarra Aboriginal community as well as the major indicators of relative social and economic disadvantage to determine collaborative research opportunities. It is hoped that this work will provide a platform for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between the University of Wollongong and the local Aboriginal community, and eventually serve as a model of partnerships between research and teaching institutions and Indigenous communities elsewhere.

Kathleen Clapham

INTRODUCTION

THE ILLAWARRA ABORIGINAL POPULATION

Indigenous peoples are said to be the most researched populations in the world^[1]. However, there is a long history of poor research practices where Aboriginal communities have been used to serve the academic endeavours of researchers without providing benefit and, in some instances, causing harm to the community. Over the past decade a number of specific ethical guidelines for research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been developed to assist researchers to conduct more ethical research which has genuine benefits for Aboriginal people^[2-6]. Such guidelines acknowledge that Aboriginal community members are the experts in their own communities; knowing which questions should be asked and the appropriate protocols for conducting research. Therefore, it is vital that Aboriginal communities drive research agendas to ensure that they are appropriate, beneficial and sustainable.

The Illawarra is made up of several areas that are defined differently in different contexts. Local Government Areas (LGAs) will be used in this report to define areas within the Illawarra. The Illawarra Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical division encompasses the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs, the Shoalhaven LGA and the Wingecarribee LGA^[7]. The report also utilises information relating to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), which does not include the Wingecarribee LGA. Other sources of information include the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Local Government Areas (LGAs)^[8, 9].

At the most recent census, 172,621 Aboriginal¹ people were reported as living in NSW, comprising 2.5% of the total population and 31.5% of the total Aboriginal population in Australia^[10]. There are a total of 10,763 Aboriginal people in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region, constituting 2.9% of the total Illawarra population (388,424) across Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven LGAs. Sixty per cent of Aboriginal residents (6,445) live in the Illawarra region and forty per cent live in the Shoalhaven (4,318).

Table 1 outlines the Aboriginal population as a proportion of the total population for Local Government Areas in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven. The greatest number and proportion of Aboriginal people live within the Shoalhaven LGA. The Wollongong LGA has the next highest number of Aboriginal residents; however, they form a smaller proportion of the Wollongong total population.

TABLE 1: ABORIGINAL POPULATION FOR ALL LGAs IN THE ILLAWARRA IN 2011

LGA	Total Population	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Wollongong LGA	192,418	4,228 (2.2%)
Shellharbour LGA	63,605	1,929 (3.0%)
Kiama LGA	19,986	285 (1.4%)
Shoalhaven LGA	92,812	4,317 (4.7%)
Wingecarribee LGA	44,395	802 (1.8%)

SOURCE: Compiled from ABS 2011 Census Data Statistics By Local Government Areas^[11]

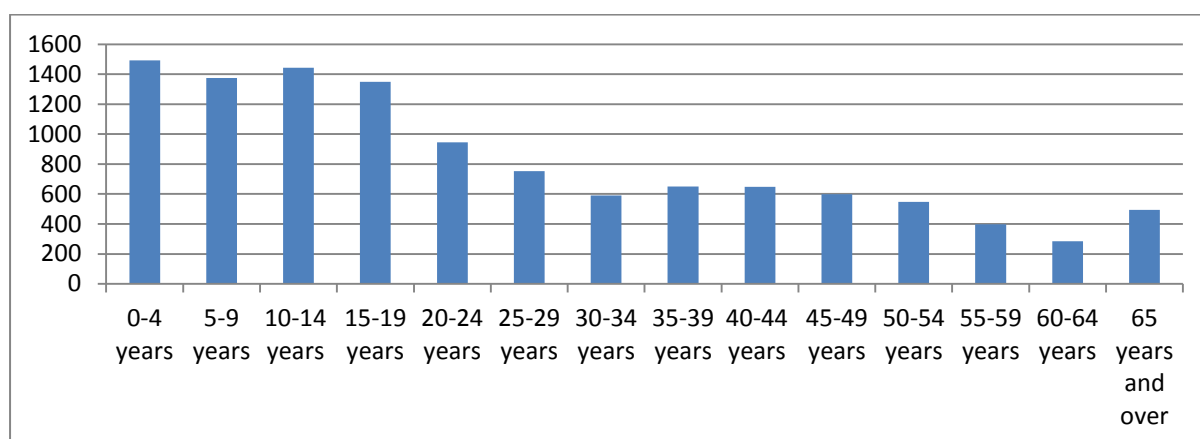
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are typically 'young' populations. In the Illawarra, 37% of Aboriginal ISLHD residents are under 15 years of age, compared with 19% of non-Aboriginal

¹ Please note that throughout this document the words "Indigenous" and "Aboriginal" refer to "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people".

residents. Persons aged 65 years and over comprised 4% of the Aboriginal population and 18% of the non-Aboriginal population.

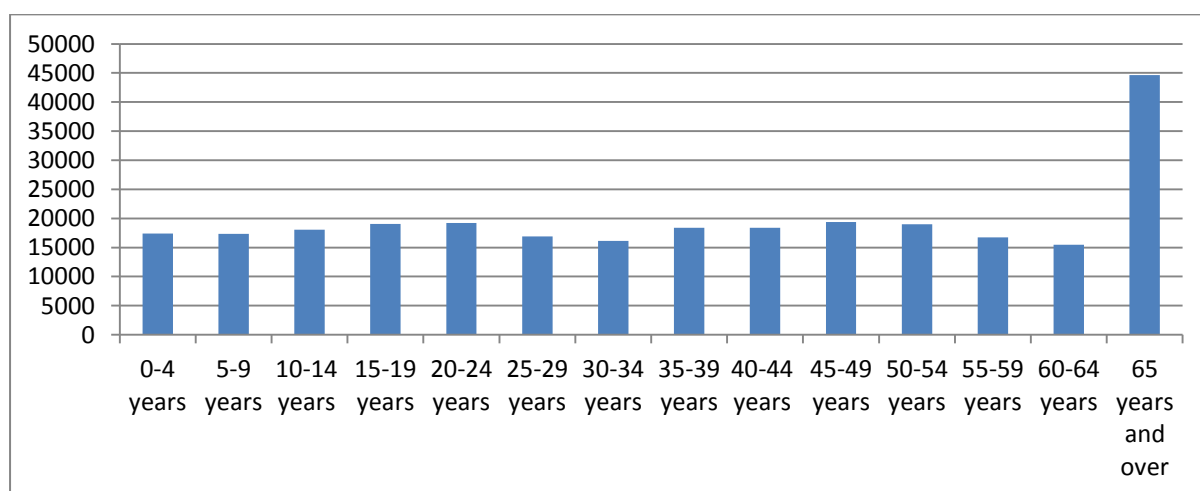
Figures 1 and 2 provide an overview of the difference between the age profile for Aboriginal people for the combined Illawarra/Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee LGAs and the total combined LGA population. As described above, the Aboriginal population is comprised of a predominantly younger population with numbers decreasing with age (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: AGE PROFILE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (NUMBER OF PERSONS) FOR THE ILLAWARRA/ SHOALHAVEN/ WINGECARRIBEE AREA IN 2011



SOURCE: Compiled from ABS 2011 Census Data Statistics By Local Government Areas^[11]

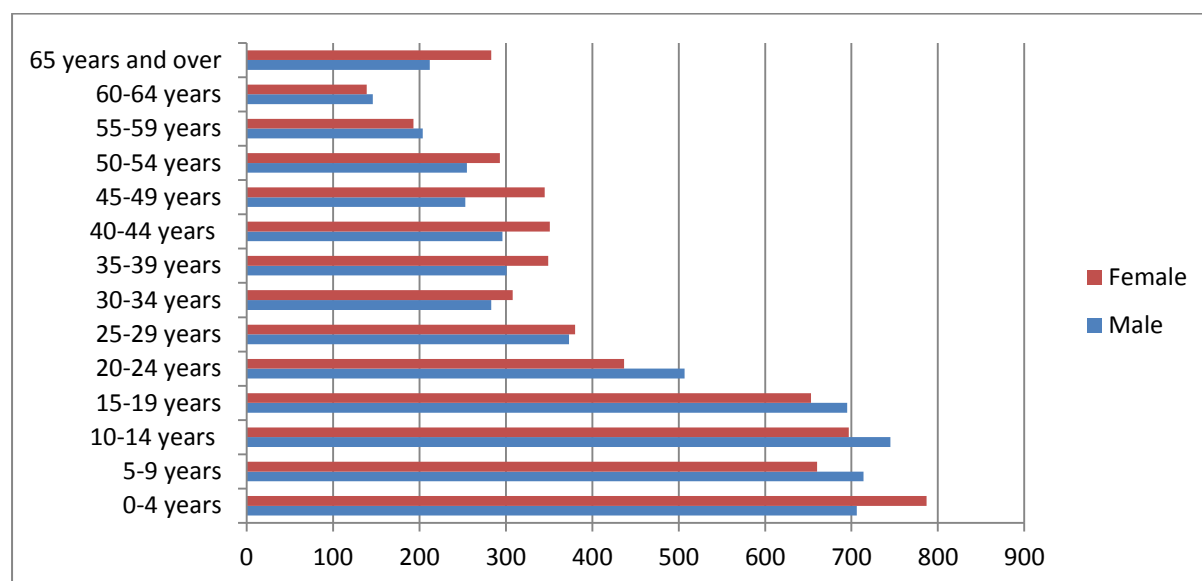
FIGURE 2: AGE PROFILE OF ALL PEOPLE (NUMBER OF PERSONS) FOR THE ILLAWARRA/SOALHAVEN/ WINGECARRIBEE AREA IN 2011



SOURCE: Compiled from ABS 2011 Census data statistics by Local Government Areas^[11]

In 2011, the number of Aboriginal males was only slightly less than the number of Aboriginal females. The proportion of the total number of Aboriginal males in all LGAs was 49.2% (n=5690) and for females in all LGAs was 50.8% (n=5875). Figure 3 provides an age profile of Aboriginal males and females in all LGAs, indicating that during the school age and young adult years there tended to be more males than females, and in adult and older adult (over 65 years) age groups there tended to be more females than males.

FIGURE 3: AGE PROFILE BY SEX FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN ALL LGAs



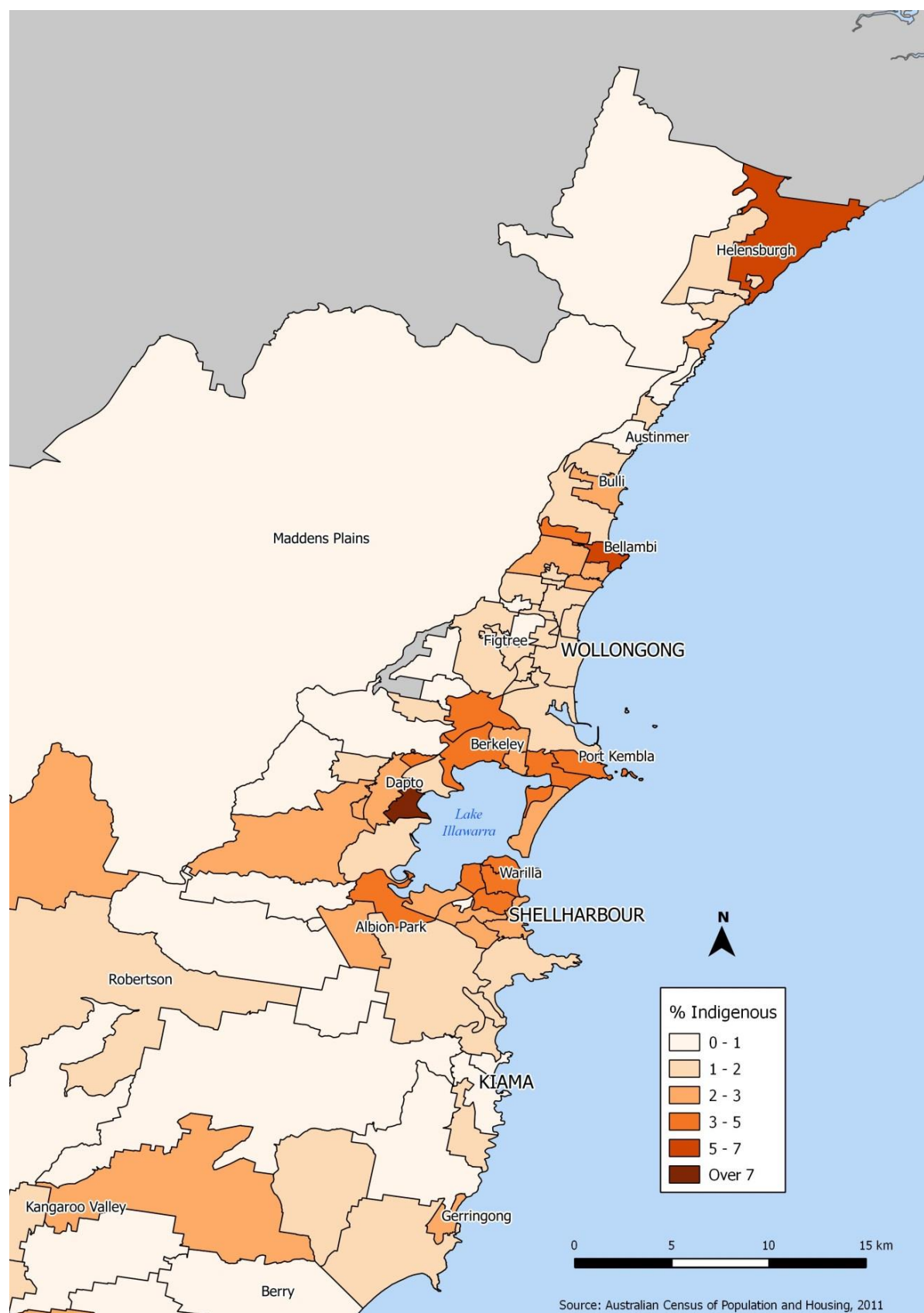
SOURCE: Compiled from ABS 2011 Census data statistics by Local Government Areas^[11]

WHERE WE LIVE

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) has been developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and enables statisticians to rank areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The Indexes are based on information from the five-yearly Census^[12].

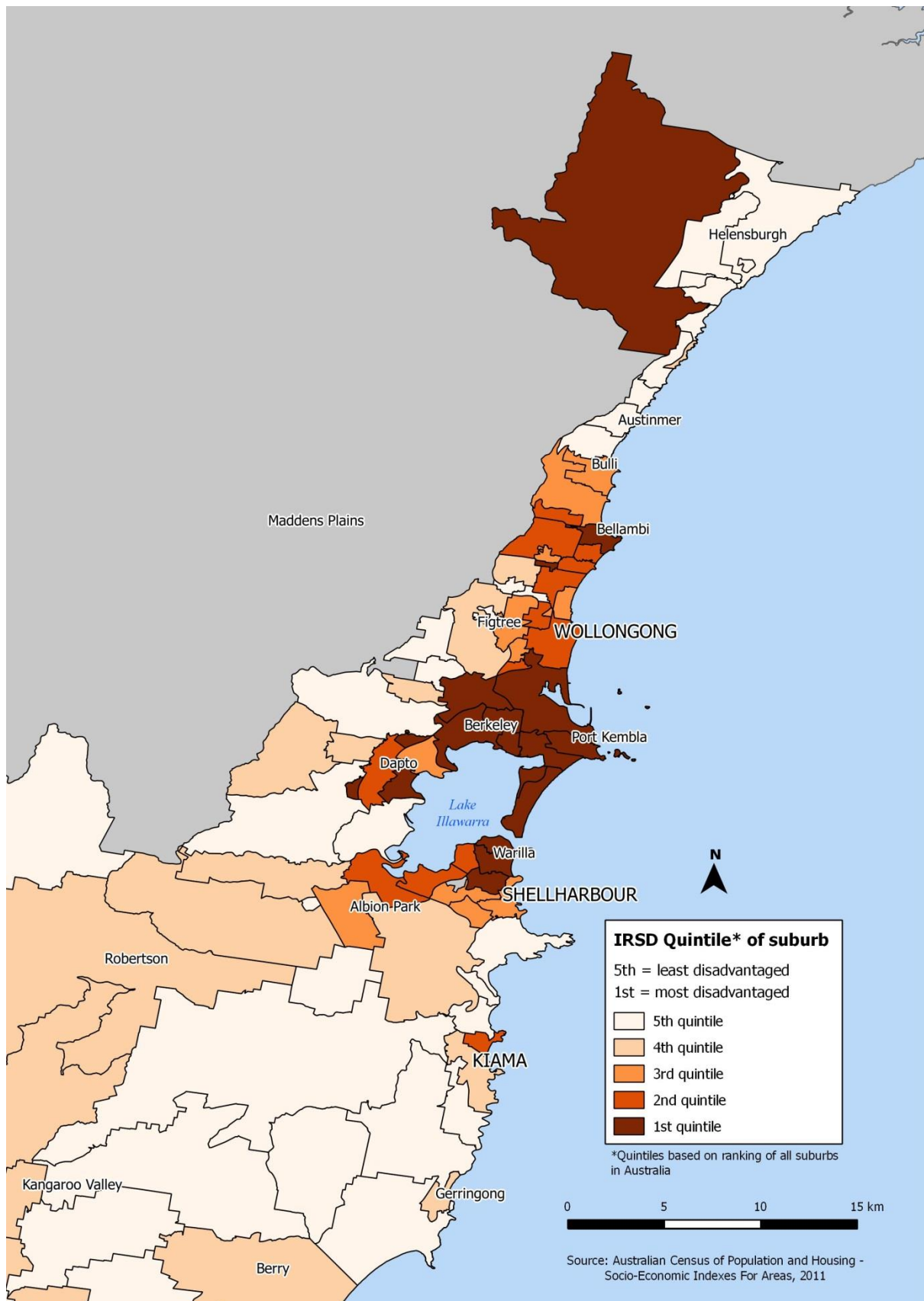
Based on the 2011 Census information and the SEIFA index, the locations in which Aboriginal people within the Illawarra and Shoalhaven live are also areas where there are high levels of social disadvantage, high unemployment, lower incomes and where children and young people typically experience poorer educational outcomes as well as significantly worse health outcomes and poorer access to services^[13].

MAP 1: INDIGENOUS PERSONS BY SUBURB WOLLONGONG, KIAMA AND SHELLHARBOUR 2011



SOURCE: ABS 2011 CENSUS DATA STATISTICS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

MAP 2: SEIFA BY ILLAWARRA SUBURBS 2011



SOURCE: ABS 2011 CENSUS DATA STATISTICS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Indigenous Australians have inhabited the continent of Australia for at least 40,000 years^[14]. Indigenous Australia is multifaceted and diverse and is made up of numerous groups and sub-groups. The coastal areas of Sydney, the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions, Parramatta, Liverpool and surrounding areas are the Dharawal people's lands^[15]. The first language of the Dharawal people is also known as Dharawal. Within the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions the Dharawal nation has numerous sub-groups which are known as traditional owners and include the Wodi Wodi people who have generationally occupied the lands surrounding Berkeley, Hooka Creek and Lake Illawarra. Other numerous nation groups include: The Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh Tribal Elders (KEJ); Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation; Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation; and the Wodi Wodi Traditional Owner Corporation. There are also numerous other nation groups residing in the Illawarra regions, not limited to: Yuin, Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi, Bundjalung, Dunghutti and Gumbayggir nation groups. Torres Strait Islander people also reside within the Illawarra regions. These many different nation groups add great diversity to the Illawarra regions, bringing with them their unique heritage, different cultural practices and spiritual beliefs^[16].

In 1770, James Cook and Joseph Banks, in a quest for imperial domination, observed that the east coast of Australia was sparsely populated by Aboriginal people. From their observations they evaluated that Aboriginal Australians were incapable of negotiating a treaty and subsequently claimed Australia for the British Empire. The colonisation of Australia in 1788 was based on these misconceptions, yet Governor Arthur Phillip quickly came to appreciate that Aboriginal people had social organisation, settled localities, customary law and property rights^[17]. Preceding the invasion of Australia, Aboriginal people lived lives that were relevant and recurrent for the living conditions and environment. Prior to British invasion in 1788 there were an estimated 750,000 people and around 230 Indigenous languages with each language group being culturally distinct. Indigenous Australians existed within a living configuration that was not only appropriate for their needs but was also shrouded with a deep cultural and traditional sense of purpose, belonging and steadfastness. However, after invasion, Indigenous Australian lifestyles were altered considerably^[18]. These consequences had detrimental effects on Indigenous Australian's health, not just physically, but also emotionally, mentally and spiritually^[19].

THE STRENGTHS WITHIN COMMUNITY

The Illawarra region has numerous well-established Aboriginal-controlled organisations which provide important leadership and services for Aboriginal people, as well as not-for-profit and government-supported services and programs which address the needs of the local Aboriginal population. The following section does not include all of the strong Aboriginal organisations, but rather provides a snapshot of some of the regional organisations currently providing services and programs within the region.



PHOTO 1: ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE IAMS

AUNTY JEAN'S CHRONIC CARE PROGRAM

The Aunty Jean's Chronic Care Program focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic conditions. The program is named after the beloved Aunty Jean Morris, who had a long association with the Aboriginal Culture Centre. The Program's primary aim is to develop a model of health promotion for education and self-management. The Program is open to Indigenous persons and aging community members with chronic disease.

Aunty Jean's was originally developed and piloted within the Illawarra region of NSW in 2003 and has continued to grow^[21]. Other regions across the state have witnessed the positive outcomes of the Aunty Jean's Program in the Illawarra and have since established their own programs. These include: Albury, Tumut, Griffith, Darlington Point, Moama, Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Bega, Eden and Moruya. A Mini Olympics was introduced as a competition between the regional programs^[22]. The Program's success is partly due to local Elders leading the way in self-management.

AUNTY MARY DAVIS OUTREACH CENTRE

The Aunty Mary Davis Outreach Centre is located at Warilla, south of Wollongong City. This Centre is categorised under *Disabled Persons' Support Organisations - Disability Services*. A strong focus of the Centre is on community support with multiple programs assisting Aboriginal people across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. The Aunty Mary Davis Outreach Centre provides links, referrals and pathways to numerous health and welfare services throughout the Illawarra, with the aim to facilitate all Aboriginal people who enter the building. The Centre also supports the community in

numerous ways by assisting in areas of family violence, child care, housing and legal matters. Workshops are available sporadically throughout the year and free internet service is available. The Centre's philosophy is to be approachable and inclusive - 'drop in and have a yarn to our friendly staff for support, advice and referrals to other services'.

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) is an educational program that supports Indigenous students from high school through to University and empowers Indigenous students with self-belief and confidence. AIME's philosophy is simple, yet extremely effective – students mentoring students. AIME encourages Indigenous youth to consider high school, higher education, university and employment, to enhance opportunities for the student's futures. AIME was established in 2005 with 25 Indigenous high school students (mentees) and 25 university students (mentors). Currently, there are 3,500 mentees with 1,250 mentors across 29 locations. Evidence highlights that in 2013, year 9 AIME students were five times more likely to go to university than the average Indigenous Australian student (20.4% for AIME students compared to 4.1% for all Indigenous). One of the main strengths of AIME is that it brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous youths and young adults together to work collaboratively. AIME believes that "*Indigenous = success*" – with strong and moving mottos such as this, Indigenous youths will aim towards new heights^[20].

COOMADITCHIE UNITED ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation (CUAC) is a community-based organisation which operates from the Community Hall adjacent to Coomaditchie, an ex-Aboriginal mission in Kemblawarra. CUAC was established as a community organisation in 1992, primarily because of the neglect and lack of service provision to the Coomaditchie community. Since incorporation in 1993, the organisation has provided welfare and advocacy services to the community for over twenty years.



PHOTO 2: AUNTY LORRAINE BROWN AND AUNTY NARELLE THOMAS (CUAC)

In recent years CUAC has been funded as a 'Community Hub' to provide welfare and other services which strengthen connections between the Aboriginal community and the broader Australian community^[23]. CUAC is strongly committed to promoting pride in Aboriginal culture and heritage through its Community Art Program and Bush Regeneration Programs. These programs operationalise CUAC's commitment to community cultural education as a way of breaking down barriers between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The artists of the Coomaditchie Co-operative are expressive Aboriginal artists who are leading the way within the Illawarra region. They have contributed to many outdoor works and have held very successful art exhibitions – gaining respect and a following of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists and communities across the country^[24]. The important cultural focus of the Hub makes it a unique and valuable resource for the region.

ILLAWARRA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The Illawarra Aboriginal Cooperation (IAC) was established over 30 years ago and was incorporated for 28 years under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. The organisation is not-for-profit and is Aboriginal operated. The IAC has a board of Directors and employs staff across 5 sites around the Illawarra. The IAC has workplaces throughout the Illawarra and is based in the Wollongong City. The Culture Centre delivers a wide range of health and welfare programs including housing, emergency relief, aged care programs, Elders Groups, cultural services, confirmation of Aboriginality and venue hire as well as administration and management provisions. Child, youth and family services are also at the forefront of the organisation along with employment and training opportunities. The IAC is committed to local Aboriginal people's cultural, social and economic needs within the Illawarra region. The IAC also flows into Myimbarr Aboriginal Family Support, Warrigal Employment and Noogaleek Children's Centre^[27, 28].

ILLAWARRA ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE



The Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service (IAMS) was established in 1998 in the Illawarra, with the Dapto office opening in 2004. The IAMS provides a range of quality primary health care to the local Aboriginal community including medical, health and other multidisciplinary services. The IAMS also supports community groups within the Illawarra such as the Aunty Jean's Chronic Care Program, Illawarra Aboriginal Men's Physical Health and Training Program (IAMPHAT) and the Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group (IKMSG). The IAMS workforce is comprised of 42 staff, of which 22 (50%) identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. Doctors, nurses and Aboriginal health workers are established within the general practice and outreach services^[25].

PHOTO 3: LAUNCH OF THE NSW HEALTH DENTAL SCHOLARSHIP AT IAMS 2015

PHOTO 4: IAMS DENTAL SERVICE

ILLAWARRA KOORI MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP



PHOTO 4: UNCLE GERALD BROWN AND IKMSG MEMBERS (SOURCED KIAMA INDEPENDENT - PICTURE HAYLEY WARDEN)

The Illawarra Koori Men's Support Group (IKMSG) is a not-for-profit organisation, directed by Aboriginal men for Aboriginal men in matters of health and welfare and is a culturally safe place for its members. The IKMSG is located at Albion Park and is very close to amenities and public transport. The IKMSG state "We are proud of our cultural heritage and tradition and our shirts are a symbol of our commitment to the values of our group – cultural pride, respect, trust, commitment and support". The achievements of the group are: its continual support to one another, their uplifting presence in the community and positive leadership roles. Other successes of the group lie within their vision "supporting men" and "creating change" as the group is also based on respect for self, women and family values - which have a positive follow-on effect for the community at large. The group's unwavering commitment to one another and to the young men and boys in the community is making a positive difference which is changing and enhancing lives for good. The group has its own transport and drivers, enabling them to be present at numerous community events across the Illawarra, serving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander community continually and graciously^[26].

ILLAWARRA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL

The Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council's (ILALC) primary objectives are determined by *Part 5 (51)* of the *New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. These are: to improve, protect and foster the best interests of all Aboriginal persons within the Councils area and other persons who are members of the Council. Aboriginal lands councils have multiple roles which include site assessments that safeguard against a breach of the *National Park and Wildlife Act* and the *Environmental Protection Act*. ILALC Aboriginal Site Officers can conduct a Cultural Heritage Site Assessment prior to the lodgement of a Development Application (DA) and monitor all ground breaking work through the development process. Over the past few years ILALC have been involved in the protection of over 95 cultural sites and have employed over 18 Site Officers. They provide ongoing training which consists of first aid, OH&S certificate; learn data management systems, gain knowledge on rock art conservation and instruction in asbestos removal and handling training.

According to the *New South Wales Land Rights Act 1983*, the main function of the Local Land Councils, is to make claims to Crown Land and to acquire and manage land on behalf of its members. For that reason, ILALC research and make claims on vacant Crown Land within the Illawarra

boundaries, whilst continuing its land claims process to ensure its asset base continues to grow for the benefit of all of its members.

Repatriation of Aboriginal remains is of a great concern to Aboriginal people because in the nineteenth century it was common practice to steal the bodies of Aboriginal people for research and display in museums and other scientific institutions. This caused great distress to Aboriginal people who believe that not being buried on your own Country means that the Aboriginal spirit cannot be released. ILALC is committed to returning remains of the Illawarra Aboriginal people back to their own Country. Other areas of interest in which ILALC play an essential role is housing, which helps equip members with suitable and affordable housing, clean water and decent living conditions. Past and present projects of ILALC are Caring for Country, the Vegetation Management Plan and ILALC Clean Up and Deterrence of Illegal dumping on Aboriginal Land - all are highly significant programs for ILALC and the local community.

MYIMBARR

Myimbarr is a division of the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation (IAC) and is located within Wollongong City. The organisation provides multiple programs situated throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. The Wollongong services include the Out of Home Care (OOHC – Foster Care Service) and the Homelessness Action Plan (HAP). In addition to this, the office at Oak flats provides the services of Protecting Aboriginal Children Together (PACT) and the Learning Centre which is run from Warrigal Employment.

The purpose of Myimbarr is to provide vital support to children and young people as well as their families. Myimbarr states: “caring for Aboriginal children and young people and keeping them safe and connected to their community”. Some of Myimbarr’s objectives include: ‘Keep Aboriginal children and young people safe’, ‘Protect children and young people from abuse and exploration by offering a place of safety in times when it is needed’ and ‘Provide out of home care as a last resort and only when such care is in the best interest of the child’. In addition to this, Myimbarr have essential and strict criteria for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people wishing to become foster parents. Myimbarr also support ongoing foster parents to provide the very best care to the individual needs of children and young people^[29].

NOOGALEEK CHILDREN’S CENTRE

Noogaleek Children’s Centre (Multifaceted Aboriginal Children’s Services) was established more than 20 years ago when local Koori women and Community members decided that they wanted something better for their children, grandchildren, extended families and friends. A playgroup known as ‘Apple playgroup’ eventually became Noogaleek Children’s Centre (MACS). Noogaleek MACS is located in Berkeley NSW which is 20 minutes from the Wollongong CBD and runs in conjunction with the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation. The Centre offers employment to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers and employees of which 80% are of Aboriginal descent. It currently has around 74 families enrolled, the majority of whom are Aboriginal. Noogaleek is also inclusive of non-Aboriginal families. There are 39 placements for children, as well as a waiting list pending placement availability. The ages of the children range from babies to 6 years of age. The centre also provides transport to its Aboriginal cliental.

The Centre offers a wide range of services including: education with an emphasis on Aboriginal culture; multiple health and support programs; nutritional based programs; regular otitis media and

hearing checks; as well as dental and other developmental assessments (DET early intervention and transition to schools for children entering kindergarten services). Welfare support and mentor services are very important to the facility as well. There is an open door policy welcoming both family and community.

SHELLHARBOUR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY YOUTH ASSOCIATION

The Shellharbour Aboriginal Community Youth Association (SACYA) is an organisation designed to assist Aboriginal people aged between 12-24 years of age by providing multiple programs and projects within the association. Their opening hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm. Sound education programs, as well as an 'Alternative Learning Centre' assist Aboriginal people daily. The organisation also offers 'Lifestyle Programs' with guidance on matters relating to health, sexual health and domestic violence. In addition to this, 'School holiday programs' are available and sought after with great enthusiasm from local Aboriginal community members. Whilst other programs, such as the 'Driving Change – Indigenous Youth Driver Licensing Program', are also highly sought after and successful in their implementation. SACYA provide valuable knowledge and guidance to local Aboriginal youth 12-24 years of age from the Shellharbour regions.

WOOLYUNGAH INDIGENOUS CENTRE

An Indigenous presence in academia and student support has been well established at the University of Wollongong for around 30 years. In the early 1980s, the Faculty of Education established a unit to respond to the needs of Aboriginal students on campus. The Aboriginal Education Unit contacted all of the Aboriginal students that were currently studying at the University to offer them a place to study, seek guidance and meet other Aboriginal students. In 2006, the Unit was renamed Woolyungah Indigenous Centre. The Centre is responsible for Indigenous student recruitment, access and support across the University. Its programs aim to foster equity by supporting Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from entry to University through to successful completion. The Centre continues to provide entry pathways and support services to Indigenous Australians pursuing tertiary study. It maintains a strong collegial relationship with our Indigenous academic colleagues who work from the Indigenous Studies Unit in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts.



PHOTO 5: STUDENTS AND TUTOR AT WOOLYUNGAH

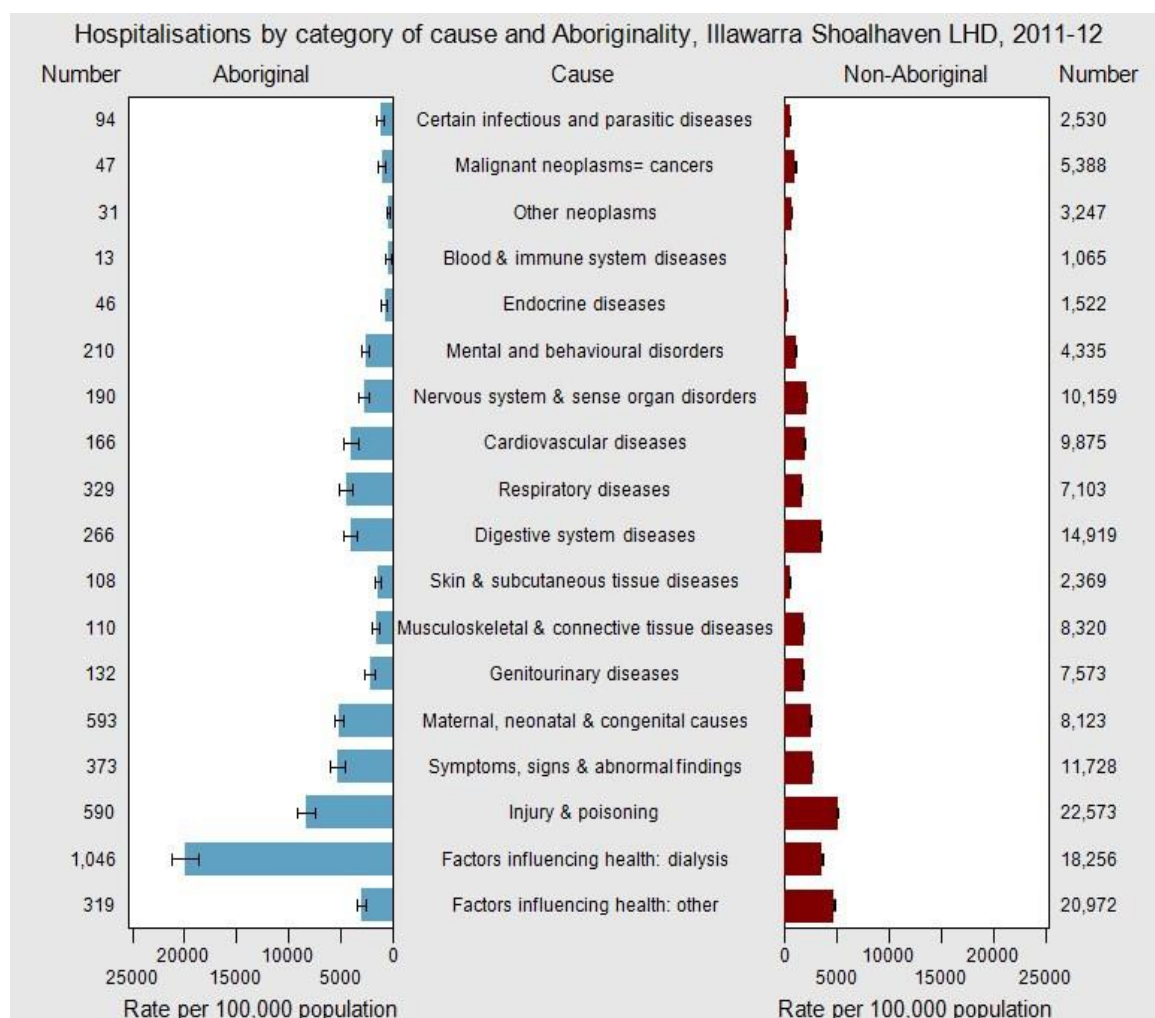
HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

PATTERNS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

The disparities in life expectancy and the poorer health status of Indigenous Australians compared to all Australians is well documented^[30, 31] and has been the major focus of national, State and Territory health policies since 2008^[32, 33]. About 80% of the mortality gap between Indigenous and other Australians aged 35–74 years is due to chronic disease^[34]. Together, non-communicable diseases constitute over 70% of the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, as measured in Disability Adjusted Life Years or DALYs^[30]. Another 9% of the health gap is due to injuries (intentional and unintentional)^[30].

The main causes of hospitalisation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the ISLHD in 2011-12 are outlined in Figure 4 below. Of note is the high rate of hospitalisation among Aboriginal people for dialysis (21.1%). Other high rates include injury and poisoning (9.2%); symptoms, signs and abnormal findings (6.0%); and maternal, neonatal and congenital causes (5.6%). The rate of hospitalisations was higher in almost all causes except for ‘other neoplasms’, ‘musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders’ and ‘factors influencing health: other’.

FIGURE 4: HOSPITALISATIONS BY CATEGORY OF CAUSE AND ABORIGINALITY, ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LHD, 2011-12



SOURCE: Health Statistics NSW^[35]

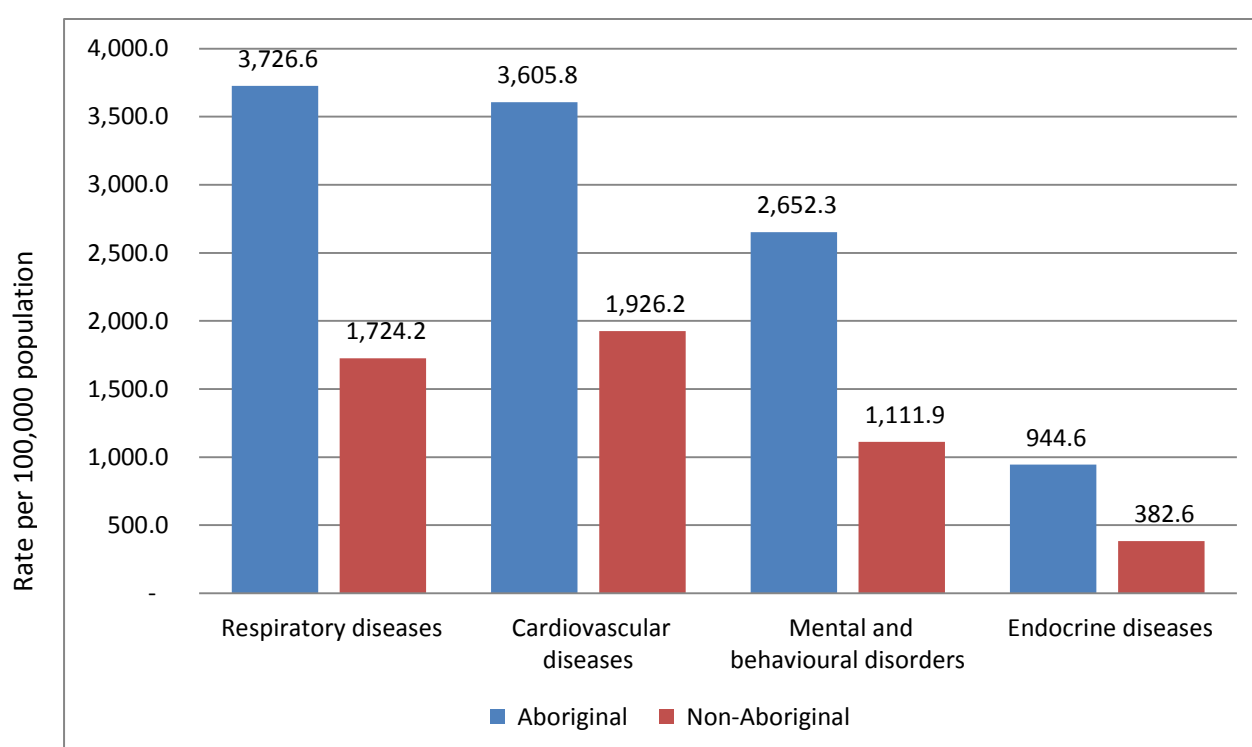
Hospitalisations for all causes by Aboriginality for the ISLHD rose from 804 (13847.9 per 100,000) in 1993-94 to 4668 (68602.8 per 100,000) in 2011-12. Hospitalisations for all causes for the total population of the ISLHD rose from 90,288 (27717.8 per 100,000) in 1993-94 to 165,626 (37645.1 per 100,000) in 2011-12. (See Figure 5)

TABLE 2: HOSPITALISATIONS FOR PEOPLE IN THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LHD, 1993-4 TO 2011-12

	Male		Female		Total	
	N	per 100,000	N	per 100,000	N	per 100,000
Aboriginal 1993-94	326	11,804.9	478	15,677.6	804	13,847.9
Total ISLHD 1993-94	42,357	26,732.3	47,931	29,144.8	90,288	27,717.8
Aboriginal 2011-12	1,897	56,305.1	2,770	79,638.8	4,668	68,602.8
Total ISLHD 2011-12	79,775	36,852.6	85,851	38,770.1	165,626	37,645.1

SOURCE: Compiled from Health Statistics NSW^[36]

FIGURE 5: TOP 5 CAUSE OF HOSPITALISATION, ABORIGINALITY NSW ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LHD, 2010-11 (EXCLUDING DIALYSIS)



SOURCE: Reproduced from Health Statistics New South Wales^[35]

Figure 6 above indicates that the rate of hospitalisations for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra has increased markedly compared to the total population. In 1993-94, the hospitalisation rate for Aboriginal people was approximately 13.8%. In 2011-12, the hospitalisation rate for Aboriginal people in the ISLHD area was 68.6%. For all residents in the ISLHD, hospitalisation in 1993-94 was 27.7% and in 2011-12 it was 37.6%. The hospitalisation rate for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra Shoalhaven has surpassed that of all residents by over 30%^[37, 38]. The figures require careful interpretation and may indicate that Aboriginal people are accessing the care they need more than in the past; however the size of the increase suggests a significant increase in morbidity.

Hospitalisation rates for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra Shoalhaven have surpassed the rates of the total ISLHD population. This is particularly so for Aboriginal women who are twice as likely to be hospitalised compared to all women in the Illawarra Shoalhaven. For Aboriginal women residing in

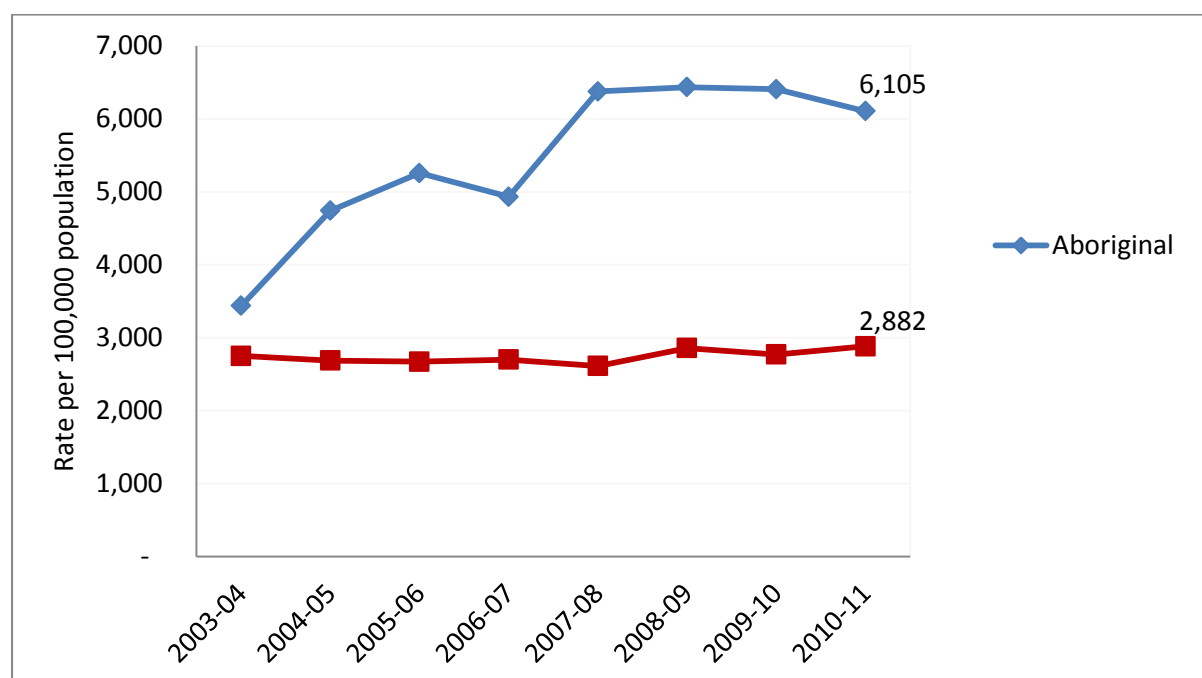
the ISLHD, the hospitalisation rate in 2011-12 was 79.6% compared to 38.8% for all residents. For Aboriginal men, the hospitalisation rate was 56.3% compared to 36.9% for all residents.

The most important cause for hospitalisation of Aboriginal people in the ISLHD was dialysis. The rate for Aboriginal people was 19.9% compared to 3.9% for all residents. The next most important cause for hospitalisation was for injury and poisoning at 8.3% for Aboriginal people compared to 5.2% for all residents^[38].

POTENTIALLY PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS

Potentially preventable hospitalisations are hospital admissions that could have been avoided by providing appropriate preventive care or early medical treatment in primary health-care settings.

FIGURE 6: POTENTIALLY PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS BY ABORIGINALITY, ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LHD, 2003-4 TO 2010-11



SOURCE: Reproduced from Health Statistics New South Wales^[35]

UNPLANNED HOSPITAL READMISSIONS WITHIN 28 DAYS

An unplanned hospital readmission is defined as: a readmission within 28 days of discharge from the first admission to the same facility which was not planned. It is an indicator of the quality and continuity of care provided to patients while in hospital and in the weeks following discharge^[39]. Unplanned readmissions within 28 days and discharge against medical advice from inpatient care, are indicators of the quality of care provided to Aboriginal people while inpatients in hospital and are used as a measure of the cultural competence of the health service^[37].

The five Local Health Districts with the highest proportion of unplanned readmissions within 28 days for Aboriginal people were Southern NSW (13.2%), Mid North Coast (11.0%), Illawarra Shoalhaven (9.8%), Western NSW (8.4%) and Sydney (8.3%).

The higher proportion of unplanned hospital admissions within 28 days among Aboriginal people in 2010 resulted in 711 additional readmissions that could have been avoided through appropriate out of hospital care and support, for rates to be the same between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal

people. At the Local Health District level, the different proportion amounted to 136 additional readmissions of Aboriginal people in the Mid North Coast, 129 additional readmissions in Western NSW and 85 additional readmissions in Southern NSW.

CHRONIC DISEASE

The prevention and management of chronic disease are important health issues for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra. There has been a significant focus on chronic disease in the Indigenous populations in remote areas, with reported improvements in Indigenous mortality from chronic disease in these areas^[40]. However in urban areas, work towards alleviating the gap through health improvements in urban areas is still relatively new.

There is no standard definition of 'chronic disease'. The major disease groups that are classified as 'chronic' in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) are: diseases of the circulatory system; cancers; endocrine and metabolic diseases; diseases of the respiratory, digestive, genitourinary and nervous systems; and mental and behavioural disorders^[41]. Chronic disease is characteristically associated with: complex causality and multiple risk factors; gradual onset often with no symptoms; long lasting; with the development of other chronic diseases; and functional impairment or disability. Chronic diseases place a huge burden on the health of Indigenous Australians in terms of morbidity and disability. They also impact significantly on individual Aboriginal people, their carers, families and communities, as well as on the health system.

A broad range of factors are known to contribute to the higher burden of chronic disease in Indigenous people including lower socioeconomic status and other social determinants of health, and poorer access to health care for the prevention and early diagnosis of disease. Also contributing to poorer Indigenous health are a wide range of historical and cultural factors including racism; loss of language and connection to the land; environmental deprivation; and spiritual, emotional, and mental disconnectedness.

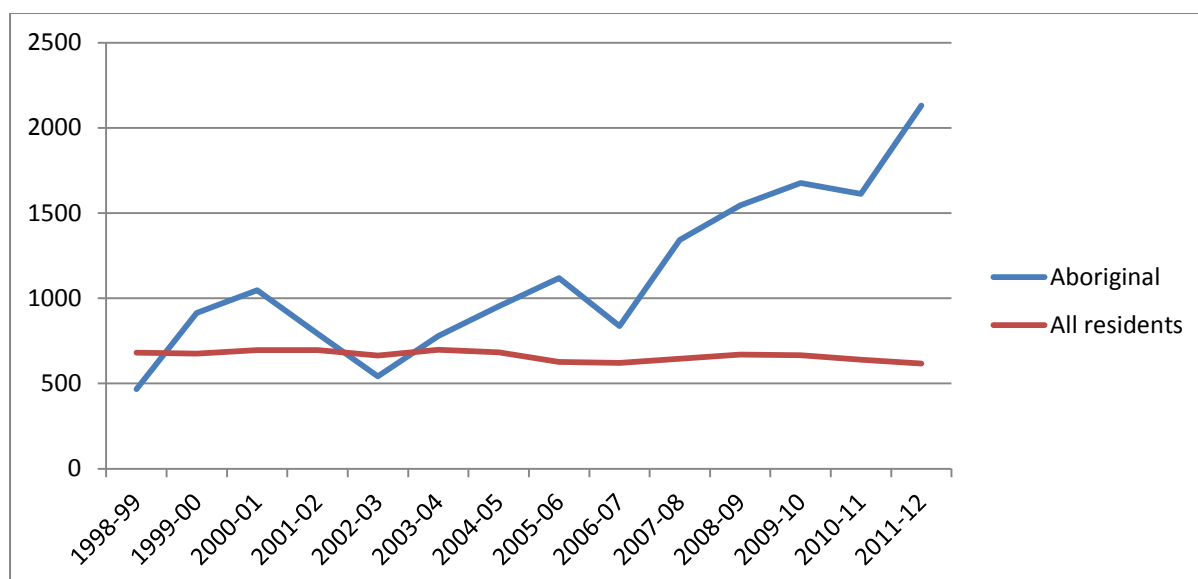
Improving chronic disease management and follow-up was one of three of the key aims of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package (ICDP) – the Australian Government's contribution to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes in 2008. However there is little empirical evidence to date on the efficacy of chronic disease care planning for Aboriginal chronic disease patients in relation to hospital readmissions.

ALCOHOL AND SMOKING ATTRIBUTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS

In 2011-12 alcohol attributable hospitalisations for Aboriginal people in the ISLHD was approximately 1.8% compared to approximately 0.7% for all ISLHD residents. In 1998-99 alcohol attributable hospitalisations for both Aboriginal people and all residents was approximately 0.5%.

Between 1998-99 and 2011-12 smoking attributable hospitalisations for Aboriginal people in the ISLHD has shown a rising trend compared to an essentially flat trend for all residents in the same period. Smoking attributable hospitalisations for Aboriginal people in 2011-12 was 2.1% compared to 0.6% for all residents (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 7: SMOKING ATTRIBUTABLE HOSPITALISATION PER 100,000 FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LHD



SOURCE: Reproduced from: Health Statistics NSW^[35]

MATERNAL AND CHILD INDICATORS

In the ISLHD, the percentage of Aboriginal mothers who smoked during pregnancy was 45.5%. This is high compared to 14.7% for all ISLHD residents; however, it was below the 49.9% of Aboriginal mothers who smoked during pregnancy for all local health districts combined.

The percentage of mothers attending prenatal care in the ISLHD appears to be very low compared to all LHDs combined. In 2012, 21.1% of Aboriginal mothers booked a prenatal care visit within the ISLHD compared to 51% for all LHDs. There has been recent changes in how this information is collected and recorded, resulting in a reduction in numbers. Due to underreporting of Aboriginal mothers in the perinatal data collection, it is likely that the actual numbers are substantially higher than shown (Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence, 2014).

Low birth weight babies born to Aboriginal mothers in the ISLHD in 2011-2012 was 9.2% compared to 11.6% of Aboriginal babies across all of NSW. While the proportion of LBW Aboriginal babies in the ISLHD is lower for Aboriginal babies across NSW, this is still high compared to 6.1% for all babies in both the ISLHD and all of NSW.

Preterm births for Aboriginal babies in the ISLHD were 13.6% compared to 8.4% for all babies in the ISLHD. These proportions are slightly higher compared to all of NSW with 12.9% of Aboriginal babies across NSW born preterm and 7.5% for all babies across NSW.

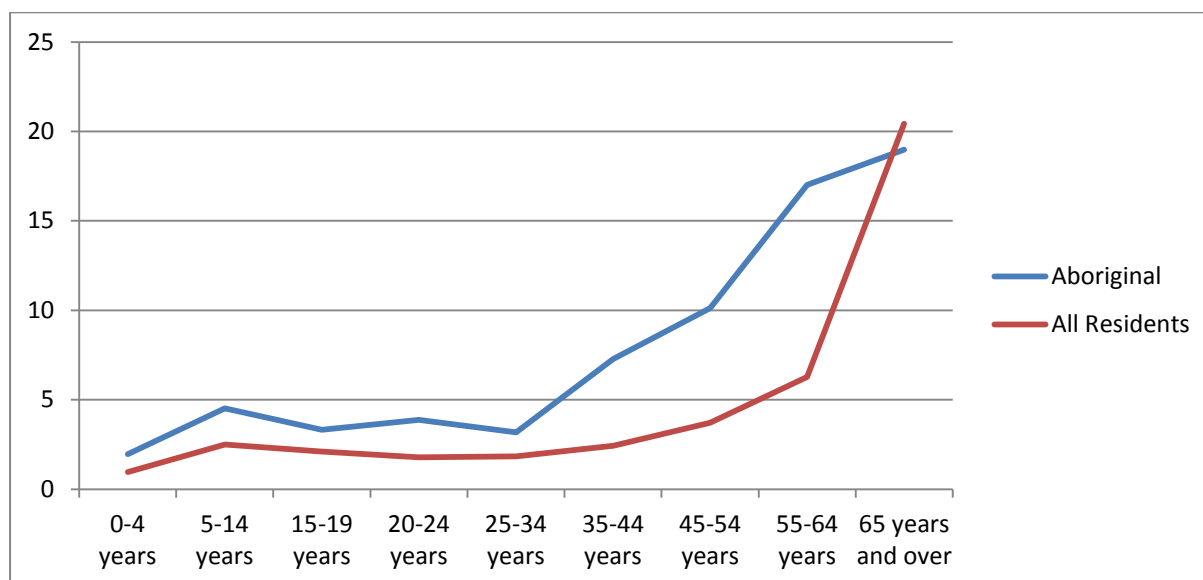
There are a number of health indicators for which statistics are not available for Aboriginal people at the Illawarra level. Broader level statistics for this may give an idea of how these health indicators may be affecting the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven Aboriginal population.

Overweight and obesity rates in the Illawarra Shoalhaven are estimated to be 28% for obesity and 35% for overweight. The combined overweight and obese proportion is 64% for the general population. Statistics are not available for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

DISABILITY

Overall, Aboriginal people in the Illawarra tended to be in more need of assistance for core activities than the general Illawarra population. Figure 9 shows a sharp rise in need for assistance from the 35-44 year age group that continued until the over 65 year old age group. The rise in disability experienced by the general population appeared to be later in the life span compared to the Aboriginal population.

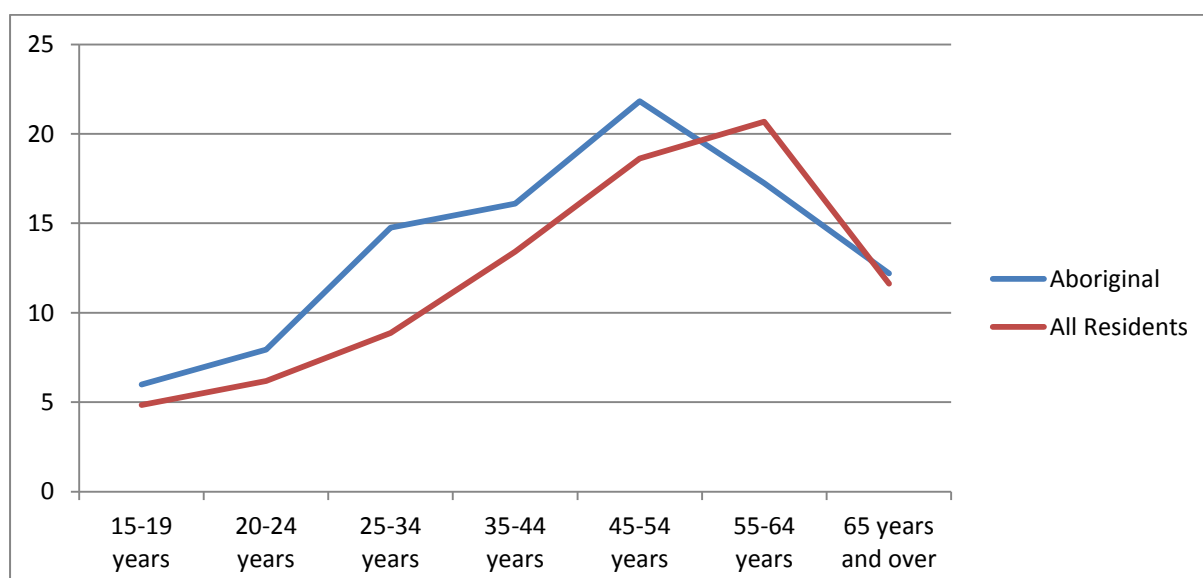
FIGURE 8: PEOPLE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE FOR CORE ACTIVITIES IN THE ILLAWARRA IN 2011



SOURCE: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Profile (Illawarra) 2012a^[42]

Figure 10 indicates that in 2011, Aboriginal people in the Illawarra were more likely to provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability compared to the general population. The likelihood of providing unpaid assistance saw a drop about a decade earlier than the general population.

FIGURE 9: PROPORTION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE PROVIDING UNPAID ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY.



SOURCE: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Profile (Illawarra) 2012a^[42]

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

The health status of regional Aboriginal people mirrors that of the broader national Indigenous population and is typified by high levels of chronic illness experienced at an earlier age. Aboriginal people are also at a higher risk of both intentional and unintentional injury. However the true extent of these problems is not accurately reflected in the available hospitalisation and mortality data, due largely to the poor recording of Aboriginality^[43, 44].

As in other parts of Australia, there are significant differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal access to health services which are evident in the patterns of comparative hospital admissions in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions^[45]. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) recognises that there are unacceptable variations in service access and health status and outcomes between groups within the ISLHD community.

An important goal outlined in 'NSW 2021' includes fostering opportunity and partnership with Aboriginal people as a means to strengthening the local environment and communities. Key targets include: closing the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and increasing the number of Aboriginal communities the State Government is partnering with to improve local outcomes (Supporting Aboriginal Culture, Country and Identity)^[46].

Key district guidelines and strategies that informed the Health Care Services Plan (HCSP) include: 'Our Statement of Strategic Intent' and 'Building a Sustainable Service System for the Communities of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven'. The latter highlights the importance of further effort to address the needs of those in our community who continue to experience greater health risks, poorer health and unsafe environments such as Aboriginal people^[43].

Furthermore, the key initiatives provided by the District Aboriginal Health Unit have been identified as the key Aboriginal health strategies for use in the HCSP. These strategies were developed from Aboriginal partners/community input as part of the planning process of the former SESIAHS Aboriginal Health Strategy 2010-2015^[47].

Within the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), Aboriginal health is a core service of the Integrated Chronic Disease Management Stream (Right Care) which sits within the Ambulatory and Primary Health Care Division. It focuses on improving access to health services for Aboriginal people with chronic diseases. The LHD has a 48-hour post-discharge follow-up policy for Aboriginal People. It also oversees the Aunty Jean's program which aims to enhance the uptake of Aboriginal people in rehabilitation programs for chronic diseases. In addition, Aboriginal Health aim to develop new models of health care that better support Aboriginal people^[47].

Specialised Aboriginal maternal and infant health programs are also provided in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions^[47]. The Aboriginal Maternal, Infant Child Health (AMICH) service provides a targeted service for Aboriginal families that are pregnant or with a child that have not commenced school (ISLHD, 2012).

Partnerships between Local Health Districts and local Aboriginal Controlled Health Services are a requirement of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement of which the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW and the NSW Government are equal members.

The local Partnership Agreement between the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, South Coast Aboriginal Medical Service, Oolong House and

Waminda (Aboriginal Health Partners) seeks to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region through a range of initiatives that include developing specific positions, allocating appropriate resources, ensuring Aboriginal Health remains a high priority and engaging with Aboriginal stakeholders and communities about the work of the Aboriginal Health Partnership^[47].

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

There is a growing body of knowledge and evidence that relates disease patterns to the organisation of society and to the way society invests social capital. Some of the known social variables that influence health are social class, income, education, occupation, gender, ethnicity, race, history and place. These factors have an important role in determining health. Together they have been referred to as the 'social determinants of health'^[48].

Within Australia, the stark and unacceptable health inequalities which exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and their complex underlying causes have been well documented ^[18, 49-52]. Disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are apparent not only in the health statistics discussed above but also in almost every key socioeconomic indicator, including:

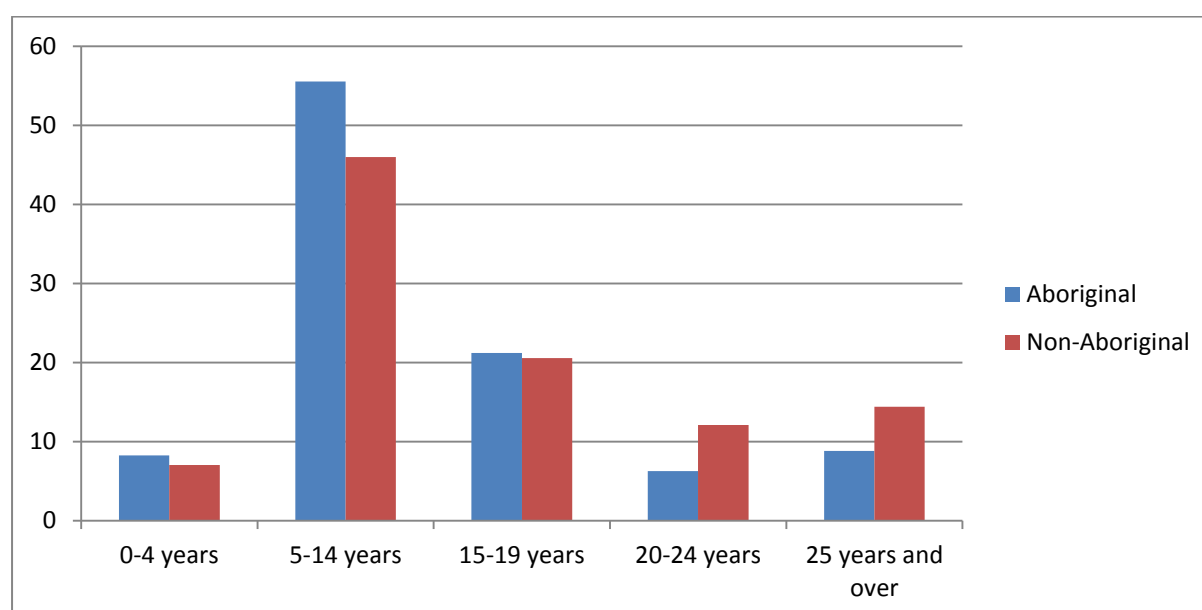
- Income poverty
- Attainment in the formal education sector
- Employment status
- Housing and community infrastructure, and
- Levels of arrest, incarceration and deaths in custody

The social determinants of Indigenous health, are found in the immediate environment in which people are living, the result of policies and decisions made remotely, and the cumulative effect of past practices.

EDUCATION

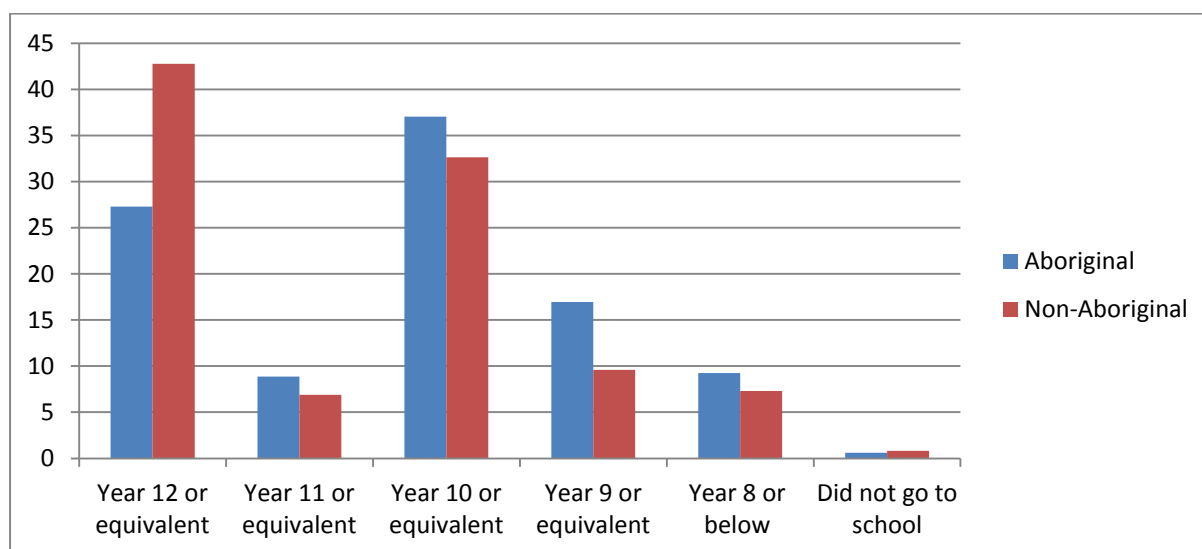
During the early childhood and school age years, there appears to be a greater proportion of Aboriginal children in the Illawarra attending an educational institution compared to non-Aboriginal children. Educational attendance changes in older age groups where a greater proportion of non-Aboriginal people were attending an educational institution.

FIGURE 10: PROPORTION OF PERSONS ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BY AGE GROUP IN THE ILLAWARRA



SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

FIGURE 11: THE HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED (PERSONS AGED OVER 15 YEARS)



SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

The 2011 Census data indicates that a greater proportion of Aboriginal people had attained a lower level of education than non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people in the Illawarra in 2011 were less likely to complete school than non-Aboriginal people (see Figure 13).

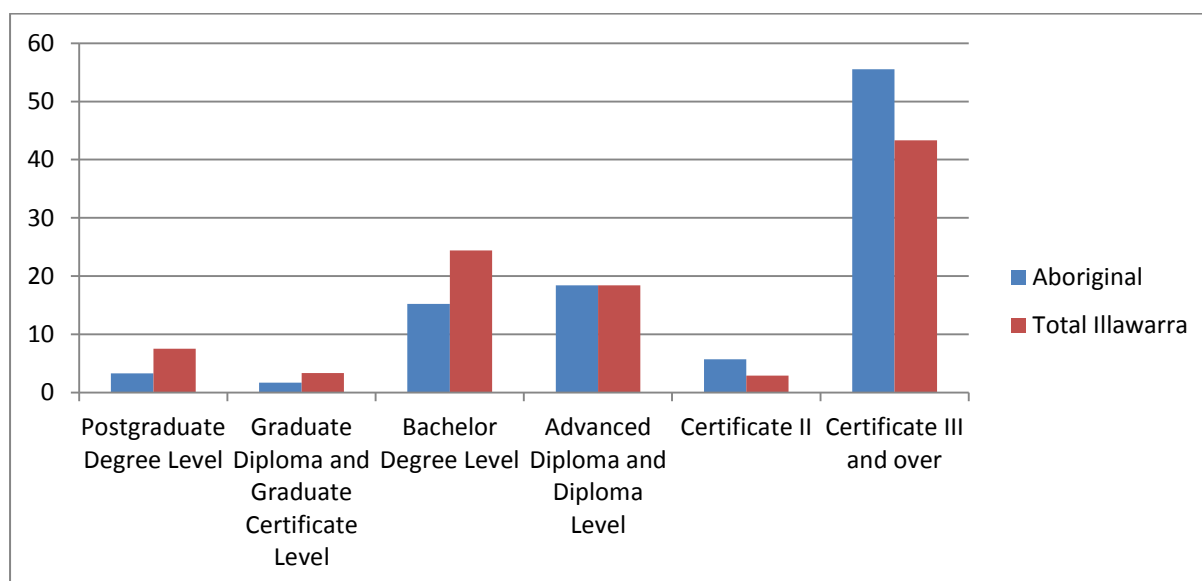
Among Aboriginal people, more females finished school at year 9 or above, while there were more males who attended school to year 8 or below. This was slightly different for the general population where there were more males only in year 11 or equivalent (see Table 10 in Appendix B).

The proportion of Aboriginal children attending preschool, infants/primary and secondary school was similar to the proportion for the general population (Table 11 in Appendices). There appear to be more males attending an educational institution during the school age years in both the Aboriginal and the general population. This reflects the Aboriginal population in the Illawarra (Figure 3) which shows there were more males in this age group than females.

For those people who were engaged in full or part-time study at a university or other tertiary institution in the Illawarra, there were similar proportions of Aboriginal youth (ages 15-24 years) studying full-time compared to the general population. Among the adult population (25 years+), there appeared to be a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal people engaged in full-time study compared to the general population. For part-time study, there was a greater proportion of Aboriginal youth involved compared to the general population, however, for adults the proportion involved in part-time study was lower than the general population. Overall there appeared to be a greater proportion of Aboriginal people involved in study compared to the general population, except for adults in part-time study, where there were less Aboriginal people involved. (See Table 11 in Appendix B)

Figure 13 below indicates that Aboriginal people in the Illawarra were less likely to achieve Graduate and Post Graduate qualifications than the general population and were more likely than the general population to have Certificate level qualifications.

FIGURE 12: NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE ILLAWARRA IN 2011



SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Programs designed to build engagement in education include the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) which has been operating programs for high school aged students at the University of Wollongong since 2008. AIME operated in 18 high schools in the Illawarra region in 2014 and plans to operate in 22 high schools in 2015. Information taken from the AIME 2013 Annual Report about programs at the University of Wollongong provides details of educational outcomes including high school progression rates.

TABLE 3: AIME PROGRAM OUTCOMES: HIGH SCHOOL PROGRESSION RATES

Progressions			
Year 9-10 Progressions	100%	97.8%	99.1% (110/111)
Year 10-11 Progressions	93.3%	82.6%	93.1% (67/72)
Year 11-12 Progressions	86%	71.3%	88.2% (60/68)
Year 12 Completions	99.2%	71.8	90.9% (30/33)

SOURCE: AIME Annual Report 2013

Quotes from AIME 2013 Annual Report describe the outcomes of an economic evaluation by KPMG^[53]

An independent economic evaluation conducted by KPMG found that AIME contributed \$38 million to the Australian economy in 2012. The report found that for each \$1 spent on the program, \$7 in benefits was generated for the economy. The report was run exclusively in The Australian on 1 March, featuring stories from two AIME mentees, Corey Belsito and Shakiah Tungai.

The AIME 2013 Annual Report also included comments on the AIME program by two Aboriginal school students from Warilla High School, Corey and Shakiah:.

Corey (Studying Civil Engineering, UOW):

Since completing AIME at Warilla High School last year, Corey's enrolled in a civil engineering degree at UOW: University of Wollongong. And to cap it off, he's signed up to be an AIME

mentor this year. “I just wanted to give back what the mentors gave me and hopefully inspire Indigenous students to achieve the best in any field.”

Shakiah (Completing Yr 12):

Shakiah’s in Year 12 at Warilla, and is weighing up going to uni. “When I first walked onto the University of Wollongong campus, it felt so cool, it felt awesome. I reckon that AIME has made me want to go uni more. I’d like to go for the experience; to meet new friends; see what’s it’s like in the big lecture rooms.”

Both of the above comments demonstrate the positivity toward educational futures held by these two Aboriginal young people and indicates the potential for such positivity and the value of programs that work from the assumption of the strengths of Aboriginal young people (as opposed to deficit based models).

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Employment statistics for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra were taken from the ABS 2011 Census data. In 2011, there were 4,081 Aboriginal people over the age of 15 years in the Illawarra. Of these, 2,196 were in the labour force. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra was 16.7% compared to 6.7% for all Illawarra residents. The majority of Aboriginal people were employed in the private sector. Aboriginal people employed in the government sector were more likely to be female (see Table 15 in Appendix B).

Table 4 below shows the age breakdown of employment type by age group for Aboriginal people living in the Illawarra in 2011. Of those who worked, the majority worked full-time. Those working part-time were approximately half of those who were working full-time. The highest numbers of those working part-time, were away from work or unemployed, was among the 15-25 year age group.

TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT TYPE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE ILLAWARRA, 2011

Age group (years)	15-24 n(%)	25-34 n(%)	35-44 n(%)	45-54 n(%)	55-64 n(%)	65 n(%)	+	Total n(%)
Worked full-time	250 (18.5)	279 (35.5)	251 (34.4)	212 (34.5)	85 (24.4)	8 (3.2)		1,085 (26.6)
Worked part-time	194 (14.4)	96 (12.2)	139 (19.1)	95 (15.5)	41 (11.8)	3 (1.2)		568 (13.9)
Away from work	57	42	28	32	13	4		176
Unemployed	209 (15.4)	70 (8.9)	47 (6.4)	37 (6.0)	4 (1.1)	0		367 (9.0)
Not in the labour force	604	274	237	212	191	213		1,731
Labour force status not stated	37	25	27	26	14	24		153
Total	1,351	786	729	614	348	252		4,080

SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

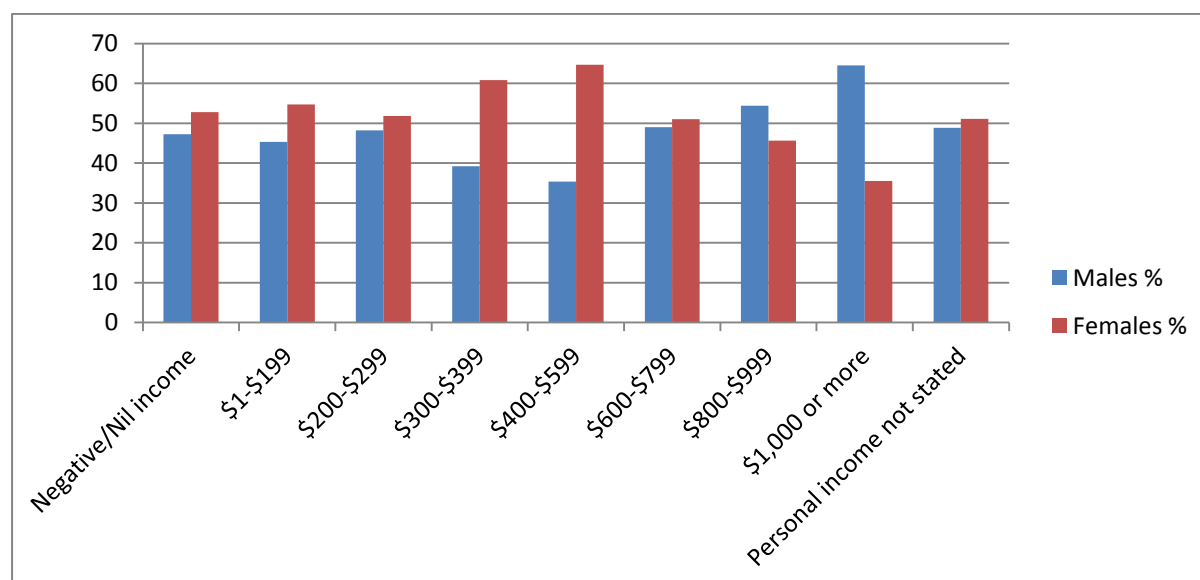
INCOME

Income figures were attained from the ABS 2011 Census data (see Tables 18, 19, 20 in Appendix B). In the Illawarra the median age for Aboriginal people was 20 compared to the median age of 39 for non-Aboriginal people. For Aboriginal people the median personal income was \$378 and the median

total household income was \$958. For non-Aboriginal people the median personal income was \$496 and the median total household income was \$1,122.

Differences were also observed between the personal weekly income of Aboriginal males and females (see Figure 14 below). In general, Aboriginal females were less likely to have a higher personal weekly income compared to Aboriginal males.

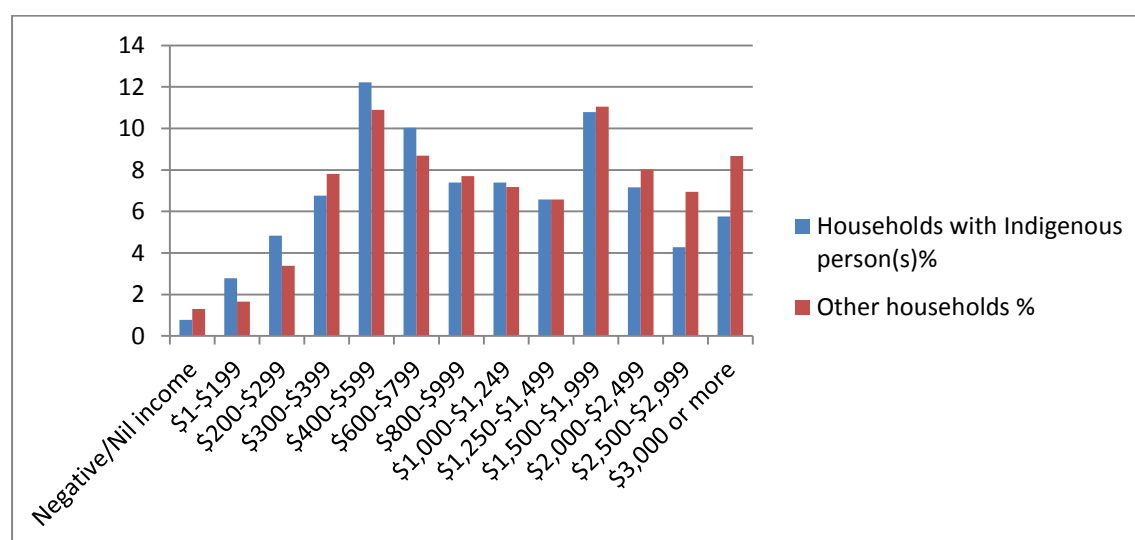
FIGURE 13: PERSONAL INCOME FOR ABORIGINAL MALES AND FEMALES IN THE ILLAWARRA



SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

Figure 15 below also indicates that Aboriginal households were less likely to have a weekly income in the upper income brackets but were more likely to have a weekly income in the lower income brackets.

FIGURE 14: HOUSEHOLD INCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND OTHER HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ILLAWARRA



SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Aboriginal people living in the Illawarra lived mostly in a separate house (78.9%) or other private dwelling (20.3%) with the remainder living in a non-private dwelling (0.8%). In 2011, data indicates

there were no Aboriginal people who lived in an improvised home, tent or were sleepers out (see Table 18 in Appendix B).

Home ownership appeared to be much lower among Aboriginal people in the Illawarra in 2011. Regarding tenure type, 13.9% of Aboriginal household dwellings were owned outright, 25.8% were owned with a mortgage and 55.9% were rented. For non-Aboriginal households, 36.4% were owned outright, 32.6% were owned with a mortgage and 27.6% were rented (see Tables 21 and 22 in Appendix B).

There appeared to be more than twice the number of single parent families among Aboriginal people in the Illawarra compared to non-Aboriginal people. Table 5 below shows that approximately 29.6% of Aboriginal households were a single parent household while only 11.2% of non-Aboriginal households were single parent households.

TABLE 5: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND FAMILY COMPOSITION BY NUMBER OF PERSONS USUALLY RESIDENT

	Aboriginal households	Other households
One family households:	N (%)	N (%)
Couple family with no children	428 (14.0)	25,659 (26.0)
Couple family with children	942 (30.8)	31,510 (32.0)
One parent family	907 (29.7)	11,065 (11.2)
Other family	50 (1.6)	1,002 (1.0)
Multiple family households	116 (3.8)	1,532 (1.6)
Lone person households	460 (15.0)	24,400 (24.8)
Group households	150 (5.1)	3,370 (3.4)
Total	3,059 (100)	98,538 (100)

SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data; table I12 ^[42]

Although the true rates of homelessness amongst Aboriginal people in NSW are not known, available data suggests that Aboriginal people are grossly overrepresented amongst those who experience homelessness. The evaluation of the NSW Homeless Action Plan stated that 81 women had been helped through the program 2011-12, along with 160 children. Of these, 8 women were Aboriginal, being almost 10% of clients^[54].

According to the 2011 census (ABS, 2012) the rate of homelessness in NSW was 41 per 10,000 of the population. Aboriginal homeless persons in NSW totalled 2,205 or 7.8% of all homeless persons (ABS, 2012). For the Illawarra, the number of homeless persons was 972 and the number of homeless persons in the Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands was 307. An estimate calculated from this would suggest there were approximately 100 homeless Aboriginal persons in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands.

If the rate of homelessness in the general NSW population is 0.41% and an estimate of the rate of homelessness among Aboriginal people in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands is 0.86% this would imply that the rate of homelessness for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands is over twice that of the general NSW population.

The Illawarra Homelessness Service System Mapping Report conducted by Robyn Kennedy Consulting in 2012, evaluated homelessness services in the Illawarra, including a survey of organisations providing homelessness services. The report found the following:

- For most respondents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients represented up to 20% of clients, while around 16% of respondents said that over 30% of their clients were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander;
- Around three quarters of respondents said that Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander clients represented up to 20% of homeless clients; and
- The report also stated that 95% of survey respondents nominated 'escaping domestic or family violence' as a characteristic of their primary target groups^[55].

LAW AND JUSTICE

The most commonly recorded offences in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands were 'malicious damage to property', 'steal from a motor vehicle' and 'break and enter dwelling'. Fraud and assault were also common. 'Assault – domestic violence related' was the sixth most commonly reported incident (see Table 6 below).

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF RECORDED CRIMINAL INCIDENTS FOR MAJOR OFFENCES, OVER THE 12 MONTHS TO JUNE 2014 FOR THE ILLAWARRA, SHOALHAVEN AND SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

	Illawarra	Southern Highlands/ Shoalhaven	Total
Murder*	3	0	3
Assault - domestic violence related	1,043	508	1,551
Assault - non-domestic violence related	1,287	576	1,863
Sexual assault	214	145	359
Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	255	133	388
Robbery without a weapon	49	17	66
Robbery with a firearm	7	8	15
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	71	22	93
Break and enter dwelling	1,301	684	1,985
Break and enter non-dwelling	481	282	763
Motor vehicle theft	679	227	906
Steal from motor vehicle	1,948	856	2,804
Steal from retail store	870	404	1,274
Steal from dwelling	926	428	1,354
Steal from person	197	32	229
Fraud	1,363	529	1,892
Malicious damage to property	2,811	1,500	4,311

SOURCE: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research^[56]

Table 7 below indicates that the average age of juvenile Indigenous males in custody in the first half of 2014 was lower than the average age of all males in custody. The average age of juvenile Aboriginal females in custody did not appear to be different to total females; however, the average age of juvenile Aboriginal females in custody appeared to be lower than the average age of juvenile Aboriginal males in custody.

TABLE 7: JUVENILE CUSTODY PROFILE AT END OF JUNE 2014

Police Bail Refused		Court Bail Refused		Sentenced		Total	
Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14

14									
Total Male	Count	5	0	142	112	162	153	309	265
	Av Age	15.4	0	16.1	16.3	16.8	16.9	16.4	16.6
Total Female	Count	1	0	12	12	9	7	22	19
	Av Age	14	0	15.4	15.2	16.8	15.6	15.9	15.3
Aboriginal Male	Count	5	0	58	57	78	76	141	133
	Av Age	15.4	0	15.7	16.2	16.5	16.5	16.1	16.4
Aboriginal Female	Count	1	0	6	4	4	2	11	6
	Av Age	14	0	15.2	16.3	16.5	16	15.5	16.2

SOURCE: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research^[56]

Among the adult Aboriginal population in custody in the first half of 2014, Aboriginal males appeared to be younger than all males in custody as well as being younger than females in custody. Aboriginal females in custody also appeared to be younger than all females in custody.

TABLE 7: ADULT CUSTODY PROFILE AT END OF JUNE 2014

		Remand		Sentenced		Total	
		Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14
Total Male	Count	2939	2567	7031	7231	9970	9798
	Av Age	33.7	34	36.3	36.5	35.5	35.8
Total Female	Count	289	222	482	495	771	717
	Av Age	33.9	33.8	36.9	37.4	35.8	36.3
Aboriginal Male	Count	658	565	1706	1688	2364	2253
	Av Age	30.5	30.5	32	32.2	31.6	31.7
Aboriginal Female	Count	101	70	161	163	262	233
	Av Age	33	32	33.3	33.4	33.2	33

SOURCE: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research^[56]

There was a clear difference between males and females regarding how long they remained in custody in the first half of 2014. This was true for both Aboriginal males and females. One point of difference was that Aboriginal males appeared to stay in remand for longer than any other group. Aboriginal females stayed in remand for less than any other group (see Table 9 below).

TABLE 8: AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FOR ADULTS DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY EACH QUARTER

		Remand custody only		Sentenced custody only		Remand to Sentenced custody	
		Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14	Mar-14	Jun-14
Total Male	Av Days	40.6	52.8	218.3	207.7	429.1	463.3
	Number	1354	1371	828	891	1119	1187
Total Female	Av Days	29.8	42	173.8	111.6	255.3	281.4
	Number	270	237	111	116	126	137
Aboriginal Male	Av Days	42	58.3	206.5	173.4	356.8	372.8
	Number	344	306	244	270	323	354
Aboriginal Female	Av Days	25.5	38.9	124.1	95.9	185.1	205.8
	Number	94	72	40	45	58	63

SOURCE: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2014) NSW Recorded Custody Statistics, quarterly update, June 2014

A recent report on the youth population in detention in Australia found that in the June quarter of 2013, on an average night, 51% of those in detention were Indigenous^[57]. The report stated that the level of Indigenous over-representation among young people in detention increased from 26 to 31 times the non-Indigenous rate, mainly due to a decrease in the non-Indigenous rate. The report also stated that over a one year period from June 2012 to June 2013, there was little overall change in the level of Indigenous over-representation and that the Indigenous rate was between 28 and 32 times the non-Indigenous rate each quarter.

CONCLUSION

Addressing the unacceptable gap in life expectancy and other indicators of inequality for Indigenous Australians has been a bi-partisan policy of successive Australian governments for almost a decade^[58, 59] with only moderate gains achieved to date^[60, 61]. Numerous well-established Aboriginal controlled organisations as well as not-for-profit and government-supported services and programs in the Illawarra region are dedicated to their leadership and supportive services to the Indigenous community, however based on the snapshot of qualitative and statistical data sources, improvement in areas surrounding health and social disadvantage are needed if Illawarra Aboriginal organisations are, in the first instance, going to address these health discrepancies then to be valued as self-sufficient organisations. The key areas of this snapshot report provides a useful basis for understanding the social health profile that influences the UOW Multi Disciplinary Health Research Coalition to conduct further research and access funding opportunities that can help contribute to transforming lives of Indigenous peoples living in regional areas and to promote greater health and social equity

It must be remembered that this snapshot report is limited; a greater depth of research and evaluation is required. The complexity of the task requires a broader and more participatory research approach. It requires research which is conducted in accordance with ethical principles^[2], delivers tangible benefits to Indigenous people and which involves Indigenous leadership, genuine community collaborations and equal partnerships with those most affected by health inequity and social exclusion^[62].

At this point the UOW Multi Disciplinary Health Research Coalition has formed a strong regional community partnership that includes Aboriginal and community leaders. This collaborative research relationship has identified a clear need to research with community leaders how to address the priorities and draw inspiration from traditions within the social sciences which link research to action and participation^[63-66]. The development of more appropriate and inclusive methodologies is fundamental to this approach; there is a growing body of literature within public health which attempts to address the power imbalance between researcher and participant providing a theoretical platform for Indigenous and community led research^[67, 68]. Knowledge production, in this research practice begins with the actual experiences and concerns of people and communities. It attempts to understand the various social and economic political forces that produce, shape, and limit those experiences with a view to changing them. The proposed direction of our research is to better understand the role of Indigenous community based organisations in the health and wellbeing of contemporary Indigenous Australians, form a global perspective and allow for a national and international network.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The following sources of information were used to compile this report:

Census and Demographic Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.abs.gov.au/
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New South Wales Health Statistics www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au ▪ National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008. http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0/ ▪ Australian Institute for Health and Welfare. http://www.aihw.gov.au/indigenous-australians/ ▪ NSW Health Statistics: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/ ▪ Closing the Gap Clearinghouse: http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/ ▪ Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet: http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/
Early Childhood Development Census	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.aedc.gov.au/
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda/training/default.html#Introduction%20to%20the%20HILDA%20Survey
Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/bocsar/bocsar_index.html
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACARA has developed the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) ▪ Student index of socio-educational advantage (SEA) - NAPLAN dataset ▪ http://www.myschool.edu.au/

APPENDIX B: TABLES

TABLE 9: AGE OF PERSONS ATTENDING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN 2011 IN THE ILLAWARRA

	Aboriginal Illawarra			Total Illawarra		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
0-4 years	101	98	199	2,490	2,416	4,906
5-14 years	712	627	1,339	16,573	15,654	32,227
15-19 years	257	254	511	7,201	7,056	14,257
20-24 years	78	73	151	4,159	4,035	8,194
25 years and over	64	148	212	4,077	5,775	9,852

SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

TABLE 10: CORE ACTIVITY NEED FOR ASSISTANCE BY AGE BY SEX FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS: MEASURES THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH A PROFOUND OR SEVERE DISABILITY

	In Need of Assistance		Not in need/ not stated		Total
	Males	Females	Persons	Persons	Persons
0-4 years	13	3	16 (2.0%)	800	816
5-14 years	49	21	70 (4.5%)	1,480	1,550
15-19 years	12	14	26 (3.3%)	758	784
20-24 years	18	4	22 (3.9%)	546	568
25-34 years	13	12	25 (3.2%)	761	786
35-44 years	22	31	53 (7.2%)	675	728
45-54 years	32	30	62 (10.1%)	551	613
55-64 years	25	34	59 (17.0%)	288	347
65 years and over	19	29	48 (19.0%)	205	253
Total	203	178	381	6,064	6,445

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data (Table 101B)^[42]

People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

TABLE 11: UNPAID ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY BY AGE BY SEX FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS: COUNT OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

	Provided Unpaid Assistance			Assistance not provided/ not stated	Total
	Males	Females	Persons	Persons	Persons
15-19 years	24	23	47	737	784
20-24 years	28	17	45	522	567
25-34 years	42	74	116	670	786
35-44 years	45	72	117	610	727
45-54 years	50	84	134	480	614
55-64 years	24	36	60	288	348
65 years and over	11	20	31	223	254
Total	224	326	550	3,530	4,080

SOURCE: ABS 2011 Census data^[42]

TABLE 12: HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

	Aboriginal Illawarra			Total Illawarra		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Year 12 or equivalent	466	561	1,027	42,760	44,804	87,564
Year 11 or equivalent	165	169	334	7,464	6,871	14,335
Year 10 or equivalent	691	702	1,393	33,396	34,172	67,568
Year 9 or equivalent	308	329	637	9,418	10,721	20,139
Year 8 or below	179	169	348	7,116	8,133	15,249
Did not go to school	11	12	23	704	1,024	1,728
Highest year of school not stated	111	162	273	7,911	8,066	15,977

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; Table I01b^[42]

TABLE 13: TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDING (FULL/PART-TIME STUDENT STATUS BY AGE) BY INDIGENOUS STATUS BY SEX

	Indigenous			Total Illawarra		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Pre-school	121	114	235 (12.1%)	3,002	2,847	5,849 (12.4%)
Infants/Primary	503	439	942 (48.5%)	11,581	10,946	22,527 (47.9%)
Secondary	393	371	764 (39.4%)	9,444	9,228	18,672 (39.7%)
Total	1017	924	1941	24,027	23,021	47,048
Technical or Further Educational Institution(a):						
Full-time student:						
Aged 15-24 years	16	23	39 (17.5%)	581	608	1,189 (17.0%)
Aged 25 years and over	13	20	33 (14.8%)	292	571	863 (12.4%)
Part-time student:						
Aged 15-24 years	50	35	85 (38.1%)	1,516	780	2,296 (32.9%)
Aged 25 years and over	19	43	62 (27.8%)	1,017	1,530	2,547 (36.5%)
Full/Part-time student status not stated	4	0	4	48	33	81
Total	102	121	223	3,454	3,522	6,976
University or other Tertiary Institution:						
Full-time student:						
Aged 15-24 years	47	58	105	3,723	4,075	7,798
Aged 25 years and over	16	26	42	1,360	1,231	2,591
Part-time student:						
Aged 15-24 years	5	9	14	406	441	847
Aged 25 years and over	9	38	47	980	1,639	2,619
Full/Part-time student status not stated	3	0	3	29	30	59
Total	80	131	211	6,498	7,416	13,914
Other type of educational institution	12	24	36	523	973	1,496
Type of educational institution not stated	211	232	443	8,132	7,971	16,103
Total	1,422	1,432	2,854	42,634	42,903	85,537

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; Table I05^[42]

TABLE 14: SELECTED EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS BY SEX

	Indigenous			All residents		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Non-school qualifications(a):						
Postgraduate Degree Level	8	34	42	3,850	3,414	7,264
Graduate Diploma and						
Graduate Certificate Level	7	15	22	1,172	2,054	3,226
Bachelor Degree Level	59	133	192	10,305	13,124	23,429
Advanced Diploma and						
Diploma Level	79	153	232	7,668	10,047	17,715
Certificate II	22	50	72	846	1,965	2,811
Certificate III and over	420	279	699	29,523	12,070	41,593

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; Table I14^[42]

(a) Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

TABLE 15: SELECTED LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS BY SEX

	Indigenous			All residents		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Persons aged 15 years and over	1,954	2,127	4,081	109,099	114,135	223,234
In the labour force(a):						
Employed	971	858	1,829	63,916	55,506	119,422
Unemployed	218	149	367	4,715	3,883	8,598
Total labour force	1,189	1,007	2,196	68,631	59,389	128,020
Not in the labour force	688	1,042	1,730	35,240	50,013	85,253
Labour force status not stated	77	77	154	5,228	4,734	9,962
% Unemployment(b)	18.3	14.8	16.7	6.9	6.5	6.7
% Labour force participation(c)	60.8	47.4	53.8	62.9	52.0	57.3
% Employment to population(d)	49.7	40.4	44.8	58.6	48.6	53.5
Industry sector(a):						
Government	173	220	393	9,690	12,508	22,198
Private	774	630	1,404	53,612	42,514	96,126
CDEP participants(e)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Self-employed(f)	34	9	43	3,722	2,225	5,947

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I14^[42]

(a) Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

(c) The number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

(d) The number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

(e) Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants are counted as employed persons. CDEP participation is only identified on the Interviewer Household Form. These forms are designed specifically for use in discrete Indigenous communities. Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

(f) Comprises owner managers of unincorporated enterprises with nil employees. Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

TABLE 16: SELECTED MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS BY INDIGENOUS STATUS BY SEX

	Indigenous			All residents		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Migration:						
Same address 1 year ago(g)	2,484	2,481	4,965	112,120	115,574	227,694
Different address 1 year ago(g)	544	603	1,147	16,954	17,694	34,648
Same address 5 years ago(h)	1,517	1,569	3,086	78,808	81,248	160,056
Different address 5 years ago(h)	1,135	1,160	2,295	42,300	44,430	86,730

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I14^[42]

- (g) Excludes persons less than 1 year of age.
(h) Excludes persons less than 5 years of age.

TABLE 17: SELECTED EMPLOYMENT

	Age						
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over	Total
MALES							
Worked full-time(a)	150	190	172	110	50	5	677
Worked part-time	88	29	28	24	18	3	190
Away from work(b)	29	24	16	23	7	0	99
Total	267	243	216	157	75	8	966
Unemployed	126	47	20	21	4	0	218
Total labour force	393	290	236	178	79	8	1,184
Not in the labour force	280	86	82	78	88	76	690
Labour force status not stated	21	16	16	12	3	8	76
Total	694	392	334	268	170	92	1,950
FEMALES							
Worked full-time(a)	100	89	79	102	35	3	408
Worked part-time	106	67	111	71	23	0	378
Away from work(b)	28	18	12	9	6	4	77
Total	234	174	202	182	64	7	863
Unemployed	83	23	27	16	0	0	149
Total labour force	317	197	229	198	64	7	1,012
Not in the labour force	324	188	155	134	103	137	1,041
Labour force status not stated	16	9	11	14	11	16	77
Total	657	394	395	346	178	160	2,130
PERSONS							
Worked full-time(a)	250	279	251	212	85	8	1,085
Worked part-time	194	96	139	95	41	3	568
Away from work(b)	57	42	28	32	13	4	176
Total	501	417	418	339	139	15	1,829
Unemployed	209	70	47	37	4	0	367
Total labour force	710	487	465	376	143	15	2,196
Not in the labour force	604	274	237	212	191	213	1,731
Labour force status not stated	37	25	27	26	14	24	153
Total	1,351	786	729	614	348	252	4,080

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data^[42]

TABLE 18: SELECTED MEDIANS AND AVERAGES: HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME

	Indigenous persons/households with Indigenous persons(a)	Non-Indigenous persons(b)/ other households	Total
Median age of persons	20	39	38
Median total personal income (\$/weekly)	378	496	493
Median total household income (\$/weekly)	958	1,122	1,116
Median mortgage repayment (\$/monthly)	2,000	1,950	1,950
Median rent (\$/weekly)	220	250	250
Average number of persons per bedroom	1.2	1.1	1.1
Average household size	3.1	2.6	2.6
Proportion of dwellings that need 1 or more extra bedrooms	9.1%	2.7%	2.9

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I04^[42]

- (a) A household with Indigenous person(s) is any household that had at least one person of any age as a resident at the time of the Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- (b) Includes persons who did not state their Indigenous status.

TABLE 19: TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME (WEEKLY) BY SEX FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS

	Males	Females	Persons
Negative/Nil income	197	220	417
\$1-\$199	211	255	466
\$200-\$299	298	320	618
\$300-\$399	193	299	492
\$400-\$599	191	349	540
\$600-\$799	197	205	402
\$800-\$999	131	110	241
\$1,000 or more	383	211	594
Personal income not stated	152	159	311
Total	1,953	2,128	4,081

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I07^[42]

TABLE 20: TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME (WEEKLY) BY INDIGENOUS STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD

	Households with Indigenous person(s)(b)	Other households	Total households
Negative/Nil income	24	1,285	1,309
\$1-\$199	85	1,640	1,725
\$200-\$299	148	3,334	3,482
\$300-\$399	207	7,689	7,896
\$400-\$599	374	10,739	11,113
\$600-\$799	307	8,561	8,868
\$800-\$999	226	7,586	7,812
\$1,000-\$1,249	226	7,070	7,296
\$1,250-\$1,499	201	6,479	6,680
\$1,500-\$1,999	330	10,890	11,220
\$2,000-\$2,499	219	7,903	8,122
\$2,500-\$2,999	131	6,845	6,976
\$3,000 or more	176	8,548	8,724
Partial income stated(c)	275	7,280	7,555
All incomes not stated(d)	131	2,687	2,818
Total	3,060	98,536	101,596

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I13^[42]

- (a) Excludes 'Visitors only' and 'Other non-classifiable' households.
- (b) A household with Indigenous person(s) is any household that had at least one person of any age as a resident at the time of the Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- (c) Comprises households where at least one, but not all, members aged 15 years and over did not state an income, and/or was temporarily absent on Census Night.
- (d) Comprises households where no members present stated an income.

TABLE 21: TYPE OF USUAL RESIDENCE

	Aboriginal Illawarra			Total Illawarra		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Occupied private dwelling:						
Separate house	2,392	2,435	4,827	104,409	106,671	211,080
Improvised home, tent, sleepers out(e)	0	0	0	3	3	6

Other private dwelling(f)	594	647	1,241	23,773	25,369	49,142
Total	2,986	3,082	6,068	128,185	132,043	260,228
Non-private dwelling	25	24	49	1,635	2,337	3,972

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I01B^[42]

TABLE 22: TENURE AND LANDLORD TYPE BY DWELLING STRUCTURE BY INDIGENOUS STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD. HOUSEHOLDS WITH INDIGENOUS PERSONS (B)

	Separate house	Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	Flat, unit or apartment	Other dwelling *	Not stated	Total
Owned outright	378	20	19	9	0	426
Owned with a mortgage(c)	718	43	23	3	0	787
Rented:						
Real estate agent	366	98	169	0	0	633
State or territory housing authority	463	157	109	0	0	729
Person not in same household(d)	154	26	37	3	0	220
Housing co-operative/ community/ church group	39	12	10	0	0	61
Other landlord type(e)	19	6	9	9	0	43
Landlord type not stated	16	0	3	3	0	22
Total	1,057	299	337	15	0	1,708
Other tenure type(f)	22	6	3	3	0	34
Tenure type not stated	57	22	19	3	0	101
Total	2,232	390	401	33	0	3,056

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I10a^[42]

* Caravan, cabin, houseboat; Improvised home, tent, sleepers out; House or flat attached to a shop, office, etc.

(a) Excludes 'Visitors only' and 'Other non-classifiable' households.

(b) A household with Indigenous person(s) is any household that had at least one person of any age as a resident at the time of the Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

(c) Includes dwellings being purchased under a rent/buy scheme.

(d) Comprises dwellings being rented from a parent/other relative or other person.

(e) Comprises dwellings being rented through a 'Residential park (includes caravan parks and marinas)', 'Employer - Government (includes Defence Housing Authority)' and 'Employer - other employer'.

(f) Includes dwellings being occupied under a life tenure scheme.

TABLE 23: ILLAWARRA STATISTICAL AREA; 2011 CENSUS DATA; TABLE I12: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND FAMILY COMPOSITION BY NUMBER OF PERSONS USUALLY RESIDENT

HOUSEHOLDS WITH INDIGENOUS PERSON(S)(a)							
	Number of persons usually resident						Total
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six +	
One family households:							
Couple family with no children	..	385	40	3	0	0	428
Couple family with children	..	..	240	374	194	134	942
One parent family	..	293	306	173	84	51	907
Other family	..	34	13	3	0	0	50
Total	..	712	599	553	278	185	2,327
Multiple family households	..	..	..	30	41	45	116
Total family households	..	712	599	583	319	230	2,443
Lone person households	460	..	..	..	..	..	460

Group households	..	113	27	9	4	3	156
Total	460	825	626	592	323	233	3,059
OTHER HOUSEHOLDS							
One family households:							
Couple family with no children	..	24,587	913	121	25	13	25,659
Couple family with children	..	..	10,244	13,635	5,701	1,930	31,510
One parent family	..	5,352	3,758	1,406	395	154	11,065
Other family	..	824	133	39	6	0	1,002
Total	..	30,763	15,048	15,201	6,127	2,097	69,236
Multiple family households	..	..	..	467	440	625	1,532
Total family households	..	30,763	15,048	15,668	6,567	2,722	70,768
Lone person households	24,400	..	..	..	..	..	24,400
Group households	..	2,400	595	250	94	31	3,370
Total	24,400	33,163	15,643	15,918	6,661	2,753	98,538

SOURCE: Illawarra Statistical area; 2011 Census data; table I12a^[42]

(a) A household with Indigenous person(s) is any household that had at least one person of any age as a resident at the time of the Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

