

Western NSW District District Data Profile

Murrumbidgee, Far West and
Western NSW



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Introduction

This document presents a brief data profile for the Western New South Wales (NSW) district. It contains a series of tables and graphs that show the characteristics of persons, families and communities. It includes demographic, housing, child development, community safety and child protection information.

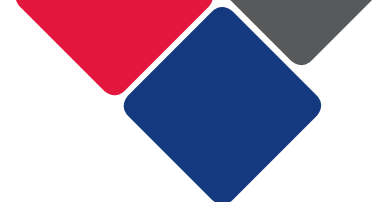
Where possible, we present this information at the local government area (LGA) level.

In the Western NSW district there are twenty-two LGAs:

- Bathurst Regional
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Cabonne
- Cobar
- Coonamble
- Cowra
- Forbes
- Gilgandra
- Lachlan
- Mid-western Regional
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Orange
- Parkes
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle Shire
- Weddin
- Western Plains Regional

The data presented in this document is from a number of different sources, including:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)
- NSW Health Stats
- Australian Early Developmental Census (AEDC)
- NSW Government administrative data.



The majority of these sources are publicly available. We have provided source statements for each table and graph. This tells you where the data comes from and where you can find more information.

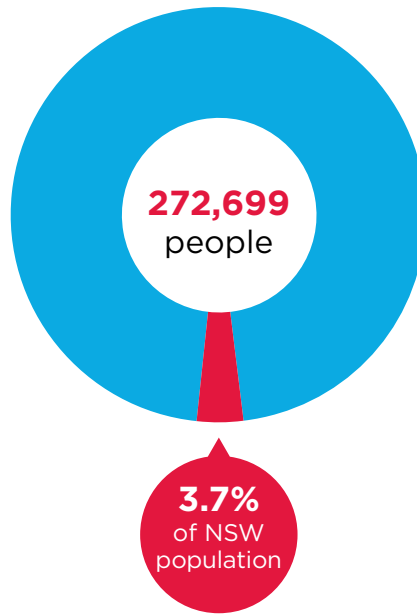
Please note, the information in the original sources may change as authors (e.g. ABS, NSW Healthstats) update the data. As such, we have also recorded the date we accessed the information.

If you would like additional suburb-level and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific data, the following sources are available to you:

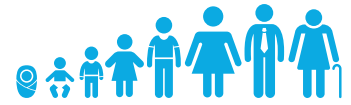
- The ABS provides demographic, cultural and linguistic diversity, employment and housing data at a suburb level through Quick Stats: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats>. For example, for the Orange suburb, select 'Orange, NSW: State Suburb (SSC)' from the drop down menu.
- The ABS also ranks suburbs on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA): http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SEIFA_SSC. For more information on the SEIFA, see page 50.
- BOSCAR records criminal offences at a suburb level: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_datasets/Datasets.aspx. Follow the 'Suburb' link in the Geographic breakdown category for a spreadsheet containing all suburb-level crime data.
- Information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, families and dwellings, including comparisons with non-Indigenous people, is also available at LGA level through the ABS 2016 Census Community Profiles: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles>. For example, for information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Orange, select 'Orange (C), NSW: Local Government Area (LGA)' from the drop down menu, and follow the link for the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile'.

Western NSW District

Demographics



Census 2016



Median age = 42
NSW median age = **38**



28,541 people in this district are
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander
(**10.5%**)

Economic Environment



13.1%
Bachelor degree
level or above
23.4% NSW
average



6.3%
Unemployment
rate
NSW: **6.3%**



122,583
Total labour
force



\$582
Median weekly
personal income
\$664 NSW
average

Social Environment



16.8%
People born
overseas
34.5% NSW
average



5.4%
Households where
a non-English
language is spoken
at home
26.5% NSW average



887
Migrants in 2017



2,179
Domestic
assaults in 2018

Children, Young People and Families



4.9%
Mothers giving
birth aged 19
and under
1.9% NSW average



6,595
Children and
young people at
risk of significant
harm 2016-17



1,564
Children and
young people in
out-of-home care
2016-17



10.5%
Children
developmentally
vulnerable on
2 or more AEDC
domains 2018

Disability



5.6%
People need
assistance with
core activity
5.4% NSW
average



2.4
Average no.
of people per
household
2.6 NSW average



6,051
Social housing
dwellings,
June 2018
4.0% of NSW
dwellings



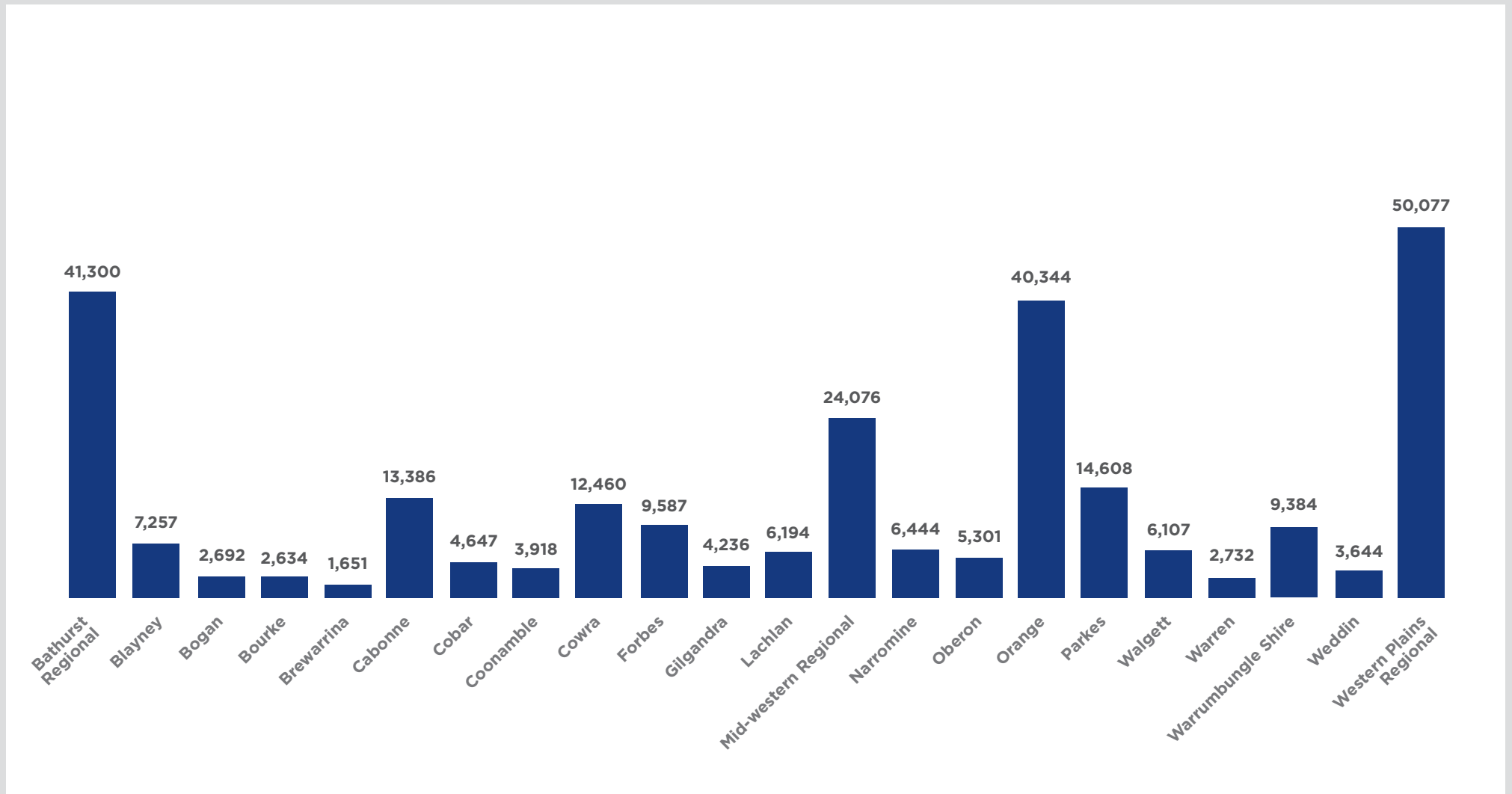
4,060
Public and AHO
housing tenancies
- June 2018
3.6% of NSW
tenancies



Population – Western NSW

The population in the Western NSW was estimated at 272,699 in the 2016 Census (see Figure 1). This district is made up of twenty-two local government areas (LGAs). The largest LGA is Western Plains Regional with an estimated population of 50,077. The smallest LGA is Brewarrina with an estimated population of 1,651.

Figure 1. Population of Western NSW District, by LGA



Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)



The median age in New South Wales is 38 years of age. In the Western NSW district, the LGAs of Bathurst Regional, Orange, and Western Plains Regional are close to the state average, with their median ages at 37. Weddin has the oldest population with its median age at 51.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of age for each LGA in Western NSW.

Table 1. Age breakdown of the population in Western NSW

Age Group (years)	Bathurst Regional		Blayney		Bogan		Bourke		Brewarrina		Cabonne		Cobar	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	2,546	6.2	451	6.2	207	7.7	222	8.4	124	7.5	831	6.2	369	7.9
5-9	2,781	6.7	532	7.3	185	6.9	220	8.4	141	8.5	1,034	7.7	372	8.0
10-14	2,789	6.8	519	7.1	160	5.9	181	6.9	116	7.0	1,022	7.6	290	6.2
15-19	2,980	7.2	457	6.3	167	6.2	121	4.6	95	5.7	907	6.8	252	5.4
20-24	3,148	7.6	324	4.5	155	5.8	159	6.0	123	7.4	513	3.8	257	5.5
25-29	2,689	6.5	373	5.1	175	6.5	185	7.0	145	8.8	546	4.1	342	7.4
30-34	2,477	6.0	342	4.7	143	5.3	185	7.0	87	5.3	650	4.9	369	7.9
35-39	2,308	5.6	402	5.5	120	4.5	136	5.2	75	4.5	678	5.1	299	6.4
40-44	2,573	6.2	461	6.3	178	6.6	154	5.8	84	5.1	878	6.6	289	6.2
45-49	2,675	6.5	513	7.1	184	6.8	209	7.9	135	8.2	898	6.7	240	5.2
50-54	2,565	6.2	519	7.1	210	7.8	197	7.5	141	8.5	990	7.4	340	7.3
55-59	2,617	6.3	527	7.3	155	5.8	171	6.5	125	7.5	963	7.2	331	7.1
60-64	2,380	5.8	487	6.7	124	4.6	135	5.1	89	5.4	821	6.1	261	5.6
65 and above	6,772	16.4	1,353	18.7	530	19.6	359	13.6	176	10.5	2,660	19.9	636	13.7
Total	41,300	15.1	7,260	2.6	2,693	1.0	2,634	1.0	1,656	0.6	13,391	4.9	4,647	1.7
Total in NSW														

Table 1. Age breakdown of the population in Western NSW (continued)

Age Group (years)	Coonamble		Cowra		Forbes		Gilgandra		Lachlan		Mid-western Regional		Narromine		Oberon	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	270	6.9	661	5.3	628	6.5	250	5.9	497	8.0	1,686	7.0	455	7.1	297	5.6
5-9	267	6.8	737	5.9	672	7.0	292	6.9	460	7.4	1,689	7.0	488	7.6	321	6.1
10-14	261	6.7	771	6.2	650	6.8	246	5.8	401	6.5	1,524	6.3	436	6.8	308	5.8
15-19	201	5.2	739	5.9	631	6.6	233	5.5	322	5.2	1,325	5.5	369	5.7	354	6.7
20-24	215	5.5	655	5.3	481	5.0	216	5.1	346	5.6	1,105	4.6	326	5.1	318	6.0
25-29	226	5.8	528	4.2	513	5.3	219	5.2	341	5.5	1,280	5.3	313	4.9	265	5.0
30-34	210	5.4	541	4.3	484	5.0	192	4.5	393	6.3	1,395	5.8	344	5.3	220	4.2
35-39	170	4.4	585	4.7	477	5.0	204	4.8	312	5.0	1,330	5.5	311	4.8	270	5.1
40-44	206	5.3	676	5.4	503	5.2	225	5.3	339	5.5	1,428	5.9	358	5.6	291	5.5
45-49	288	7.4	812	6.5	579	6.0	260	6.1	321	5.2	1,699	7.1	384	6.0	393	7.4
50-54	277	7.1	848	6.8	661	6.9	292	6.9	384	6.2	1,717	7.1	412	6.4	366	6.9
55-59	283	7.3	876	7.0	606	6.3	307	7.3	428	6.9	1,676	7.0	470	7.3	334	6.3
60-64	256	6.6	933	7.5	614	6.4	297	7.0	383	6.2	1,485	6.2	425	6.6	391	7.4
65 and above	771	19.8	3,109	25.0	2,091	21.8	999	23.6	1,265	20.4	4,731	19.7	1,359	21.1	1,173	22.1
Total	3,901	1.4	12,471	4.6	9,590	3.5	4,232	1.6	6,192	2.3	24,070	8.8	6,450	2.4	5,301	1.9
Total in NSW																

Table 1. Age breakdown of the population in Western NSW (continued)

Age Group (years)	Orange		Parkes		Walgett		Warren		Warrumbungle Shire		Weddin		Western Plains Regional		Western NSW	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	2,981	7.4	938	6.4	406	6.7	204	7.5	466	5.0	187	5.1	3,551	7.1	18,227	6.7
5-9	2,984	7.4	1,065	7.3	456	7.5	206	7.6	625	6.7	224	6.1	3,642	7.3	19,393	7.1
10-14	2,575	6.4	948	6.5	364	6.0	165	6.1	588	6.3	202	5.5	3,180	6.3	17,696	6.5
15-19	2,627	6.5	998	6.8	264	4.3	132	4.8	488	5.2	184	5.0	3,126	6.2	16,972	6.2
20-24	2,312	5.7	819	5.6	310	5.1	121	4.4	390	4.2	114	3.1	3,131	6.3	15,538	5.7
25-29	2,635	6.5	724	5.0	379	6.2	142	5.2	384	4.1	131	3.6	3,410	6.8	15,945	5.9
30-34	2,730	6.8	817	5.6	347	5.7	149	5.5	370	3.9	135	3.7	3,293	6.6	15,873	5.8
35-39	2,509	6.2	763	5.2	334	5.5	144	5.3	416	4.4	199	5.4	2,867	5.7	14,909	5.5
40-44	2,601	6.4	798	5.5	336	5.5	148	5.4	488	5.2	183	5.0	3,024	6.0	16,221	6.0
45-49	2,561	6.3	910	6.2	374	6.1	170	6.2	565	6.0	212	5.8	3,145	6.3	17,527	6.4
50-54	2,427	6.0	985	6.7	441	7.2	197	7.2	693	7.4	260	7.1	3,206	6.4	18,128	6.6
55-59	2,465	6.1	1,009	6.9	495	8.1	220	8.1	721	7.7	285	7.8	3,317	6.6	18,381	6.7
60-64	2,180	5.4	939	6.4	429	7.0	157	5.8	739	7.9	290	7.9	2,870	5.7	16,685	6.1
65 and above	6,755	16.8	2,895	19.8	1,162	19.2	567	20.8	2,454	26.1	1,053	28.7	8,322	16.6	51,192	18.8
Total	40,342	14.8	14,608	5.4	6,097	2.2	2,722	1.0	9,387	3.4	3,659	1.3	50,084	18.4	272,687	100
Total in NSW															7,480,228	3.7

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

In the Western NSW district, 28,541 (10.5%) of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (see Table 2). The majority of these people are children and young people; 51.3% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the Western NSW district are under 25 years old. This is higher than the NSW state average, where only 28.6% of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population are under 25 years old.

Table 2. Population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Western NSW, by Age

Age Group (years)	Bathurst Regional		Blayney		Bogan		Bourke		Brewarrina		Cabonne		Cobar	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	284	12.7	33	12.8	66	15.1	82	9.8	86	8.5	45	9.1	72	11.4
5-9	278	12.4	40	15.5	59	13.5	93	11.1	102	10.1	55	11.2	72	11.4
10-14	246	10.9	28	10.8	46	10.5	99	11.9	86	8.5	82	16.7	66	10.4
15-19	193	8.6	32	12.4	53	12.1	68	8.1	73	7.2	75	15.3	64	10.1
20-24	238	10.6	24	9.3	36	8.2	65	7.8	85	8.4	26	5.3	51	8.0
25-29	230	10.3	17	6.6	30	6.9	48	5.8	95	9.4	32	6.5	37	5.8
30-34	149	6.7	13	5.0	27	6.2	47	5.6	46	4.6	14	2.9	41	6.5
35-39	127	5.7	4	1.6	9	2.1	38	4.6	40	4.0	22	4.5	38	6.0
40-44	132	5.9	14	5.4	29	6.6	62	7.4	57	5.7	20	4.1	30	4.7
45-49	100	4.5	17	6.6	23	5.3	67	8.0	86	8.5	28	5.7	29	4.5
50-54	62	2.8	15	5.8	13	3.0	51	6.1	69	6.9	32	6.5	36	5.7
55-59	58	2.6	5	1.9	13	3.0	33	4.0	62	6.1	15	3.1	32	5.1
60-64	57	2.5	4	1.6	5	1.1	30	3.6	50	5.0	13	2.6	19	3.0
65 and above	85	3.8	12	4.7	28	6.4	52	6.2	72	7.1	32	6.5	47	7.4
Total	2,239	100	258	100	437	100	835	100	1,009	100	491	100	634	100
% of LGA pop.		5.4		3.6		16.2		31.7		60.9		3.7		13.6

Table 2. Population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Western NSW, by Age (continued)

Age Group (years)	Coonamble		Cowra		Forbes		Gilgandra		Lachlan		Mid-western Regional		Narromine		Oberon	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	140	11.9	110	11.2	110	10.4	68	11.6	127	11.4	193	14.9	178	14.0	17	10.0
5-9	140	11.9	98	10.0	112	10.6	69	11.8	132	11.9	156	12.0	187	14.7	17	10.0
10-14	145	12.3	109	11.0	124	11.7	67	11.4	140	12.7	143	11.0	123	9.7	17	10.0
15-19	91	7.7	101	10.2	147	13.9	53	9.0	103	9.3	135	10.4	134	10.5	18	10.6
20-24	94	8.0	82	8.3	73	6.9	53	9.0	103	9.3	93	7.2	102	8.0	28	16.5
25-29	69	5.9	58	5.9	71	6.7	23	3.9	49	4.4	85	6.5	65	5.1	7	4.1
30-34	49	4.2	37	3.8	48	4.6	25	4.3	69	6.2	77	5.9	71	5.6	3	1.7
35-39	49	4.2	56	5.7	52	4.9	29	4.9	50	4.5	65	5.0	59	4.6	7	4.1
40-44	74	6.3	53	5.4	45	4.3	37	6.3	55	5.0	59	4.5	50	3.9	13	7.6
45-49	75	6.4	67	6.8	63	6.0	29	4.9	45	4.1	74	5.7	63	5.0	9	5.3
50-54	57	4.8	54	5.5	59	5.6	25	4.3	57	5.2	60	4.6	49	3.9	3	1.8
55-59	60	5.1	43	4.4	41	3.9	32	5.4	57	5.2	54	4.2	57	4.5	12	7.1
60-64	47	4.0	35	3.6	36	3.4	32	5.4	40	3.6	32	2.5	47	3.7	4	2.4
65 and above	86	7.3	81	8.2	75	7.1	46	7.8	80	7.2	73	5.6	87	6.8	15	8.8
Total	1,176	100	984	100	1,056	100	588	100	1,107	100	1,299	100	1,272	100	170	100
% of LGA pop.		30.2		7.9		11.0		13.9		17.9		5.4		19.7		3.2

Table 2. Population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Western NSW, by Age (continued)

Age Group (years)	Orange		Parkes		Walgett		Warren		Warrumbungle Shire		Weddin		Western Plains Regional		Western NSW District	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	351	13.7	192	13.1	178	9.8	51	12.6	94	10.2	8	7.3	961	12.4	3,446	12.1
5-9	333	13.1	177	12.1	206	11.4	34	8.4	119	13.0	16	14.7	913	11.8	3,408	11.9
10-14	272	10.7	152	10.3	178	9.9	44	10.8	114	12.4	13	11.9	781	10.1	3,075	10.8
15-19	289	11.3	170	11.6	137	7.6	52	12.8	93	10.1	5	4.6	800	10.3	2,886	10.1
20-24	227	8.9	139	9.5	129	7.1	32	7.9	63	6.9	12	11.0	724	9.4	2,479	8.7
25-29	186	7.3	81	5.5	135	7.5	19	4.7	56	6.1	8	7.3	630	8.2	2,031	7.1
30-34	130	5.1	79	5.4	96	5.3	20	4.9	39	4.3	3	2.7	458	5.9	1,541	5.4
35-39	138	5.4	63	4.3	85	4.7	24	5.9	33	3.6	4	3.7	385	5.0	1,377	4.8
40-44	138	5.4	68	4.6	110	6.1	28	6.9	45	4.9	5	4.6	400	5.2	1,524	5.3
45-49	152	6.0	71	4.8	119	6.6	21	5.2	52	5.7	10	9.2	399	5.2	1,599	5.6
50-54	116	4.5	79	5.4	122	6.8	14	3.4	54	5.9	9	8.3	361	4.7	1,397	4.9
55-59	73	2.9	68	4.6	103	5.7	17	4.2	56	6.1	7	6.4	302	3.9	1,200	4.2
60-64	50	2.0	49	3.3	89	4.9	19	4.7	30	3.3	3	2.8	247	3.2	938	3.3
65 and above	95	3.7	81	5.5	120	6.6	31	7.6	69	7.5	6	5.5	367	4.7	1,640	5.8
Total	2,550	100	1,469	100	1,807	100	406	100	917	100	109	100	7,728	100	28,541	100
% of LGA pop.		6.3		10.1		29.6		14.9		9.8		3.0		15.4		% of district pop. 10.5

Source: ABS Community Profiles, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Country of Birth

In the Western NSW district, 83.2% of residents were born in Australia (see Table 3). This is much higher than the New South Wales state average of 65.5%. The most common birthplaces, other than Australia, were England, New Zealand, and India.

Table 3. Country of Birth in Western NSW, by LGA

Bathurst Regional			Blayney		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	34,538	83.7	Australia	6,206	85.8
Other top responses					
England	802	1.9	England	151	2.1
New Zealand	436	1.1	New Zealand	75	1.0
India	172	0.4	Scotland	24	0.3
Scotland	162	0.4	Germany	23	0.3
Philippines	155	0.4	Netherlands	19	0.3
Bogan			Bourke		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	2,233	83.3	Australia	1,969	75.5
Other top responses					
England	20	0.7	England	18	0.7
New Zealand	18	0.7	Nepal	13	0.5
India	14	0.5	New Zealand	12	0.5
Fiji	7	0.3	Papua New Guinea	5	0.2
Philippines	7	0.3	India	4	0.2

Table 3. Country of Birth in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Brewarrina			Cabonne		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	1,448	88.1	Australia	11,515	86.3
Other top responses					
India	9	0.5	England	260	1.9
England	8	0.5	New Zealand	116	0.9
New Zealand	3	0.2	South Africa	51	0.4
Cook Islands	3	0.2	Germany	36	0.3
Austria	3	0.2	Philippines	36	0.3
Cobar			Coonamble		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	3,716	80.0	Australia	3,160	80.4
Other top responses					
New Zealand	68	1.5	England	24	0.6
England	37	0.8	New Zealand	15	0.4
South Africa	26	0.6	Germany	13	0.3
Papua New Guinea	19	0.4	India	11	0.3
India	16	0.3	Sri Lanka	10	0.3
Cowra			Forbes		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	10,532	84.7	Australia	8,216	85.8
Other top responses					
England	203	1.6	England	92	1.0
New Zealand	72	0.6	New Zealand	55	0.6
Germany	39	0.3	Philippines	35	0.4
Netherlands	38	0.3	India	21	0.2
South Africa	32	0.3	Italy	19	0.2

Table 3. Country of Birth in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Gilgandra			Lachlan		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	3,679	87.2	Australia	5,163	83.4
Other top responses					
England	32	0.8	England	42	0.7
New Zealand	21	0.5	New Zealand	35	0.6
India	18	0.4	Philippines	35	0.6
Philippines	13	0.3	India	20	0.3
Germany	9	0.2	South Africa	16	0.3
Mid-western Regional			Narromine		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	19,525	81.2	Australia	5,484	85.6
Other top responses					
England	562	2.3	England	62	1.0
New Zealand	231	1.0	New Zealand	25	0.4
Philippines	78	0.3	Germany	13	0.2
Germany	77	0.3	Scotland	12	0.2
South Africa	71	0.3	India	11	0.2
Oberon			Orange		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	4,173	78.8	Australia	33,654	83.5
Other top responses					
England	138	2.6	England	663	1.6
New Zealand	93	1.8	India	377	0.9
Germany	29	0.5	New Zealand	368	0.9
South Africa	13	0.2	Philippines	182	0.5
Scotland	12	0.2	South Africa	145	0.4

Table 3. Country of Birth in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Parkes			Walgett		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	12,328	84.5	Australia	4,715	77.4
Other top responses					
England	172	1.2	England	81	1.3
New Zealand	86	0.6	New Zealand	58	1.0
Philippines	85	0.6	Germany	41	0.7
China ¹	41	0.3	Philippines	39	0.6
South Africa	39	0.3	Croatia	24	0.4
Warren			Warrumbungle Shire		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	2,275	83.7	Australia	7,657	81.7
Other top responses					
England	23	0.8	England	163	1.7
New Zealand	15	0.6	New Zealand	64	0.7
Ireland	12	0.4	Germany	39	0.4
Germany	10	0.4	Netherlands	26	0.3
South Africa	9	0.3	Philippines	26	0.3
Weddin			Western Plains Regional		
Country	No.	%	Country	No.	%
Australia	3,082	84.7	Australia	42,080	84.1
Other top responses					
England	67	1.8	England	527	1.1
New Zealand	21	0.6	New Zealand	397	0.8
Philippines	17	0.5	India	371	0.7
Germany	11	0.3	Philippines	213	0.4
Netherlands	9	0.2	Nepal	208	0.4

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

¹ Excludes SARs and Taiwan



Language Spoken at Home

In Western NSW, 87.4% of residents spoke only English at home (see Table 4). This is much higher than the New South Wales state average of 68.5%.

The proportion of households where a non-English language was spoken at home was highest in Weddin (7.6%), Orange (7.4%), and Walgett (6.7%).

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA

Bathurst Regional			Blayney		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	35,906	87.0	English only spoken at home	6,650	91.5
Households where a non-English language is spoken	896	5.8	Households where a non-English language is spoken	76	2.7
Top responses other than English					
Mandarin	108	0.3	German	16	0.2
Arabic	101	0.2	Arabic	11	0.2
Cantonese	72	0.2	Cantonese	11	0.2
Punjabi	63	0.2	Tamil	8	0.1
German	62	0.2	French	7	0.1
Bogan			Bourke		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	2,335	87.0	English only spoken at home	2,048	78.0
Households where a non-English language is spoken	33	3.0	Households where a non-English language is spoken	38	3.3
Top responses other than English					
Afrikaans	7	0.3	Nepali	19	0.7
Urdu	7	0.3	Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	7	0.3
Filipino	5	0.2	Spanish	4	0.2
Portuguese	4	0.1	Arabic	4	0.2
Vietnamese	4	0.1	Urdu	4	0.2

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Brewarrina			Cabonne		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	1,415	85.9	English only spoken at home	12,207	91.3
Households where a non-English language is spoken	29	4.6	Households where a non-English language is spoken	167	3.3
Top responses other than English					
Malayalam	8	0.5	German	36	0.3
Swedish	3	0.2	Afrikaans	23	0.2
Other Australian Indigenous Language, nec	3	0.2	Italian	23	0.2
			Tagalog	20	0.1
			French	12	0.1
Cobar			Coonamble		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	3,908	84.5	English only spoken at home	3,266	83.3
Households where a non-English language is spoken	81	4.2	Households where a non-English language is spoken	38	2.3
Top responses other than English					
Afrikaans	20	0.4	Malayalam	8	0.2
Mandarin	15	0.3	German	6	0.2
Italian	14	0.3	Greek	6	0.2
Bengali	11	0.2	Mandarin	6	0.2
Hindi	11	0.2	Gujarati	5	0.1

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Cowra			Forbes		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	11,090	89.0	English only spoken at home	8,538	89.0
Households where a non-English language is spoken	198	3.8	Households where a non-English language is spoken	114	3.0
Top responses other than English					
Italian	1,920	7.5	Mandarin	31	0.3
Punjabi	793	3.1	Punjabi	18	0.2
Samoan	245	1.0	Tagalog	18	0.2
Gujarati	233	0.9	Vietnamese	15	0.1
Mandarin	223	0.9	Filipino	15	0.1
Gilgandra			Lachlan		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	3,813	90.3	English only spoken at home	5,366	86.9
Households where a non-English language is spoken	53	3.1	Households where a non-English language is spoken	82	3.3
Top responses other than English					
Greek	13	0.3	Tagalog	15	0.2
Malayalam	10	0.2	Filipino	14	0.2
Tagalog	9	0.2	Arabic	12	0.2
Wiradjuri	6	0.1	Greek	8	0.1
Spanish	5	0.1	Thai	8	0.1

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Mid-western Regional			Narromine		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	21,047	87.4	English only spoken at home	5,752	89.4
Households where a non-English language is spoken	420	4.3	Households where a non-English language is spoken	51	2.0
Top responses other than English					
German	50	0.2	Cantonese	12	0.2
Spanish	41	0.2	Croatian	8	0.1
Italian	40	0.2	Gujarati	6	0.1
Mandarin	38	0.2	Bengali	5	0.1
Tagalog	33	0.1	Wiradjuri	5	0.1
Oberon			Orange		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	4,462	84.4	English only spoken at home	35,416	87.8
Households where a non-English language is spoken	109	5.2	Households where a non-English language is spoken	1,162	7.4
Top responses other than English					
German	16	0.3	Malayalam	246	0.6
Serbian	13	0.2	Mandarin	138	0.3
Spanish	10	0.2	Italian	130	0.3
Russian	10	0.2	Nepali	110	0.3
Cantonese	9	0.2	Cantonese	90	0.2

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Parkes			Walgett		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	12,931	88.5	English only spoken at home	5,042	82.8
Households where a non-English language is spoken	222	3.8	Households where a non-English language is spoken	193	6.7
Top responses other than English					
Afrikaans	32	0.2	Serbian	59	1.0
Mandarin	32	0.2	German	36	0.6
Cantonese	31	0.2	Croatian	24	0.4
Tagalog	28	0.2	Urdu	22	0.4
Indonesian	27	0.2	Tagalog	15	0.2
Warren			Warrumbungle Shire		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	2,401	88.3	English only spoken at home	8,178	87.3
Households where a non-English language is spoken	29	2.6	Households where a non-English language is spoken	141	3.5
Top responses other than English					
German	9	0.3	German	24	0.3
Afrikaans	5	0.2	Malayalam	13	0.1
French	5	0.2	Greek	12	0.1
Tagalog	4	0.1	Italian	10	0.1
Filipino	4	0.1	French	7	0.1

Table 4. Languages spoken at home in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

Weddin			Western Plains Regional		
	No.	%		No.	%
English only spoken at home	3,273	87.8	English only spoken at home	43,242	86.4
Households where a non-English language is spoken	40	7.6	Households where a non-English language is spoken	1,137	6.0
Top responses other than English			Top responses other than English		
Cantonese	11	0.3	Nepali	209	0.4
Tagalog	5	0.1	Mandarin	164	0.3
Filipino	5	0.1	Malayalam	122	0.2
French	3	0.1	Tagalog	120	0.2
Greek	3	0.1	Sinhalese	103	0.2

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Migration Streams

Only 1.1% of migrants who arrived in NSW between 1 January and 31 December 2017 settled in the Western NSW district (see Table 5). The largest number of migrants to the District settled in the Western Plains Regional LGA. Most of these were skilled migrants (n=324) followed by family migrants (n=84) and then humanitarian migrants (n=5).

Table 5. Migration Stream in Western NSW, by LGA, between 1 January and 31 December 2017

LGA	Migration Stream			Total
	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	
Bathurst Regional	42	0	73	115
Blayney	5	0	0	5
Bogan	5	0	9	14
Bourke	0	0	18	18
Brewarrina	0	0	0	0
Cabonne	9	0	10	19
Cobar	11	0	17	28
Coonamble	5	0	0	5
Cowra	5	0	10	15
Forbes	8	0	8	16
Gilgandra	0	0	0	0
Lachlan	6	0	17	23
Mid-western Regional	29	0	17	46
Narromine	0	0	0	0
Oberon	0	0	5	5
Orange	44	0	78	122
Parkes	5	0	14	19
Walgett	6	0	0	6

Table 5. Migration Stream in Western NSW, by LGA, between 1 January and 31 December 2017 (continued)

LGA	Migration Stream			Total
	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	
Warren	5	0	0	5
Warrumbungle Shire	7	0	6	13
Weddin	0	0	0	0
Western Plains Regional ¹	84	5	324	413
Western NSW	276	5	606	887
Total NSW	27,200	6,514	47,002	80,794

Source: Department of Social Services, Settlement Data Reports January 2017 to 31 December 2017: <https://www.data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-8d1b90a9-a4d7-4b10-ad6a-8273722c8628/details> (accessed 9 October 2019).

¹ The figures presented here are a combination of the Dubbo and Wellington areas. These councils combined in 2016 to form the Western Plains Regional Council. The Western Plains Regional Council may also be known as the Dubbo Regional Council.

Children & Young People

Government Schools

The following tables provide information about the government schools in the four LGAs that make up the Western NSW district. These tables provide information on the following factors:

No. of FTE enrolments	The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments indicates the number of students who attended the school over the course of the academic year. For example, 39.2 means 39 students were enrolled full time for one academic year and one student was enrolled for a fifth of the year.
% of ATSI	The percentage of FTE students enrolled who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
% of LBOTE	The percentage of students (headcount) who have a language background other than English (LBOTE). A student has a LBOTE if they, or their parents or guardians, speak a language other than English at home.
ISCEA value	<p>The Index of Community Socio-Education Advantage (ICSEA) provides information about the socio-educational backgrounds of a school's students. This is worked out by looking at the parents' occupation and education, a school's geographical location, and the proportion of Indigenous students.</p> <p>The ICSEA is set at an average of 1000. The lower the ICSEA level, the lower the educational advantage of students who go to this school. The highest score of a public school in New South Wales is 1245, and the lowest score is 543.</p>
% School attendance	The attendance rate is the number of actual FTE student days attended by full-time students in Years 1-10 in Semester One as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended in semester one.

There are 160 government schools in the Western NSW district (See Table 6a-6v):

- 15 in the Bathurst LGA
- 7 in the Blaney LGA
- 4 in the Bogan LGA
- 5 in the Bourke LGA
- 3 in the Brewarrina LGA
- 14 in the Cabonne LGA
- 3 in the Cobar LGA
- 4 in the Coonamble LGA
- 7 in the Cowra LGA
- 4 in the Forbes LGA

- 
- 3 in the Gilgandra LGA
 - 5 in the Lachlan LGA
 - 13 in the Mid-Western Region LGA
 - 3 in the Narromine LGA
 - 3 in the Oberon LGA
 - 10 the Orange LGA
 - 8 in the Parkes LGA
 - 7 in the Walgett LGA
 - 7 in the Warrumbungle LGA
 - 10 in the Griffith LGA
 - 2 in the Warren LGA
 - 18 in the Dubbo LGA
 - 5 in the Weddin LGA

The largest school in the Western NSW district is Denison College of Secondary College Education, Bathurst High Campus in the Bathurst LGA (1072.5 FTE enrolments) followed by Orange High School in the Orange LGA (1072.2 FTE enrolments). The smallest is Sofala Public School in the Bathurst LGA (7 FTE enrolments).

The schools with the largest proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are Weilmoringle Public School (100%) followed by Brewarrina Central School (98%). Weilmoringle Public School also has the lowest ISCEA score (625) followed by Collarenebri (662) and Brewarrina Central School (663). The school government with highest ISCEA value is Canobolas Public School in Orange (1070).

Table 6a. Profile of government schools in the Bathurst LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bathurst Public School	559	11	11	987	93.8
Bathurst South Public School	246	23	7	947	93.2
Bathurst West Public School	475	18	7	942	93.7
Denison College of Secondary Education, Bathurst High Campus	1072.5	11	6	978	88.1
Denison College of Secondary Education, Kelso High Campus	759	15	5	937	87
Eglinton Public School	475	6	3	999	94.6
Hill End Public School	8	np	0	991	94.4
Kelso Public School	270	33	5	855	91.9
O'Connell Public School	73	np	0	1064	95.4
Perthville Public School	133	7	5	994	95.9
Raglan Public School	257	7	7	972	95.2
Rockley Public School	24	0	np	972	94.8
Sofala Public School	7	np	np	795	95.9
Trunkey Public School	14	0	0	1041	91.4
Wattle Flat Public School	26	23	0	891	91.6

Table 6b. Profile of government schools in the Blayney LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Blayney High School	349	5	3	948	91.4
Blayney Public School	301	12	2	940	94.1
Carcoar Public School	15	np	np	962	93
Lyndhurst Public School	19	np	0	906	91.3
Mandurama Public School	8	np	np	888	93.2
Millthorpe Public School	285	4	4	1054	95.9
Neville Public School	18	np	0	940	96.4
Kelso Public School	270	33	5	855	91.9
Wattle Flat Public School	26	23	0	891	91.6

Table 6c. Profile of government schools in the Bogan LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Girilambone Public School	10	np	0	915	92.5
Hermidale Public School	11	np	0	905	93
Nyngan High School	181.8	35	6	886	90.1
Nyngan Public School	129	49	np	832	90.8

Table 6d. Profile of government schools in the Bourke LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bourke High School	149.2	79	np	738	74.1
Bourke Public School	211	79	np	722	92.5
Enngonia Public School	17	59	np	824	93.7
Louth Public School	np	0	0	986	93.4
Wanaaring Public School	9	67	np	785	94.7
Hermidale Public School	11	np	0	905	93
Nyngan High School	181.8	35	6	886	90.1
Nyngan Public School	129	49	np	832	90.8

Table 6e. Profile of government schools in the Brewarrina LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Brewarrina Central School	162	98	np	663	81.4
Goodooga Central School	29	97	100	704	85.3
Weilmoringle Public School	10	100	82	625	88.4

Table 6f. Profile of government schools in the Cabonne LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Borenore Public School	39	np	np	1002	95.4
Canowindra High School	237.4	13	3	938	88.5
Canowindra Public School	234	7	3	969	93.3
Cargo Public School	26	np	0	916	93.5
Clergate Public School	92	np	0	984	95.8
Cudal Public School	81	0	np	1032	94.5
Cumnock Public School	46	np	np	970	93
Eugowra Public School	34	26	0	876	93.5
Manildra Public School	51	14	np	908	97.2
Molong Central School	508	14	3	945	93.5
Mullion Creek Public School	58	np	np	1013	95.1
Nashdale Public School	125	np	5	1069	96.5
Spring Terrace Public School	25	0	0	948	93.1
Yeoval Central School	122	21	np	894	91.9
Weilmoringle Public School	10	100	82	625	88.4

Table 6g. Profile of government schools in the Cobar LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Cobar High School	260	28	4	892	87.2
Cobar Public School	240	31	6	875	91.3
Euabalong West Public School	25	48	0	801	92.7

Table 6h. Profile of government schools in the Coonamble LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Coonamble High School	211.8	71	np	770	79.2
Coonamble Public School	189	89	np	706	88
Gulgargambone Central School	66	82	0	686	90.4
Quambone Public School	12	np	0	823	87

Table 6i. Profile of government schools in the Cowra LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Cowra High School	521.6	18	2	921	88.1
Cowra Public School	379	20	4	922	92.8
Gooloogong Public School	25	np	0	953	96.1
Holmwood Public School	57	14	0	902	91.7
Mulyan Public School	294	24	np	896	93.9
Woodstock Public School	18	33	0	823	96.8
Wyangala Dam Public School	np	0	0	963	93.4

Table 6j. Profile of government schools in the Forbes LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bedgerabong Public School	42	np	np	934	95.7
Forbes High School	372.8	29	np	877	84.9
Forbes North Public School	274	35	3	868	93.4
Forbes Public School	285	16	2	940	93.5

Table 6k. Profile of government schools in the Gilgandra LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Gilgandra High School	223.6	30	np	885	87.8
Gilgandra Public School	214	41	9	816	92
Tooraweenah Public School	13	np	0	911	94.9

Table 6l. Profile of government schools in the Lachlan LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Condobolin High School	205	48	np	829	84.8
Condobolin Public School	296	43	3	864	92.5
Lake Cargelligo Central School	229	38	4	849	84.5
Tottenham Central School	89	19	np	939	92.6
Tullibigeal Central School	58	np	0	962	93.3

Table 6m. Profile of government schools in the Narromine LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Cudgegong Valley Public School	557	11	3	963	93.6
Goolma Public School	12	75	0	739	98.1
Gulgong High School	252	13	4	925	90.5
Gulgong Public School	331	11	2	914	95
Hargraves Public School	29	34	0	857	95.7
Ilford Public School	29	np	np	948	93.7
Kandos High School	225.6	14	4	916	87.7
Kandos Public School	134	16	np	896	89.7
Lue Public School	17	np	np	947	90.8
Mudgee High School	811.8	13	4	938	88.5
Mudgee Public School	693	17	5	937	94
Rylstone Public School	76	np	np	973	93.8
Ulan Public School	15	np	0	824	90

Table 6n. Profile of government schools in the Oberon LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Oberon High School	199	8	5	934	91.8
Oberon Public School	240	14	8	912	91.7
Goolma Public School	12	75	0	739	98.1

Table 6o. Profile of government schools in the Orange LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bletchington Public School	671	14	8	961	93.6
Bowen Public School	243	51	np	787	92.7
Calare Public School	657	13	8	968	94
Canobolas Public School	116	6	7	1070	96.4
Canobolas Rural Technology High School	626.6	35	4	857	79.1
Glenroi Heights Public School	225	46	np	767	88
Orange East Public School	262	18	4	919	94
Orange High School	1072.2	10	7	988	90.4
Orange Public School	679	8	8	1026	94.7
Spring Hill Public School	39	18	0	957	93.9

Table 6p. Profile of government schools in the Bogan Gate LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Bogan Gate Public School	9	0	0	864	90.2
Middleton Public School	218	26	4	891	93
Parkes East Public School	338	20	3	942	92.3
Parkes High School	574.5	15	3	932	86.4
Parkes Public School	435	22	3	927	92.6
Peak Hill Central School	137	67	np	756	87.9
Trundle Central School	113.4	16	11	892	92
Tullamore Central School	66.8	15	0	931	92.3

Table 6q. Profile of government schools in the Walgett LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Burren Junction Public School	44	np	np	989	93.5
Carinda Public School	14	0	np	960	92.6
Collarenebri Central School	106	79	np	662	80.4
Lightning Ridge Central School	351	47	12	827	87.8
Rowena Public School	27	np	0	1042	92.6
Walgett Community College - High School	107	91	31	709	68.3
Walgett Community College - Primary School	158	92	np	679	87

Table 6r. Profile of government schools in the Warrumbungle LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Baradine Central School	107	57	0	780	90.3
Binnaway Central School	53	30	np	846	89.5
Coolah Central School	223	21	np	905	91.1
Coonabarabran High School	366.7	22	6	931	88.8
Coonabarabran Public School	290	29	6	892	90.9
Dunedoo Central School	171	23	np	876	92.6
Mendooran Central School	134.8	27	np	873	90.1

Table 6s. Profile of government schools in the Griffith LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Beelbangera Public School	188	6	15	986	94.1
Griffith East Public School	559	11	21	969	94.2
Griffith North Public School	392	11	23	977	93.4
Griffith Public School	386	26	53	839	91.2
Hanwood Public School	261	6	18	980	94.6

Table 6s. Profile of government schools in the Griffith LGA (continued)

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Lake Wyangan Public School	118	9	50	970	93.9
Tharbogang Public School	43	np	62	968	94.9
Yenda Public School	119	9	6	972	93.4
Yoogali Public School	37	19	np	857	94.1

Table 6t. Profile of government schools in the Warren LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Warren Central School	203	41	np	834	88
Marra Creek Public School	6	np	0	985	sp

Table 6u. Profile of government schools in the Dubbo LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Ballimore Public School	15	np	0	957	95.8
Buninyong Public School	344	64	5	776	89
Dubbo College Delroy Campus	519	53	2	814	82.8
Dubbo College Senior Campus	502	30	6	933	na
Dubbo College South Campus	694	36	5	898	86.5
Dubbo North Public School	250	52	2	813	92.8
Dubbo Public School	541	17	5	983	94.9
Dubbo South Public School	667	32	6	914	93.7
Dubbo West Public School	372	53	6	825	89.6
Euchareena Public School	np	np	np	920	sp
Eumungerie Public School	9	0	np	890	91
Geurie Public School	36	28	0	930	95
Mumbil Public School	12	np	0	833	94.1

Table 6u. Profile of government schools in the Dubbo LGA (continued)

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Orana Heights Public School	637	32	8	911	94.2
Stuart Town Public School	15	47	np	759	97.2
Wellington High School	277	50	np	821	79.6
Wellington Public School	483	60	2	800	90.6
Wongarbon Public School	52	13	np	955	95.7

Table 6v. Profile of government schools in the Weddin LGA

Government school	No. of FTE enrolments	% of ATSI	% of LBOTE	ISCEA value	% School attendance
Caragabal Public School	29	np	0	975	91.5
Greenethorpe Public School	12	np	0	926	94.2
Grenfell Public School	160	9	np	951	94
Quandialla Public School	22	0	0	1025	93.8
The Henry Lawson High School	163.4	6	3	950	90.8

Source: NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Master dataset: NSW government school locations and student enrolment numbers (2017) <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/nsw-public-schools-master-dataset> (accessed 7 October 2019), Student attendance rate by individual government schools (2011-2017): <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/student-attendance-rate-by-school> (accessed 7 October 2019).

The Department of Education also provides information about suspensions and expulsions from government schools at the district level¹.

Table 7 shows that the Western NSW district has a substantially higher proportion of students who received short suspensions (four days or less) in 2018 compared to the NSW state average. In 2018, 8.4% of students received short suspensions in Western NSW, compared to 4.0% in NSW. The proportion of students who received long suspensions (4-20 school days) was also above the NSW state average; 3.3% in the district compared to 1.5% in the state.

In the Western NSW district, less than five students were expelled for misbehaviour in 2018 and less than five students were expelled for unsatisfactory participation.

Table 7. Suspensions and expulsions from government schools in Western NSW district, 2018

	Western NSW	New South Wales
Total short suspensions ¹	4,993	52,755
Total number of students short suspended	2,731	32,343
Students short suspended as % of enrolment	8.4%	4.0%
Total long suspensions	1,715	17,235
Total number students long suspended ²	1,078	12,355
Students long suspended as % of enrolment	3.3%	1.5%
Students expelled for misbehaviour	<5 ³	175
Students expelled for unsatisfactory participation	<5 ³	122

Source: NSW Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Suspensions and Expulsions in NSW government schools (2015-2018): <https://data.cese.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/suspensions-and-expulsions-in-nsw-government-schools> (accessed 9 October 2019)

¹ includes students on short suspension (four days or less) on more than one occasion

² includes students on long suspension (four to 20 school days) on more than one occasion

³ In order to protect individual students' identities, values 5 and under are represented as <5

¹ To our knowledge, LGA data is unavailable.

Early childhood development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the early childhood development of children in Australia in their first year of full-time school. It measures this across five domains that predict later health, education and social outcomes:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge

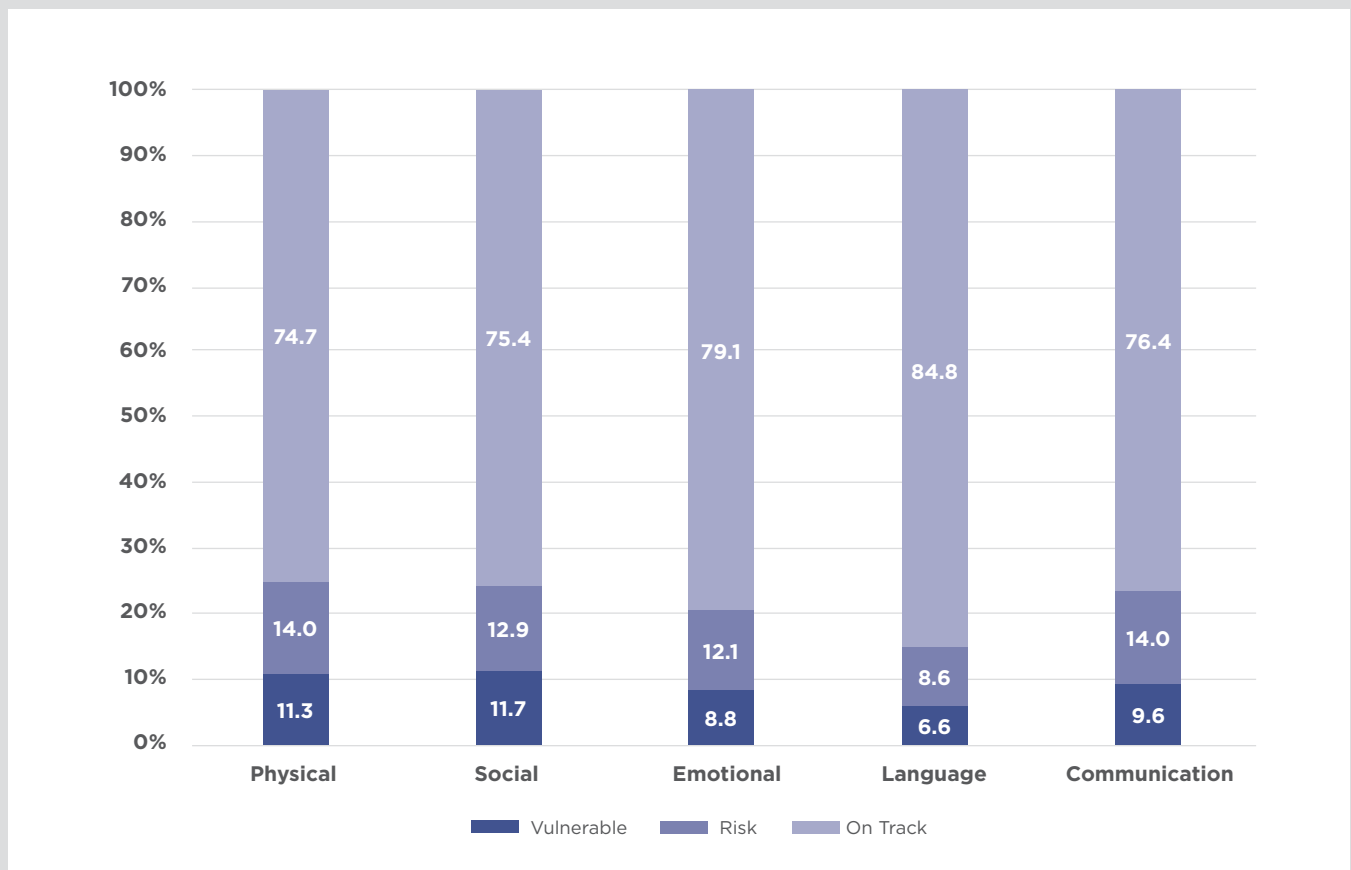
MORE INFORMATION

More information about the AEDC domains can be found in the [About the AEDC Domains](#) fact sheet.

The AEDC results can tell us if children are developmentally on track or if they need more support through their school years.

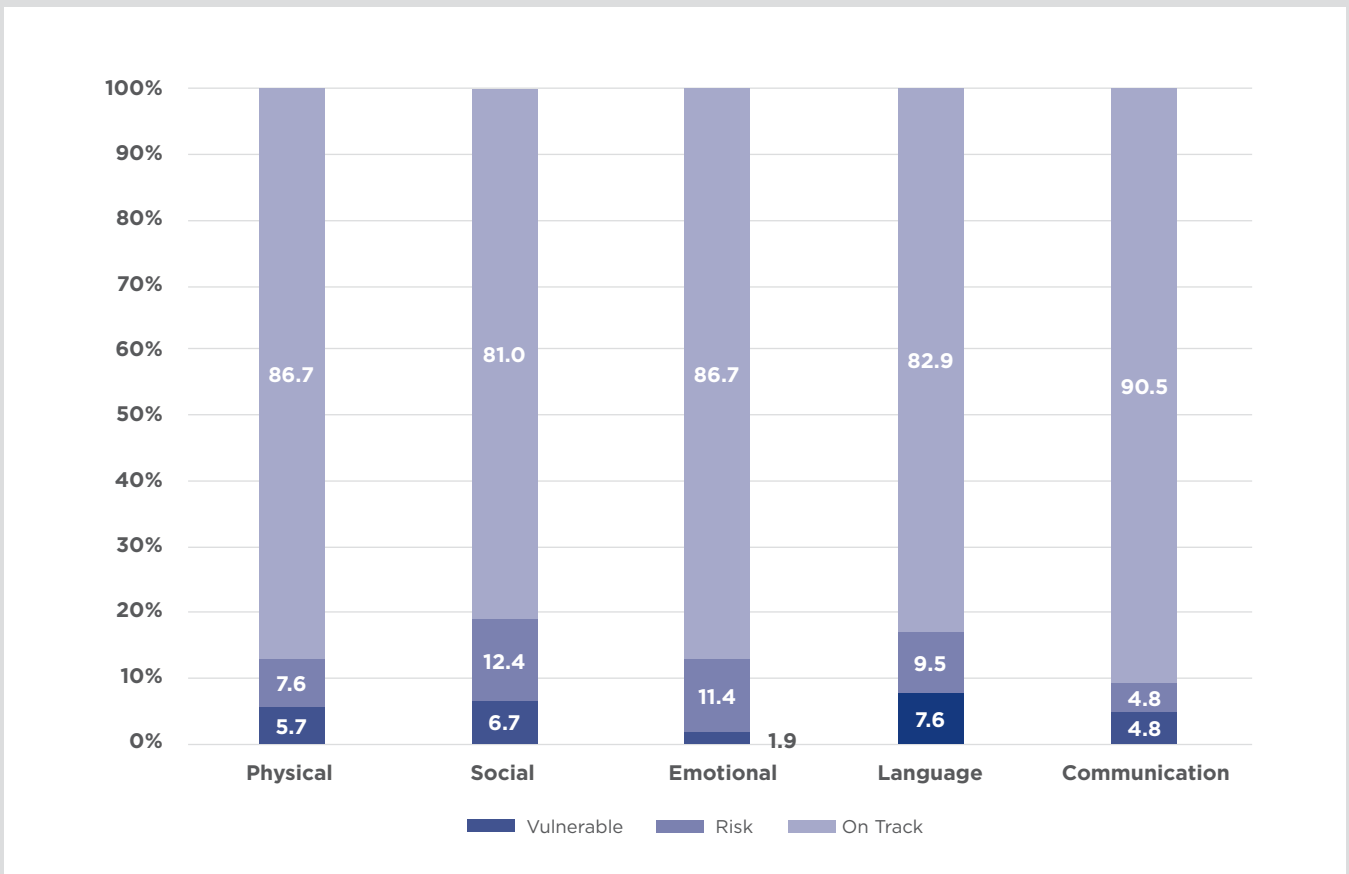
In the 2018 AEDC, the majority of children in the Western NSW district were developmentally on track (see Figures 2-22). In all 21 LGAs (excluding Brewarrina, as there were too few teachers or students to show), over 60% of children were developmentally on track for each of the five AEDC domains. The proportion of children developmentally 'at risk' and 'vulnerable' was greater in Bourke, Coonamble, Walgett, Warren, and Western Plains Regional.

Figure 2. 2018 AEDC results for Bathurst Regional LGA



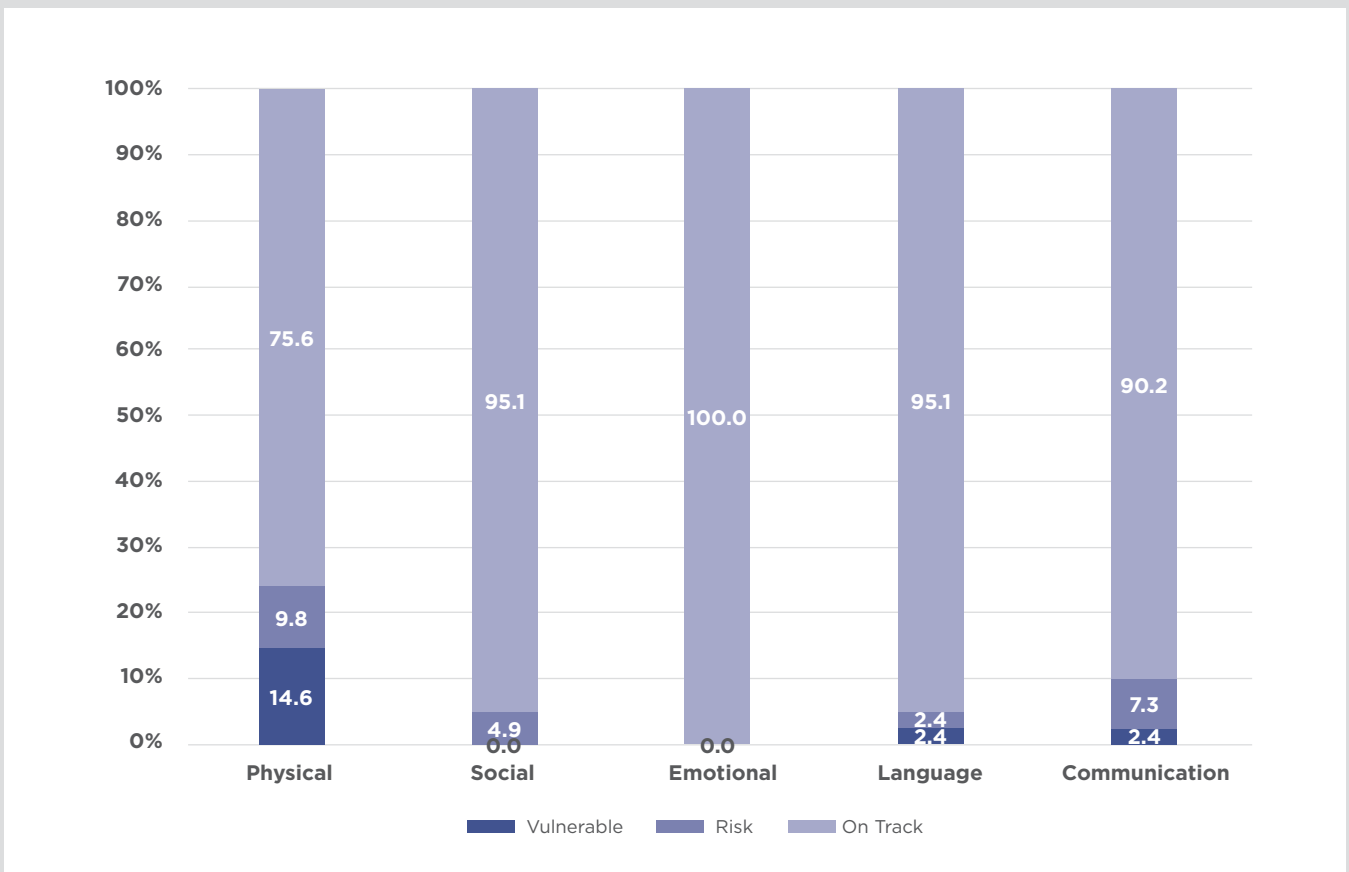
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135108> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 3. 2018 AEDC results for Blayney LGA



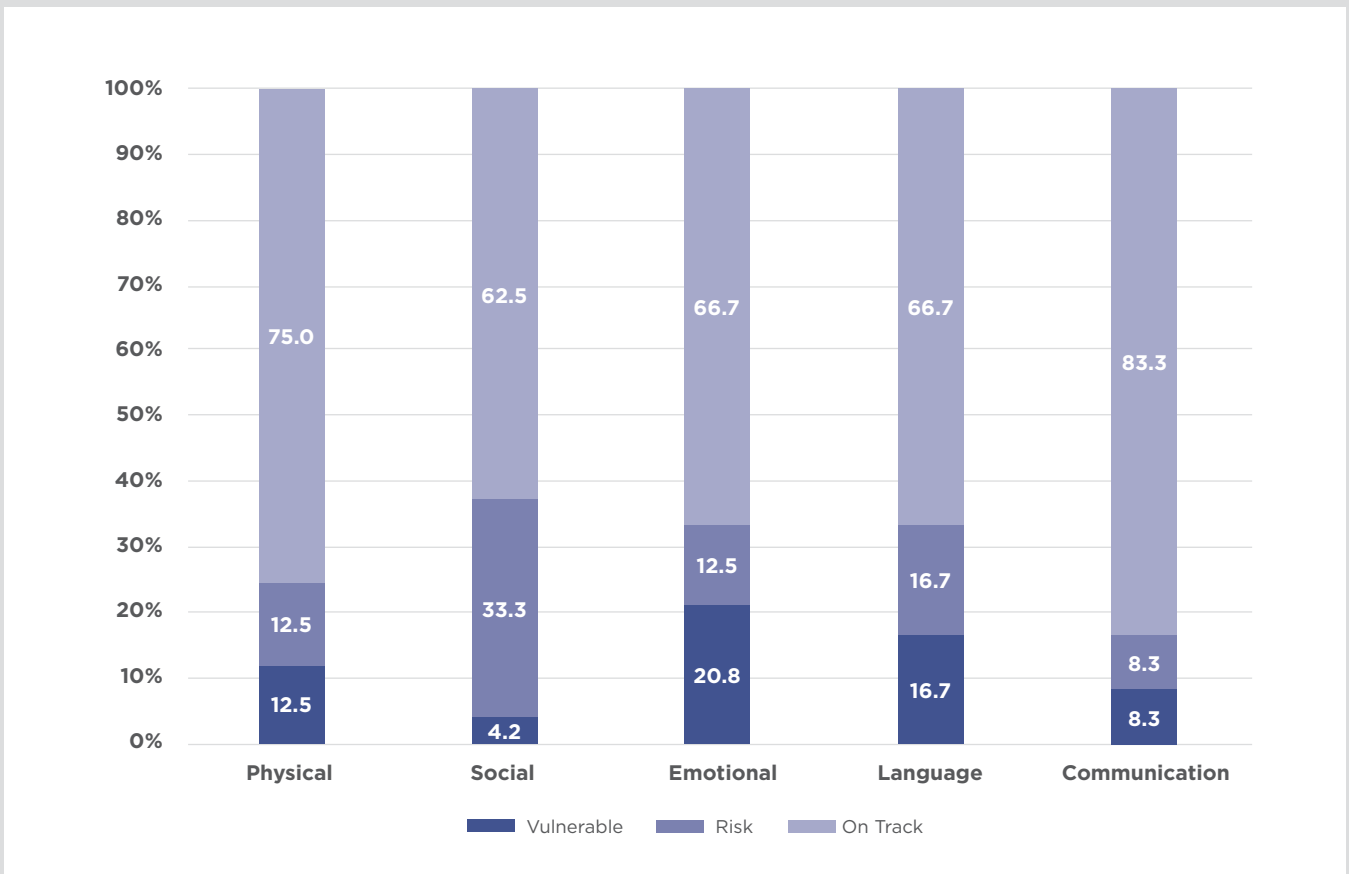
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135115> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 4. 2018 AEDC results for Bogan LGA



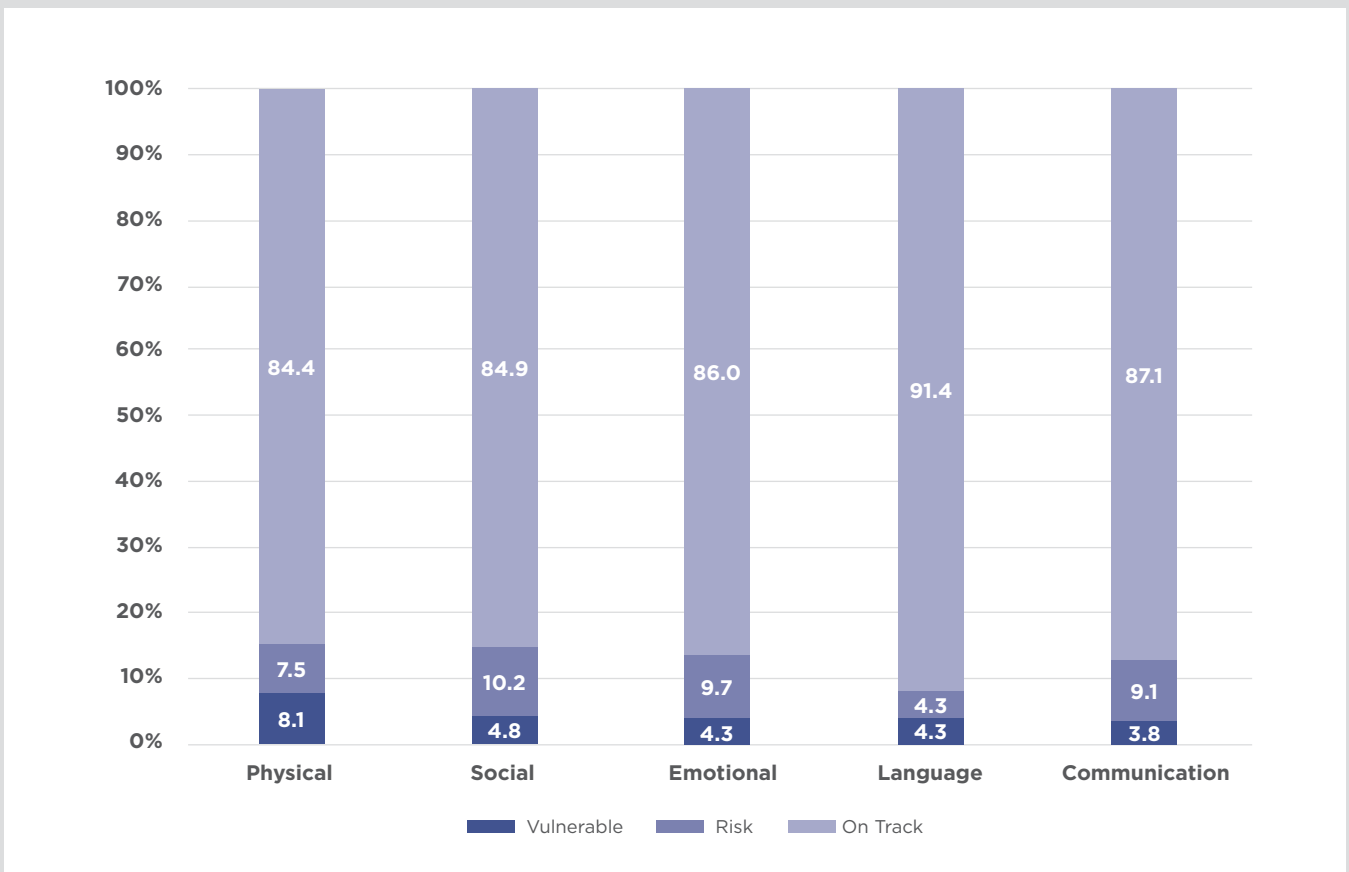
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135117> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 5. 2018 AEDC results for Bourke LGA



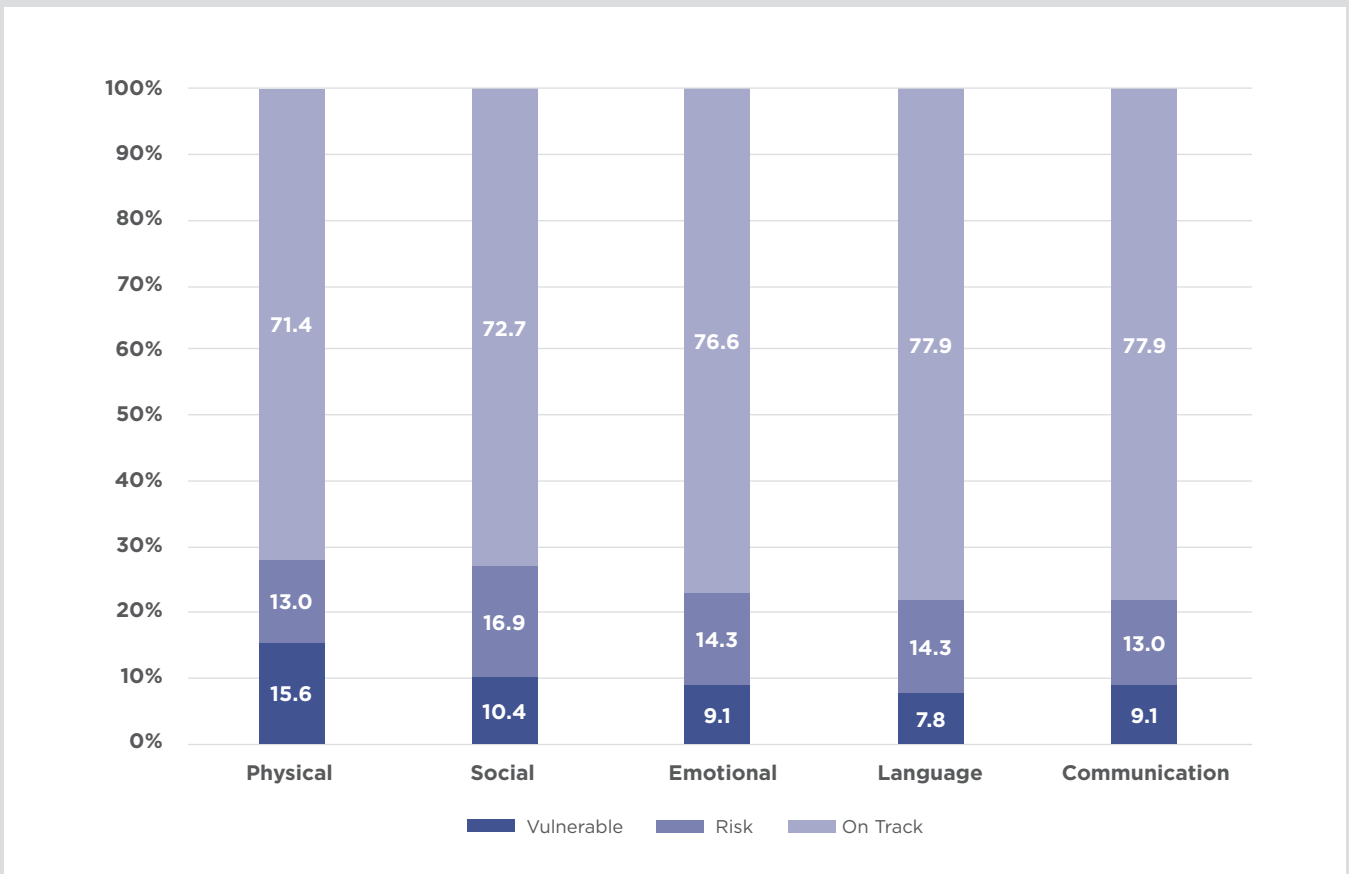
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135121> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 6. 2018 AEDC results for Cabonne LGA



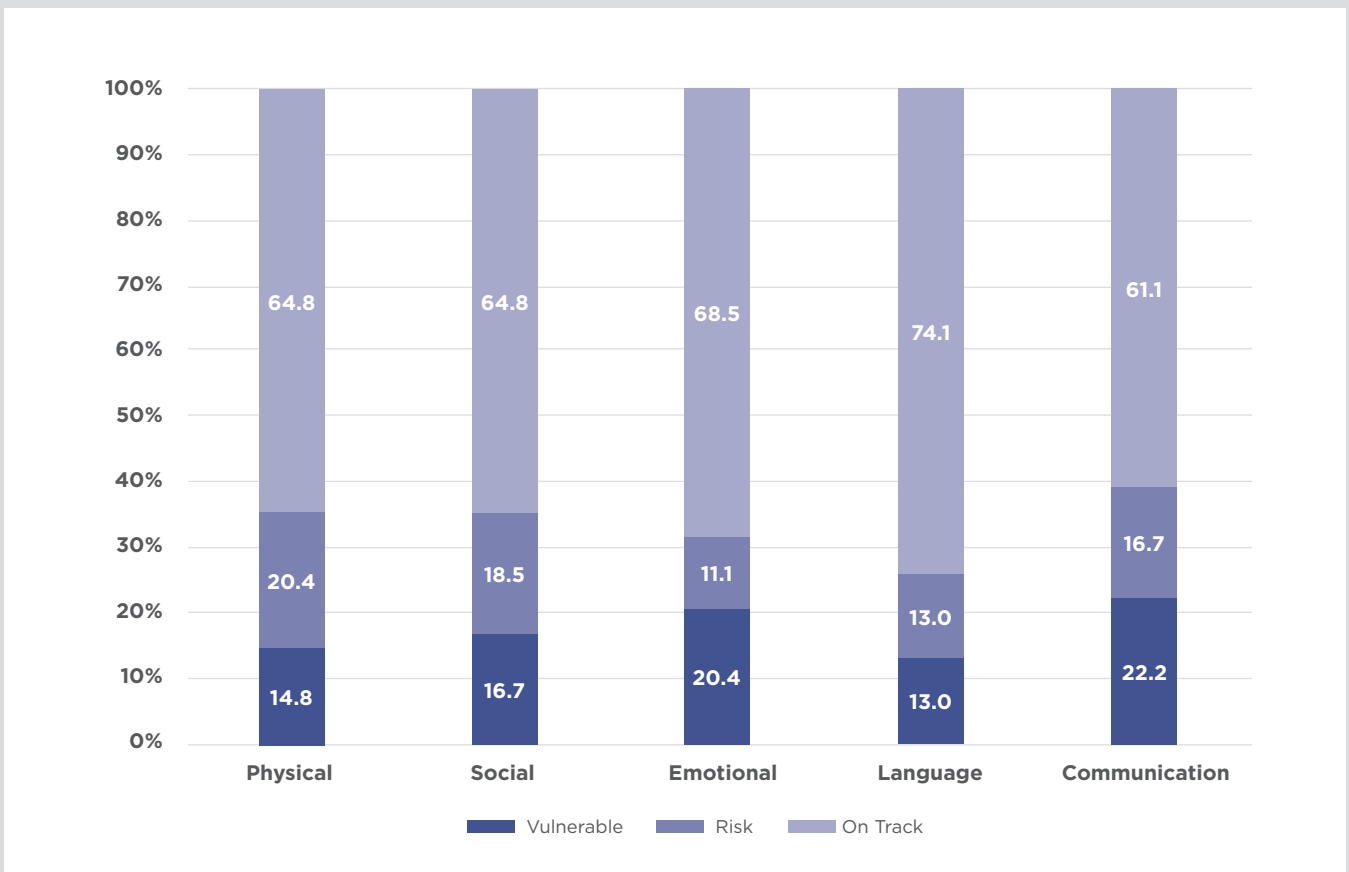
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135125> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 7. 2018 AEDC results for Cobar LGA



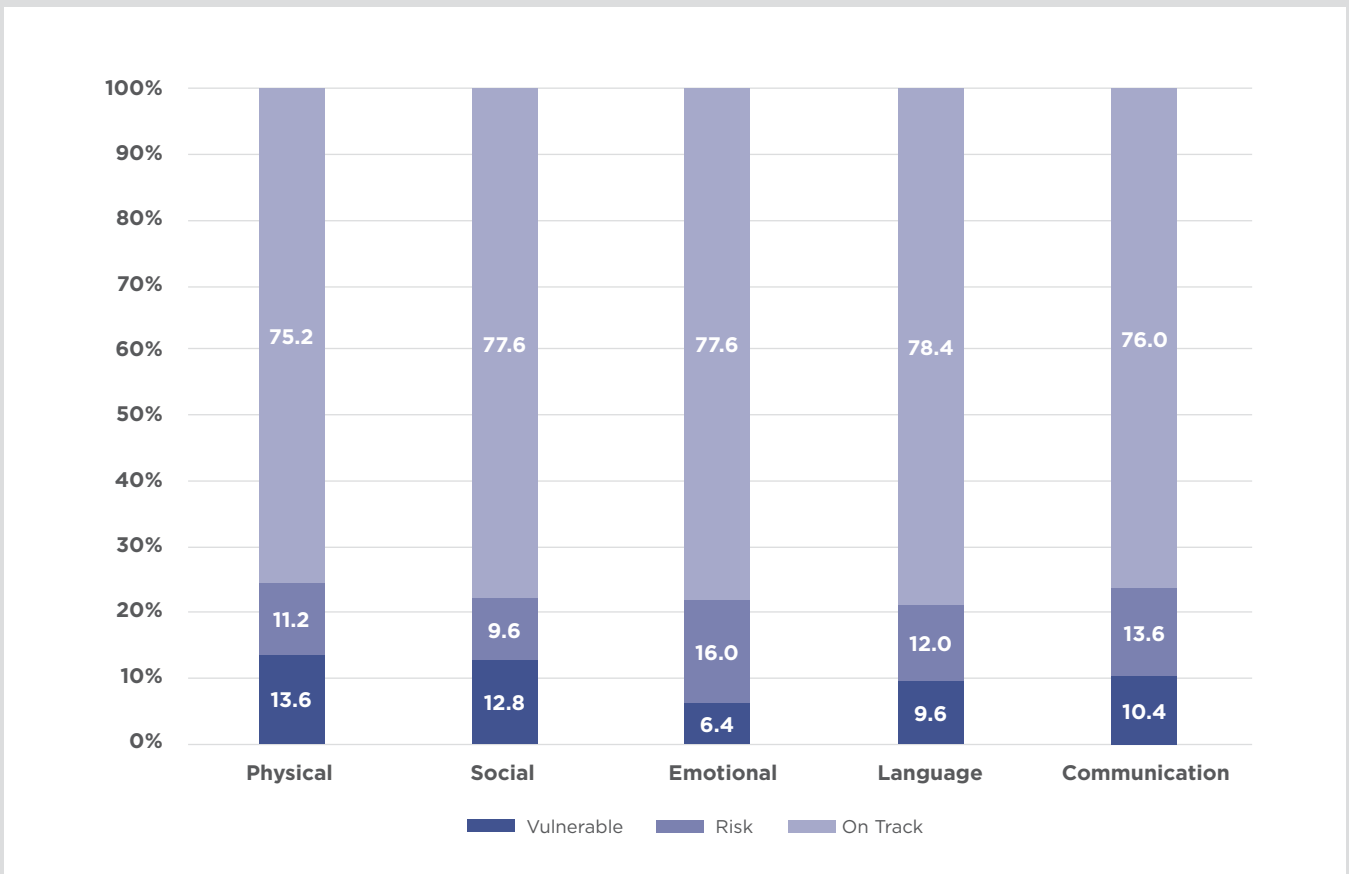
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135134> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 8. 2018 AEDC results for Coonamble LGA



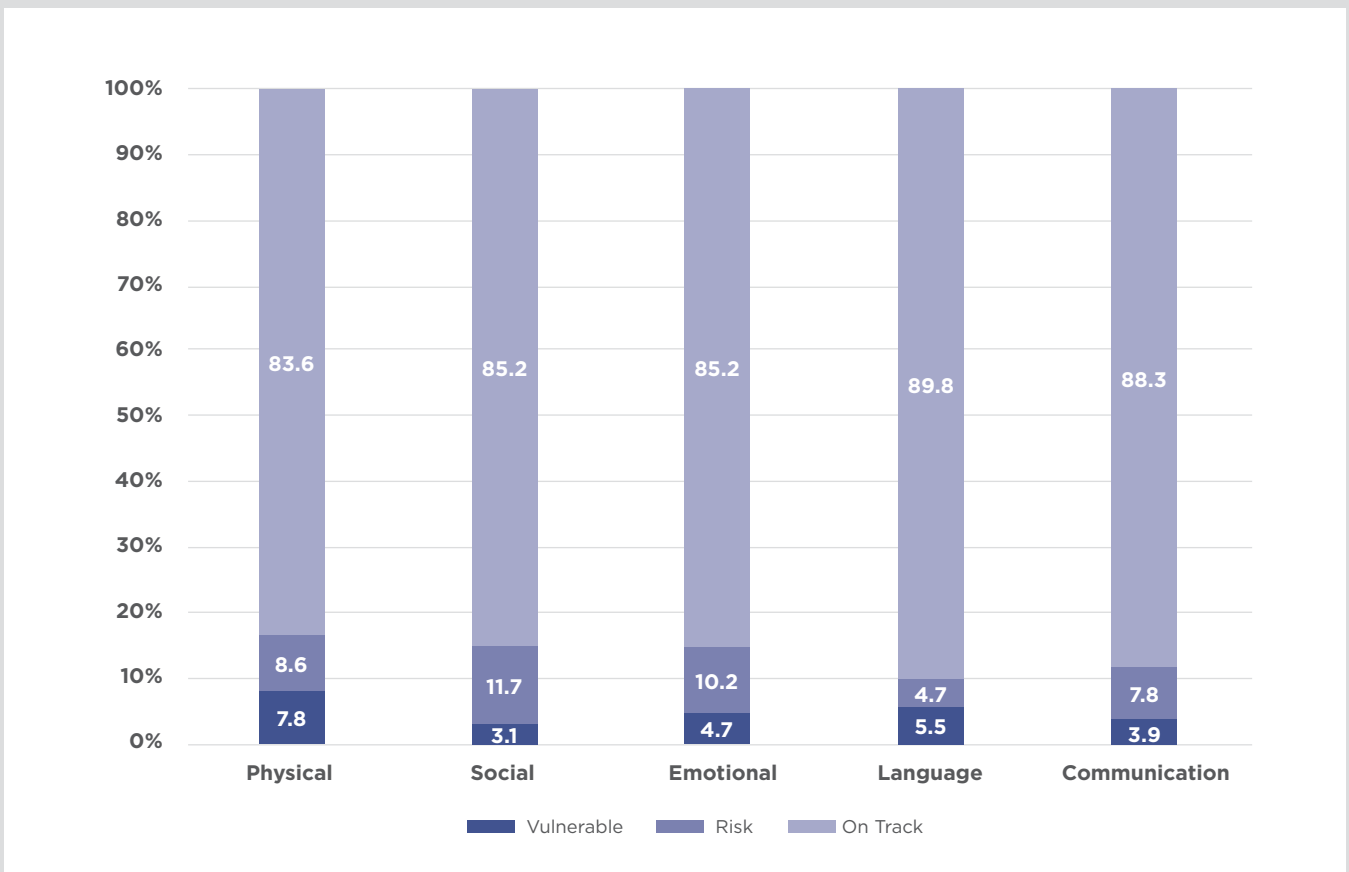
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135139> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 9. 2018 AEDC results for Cowra LGA



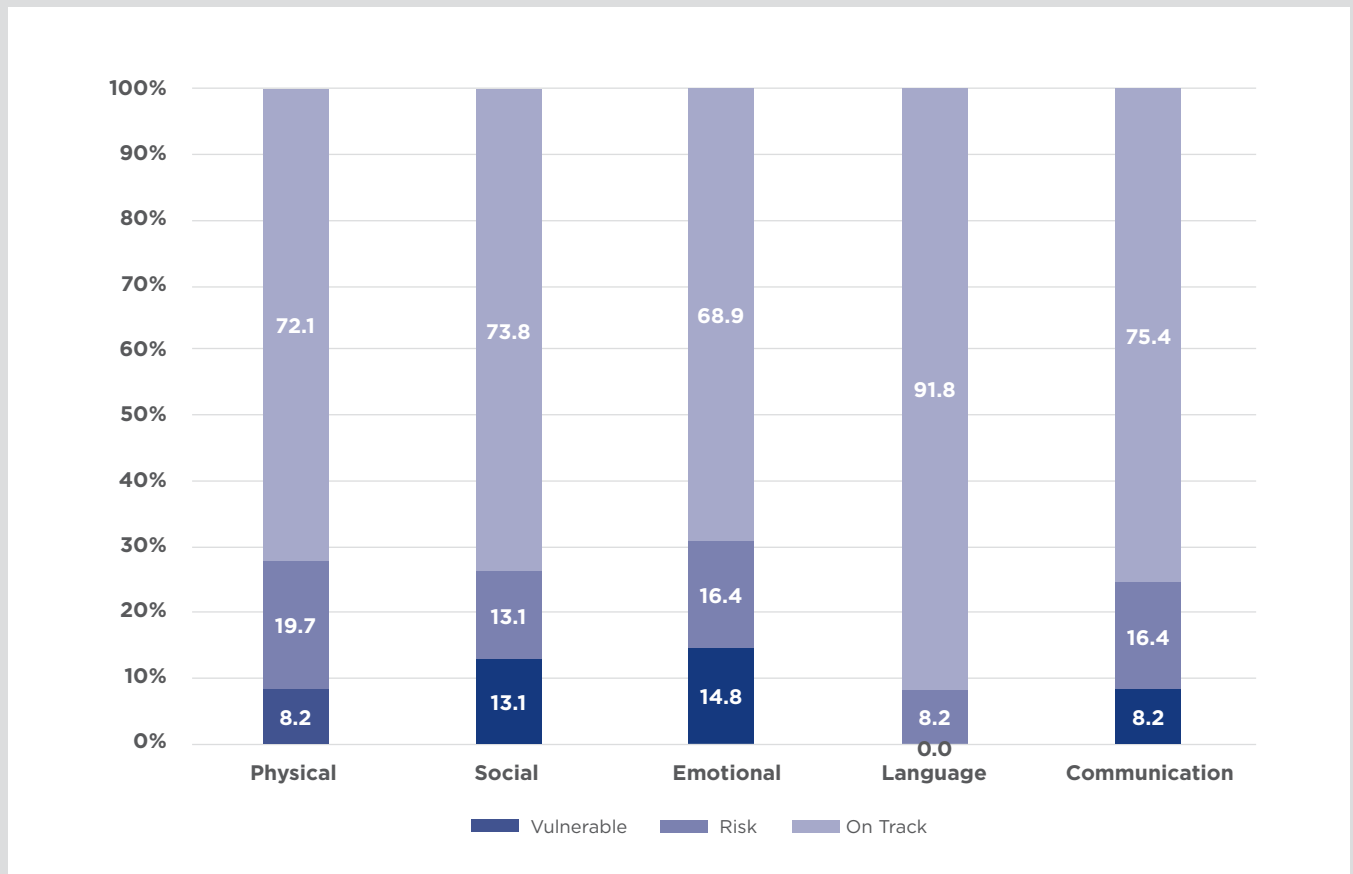
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135142> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 10. 2018 AEDC results for Forbes LGA



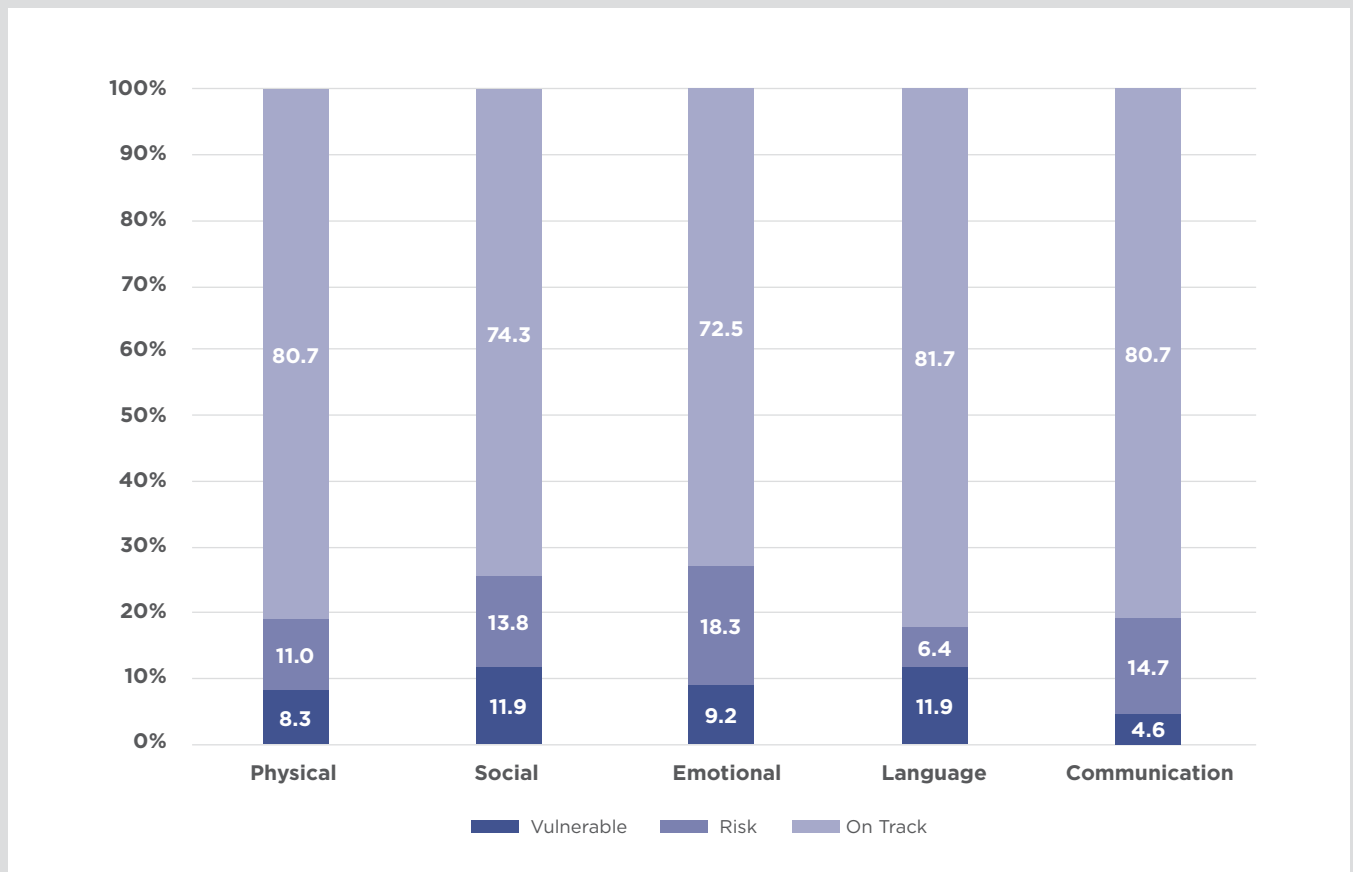
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135148> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 11. 2018 AEDC results for Gilgandra LGA



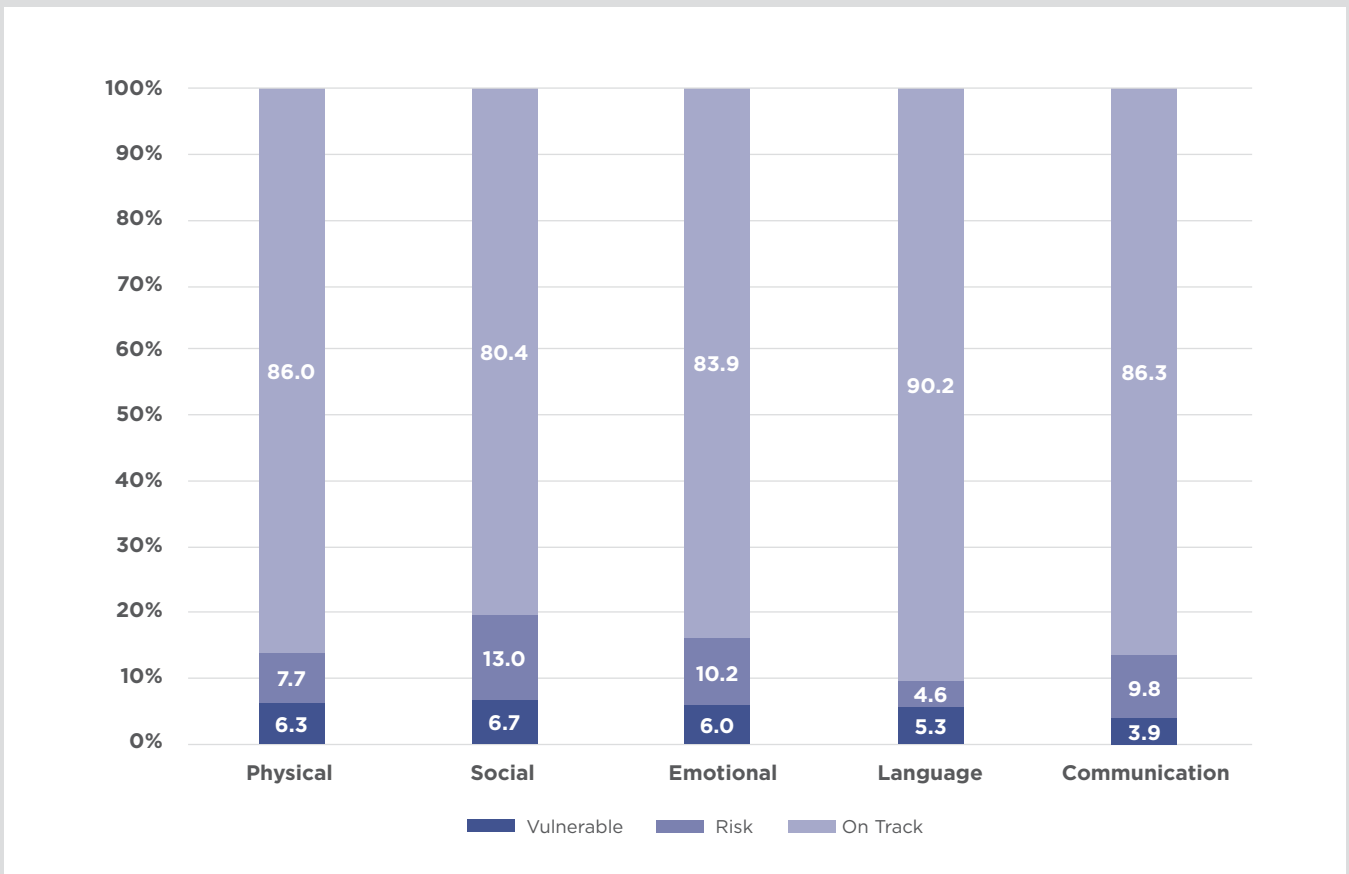
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135149> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 12. 2018 AEDC results for Lachlan LGA



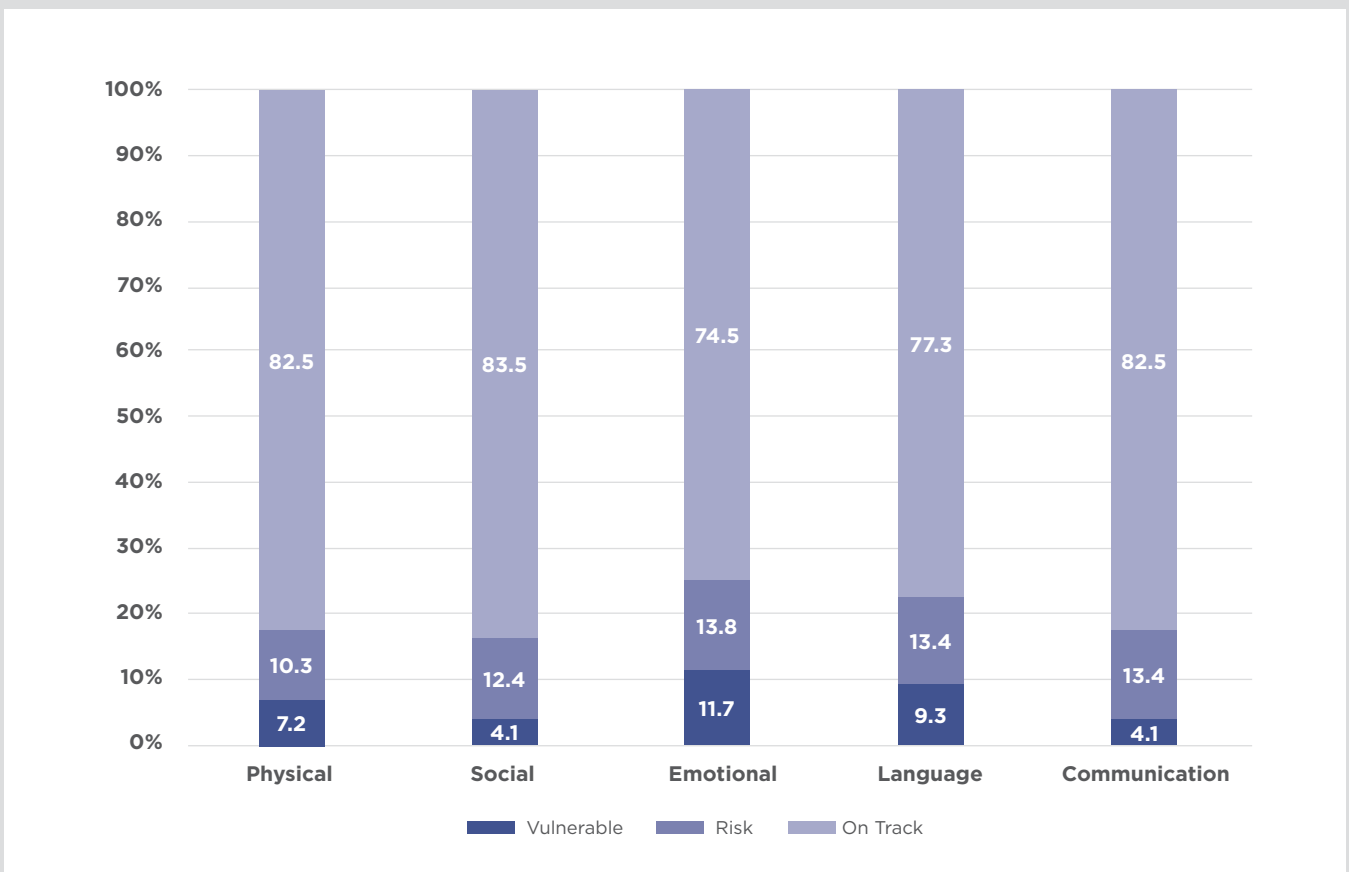
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135179> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 13. 2018 AEDC results for Mid-western Regional LGA



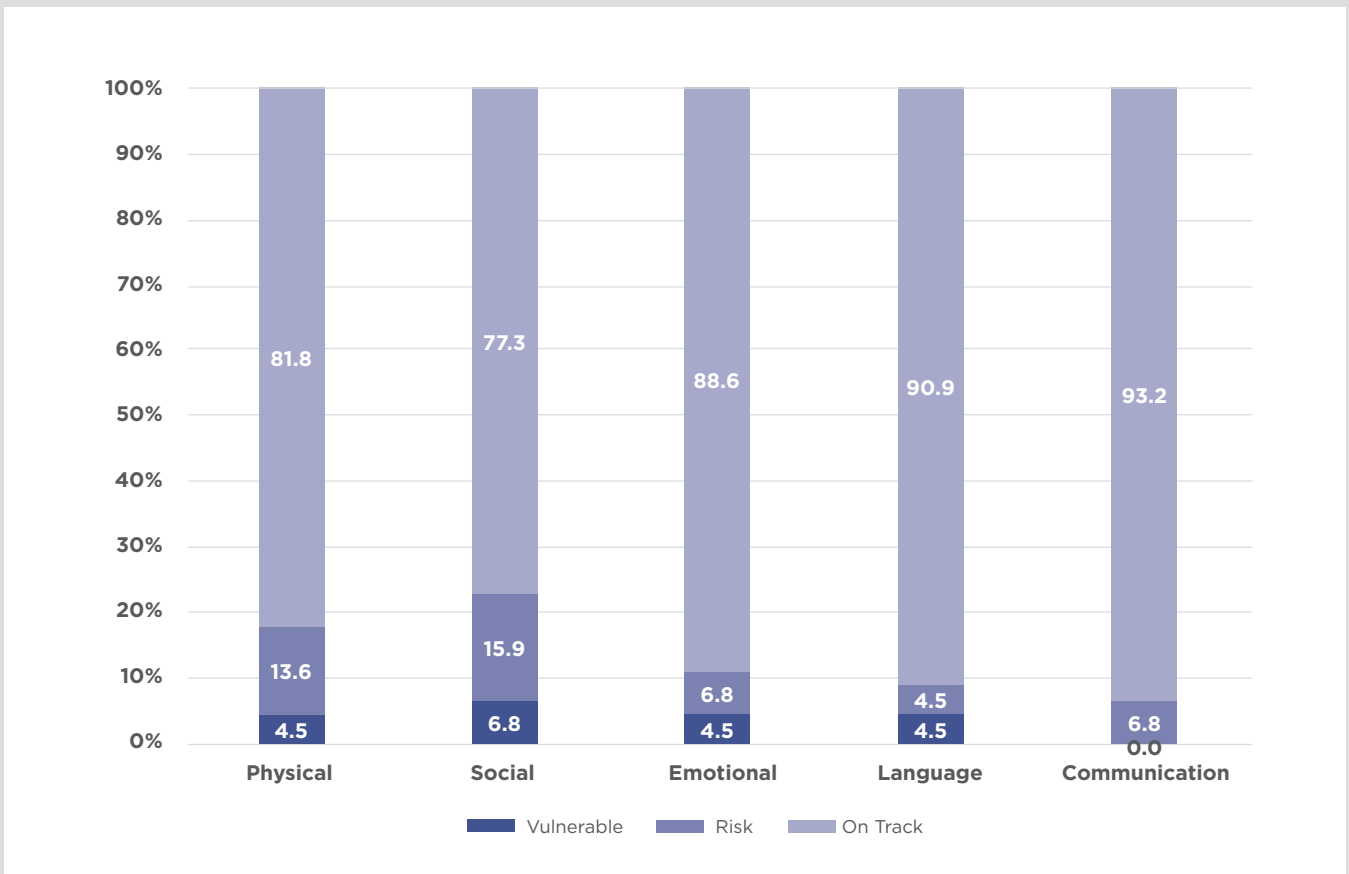
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135192> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 14. 2018 AEDC results for Narromine LGA



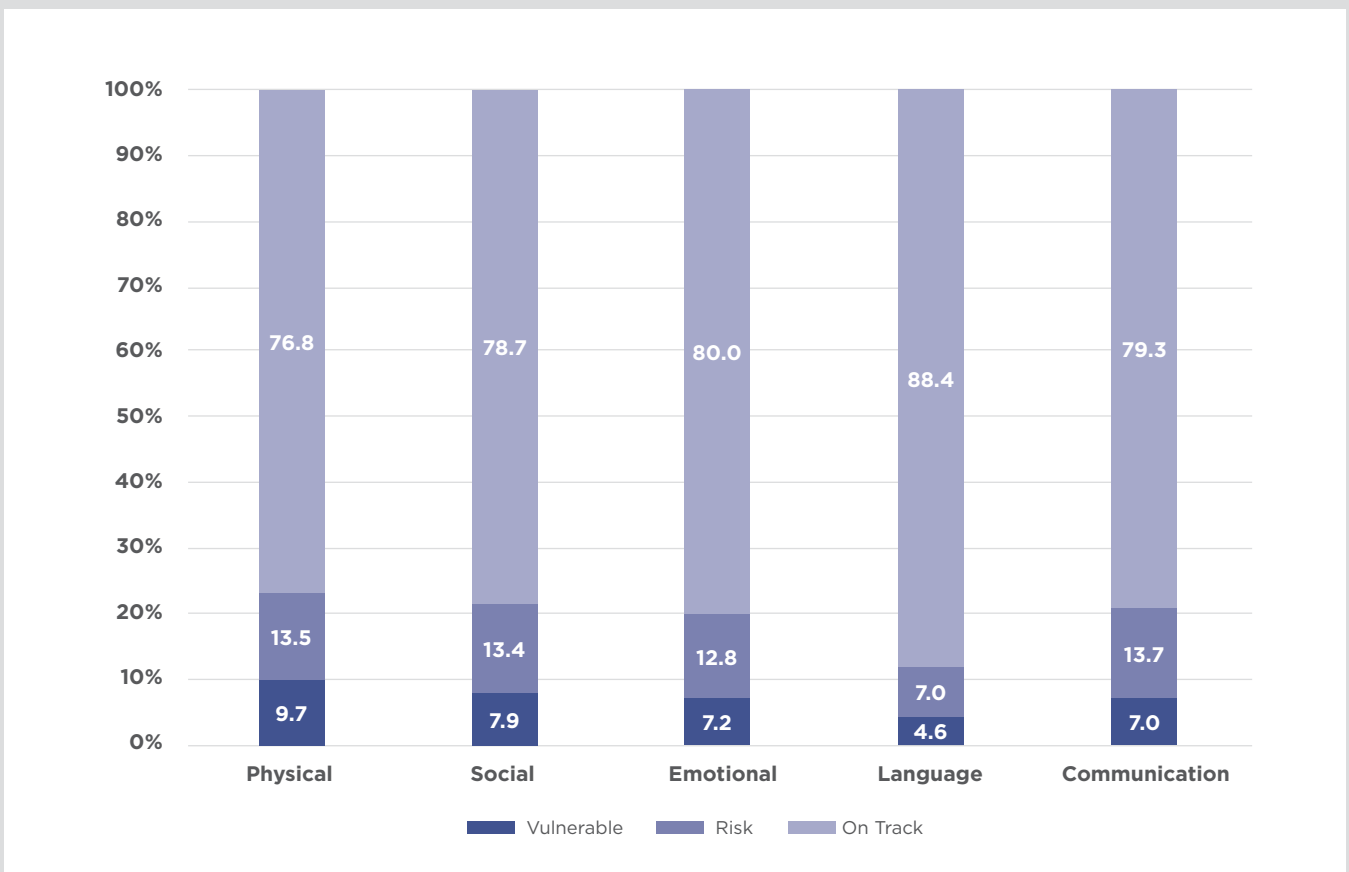
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135201> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 15. 2018 AEDC results for Oberon LGA



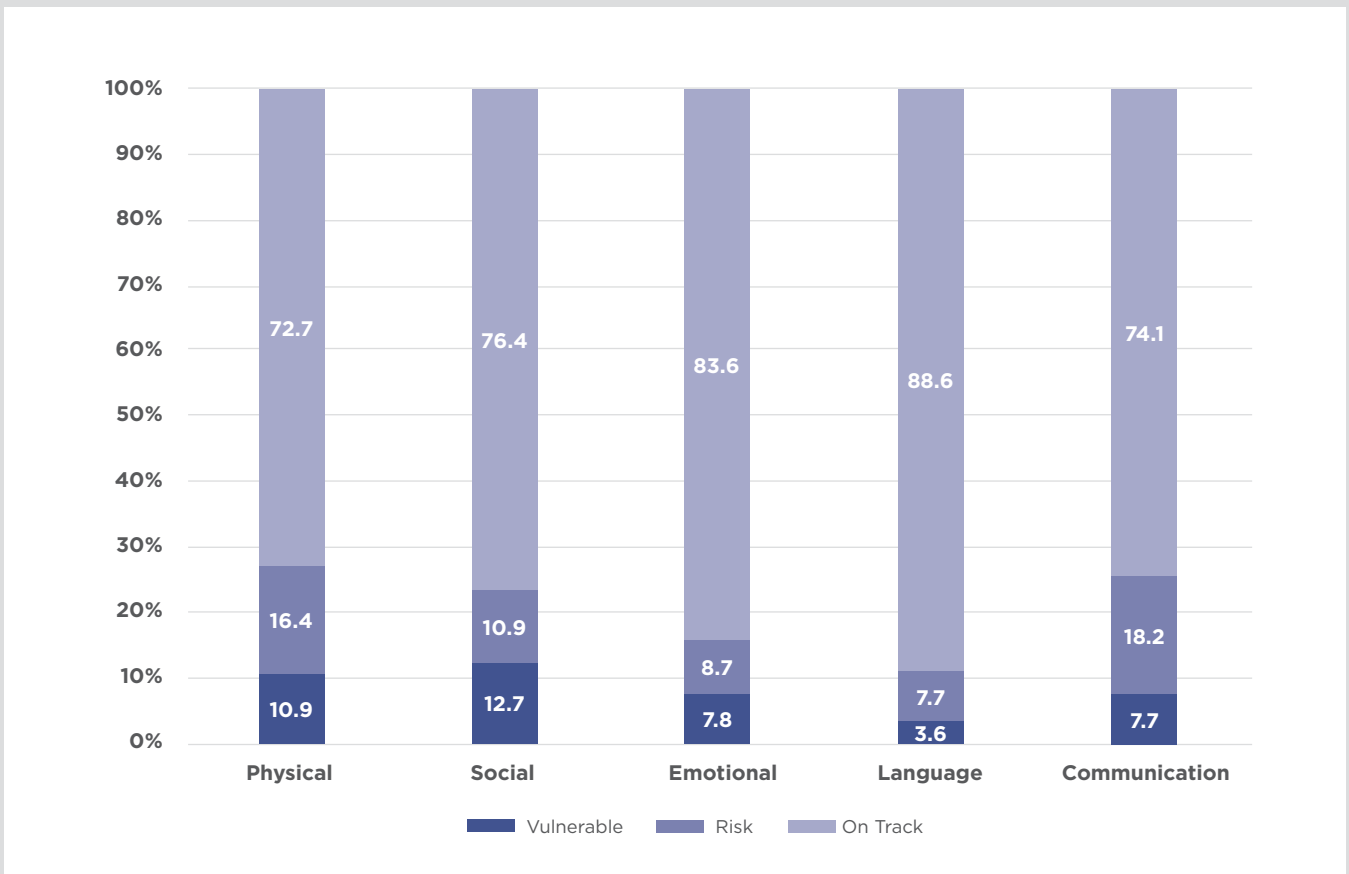
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135205> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 16. 2018 AEDC results for Orange LGA



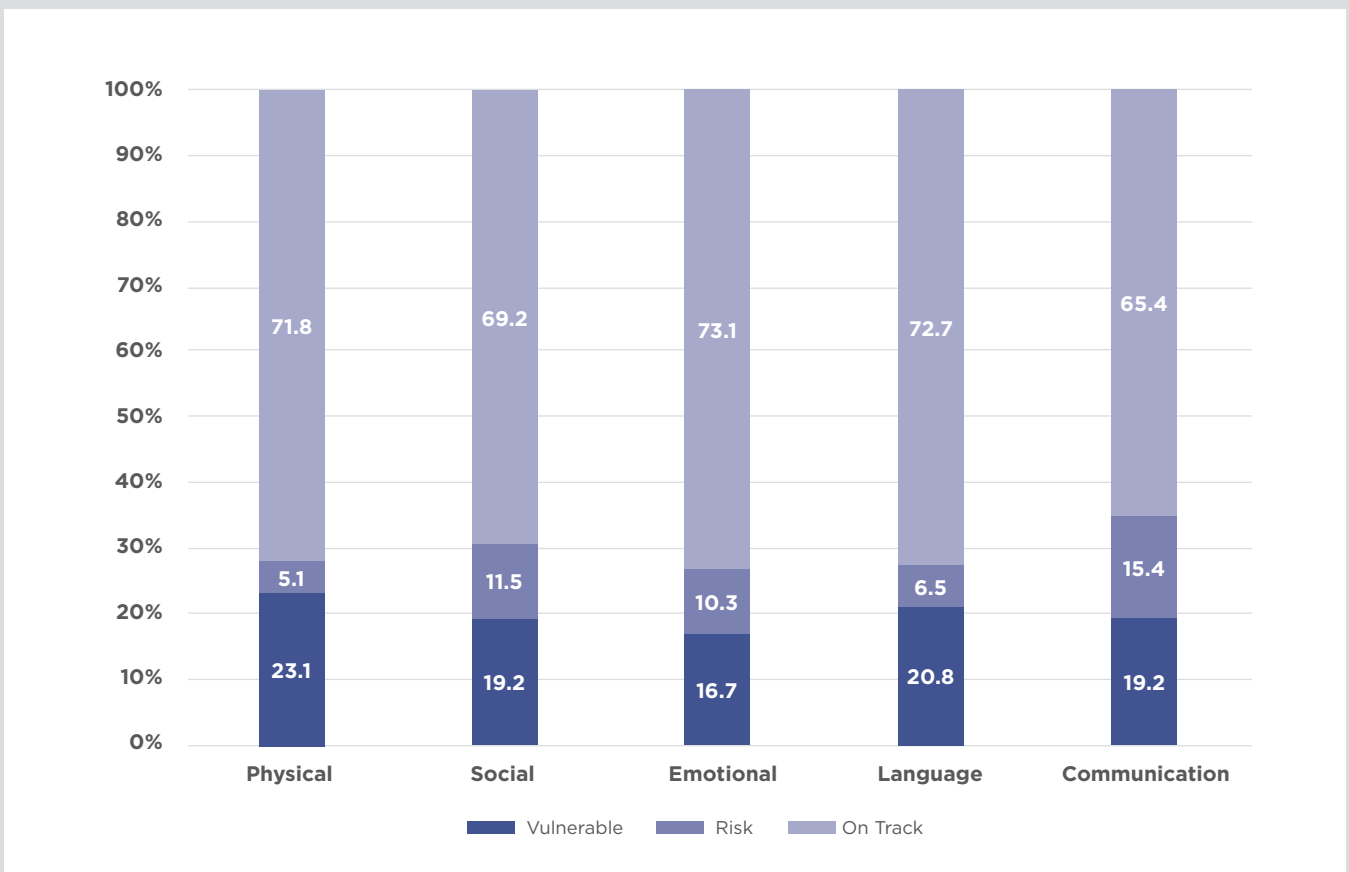
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135206> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 17. 2018 AEDC results for Parkes LGA



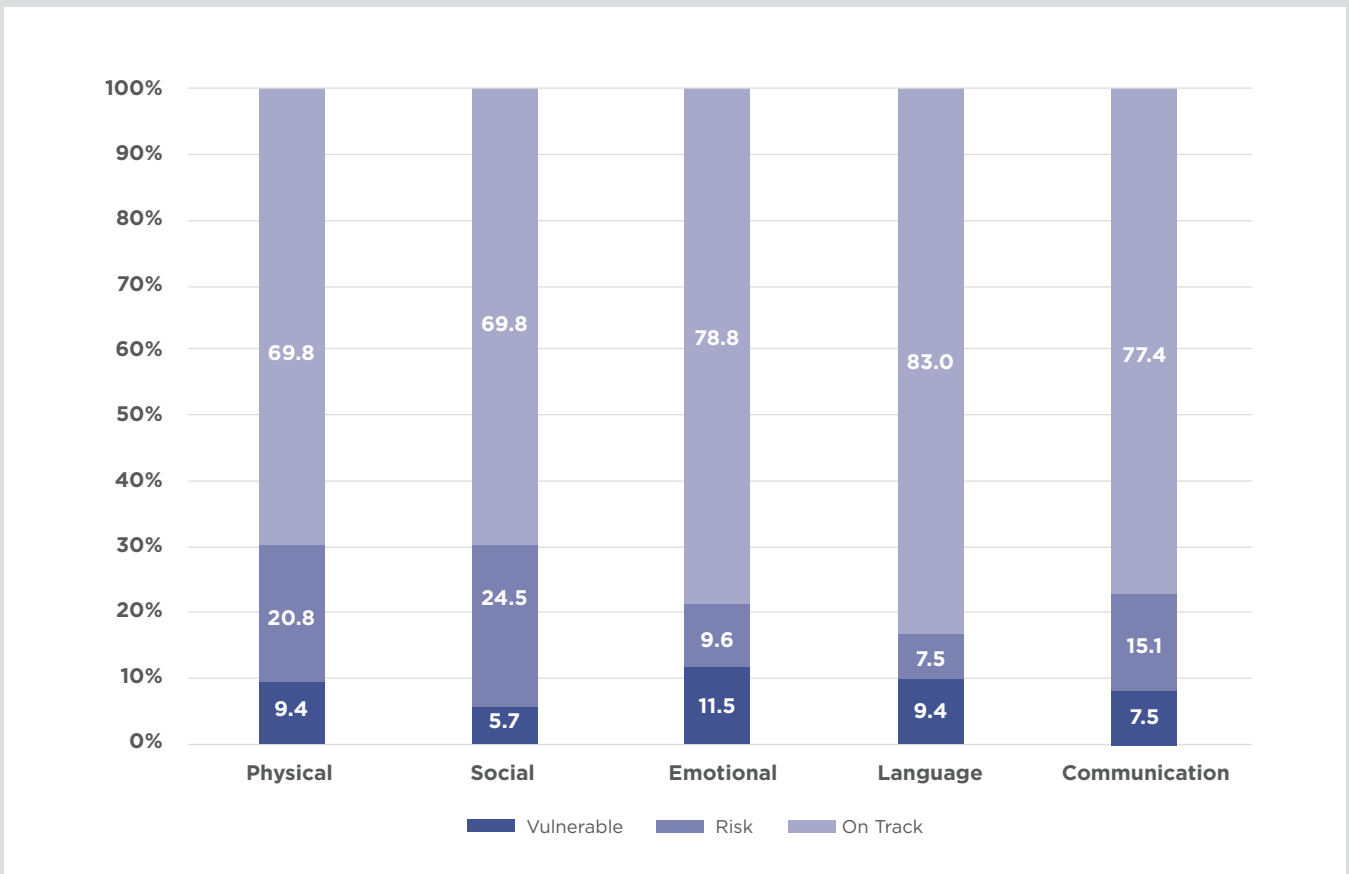
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135208> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 18. 2018 AEDC results for Walgett LGA



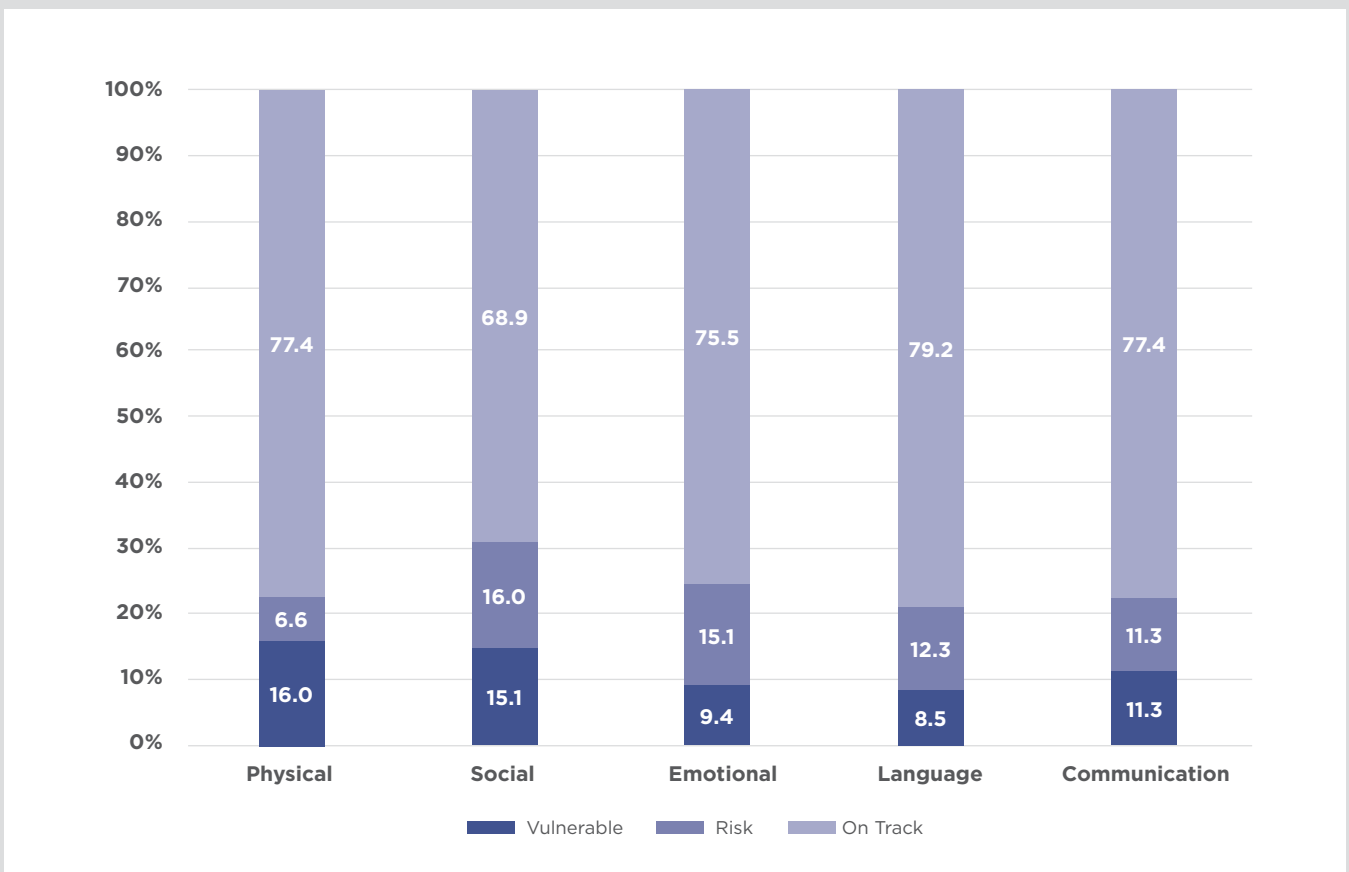
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135238> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 19. 2018 AEDC results for Warren LGA



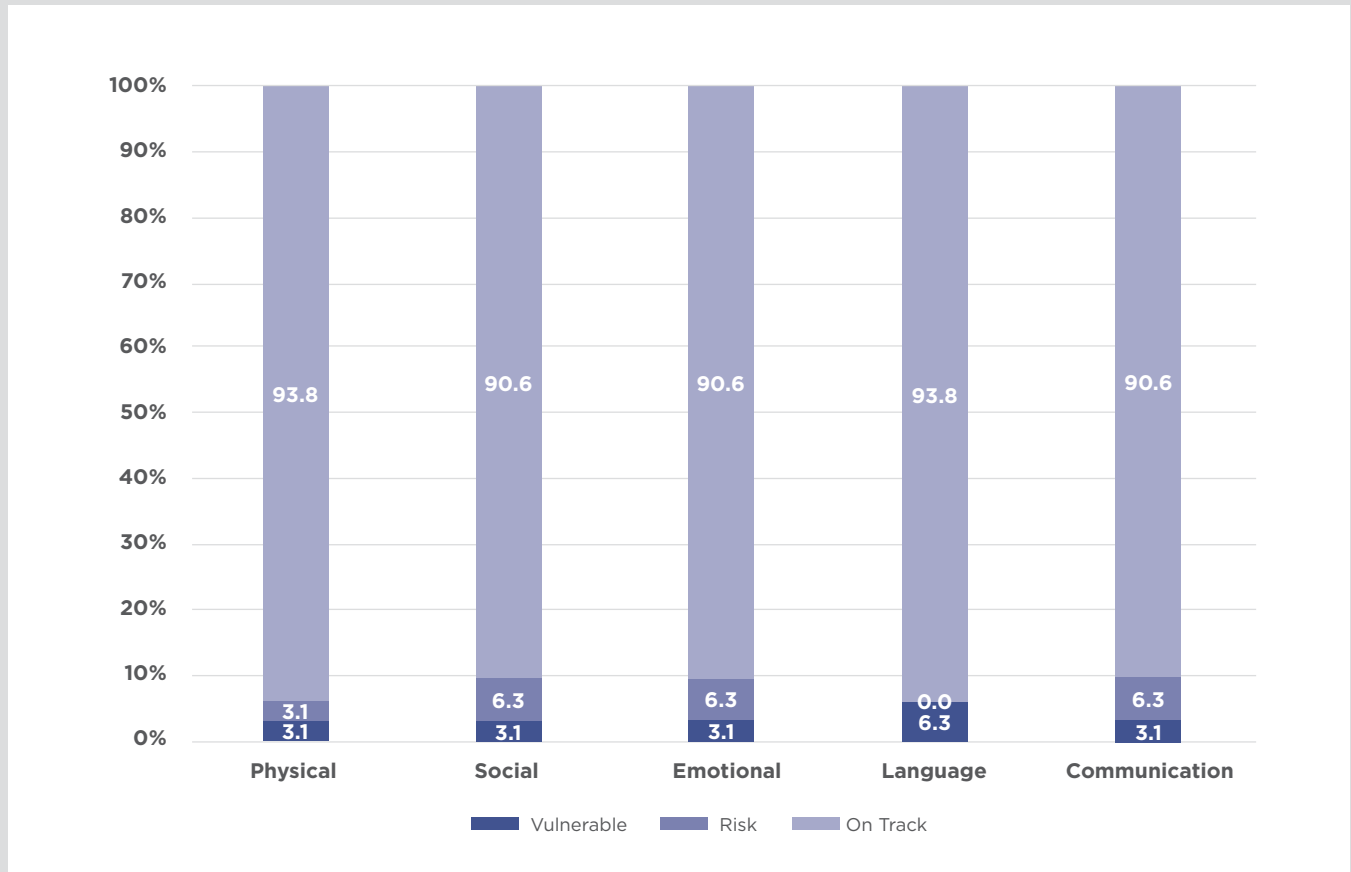
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135239> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 20. 2018 AEDC results for Warrumbungle Shire LGA



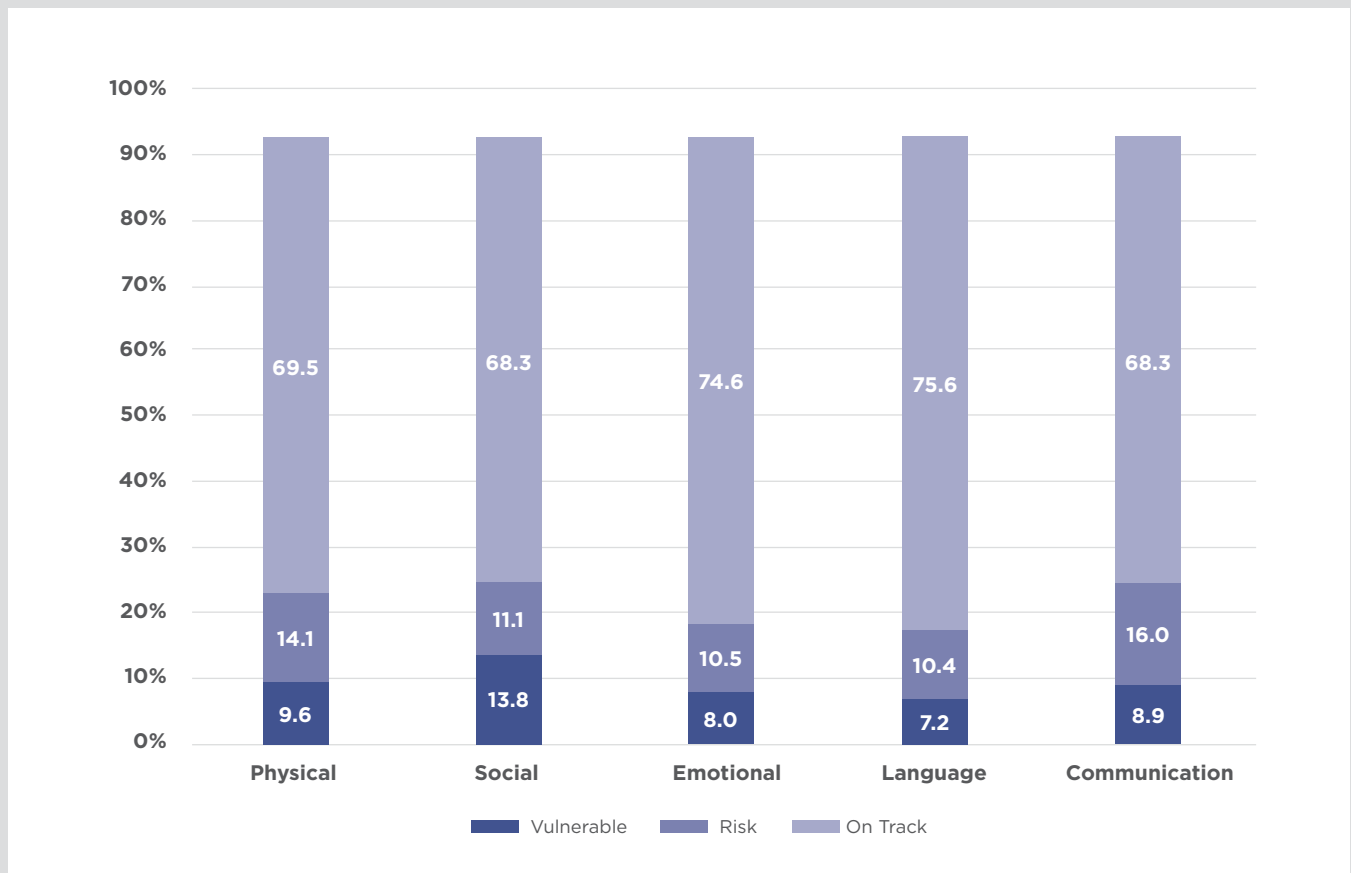
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135241> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 21. 2018 AEDC results for Weddin LGA



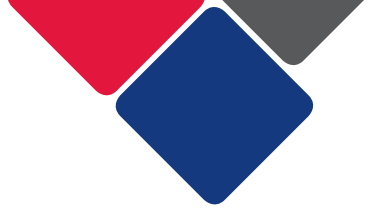
Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135243> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Figure 22. 2018 AEDC results for Western Plains Regional¹ LGA



Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer?id=135143> (accessed 10 October 2019)

¹ The figures presented here are a combination of the Dubbo and Wellington areas. These councils combined in 2016 to form the Western Plains Regional Council. The Western Plains Regional Council may also be known as the Dubbo Regional Council.



The AEDC also has two summary indicators that measure developmental vulnerability across all five domains.

In 2018, 10.5% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains in the Western NSW district (see Table 8). Walgett had the highest proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains, at 23.1%. Oberon had the smallest proportion at 2.3%.

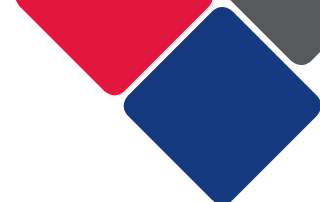
Table 8. Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable in Western NSW District, by LGA, 2018

	Developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domain		Developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains		Total no. of children measured
	No.	%	No.	%	
Bathurst Regional	118	23.0	69	13.5	546
Blayney	18	17.1	8	7.6	110
Bogan	6	14.6	1	2.4	43
Bourke	8	33.3	4	16.7	25
Brewarrina ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cabonne	24	12.9	12	6.5	190
Cobar	19	24.7	10	13.0	82
Coonamble	22	40.7	12	22.2	61
Cowra	28	22.4	17	13.6	135
Forbes	16	12.5	8	6.3	132
Gilgandra	16	26.2	8	13.1	63
Lachlan	20	18.3	12	11.0	111
Mid-western Regional	47	16.5	15	5.3	303
Narromine	16	17.0	11	11.3	99
Oberon	7	15.9	1	2.3	48
Orange	106	18.6	51	9.0	596
Parkes	50	22.7	25	11.4	233
Walgett	29	37.2	18	23.1	81
Warren	11	21.2	6	11.3	55
Warrumbungle Shire	27	25.5	18	17.0	113
Weddin	3	9.4	1	3.1	35
Western Plains Regional ²	173	23.0	95	12.7	751
Western NSW	764	20.0	402	10.5	3,812
NSW	18,583	19.9	9,001	9.6	97,731

Source: AEDC Data Explorer: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data/data-explorer> (accessed 10 October 2019)

¹ Too few teachers or children to display

² The figures presented here are a combination of the Dubbo and Wellington areas. These councils combined in 2016 to form the Western Plains Regional Council. The Western Plains Regional Council may also be known as the Dubbo Regional Council.



Vulnerable children and young people

Using the Their Futures Matter (TFM) Human Services Dataset, TFM identified three vulnerable groups of children and young people in NSW:

<p>Young children aged 0-5</p>	<p>Children aged 5 or younger at 30 June 2017 with one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more parental risk factors • 2 or more perinatal risk factors • Assessment as at ROSH
<p>Children aged under 15 and affected by mental illness</p>	<p>Children under 15 years at 30 June 2017 with one or more the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory) • Parental use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)
<p>Children and young people aged 15-18 and affected by mental illness</p>	<p>Children and young people between 15-18 years at 30 June 2017 with one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory) • Parental use of NSW mental health services (hospital or ambulatory)

For each vulnerable group, TFM identified five indicators associated with poor outcomes later in life. They also identified the proportion of this group with this indicator. TFM identified these indicators by undertaking predictive modelling and analysis, using the TFM Human Services Data set. This dataset brings together data collected by ten different government agencies. It includes data on child protection, housing, justice, health, education and commonwealth service use.

Table 9 shows the top five indicators for each vulnerable group in the Murrumbidgee district.

Table 9. Indicators of vulnerable children and young people in the Western NSW district

Vulnerable group	Indicator	% of group with indicator
Young children aged 0-5	Parents have interacted with justice system	43
	Mother smoked during pregnancy	43
	Child had concern report	31
	Mother aged 21 and under at childbirth	26
	Parents have been in social housing	18
Children aged under 15 and affected by mental illness	Child had a concern report	46
	Mother smoked during pregnancy	43
	Parents have interacted with justice system	41
	Mother aged 21 and under at childbirth	27
	Parents have been in social housing	27
Children and young people aged 15-18 and affected by mental illness	NAPLAN Year 7 band less than 6	57
	Had concern report in the last three years	39
	Hospital admission in the last three years	29
	Family have been in social housing	33
	Has appeared in court	9

Source: Their Futures Matter, FACS District Data pack, Western NSW district

Table 10 shows the number and proportion of children in each of the vulnerable groups by LGA. It also shows us what proportion of this group identifies as Aboriginal.

For example, in Brewarrina, 106 children were under the age of 5. Of these children, 79% (n=84) were identified as vulnerable. By comparison, in Weddin, 25% (n=47) of children under the age of 5 were identified as vulnerable.

When looking at children under the age of 15, 26% were affected by mental illness in Gilgandra, compared to 8% (n=37) in Weddin.

When looking at children and young people between the ages of 15 and 18, 36% (n=49) were affected by mental illness in Bourke, compared to 17% (n=44) in Oberon.

Table 10. Vulnerable groups of children and young people in the Western NSW district, by LGA

	Vulnerable young children aged 0-5 years				Children under 15 affected by mental illness				Children and young people aged 15-18 affected by mental illness			
	C/YP aged under 5		Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5		C/YP aged under 5		Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5		C/YP aged under 5		Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bathurst Regional	2,861	36%	1,021	30%	5,943	18%	1,054	27%	1,957	21%	415	21%
Blayney	492	30%	146	31%	1,078	13%	137	30%	326	23%	74	27%
Bogan	226	42%	93	47%	432	24%	105	52%	136	27%	37	70%
Bourke	297	56%	165	89%	628	24%	148	83%	137	36%	49	80%
Brewarrina¹	106	79%	84	NA	231	24%	56	89%	58	45%	26	NA
Cabonne	1,047	38%	402	21%	2,173	15%	331	25%	661	21%	139	25%
Cobar	380	40%	151	42%	721	22%	162	43%	198	29%	57	54%
Coonamble	347	59%	205	85%	702	21%	149	90%	232	21%	48	90%
Cowra	715	45%	322	31%	1,609	23%	364	35%	538	28%	149	28%
Forbes	759	42%	316	49%	1,422	19%	274	49%	482	20%	98	42%
Gilgandra	229	60%	138	72%	548	26%	144	61%	203	33%	68	47%

¹ Some cells have been set to NA to minimize the risk of re-identification. These cells either have a count of less than 5 people or have the lowest number of people in the District in the remaining LGAS.

Table 10. Vulnerable groups of children and young people in the Western NSW district, by LGA (continued)

	Vulnerable young children aged 0-5 years				Children under 15 affected by mental illness				Children and young people aged 15-18 affected by mental illness			
	C/YP aged under 5	Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5		Aboriginal	C/YP aged under 5	Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5		Aboriginal	C/YP aged under 5	Vulnerable C/YP aged under 5		Aboriginal
	No.	No.	%	%	No.	No.	%	%	No.	No.	%	%
Lachlan	462	182	39%	61%	1,081	194	18%	62%	321	72	22%	51%
Mid-western Regional	1,670	571	34%	25%	3,522	715	20%	23%	1,039	274	26%	19%
Narromine	590	261	44%	62%	1,117	219	20%	75%	330	95	29%	60%
Oberon	330	126	38%	21%	671	118	18%	25%	254	44	17%	16%
Orange	3,603	1,502	42%	24%	6,798	1,388	20%	29%	1,862	466	25%	26%
Parkes	1,062	443	42%	42%	2,224	439	20%	46%	743	158	21%	35%
Walgett	937	275	51%	78%	1,117	176	16%	84%	298	84	28%	71%
Warren	226	95	42%	56%	415	86	21%	57%	113	35	31%	46%
Warrumbungle Shire	583	228	39%	40%	1,290	248	19%	45%	411	76	18%	42%
Weddin ¹	188	47	25%	NA	444	37	8%	16%	103	30	29%	NA
Western Plains Regional	4,234	1,826	43%	54%	8,183	1,554	19%	57%	2,448	544	22%	49%

Source: Their Futures Matter, FACS District Data pack, Western NSW district

¹ Some cells have been set to NA to minimize the risk of re-identification. These cells either have a count of less than 5 people or have the lowest number of people in the District in the remaining LGAS..

Contact with child protection services

In 2016-17, 2.3% (n=1,564) of children and young people aged 18 and under were in out-of-home care (OOHC) in the Western NSW district (see Table 11). The largest number of children in OOHC was in the Western Plains Regional LGA (n=385).

In 2016-17, 9.5% (n=6,595) of children and young people aged under and 18 in the Western NSW district were found to be at risk of significant harm (ROSH). The largest number of children reported at ROSH was in the Western Plains Regional LGA (n=1,296).

Weddin had the smallest number of children reported at ROSH. There were no children in OOHC in Weddin.

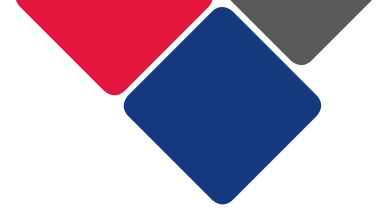
Table 11. Child Protection Overview in the Western NSW district, by LGA, 2016-17

	Total number of children and young people reported		Total number of children and young people at risk of significant harm		Total number of children and young people in out-of-home care, as of 30 June 2017		Total number of CYP 18 and under
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Bathurst Regional	1,039	10.0	815	7.8	165	1.6	10,425
Blayney	160	8.4	120	6.3	37	1.9	1,908
Bogan	64	9.3	50	7.3	16	2.3	686
Bourke	194	27.2	145	20.3	47	6.6	714
Brewarrina	113	24.8	84	18.5	20	4.4	455
Cabonne	343	9.5	258	7.1	72	2.0	3,624
Cobar	177	14.4	135	11.0	13	1.1	1,229
Coonamble	256	27.0	189	20.0	44	4.6	947
Cowra	352	12.8	276	10.0	100	3.6	2,753
Forbes	242	9.8	181	7.3	26	1.1	2,465
Gilgandra	134	13.4	100	10.0	23	2.3	1,001
Lachlan	250	15.6	196	12.2	39	2.4	1,603
Mid-western Regional	650	10.8	474	7.9	116	1.9	6,030
Narromine	313	18.7	250	14.9	67	4.0	1,677

Table 11. Child Protection Overview in the Western NSW district, by LGA, 2016-17 (continued)

	Total number of children and young people reported		Total number of children and young people at risk of significant harm		Total number of children and young people in out-of-home care, as of 30 June 2017		Total number of CYP 18 and under
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Oberon	107	8.8	78	6.4	21	1.7	1,215
Orange	1,200	11.2	930	8.7	212	2.0	10,693
Parkes	473	12.6	383	10.2	81	2.2	3,767
Walgett	326	22.4	271	18.6	42	2.9	1,456
Warren	85	12.4	67	9.7	10	1.5	688
Warrumbungle Shire	326	15.5	268	12.7	55	2.6	2,104
Weddin	36	4.6	29	3.7	0	0.0	775
Western Plains Regional	1,713	13.3	1,296	10.1	358	2.8	12,844
Western NSW	8,553	12.4	6,595	9.5	1,564	2.3	69,059
NSW	230,343	13.2	168,819	9.7	36,304	2.1	1,742,488

Source: FACS Datacube, accessed 14 October 2019



Economic Environment

Education

In the Western NSW district, 19.5% of people aged 15 and over reported having a Certificate III or IV as their highest level of educational attainment. Year 10 was the next most common highest level of educational attainment, at 17%, followed by a Bachelor Degree level or above, at 13.1% (see Table 12).

Table 12. Level of highest educational attainment in Western NSW, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over)

Level of highest educational attainment	Bathurst Regional		Blayney		Bogan		Bourke		Brewarrina		Cabonne		Cobar	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bachelor Degree level and above	5,356	16.1	748	13.0	194	9.1	198	9.9	95	7.4	1,498	14.3	325	9.0
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	2,672	8.1	428	7.4	116	5.4	144	7.2	65	5.1	900	8.6	175	4.8
Certificate level IV	1,223	3.7	219	3.8	42	2.0	53	2.6	18	1.4	336	3.2	100	2.8
Certificate level III	5,284	15.9	974	16.9	321	15.0	194	9.7	122	9.5	1,710	16.3	650	18.0
Year 12	4,360	13.1	591	10.3	270	12.6	184	9.2	130	10.1	1,106	10.5	377	10.4
Year 11	1,199	3.6	211	3.7	92	4.3	95	4.7	65	5.1	394	3.8	171	4.7
Year 10	4,495	13.5	984	17.1	409	19.1	308	15.3	248	19.3	1,712	16.3	639	17.7
Certificate level II	37	0.1	4	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.1	11	0.9	15	0.1	5	0.1
Certificate level I	6	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Year 9 or below	2,934	8.8	661	11.5	301	14.1	268	13.3	237	18.5	1,239	11.8	452	12.5
No education attainment	84	0.3	8	0.1	3	0.1	10	0.5	11	0.9	28	0.3	13	0.4
Not stated	4,491	13.5	735	12.8	357	16.7	515	25.6	259	20.2	1,223	11.6	639	17.7

Table 12. Level of highest educational attainment in Western NSW, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over) (continued)

Level of highest educational attainment	Coonamble		Cowra		Forbes		Gilgandra		Lachlan		Mid-western Regional		Narromine		Oberon	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bachelor Degree level and above	246	7.9	929	9.0	754	9.9	294	8.6	389	8.0	2,089	10.9	471	9.3	424	9.7
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	157	5.1	665	6.5	513	6.7	190	5.5	270	5.6	1,307	6.8	318	6.3	286	6.5
Certificate level IV	88	2.8	264	2.6	222	2.9	109	3.2	104	2.1	633	3.3	142	2.8	120	2.7
Certificate level III	346	11.2	1,679	16.3	1,170	15.3	512	14.9	609	12.5	3,486	18.3	784	15.5	682	15.5
Year 12	318	10.3	1,001	9.7	870	11.4	316	9.2	624	12.8	1,957	10.2	588	11.6	521	11.9
Year 11	152	4.9	423	4.1	315	4.1	134	3.9	219	4.5	708	3.7	206	4.1	167	3.8
Year 10	529	17.1	1,994	19.4	1,325	17.3	690	20.1	934	19.2	3,204	16.7	955	18.8	766	17.5
Certificate level II	9	0.3	17	0.2	6	0.1	5	0.1	9	0.2	22	0.1	10	0.2	10	0.2
Certificate level I	0	0.0	8	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Year 9 or below	485	15.7	1,569	15.2	1,062	13.9	572	16.6	681	14.0	2,221	11.6	686	13.5	475	10.8
No education attainment	21	0.7	28	0.3	26	0.3	10	0.3	29	0.6	45	0.2	18	0.4	17	0.4
Not stated	704	22.7	1,428	13.9	1,163	15.2	514	15.0	865	17.8	2,928	15.3	768	15.1	779	17.8

Table 12. Level of highest educational attainment in Western NSW, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over) (continued)

Level of highest educational attainment	Orange		Parkes		Walgett		Warren		Warrumbungle Shire		Weddin		Western Plains Regional		Western NSW		NSW
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Bachelor Degree level and above	5,527	17.4	1,101	9.4	428	8.8	227	10.6	719	9.3	288	9.4	5,431	13.7	27,731	13.1	23.4
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	2,668	8.4	720	6.2	304	6.2	141	6.6	451	5.9	205	6.7	2,853	7.2	15,548	7.4	8.9
Certificate level IV	1,267	4.0	428	3.7	93	1.9	43	2.0	201	2.6	81	2.7	1,544	3.9	7,330	3.5	2.8
Certificate level III	4,774	15.0	1,871	16.0	555	11.4	272	12.7	1,067	13.8	442	14.5	6,292	15.8	33,796	16.0	12.0
Year 12	3,513	11.0	1,259	10.8	537	11.0	292	13.6	819	10.6	315	10.3	4,434	11.2	24,382	11.5	15.3
Year 11	1,121	3.5	471	4.0	248	5.1	72	3.4	313	4.1	113	3.7	1,557	3.9	8,446	4.0	3.3
Year 10	4,830	15.2	2,136	18.3	890	18.2	395	18.4	1,414	18.4	607	19.9	6,443	16.2	35,907	17.0	11.5
Certificate level II	47	0.1	13	0.1	7	0.1	0	0.0	12	0.2	0	0.0	44	0.1	286	0.1	0.1
Certificate level I	7	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	31	0.0	0.0
Year 9 or below	3,366	10.6	1,504	12.9	763	15.6	265	12.4	1,126	14.6	437	14.3	4,191	10.6	25,495	12.1	8.4
No education attainment	130	0.4	32	0.3	50	1.0	17	0.8	19	0.2	5	0.2	117	0.3	721	0.3	0.9
Not stated	3,543	11.1	1,802	15.4	920	18.8	357	16.6	1,353	17.6	479	15.7	5,699	14.4	31,521	14.9	10.3

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Employment

There were 122,583 of people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in the Western NSW district (see Table 13). Of these, 59.3% were employed full time, 28.8% were employed part-time and 6.3% were unemployed.

The proportion of people who were unemployed was highest in Brewarrina (16.2%) and lowest in Cabonne (4.3%).

Table 13. Employment in Western NSW district, by LGA

	Worked full-time		Worked part-time		Away from work		Unemployed		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bathurst Regional	11,165	57.8	5,923	30.6	1,079	5.6	1,162	6.0	19,329	100
Blayney	1,987	58.1	1,043	30.5	192	5.6	200	5.8	3,422	100
Bogan	799	64.4	324	26.1	55	4.4	62	5.1	1,240	100
Bourke	724	67.7	233	21.8	44	4.1	69	6.4	1,070	100
Brewarrina	346	58.9	106	18.1	40	6.8	95	16.2	587	100
Cabonne	3,778	60.0	1,874	29.8	373	5.9	268	4.3	6,293	100
Cobar	1,411	66.0	448	20.9	157	7.3	123	5.8	2,139	100
Coonamble	901	57.7	389	25.0	129	8.3	140	9.0	1,559	100
Cowra	2,880	56.0	1,644	31.9	288	5.6	335	6.5	5,147	100
Forbes	2,493	59.8	1,177	28.2	272	6.5	225	5.4	4,167	99.9
Gilgandra	1,109	58.6	554	29.3	121	6.4	110	5.7	1,894	100
Lachlan	1,563	59.1	710	26.8	194	7.3	179	6.8	2,646	100
Mid-western Regional	5,847	56.4	3,281	31.6	566	5.5	678	6.5	10,372	100
Narromine	1,697	60.8	738	26.4	152	5.4	206	7.4	2,793	100
Oberon	1,419	59.5	694	29.2	134	5.6	137	5.7	2,384	100

Table 13. Employment in Western NSW district, by LGA (continued)

	Worked full-time		Worked part-time		Away from work		Unemployed		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Orange	11,352	59.7	5,484	28.8	977	5.1	1,200	6.3	19,013	99.9
Parkes	3,647	57.7	1,805	28.6	395	6.3	470	7.4	6,317	100
Walgett	1,300	56.4	614	26.6	147	6.4	245	10.6	2,306	100
Warren	805	65.0	273	22.1	69	5.6	91	7.3	1,238	100
Warrumbungle Shire	2,017	55.7	1,106	30.6	212	5.9	285	7.8	3,620	100
Weddin	889	58.4	462	30.4	92	6.0	79	5.2	1,522	100
Western Plains Regional	14,561	61.9	6,380	27.1	1,203	5.1	1,381	5.9	23,525	100
Western NSW	72,690	59.3	35,262	28.8	6,891	5.6	7,740	6.3	122,583	100
NSW		59.2		29.7		4.8		6.3		100

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Income

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in the Western NSW district was \$582 (see Table 14). This is less than the NSW average of \$664. The family and household income in Western NSW was also much less than the NSW state average.

Table 14. Median weekly income in Western NSW, by LGA (people aged 15 years and over)

	Personal	Family	Household
Bathurst Regional	\$646	\$1,632	\$1,310
Blayney	\$620	\$1,581	\$1,227
Bogan	\$634	\$1,561	\$1,155
Bourke	\$719	\$1,562	\$1,243
Brewarrina	\$439	\$923	\$864
Cabonne	\$631	\$1,618	\$1,301
Cobar	\$706	\$1,923	\$1,495
Coonamble	\$519	\$1,218	976
Cowra	\$509	\$1,225	959
Forbes	\$571	\$1,326	\$1,069
Gilgandra	\$537	\$1,199	998
Lachlan	\$556	\$1,279	\$1,034
Mid-western Regional	\$547	\$1,433	\$1,131
Narromine	\$586	\$1,358	\$1,078
Oberon	\$611	\$1,509	\$1,239
Orange	\$667	\$1,655	\$1,295
Parkes	\$554	\$1,412	\$1,088
Walgett	\$464	\$1,039	\$806
Warren	\$649	\$1,468	\$1,104
Warrumbungle Shire	\$479	\$1,103	\$878
Western Plains Regional	\$660	\$1,525	\$1,272
Western NSW	\$582	\$1,397	\$1,110
NSW	\$664	\$1,780	\$1,486

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

All twenty-two LGAs in the Western NSW district have higher proportions of low-income households, compared to the state average (see Table 15). In Walgett, 38.9% of households had less than \$650 gross weekly income, compared to the NSW state average of 19.7%.

Table 15. Household income in the Western NSW district, by LGA

	% of households with less than \$650 gross weekly income	% of households with more than \$3000 gross weekly income
Bathurst Regional	22.3	12.1
Blayney	24.8	11.5
Bogan	26.5	11.8
Bourke	21.7	10.9
Brewarrina	37.7	5.2
Cabonne	22.4	13.3
Cobar	20.2	16.5
Coonamble	31.8	6.3
Cowra	29.6	6.1
Forbes	26.5	7.7
Gilgandra	28.0	6.9
Lachlan	29.1	6.9
Mid-western Regional	26.9	11.3
Narromine	27.6	7.9
Oberon	23.3	9.5
Orange	22.9	12.7
Parkes	28.5	8.5
Walgett	38.9	5.1
Warren	26.2	7.5
Warrumbungle Shire	33.2	5.1
Weddin	32.0	7.0
Western Plains Regional	22.0	10.9
NSW	19.7	18.7

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)



Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a measure used to rank areas in Australia according to socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. It is based on information from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The information presented below is based on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD). The IRSAD summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

In the Western NSW district, Cabonne has the highest SEIFA score (997) and is ranked the highest (see Table 16). This means Cabonne is relatively advantaged compared to the other LGAs in the Western NSW district. Conversely, Brewarrina has the lowest SEIFA score (818) and is ranked the lowest, both in the Western NSW district and in the state. This means Brewarrina is relatively disadvantaged compared to the other LGAs in the Western NSW district.

Table 16. LGA Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage in the Western NSW district

	Score ¹	NSW Rank ²	NSW Decile ³
Bathurst Regional	973	84	7
Blayney	965	74	6
Bogan	938	42	4
Bourke	932	33	3
Brewarrina	818	1	1
Cabonne	997	97	8
Cobar	951	58	5
Coonamble	883	5	1
Cowra	910	19	2
Forbes	937	39	3
Gilgandra	906	14	2
Lachlan	922	25	2
Mid-western Regional	942	44	4
Narromine	927	31	3
Oberon	951	59	5
Orange	968	77	6
Parkes	927	28	3
Walgett	856	3	1
Warren	945	51	4
Warrumbungle Shire	912	21	2
Weddin	948	56	5
Western Plains Regional	953	60	5

Source: ABS, Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2016, 2033.0.55.001: <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012016?OpenDocument> (accessed 9 October 2019)

¹ **Score:** A low IRSAD score indicates that an area is relatively disadvantaged compared to an area with a higher score.

² **Rank:** All areas are ranked from the lowest to the highest score. The area with the lowest score is ranked number one, the area with the highest score is ranked 129. The State Rank can only be used to compare areas with a single state/territory.

³ **Decile:** All areas are ordered from the lowest to highest score, the lowest 10% of areas are given a decile number of 1 and so on, up to the highest 10% of areas which are given a number of 10. This means that areas are divided into 10 groups, depending on their score. Decile 1 is the most disadvantaged relative to other deciles.



Social Environment

Community safety and crime

In the Western NSW district, 2,179 domestic violence-related assaults and 1,786 non-domestic violence-related assaults occurred between January and December 2018 (see Table 17).

Domestic violence-related assault was most likely to occur in the Walgett LGA, with a rate of 2,374.8 per 100,000 people. This is the highest rate of domestic violence of the LGAs in New South Wales. The Walgett LGA also has the highest rate of non-domestic violence-related assaults, at 1, 276.3 per 100,000.

Table 17. Incidents of crime recorded by the NSW Police Force in Western NSW, by LGA, January-December 2018

	Domestic violence-related assault			Non-domestic violence-related assault		
	No.	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank in NSW ¹	No.	Rate per 100,000 population	Rank in NSW
Bathurst Regional	225	526.0	41	255	596.1	23
Blayney	19	258.7	88	25	340.4	70
Bogan	22	NC ²	NA ³	17	NC	NA
Bourke	103	NC	NA	49	NC	NA
Brewarrina	44	NC	NA	36	NC	NA
Cabonne	44	323.4	74	23	169.1	108
Cobar	46	927.7	8	41	867.0	4
Coonamble	66	1,637.3	2	50	1,240.4	2
Cowra	56	441.2	53	80	630.2	16
Forbes	70	710.0	13	62	628.9	17
Gilgandra	37	871.2	10	27	635.7	15
Lachlan	58	931.7	9	35	562.2	30
Mid-western Regional	128	515.8	78	116	467.5	109
Narromine	83	1,261.8	4	43	653.7	11
Oberon	31	576.0	35	17	315.9	77
Orange	243	586.0	32	238	573.9	27
Parkes	89	597.1	29	108	724.5	2
Walgett	147	2,374.8	1	79	1,276.3	1
Warren	43	NC	NA	19	NC	Nc
Warrumbungle Shire	52	550.2	37	41	433.8	52
Weddin	4	109.9	115	12	329.6	27
Western Plains Regional ⁴	569	1,092.3	6	413	792.9	6

Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx (accessed 9 October 2019)

¹ Ranked by rate of domestic and non-domestic violence per 100,000 population, from 1-129 (where number 129 equals the lowest rate, and number one equals the highest).

² Trend information is not calculated if there are less than 20 incidents in a 12-month time frame

³ Ranks are only calculated for LGAs populations with populations greater than 3,000 people.

⁴ BOCSAR has labelled this LGA Dubbo Regional



In the Western NSW district, Warrumbungle Shire has the highest proportion of cannabis-related offences, at a rate of 804.1 per 100,000 of the population (see Table 18). Coonamble has the highest rate of amphetamine-related offences at a rate of 396.9 per 100,000 of the population.

Table 18. Recorded drug offences (possession and/or use) in Western NSW district, Jan-Dec 2018, by LGA

	Cocaine		Narcotics		Cannabis		Amphetamine		Ecstasy		Other drugs	
	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000
Bathurst Regional	4	9.4	1	2.3	103	240.8	35	81.8	4	9.4	24	56.1
Blayney	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	136.2	11	149.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bogan	0	NC ¹	0	NC	9	NC	2	NC	0	NC	0	NC
Bourke	1	NC	0	NC	20	NC	6	NC	0	NC	14	NC
Brewarrina	0	NC	1	NC	5	NC	2	NC	0	NC	1	NC
Cabonne	1	7.4	0	0.0	7	51.5	2	14.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cobar	1	21.1	0	0.0	11	232.6	1	21.1	0	0.0	1	21.1
Coonamble	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	521.0	16	396.9	1	24.8	10	248.1
Cowra	0	0.0	1	7.9	17	133.9	5	39.4	0	0.0	1	7.9
Forbes	2	20.3	0	0.0	28	284.0	16	162.3	2	20.3	5	50.7
Gilgandra	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	447.4	13	306.1	0	0.0	7	164.8
Lachlan	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	208.8	2	32.1	1	16.1	1	16.1
Mid-western Regional	3	12.1	3	12.1	88	354.6	42	169.3	6	24.2	26	104.8

¹ Trend information is not calculated if there are less than 20 incidents in a 12-month time frame

Table 18. Recorded drug offences (possession and/or use) in Western NSW district, Jan-Dec 2018, by LGA (continued)

	Cocaine		Narcotics		Cannabis		Amphetamine		Ecstasy		Other drugs	
	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000	No.	Rate per 100,000
Narromine	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	197.6	3	45.6	0	0.0	4	60.8
Oberon	1	18.6	0	0.0	2	37.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Orange	3	7.2	3	7.2	80	192.9	52	125.4	2	4.8	32	77.2
Parkes	0	0.0	1	6.7	28	187.8	16	107.3	0	0.0	7	47.0
Walgett	2	32.3	0	0.0	48	775.4	5	80.8	2	32.3	6	96.9
Warren	0	NC	0	NC	2	NC	2	NC	0	NC	2	NC
Warrumbungle Shire	0	0.0	2	21.2	76	804.1	22	232.8	2	21.2	4	42.3
Weddin	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	82.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Western Plains Regional ²	9	17.3	5	936	173	332.1	103	197.7	6	11.5	47	90.2

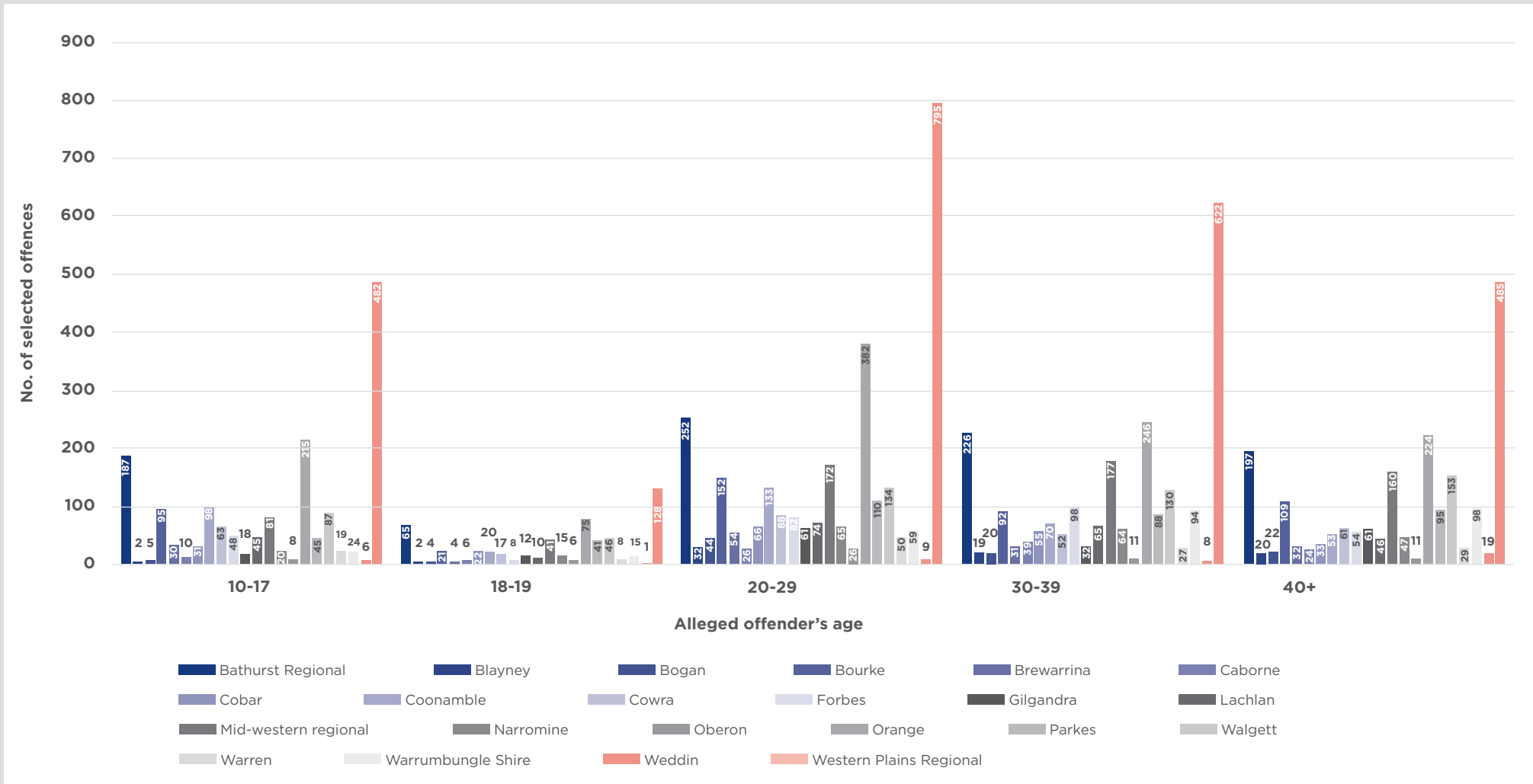
Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx (accessed 7 October 2019)

² BOCSAR has labelled this LGA Dubbo Regional



When looking at the age of alleged offenders in Western NSW, 20-29-year-olds committed the largest number of offences. This was followed by 30-39-year-olds and 40-year-olds and above (see Figure 23). This was common across most LGAs.

Figure 23. Age of alleged offenders proceeded against by NSW Police for incidents of selected offences¹, 2018²



Source: Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Local Government Area Excel crime table: https://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/Pages/bocsar_crime_stats/bocsar_lgaexceltables.aspx (accessed 9 October 2019)

¹ For the full list of selected offences please see the original source

² The year the alleged offenders were proceeded against, rather than the year the incident was recorded



Maternal Health

Teenage pregnancy

Teenage parenthood is associated with a number of adversities, including low socioeconomic status, educational under-achievement and drugs abuse. In turn, young parenthood can act to further entrench some of these problems and perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage.

In 2018, 170 mothers aged 19 and under gave birth in the Western NSW district (see Table 19). This accounts for 4.9% of all births in this district. This proportion is higher than the NSW state average of 1.9%. The LGA of Bourke had the highest proportion of young mothers aged 19 and under in 2018, 11.1%.

Table 19. Young mothers who gave birth¹ in Western NSW district, by LGA, 2018

LGA	No. of mothers 19 and under	% of mothers giving birth aged 19 and under	Total no. of births
Bathurst Regional	20	4.2	480
Blayney	1	1.2	86
Bogan	2	4.7	48
Bourke	3	11.1	30
Brewarrina	2	10.4	18
Cabonne	5	4.2	122
Cobar	3	7.5	40
Coonamble	3	4.1	70
Cowra	6	4.2	140
Forbes	6	5.3	122
Gilgandra	5	8.2	60
Lachlan	5	5.2	93
Mid-western Regional	10	3.6	285
Narromine	4	5.1	78
Oberon	4	8.7	46
Orange	29	4.8	618
Parkes	12	6.7	180
Walgett	5	8.1	58
Warren	2	4.7	44
Warrumbungle Shire	5	4.3	109
Weddin	0	0.0	39
Western Plains Regional	38	5.3	719
Western NSW	170	4.9	3,485
NSW	1,792	1.9	94,145

Source: NSW Healthstats: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_mbth_age/mab_mbth_age_lgamaip (accessed 7 October 2019)

¹ Number of mothers who gave birth (stillbirth or live birth) in NSW regardless of place of permanent residence

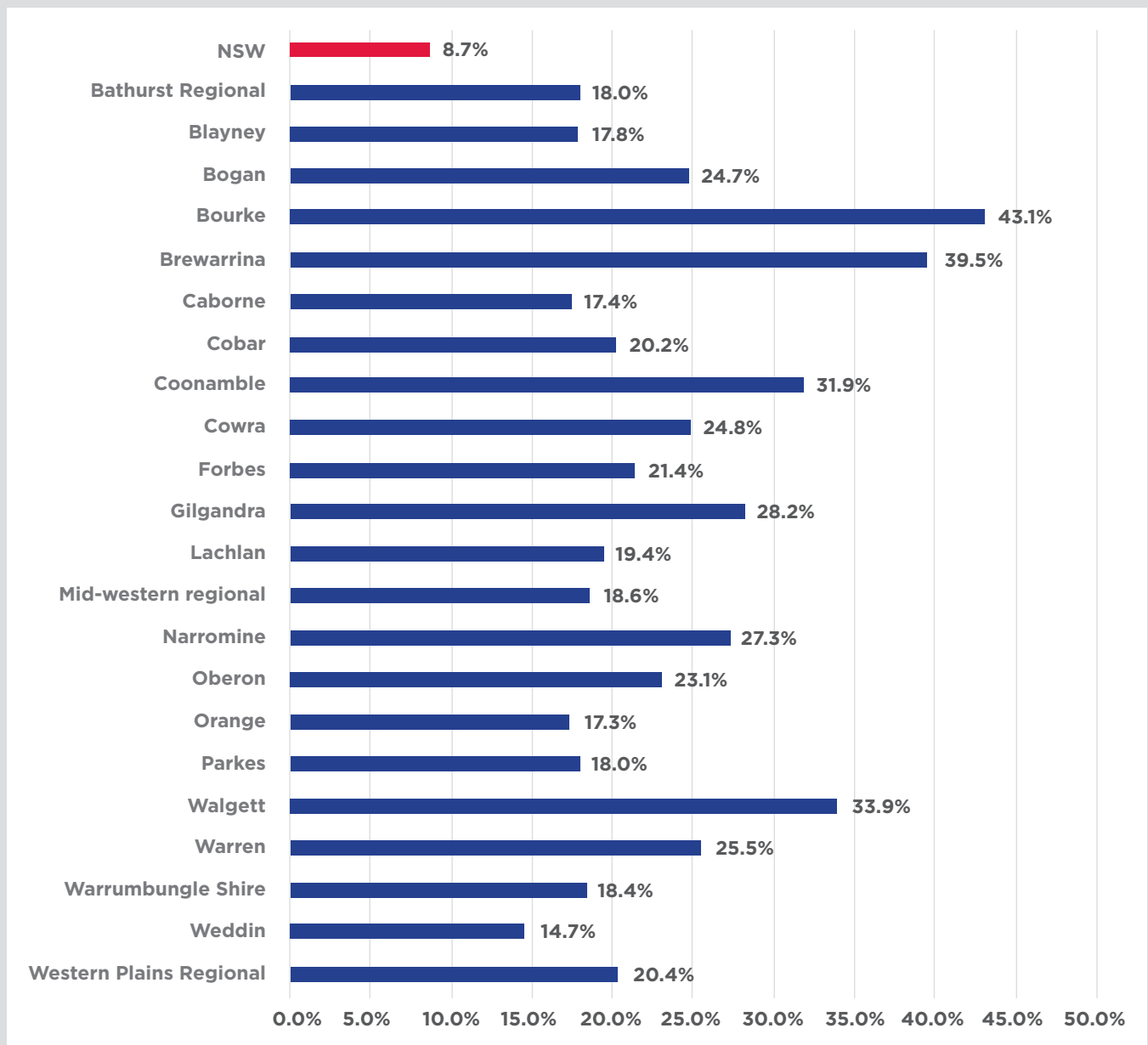
Smoking during pregnancy

Smoking during pregnancy is an important modifiable risk factor for low birth weight, pre-term birth, placental complications and perinatal mortality.

Between 2015-2017, mothers in the Western NSW district were more likely to smoke during their pregnancy, compared to the NSW state as a whole (see Figure 24).

In the Western NSW district, the Bourke LGA had the highest proportion of mothers who smoked during their pregnancy, at 43.1%. Weddin had the lowest proportion of mothers who smoked during their pregnancy, at 14.7%.

Figure 24. Proportion of mothers in the Western NSW district who smoked during pregnancy, 2015-2017



Source: Healthstats NSW: http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicator/mab_smo_cat/mab_smo_cat_lga_trend (accessed 9 October 2019)



Australian Mothers Index

Since 2000, Save the Children has produced a Mother's Index showing where mothers do best and where they face the greatest hardships. This index compares countries worldwide, as well as Australian states and territories and LGAs.

The information in Table 20 is derived from the Local-level Mothers Index. Five indicators make up this index:

- maternal health - the proportion of pregnant women with at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester
- children's wellbeing - the proportion of children under 5 developmentally on track (measured by the AEDC)
- educational status - the proportion of women completing Year 12 or above
- economic status - average household income
- relative socioeconomic disadvantage - a measure of a mother's access to material and social resources and her ability to participate in society.

These indicators were used to rank every LGA in NSW, where 1 is the best rank and 152 is the worst.

Bathurst Regional performed the best out of the 22 LGAs in the Western NSW district, receiving a rank of 44 out of 152 (see Table 20). Brewarrina received the lowest rank of the twenty-two LGAs, at 151 out of 152. This means that mothers in Brewarrina are facing much greater hardships than mothers in Bathurst Regional.

Table 20. Mothers Index Ranking in the Wester NSW district, by LGA

LGA	NSW Ranking	
Bathurst Regional	44	
Blayney	55	
Bogan	121	
Bourke	122	
Brewarrina	151	
Cabonne	58	
Cobar	57	
Coonamble	131	
Cowra	136	
Forbes	76	
Gilgandra	137	
Lachlan	126	
Mid-western Regional	86	
Narromine	84	
Oberon	100	
Orange	67	
Parkes	116	
Walgett	146	
Warren	71	
Warrumbungle Shire	120	
Weddin	134	
Western Plains Regional		
	Dubbo	63
	Wellington	134

Source: Harris, J and Wells, M, 2016, State of Australia's Mothers, Save the Children, Sydney: <https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2016/05/apo-nid63692-1201431.pdf> (accessed 9 October 2019)

Disability

Need for assistance with core activities

In the Western NSW district, 5.6% of the population need help or assistance with core activities (see Table 21). This amounts to 15,286 people. In the Weddin LGA, 7.8% of people need help or assistance with core activities. This was the highest proportion of all twenty-two LGAs. In the Bourke LGA, 3.7% of people need help or assistance with core activities. This was the smallest proportion of all twenty-two LGAs.

Table 21. Need for assistance with core activities¹ in the Western NSW district, by LGA

	Has need for assistance		Does not have need for assistance		Need for assistance not stated		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Bathurst Regional	2,048	5.0	35,238	85.3	4,015	9.7	41,300
Blayney	367	5.1	6,333	87.3	559	7.7	7,257
Bogan	106	3.9	2,262	84.0	326	12.1	2,692
Bourke	97	3.7	1,988	75.5	544	20.7	2,634
Brewarrina	73	4.4	1,371	83.1	204	12.4	1,651
Cabonne	616	4.6	11,734	87.7	1,034	7.7	13,386
Cobar	184	3.9	3,883	83.6	585	12.5	4,647
Coonamble	279	7.1	2,979	76.0	662	16.9	3,918
Cowra	888	7.1	10,478	84.1	1,092	8.8	12,460
Forbes	532	5.6	8,153	85.0	902	9.4	9,587
Gilgandra	309	7.3	3,559	84.0	369	8.7	4,236
Lachlan	326	5.3	5,119	82.6	750	12.1	6,194
Mid-western Regional	1,288	5.4	20,223	84.0	2,562	10.6	24,076
Narromine	322	5.0	5,446	84.5	676	10.5	6,444
Oberon	254	4.8	4,326	81.6	721	13.6	5,301
Orange	2,304	5.7	35,218	87.3	2,823	7.0	40,344
Parkes	948	6.5	12,262	83.9	1,407	9.6	14,608

¹ A person's need for 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 21. Need for assistance with core activities¹ in the Western NSW district, by LGA (continued)

	Has need for assistance		Does not have need for assistance		Need for assistance not stated		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Walgett	387	6.3	4,913	80.5	809	13.2	6,107
Warren	121	4.4	2,311	84.6	297	11.0	2,732
Warrumbungle Shire	681	7.3	7,614	81.1	1,087	11.6	9,384
Weddin	286	7.8	3,028	82.6	348	9.5	3,664
Western Plains Regional	2,870	5.7	42,278	84.4	4,928	9.9	50,077
Western NSW	15,286	5.6	230,716	84.6	26,700	9.8	272,699
NSW	402,048	5.4	6,558,727	87.7	519,452	6.9	7,480,228

Source: ABS, 2016 Census Community Profiles: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20Census%20Community%20Profiles> (accessed 2 October 2019)

¹ A person's need for 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.

Households and Social Housing

Households

In the Western NSW district, the average number of people per household was 2.4. Brewarrina and Cabonne have the highest average of people per household, 2.6 (see Table 22).

The majority of households in the Western NSW district are family households (67.2%). Single-person households make up 28.4% of all households. Only 4.3% of households in the district are group households.

Table 22. Household Composition in Western NSW, by LGA

LGA	Single-person households		Group households		Family households		Total	Average people per household
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.
Bathurst Regional	3,884	27.0	592	4.1	9,934	68.9	14,410	2.5
Blayney	709	26.7	46	1.7	1,905	71.6	2,660	2.5
Bogan	296	30.5	19	2.0	654	67.5	969	2.4
Bourke	268	32.2	14	1.7	550	66.1	832	2.5
Brewarrina	159	28.9	22	4.0	369	67.1	550	2.6
Cabonne	1,144	24.4	74	1.6	3,472	74.0	4,690	2.6
Cobar	503	30.6	36	2.2	1,104	67.2	1,643	2.4
Coonamble	438	31.9	40	2.9	896	65.2	1,374	2.4
Cowra	1,485	30.8	102	2.1	3,236	67.1	4,823	2.3
Forbes	1,034	29.6	80	2.3	2,379	68.1	3,493	2.4
Gilgandra	463	29.2	34	2.1	1,088	68.6	1,585	2.4
Lachlan	644	29.3	1,522	69.2	34	1.5	2,200	2.4
Mid-western Regional	2,531	28.9	248	2.8	5,993	68.3	8,772	2.4
Narromine	655	28.2	48	2.1	1,616	69.7	2,319	2.5
Oberon	510	27.3	43	2.3	1,316	70.4	1,869	2.4
Orange	4,218	28.6	466	3.2	10,053	68.2	14,737	2.5

Table 22. Household Composition in Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

LGA	Single-person households		Group households		Family households		Total	Average people per household
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.
Parkes	1,575	29.8	104	2.0	3,609	68.2	5,288	2.4
Walgett	854	37.7	82	3.6	1,354	59.1	2,290	2.3
Warren	318	31.4	20	2.0	675	66.6	1,013	2.4
Warrumbungle Shire	1,107	31.4	72	2.0	2,345	66.5	3,524	2.3
Weddin	471	32.4	37	2.5	945	65.0	1,453	2.2
Western Plains Regional	4,607	26.4	540	3.1	12,333	70.6	17,480	2.5
Western NSW	27,873	28.4	4,241	4.3	65,860	67.2	97,974	2.4
NSW		23.8		4.2		72.0		2.6

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 10 October 2019)

Tenure types

In the Western NSW district, 35.8% of occupied private dwellings were owned outright, 30.3% were owned with a mortgage and 29.5% were rented (Table 23).

Weddin (49.9%) and Warrumbungle Shire (46.4%) had the highest proportion of outright homeownership. Brewarrina (25.1%) had the smallest proportion of outright homeownership.

Brewarrina (58.5%) had the highest proportion of rented private dwellings.

Table 23. Tenure of occupied private dwelling in the Western NSW, by LGA

LGA	Owned outright		Owned with mortgage		Rented		Other tenure		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bathurst Regional	4,691	32.5	4,854	33.7	4,420	30.7	87	0.6	363	2.5
Blayney	999	37.6	924	34.8	604	22.7	16	0.6	115	4.3
Bogan	391	40.5	217	22.5	306	31.7	6	0.6	45	4.7
Bourke	249	30.0	190	22.9	337	40.6	11	1.3	43	5.2
Brewarrina	141	25.1	48	8.6	328	58.5	8	1.4	36	6.4
Cabonne	1,974	42.1	1,649	35.2	878	18.7	51	1.1	132	2.8
Cobar	524	31.7	415	25.1	627	38.0	17	1.0	68	4.1
Coonamble	554	40.6	304	22.3	422	30.9	22	1.6	64	4.7
Cowra	2,035	42.2	1,306	27.1	1,262	26.2	34	0.7	183	3.8
Forbes	1,324	37.9	1,050	30.1	972	27.8	26	0.7	122	3.5
Gilgandra	662	41.8	399	25.2	439	27.7	26	1.6	56	3.5
Lachlan	906	41.1	504	22.9	672	30.5	23	1.0	98	4.4
Mid-western Regional	3,332	38.0	2,681	30.6	2,402	27.4	58	0.7	294	3.4
Narromine	899	38.8	667	28.8	646	27.9	20	0.9	85	3.7
Oberon	769	41.1	596	31.8	439	23.4	9	9.5	60	3.2
Orange	4,521	30.7	4,774	32.4	4,880	33.1	74	0.5	489	3.3
Parkes	1,971	37.2	1,550	29.2	1,539	29.0	50	0.9	195	3.7

Table 23. Tenure of occupied private dwelling in the Western NSW, by LGA (continued)

LGA	Owned outright		Owned with mortgage		Rented		Other tenure		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Walgett	867	38.0	299	13.1	901	39.5	69	3.0	147	6.4
Warren	434	43.2	226	22.5	300	29.9	10	1.0	34	3.4
Warrumbungle Shire	1,631	46.4	809	23.0	907	25.8	46	1.3	123	3.5
Weddin	725	49.9	361	24.9	289	19.9	16	1.1	61	4.2
Western Plains Regional	5,493	31.4	5,899	33.8	5,370	30.7	210	1.2	504	2.9
Western NSW	35,092	35.8	29,722	30.3	28,940	29.5	889	1.0	3,317	3.4
NSW		32.2		32.3		31.8		0.9		2.8

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 11 October 2019)

Housing affordability

One way to measure housing stress is to calculate the percentage of households who spend more than 30% of their household income on rent or mortgage payments.

In the Western NSW district, Orange had the highest proportion of households in rental stress, at 11.9% (see Table 24). This was similar to the NSW average of 12.9%. Weddin had the lowest proportion of households in rental stress, at 4.5%.

Cabonne had the highest proportion of households in mortgage stress, at 6.2%. This was, however, still lower than the NSW average of 7.4%.

Table 24. Mortgage and rent payments in the Western NSW district, by LGA¹

	Renting Households			Home-owning households		
	Average weekly rent	Rent payments are <30% of household income	Rent payments are ≥30% of household income	Average monthly mortgage payments	Mortgage repayments are <30% of household's income	Mortgage payments are ≥30% of household income
Bathurst Regional	\$280	88.5%	11.5%	\$1,670	94.3%	5.7%
Blayney	\$220	92.7%	7.3%	\$1,500	94.7%	5.3%
Bogan	\$160	94.3%	5.7%	\$1,083	97.3%	2.7%
Bourke	\$140	94.9%	5.1%	\$991	97.2%	2.8%
Brewarrina	\$90	89.2%	10.8%	\$433	99.0%	1.0%
Cabonne	\$180	95.3%	4.7%	\$1,517	93.8%	6.2%
Cobar	\$160	94.3%	5.7%	\$1,300	97.0%	3.0%
Coonamble	\$150	92.7%	7.3%	\$867	97.3%	2.7%
Cowra	\$185	91.7%	8.3%	\$1,148	95.1%	4.9%
Forbes	\$180	92.3%	7.7%	\$1,148	95.5%	4.5%
Gilgandra	\$160	92.9%	7.1%	\$1,083	96.1%	3.9%
Lachlan	\$150	94.2%	5.8%	\$900	97.3%	2.7%

¹ The number of households where rent and mortgage payments were 30% or more of an imputed income measure are expressed in this table as a proportion of the total number of households in an area. The nature of the income imputation means that the reported proportion may significantly overstate the true proportion.

Table 24. Mortgage and rent payments in the Western NSW district, by LGA¹ (continued)

	Renting Households			Home-owning households		
	Average weekly rent	Rent payments are <30% of household income	Rent payments are ≥30% of household income	Average monthly mortgage payments	Mortgage repayments are <30% of household's income	Mortgage payments are ≥30% of household income
Mid-western Regional	\$270	90.0%	10.0%	\$1,690	94.1%	5.9%
Narromine	\$185	91.2%	8.8%	\$1,100	96.1%	3.9%
Oberon	\$210	94.3%	5.7%	\$1,452	94.5%	5.5%
Orange	\$270	88.1%	11.9%	\$1,629	94.6%	5.4%
Parkes	\$200	91.2%	8.8%	\$1,300	96.4%	3.6%
Walgett	\$145	91.8%	8.2%	\$750	98.1%	1.9%
Warren	\$144	93.7%	6.3%	\$899	97.6%	2.4%
Warrumbungle Shire	\$160	93.8%	6.2%	\$923	96.8%	3.2%
Weddin	\$135	95.5%	4.5%	\$910	96.2%	3.8%
Western Plains Regional	\$250	90.2%	9.8%	\$1,500	94.9%	5.1%
NSW	\$380	87.1%	12.9%	\$1,986	92.6%	7.4%

Source: ABS Quickstats, 2016 Census: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2016%20QuickStats> (accessed 11 October 2019)

¹ The number of households where rent and mortgage payments were 30% or more of an imputed income measure are expressed in this table as a proportion of the total number of households in an area. The nature of the income imputation means that the reported proportion may significantly overstate the true proportion.

Social housing

As of 30 June 2018, there were 6,051 social housing residential dwellings in the Western NSW district (see Table 25). Public housing accounted for 59.6% of these dwellings and community housing accounted for 18.7%. The majority of these dwellings were in the Western Plains Regional and Orange.

Table 25. Social Housing Residential Dwellings in Western NSW district, as at 30 June 2018

LGA	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Community Housing		Indigenous Community Housing		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Bathurst Regional	614	70.7	56	6.5	180	20.7	18	2.1	868
Blayney	59	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	59
Bogan	47	50.0	15	16.0	4	4.3	28	29.8	94
Bourke	42	22.1	47	24.7	0	0.0	101	53.2	190
Brewarrina	11	4.4	25	9.9	5	2.0	211	83.7	252
Cabonne	32	64.0	0	0.0	18	36.0	0	0.0	50
Cobar	76	54.7	26	18.7	6	4.3	31	22.3	139
Coonamble	38	19.8	21	10.9	0	0.0	133	69.3	192
Cowra	222	77.4	26	9.1	0	0.0	39	13.6	287
Forbes	201	89.7	3	1.3	9	4.0	11	4.9	224
Gilgandra	39	41.5	13	13.8	8	8.5	34	36.2	94
Lachlan	60	26.4	34	15.0	1	0.4	132	58.1	227
Mid-western Regional	14	3.5	1	0.3	384	96.2	0	0.0	399
Narromine	83	56.1	18	12.2	0	0.0	47	31.8	148
Oberon	27	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	27
Orange	827	64.6	112	8.7	319	24.9	23	1.8	1,281
Parkes	274	77.2	6	1.7	32	9.0	43	12.1	355
Walgett	37	8.8	87	20.7	10	2.4	287	68.2	421

Table 25. Social Housing Residential Dwellings in Western NSW district, as at 30 June 2018 (continued)

LGA	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Community Housing		Indigenous Community Housing		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Warren	28	37.3	13	17.3	0	0.0	34	45.3	75
Warrumbungle Shire	51	38.1	28	20.9	4	3.0	51	38.1	134
Weddin	18	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	18
Western Plains Regional	806	61.9	173	13.3	154	11.8	169	13.0	1,302
Western NSW	3,606	59.6	704	11.6	1,134	18.7	607	10.0	6,051
NSW	111,341	73.4	4,603	3.0	30,757	20.3	4,971	3.3	151,672

Source: FACS Administrative Data, unpublished.

As of 30 June 2018, there were 4,060 public housing and Aboriginal housing tenancies in the Western NSW district (see Table 26). Public housing made up 83.6% of all tenancies and Aboriginal housing made up 16.4% of all tenancies.

Table 26. Public Housing and Aboriginal Housing Office Tenancies in Western NSW district, as at 30 June 2018

	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Bathurst Regional	583	91.5	54	8.5	637
Blayney	54	100.0	0	0.0	54
Bogan	45	75.0	15	25.0	60
Bourke	37	45.7	44	54.3	81
Brewarrina	11	30.6	25	69.4	36
Cabonne	28	100.0	0	0.0	28
Cobar	72	76.6	22	23.4	94
Coonamble	31	60.8	20	39.2	51
Cowra	206	88.8	26	11.2	232
Forbes	188	98.4	3	1.6	191
Gilgandra	35	76.1	11	23.9	46
Lachlan	58	63.7	33	36.3	91
Mid-western Regional	14	93.3	1	6.7	15
Narromine	80	83.3	16	16.7	96
Oberon	27	100.0	0	0.0	27
Orange	770	88.2	103	11.8	873
Parkes	265	97.8	6	2.2	271
Walgett	33	28.7	82	71.3	115
Warren	27	71.1	11	28.9	38
Warrumbungle Shire	48	64.9	26	35.1	74
Weddin	17	100.0	0	0.0	17

Table 26. Public Housing and Aboriginal Housing Office Tenancies in Western NSW district, as at 30 June 2018 (continued)

	Public Housing		Aboriginal Housing Office		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
Western Plains Regional	767	82.2	166	17.8	933
Western NSW	3,396	83.6	664	16.4	4,060
NSW	106,895	96.0	4,414	4.0	111,309

Source: FACS Administrative Data, unpublished.

In the Western NSW district, there were 1,991 social housing residential dwellings that were vacant (see Tables 25 and 26).