

For further information regarding issues identified in this profile or if you are seeking information on issues not included please contact the Social Planning Team on 02 9839 6420.

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Executive summary

This profile outlines the major social issues currently facing women in Blacktown City. It explores the key issues for eleven priority areas being the social gradient, stress, early life, social exclusion, work, unemployment, social support, addiction, food, transport and service development. It also provides a snapshot of community strengths and needs for women.

The profile is a resource to support planning and research. It is a tool for strategic planning, reviewing strategic plans and should be used along-side consideration of the policies and activities of organisations, Local, State and Federal governments.

The executive summary provides an overview of findings from research and community engagement. It identifies the following key issues and strengths for women:

Summary profile

- In 2011, approximately 151,551 women were living in Blacktown City making up 50.3% of the population.
- From 2006 to 2011, the female population increased by 14,714 people (10.8%).
- Our city has a higher proportion in females in younger age groups (under 15) and a lower proportion in older age groups (65+) compared to New South Wales.
- 5.4% of Blacktown City's female population were not fluent in English compared to 6.5% in Greater Sydney. Proportions ranged from a low of 1.2% in Riverstone - Vineyard to a high of 11.2% in Mount Druitt.
- 50.8% of Blacktown City's female population aged 15 years and over did not have a formal qualification compared to 43.1% in Greater Sydney.
- Although life expectancy is higher for women than men, when compared to women across New South Wales and Australia, women in Blacktown have a shorter life expectancy by 4 years. This is linked to obesity, diabetes, physical activity and access to affordable healthy and fresh foods, smoking and lower cancer screening rates.
- In 2011, across Blacktown City, 33,818 females and 57,801 males were in full time employment and 22,492 females worked part-time compared to 11,395 males.

What did our community say?

- The cost of living, (housing, utilities and food) is beyond the budgets of some women, particularly single women living alone.
- Poverty and ongoing inter-generational social disadvantage continues to be the experience for women in the city.
- Intergenerational poverty traps women, particularly single mothers, into low education/limited opportunities.

- Unaffordability and access to services is a problem for women with children.
- Housing affordability and a lack of stable, long-term housing impact on quality of life for many women in our city.
- Women are very aware of high crime rates, feeling unsafe in public and in their own homes, antisocial behaviour in their neighbourhoods and public spaces.
- Services continue to see domestic violence and its impact on women and families while there is a reported lack of services and supports for women escaping violence, particularly women with children. This includes homelessness.
- The high number of women giving birth in our city in the immediate future with increased pressure on support services and a lack of flexible and affordable childcare impacts women's availability for work.
- There is a shortage of community services for women trying to deal with counselling/relationship support, mental health and drug and alcohol issues.
- Funding uncertainty in the women's services sector is impacting on service provision, clients and staff.
- Addressing issues for: women living alone across all age groups, women with limited English language proficiency, the high number of women with no formal educational qualifications.
- Unaffordability and access to services is a problem for mothers.

Strengths

- Many women like the city's affordable lifestyle especially food, services, shopping and entertainment.
- Family is a great support in times of difficulty. Living close to family is important to many of our residents.
- The city has lots of great services and organisations that know the community well.
- The range of activities and family friendly facilities in the city (like the showground).
- The local environment is valued and respondents want to learn more about environmental practices and methods they can implement to increase sustainable, environmentally friendly living e.g. Lalor Park community garden group.
- Residents say the Arts Centre has a great variety of initiatives and exhibitions and supports the arts in Blacktown City.

Recommendations

- Gender economic security: The cost of living, (housing, utilities and food) is beyond the budgets of some women, particularly single women living alone. A women's access to equitable pay and retirement funds is part of this inequity.
- Domestic violence, its impact on individuals and families and women's personal safety.
- Family services including a focus on single mothers.
- Support for single mothers including education, low cost-housing, childcare and social support groups.
- Accessible, flexible and affordable childcare across our city.
- Access to basic life skills education and intensive family support for vulnerable families
- Targeted childhood education and care programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse families
- Increase appropriate (women's) community services, in particular, mental health services and services to assist women facing domestic violence.
- Increased training and other support services support for women who are job seekers especially those returning to work after having children or who have come from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- More opportunities to learn about environmental to increase sustainable, environmentally friendly living.
- Increased access to healthy foods through farmers' markets and community gardens.

1. Introduction

Social and community planning helps us focus on the needs and aspirations of local communities through a whole of community approach. It provides an evidence base that guides our activities over the short-term and long-term.

This profile, focused on women, presents research from the Blacktown City Social Profile 2016 and provides a more detailed understanding of the social situation for women in Blacktown City.

The principles of equity, access and social justice underpin this profile. The profile is also strength based, recognising community strengths and resources which can be used to build strong, healthy and sustainable communities.

While we have a lead role in addressing many of the issues identified, we recognise not all issues raised in community engagement are solely the responsibility of local government and require strategic linkages and collaborative partnerships with the community sector and other stakeholders. This document will guide us in focussing resources on key issues and actions in response to community need and mindful of the directions of other stakeholders.

The profile is a resource to support planning and research. It is a tool for strategic planning, reviewing strategic plans and should be used along-side consideration of the policies and activities of organisations, Local, State and Federal governments.

The social profile on women includes the following sections:

- What does the data say? The key social indicators for women
- What do the community and service providers say? A summary of the priority issues women identified in our community engagement.

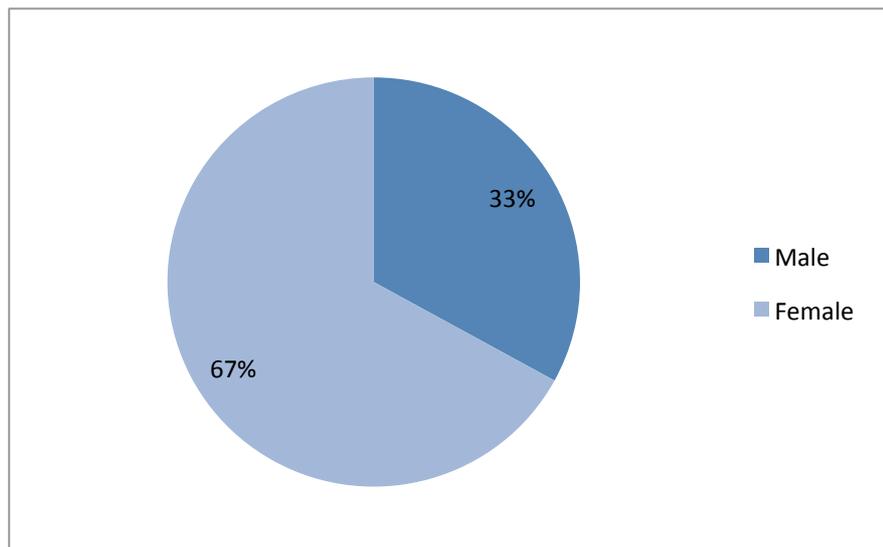
How did we develop the social profile?

The Blacktown City Social Profile 2016 is a key reference document for developing our community strategic plan. It was developed through community engagement and research. We engaged with over 2,155 people who participated in social profile surveys, focus groups, stakeholder forums and service interviews.

The target groups consulted are in line with the New South Wales Department of Local Government mandatory target groups and included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children, men, older people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women and young people.

There was a gender bias in favour of females with 67% of survey participant's women. In comparison Blacktown City has a divide of 50.3% females and 49.7% males.

Figure 1 – Gender of participants



The survey was provided on-line, used face to face interviews at key festivals and events, distributed through Blacktown City administration, libraries, community organisations, social groups and clubs and was translated into 12 community languages.

A detailed summary of findings is contained in the Community Engagement Report - Blacktown City Social Profile 2016.

We researched key social indicators for the city and were informed, in part, by research from Westir Ltd. A detailed summary of results are contained in the Social Indicator Report - Blacktown City Social Profile 2016.

The Blacktown City Social Profile 2016 can be found at:

http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Discover_Blacktown/Statistics/Blacktown_City_Social_Profile_2016

Additional resources in this series include:

- Blacktown City Social Profile 2016
- Blacktown City Social Profile 2016 Community Engagement Report
- Blacktown City Social Profile 2016 Social Indicator Report
- A social profile - Blacktown Precinct
- A social profile - Mount Druitt Precinct
- A social profile - North West Precinct
- A social profile - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- A social profile - Children
- A social profile - Culturally and linguistically diverse people

- A social profile - Older people
- A social profile - People with disability
- A social profile - Young people.

DRAFT

2. What does the data say?

This section includes Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006 and 2011 data. This data and analysis was compiled and presented by .id, (profile.id.com.au, forecast.id.com.au and atlas.id.com.au). Findings for Blacktown City have been benchmarked with Greater Sydney and/or New South Wales where this data has been available.



The report identifies Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data using Statistical level areas and precincts. Statistical level areas mostly align with the precincts identified in Table .1

Table 1: Statistical local areas and precincts in Blacktown City

Blacktown South West	Blacktown South West	Blacktown North
Mount Druitt Precinct	Blacktown Precinct	North-West Precinct
Bidwill, Blackett, Dean Park, Dharruk, Emerton, Glendenning, Hassall Grove, Hebersham, Lethbridge Park, Minchinbury, Mount Druitt, Oakhurst, Plumpton, Rooty Hill, Ropes Crossing, parts of St Marys, Shalvey, Tregear, Whalan and Willmot.	Arndell Park, Blacktown, Bungarribee, Doonside, Eastern Creek, Huntingwood, Kings Langley, Kings Park, Lalor Park, Marayong, Prospect, Seven Hills, Toongabbie and Woodcroft .	Acacia Gardens, Colebee, Glenwood, Kellyville Ridge, Marsden Park, Parklea, Quakers Hill, Riverstone, Rouse Hill, Schofields, Shanes Park, Stanhope Gardens, The Ponds and Vineyard.

In 2016, Blacktown City was the second largest and the fastest growing local government area in New South Wales. There was an estimated 350,000 residents and we have a projected population of 520,000 by 2036. The city is growing rapidly through urban development in the North West Growth Centre and established centres such as Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Rooty Hill and Seven Hills.

2.1 Women – population and age structure, Blacktown City

In 2011, the population of women was 151,551 (50.3%). From 2006 to 2011, the female population increased by 14,714 people (10.8%). This represents an average annual change of 2.06% per year over the period.

Table 2: Females and males in Blacktown City 2011,2006

Blacktown City		2011			2006			Change
Population group	Number	%	Greater Sydney%	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	2006 to 2011	
Males	149,545	49.7	49.2	134,874	49.6	49.3	+14,671	
Females	151,551	50.3	50.8	136,837	50.4	50.7	+14,714	

Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing

The largest changes in female age structure in this area between 2006 and 2011 were in the following age groups:

- 60 to 64 (+1,949 females)
- 0 to 4 (+1,491 females)
- 25 to 29 (+1,312 females)
- 35 to 39 (+1,236 females).

Overall, 22.7% of the female population was aged between 0 and 15, and 9.8% were aged 65 years and over, compared with 18.4% and 13.9% respectively for Greater Sydney.

The major differences between the female age structure of Blacktown City and Greater Sydney were:

- a larger percentage of females aged 0 to 4 (8.1% compared to 6.5%)
- a larger percentage of females aged 10 to 14 (7.3% compared to 5.9%)
- a larger percentage of females aged 5 to 9 (7.3% compared to 6.0%)
- a smaller percentage of females aged 85 and over (1.3% compared to 2.4%).

Table 3: Five-year age groups for females in Blacktown City, 2011, 2006

Blacktown City Females							
	2011			2006			Change
Five year age groups	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	2006 to 2011
0 to 4	12,290	8.1	6.5	10,799	7.9	6.3	+1,491
5 to 9	11,120	7.3	6.0	10,968	8.0	6.2	+152
10 to 14	10,995	7.3	5.9	10,564	7.7	6.2	+431
15 to 19	10,670	7.0	6.0	9,739	7.1	6.4	+931
20 to 24	10,084	6.7	6.9	9,735	7.1	7.1	+349
25 to 29	11,691	7.7	7.8	10,379	7.6	7.3	+1,312
30 to 34	12,306	8.1	7.6	11,177	8.2	8.0	+1,129
35 to 39	11,934	7.9	7.6	10,698	7.8	7.8	+1,236
40 to 44	10,951	7.2	7.4	10,181	7.4	7.5	+770
45 to 49	10,273	6.8	7.0	9,323	6.8	7.2	+950
50 to 54	9,285	6.1	6.6	8,454	6.2	6.4	+831
55 to 59	8,147	5.4	5.8	7,386	5.4	5.8	+761
60 to 64	6,996	4.6	5.1	5,047	3.7	4.3	+1,949
65 to 69	4,747	3.1	3.8	3,722	2.7	3.4	+1,025
70 to 74	3,422	2.3	3.0	3,086	2.3	2.9	+336
75 to 79	2,705	1.8	2.5	2,451	1.8	2.8	+254
80 to 84	2,003	1.3	2.2	1,761	1.3	2.3	+242
85 +	1,932	1.3	2.4	1,367	1.0	2.1	+565
Total	151,551	100.0	100.0	136,837	100.0	100.0	+14,714

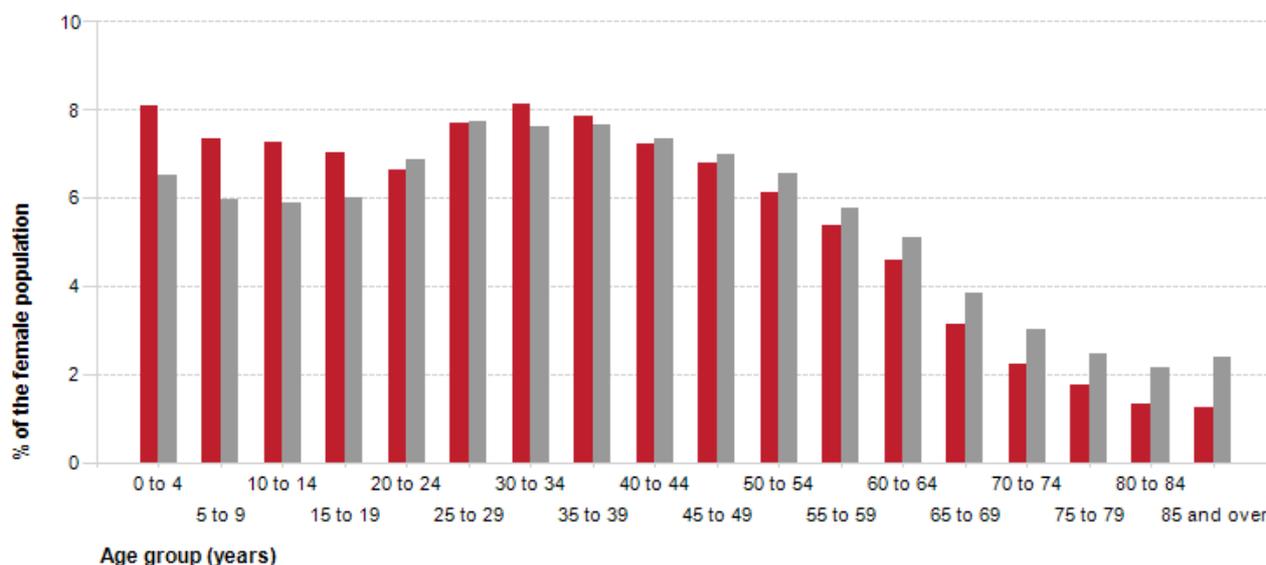
Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 2: Five-year age groups

Age structure - five year age groups, 2011

Total females

Blacktown City Greater Sydney



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

.id
the population experts

2.2 English language proficiency

In 2011, 5.4% of Blacktown City's female population were not fluent in English compared to 6.5% in Greater Sydney. (4.1% of Blacktown City's male population were not fluent in English compared to 5.0% in Greater Sydney). While Blacktown City had a lower proportion of females not fluent in English, the rates vary considerably across the city.

Proportions ranged from a low of 1.2% in Riverstone - Vineyard to a high of 11.2% in Mount Druitt. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Mount Druitt (11.2%)
- Toongabbie (8.1%)
- Blacktown (8.1%)
- Dean Park (7.5%)
- Woodcroft (6.9%).

2.3 Education

In 2011, 18.2% of Blacktown City's female population aged 15 years and over had a university qualification (Bachelor degree or higher), compared to 24.6% in Greater Sydney. This compares to 16.1% of Blacktown City's male population aged 15 years and over with a university qualification.

While Blacktown City had a lower proportion of females with a university qualification, it is important to note that this varied across the city. Proportions ranged from a low of 0.5% in Willmot to a high of 38.0% in The Ponds.

The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- The Ponds (38.0%)
- Woodcroft (35.2%)
- Kellyville Ridge (32.9%)
- Stanhope Gardens (31.9%)
- Glenwood (29.5%).

In 2011, 50.8% of Blacktown City's female population aged 15 years and over did not have a formal qualification compared to 43.1% in Greater Sydney.

While Blacktown City had a higher proportion of females with no qualifications, it is important to note that this varied across the city. Proportions ranged from a low of 31.5% in The Ponds to a high of 69.1% in Bidwill.

2.4 Life expectancy

Life expectancy measures how long, on average, a person is expected to live, based on current age and sex-specific death rates. It is usually expressed as the number of years a person born today is expected to live. It is a commonly used measure to describe population health and the overall mortality rates for a population.

Life expectancy improves with higher income levels and better healthcare, nutrition, living conditions and health promoting behaviours. Improving life expectancy has social and economic benefits for individuals and the wider community.

In Australia, women live longer than men. A boy born in 2011–2013 can expect to live to the age of 80.1 years and a girl is expected to live to 84.3 years. This is also the case in Blacktown City. In 2009 – 2012, the average age of death for males was 72 years (compared to 78 years for New South Wales and Australia) and for females, 80 years (compared to 84 years for New South Wales and Australia).

Although life expectancy is higher for women than men, when compared to women across New South Wales and Australia, women in Blacktown have a shorter life expectancy by 4 years (Women in NSW 2014, FACS).

Table 4: Median age at death, Blacktown City and selected regions 2009 – 2012

Region	Males		Females		All persons	
	No. of deaths	Median age	No. of deaths	Median age	No. of deaths	Median age
Auburn	646	75.0	587	83.0	1,234	80.0
Bankstown	2,472	79.0	2,293	84.0	4,766	81.0
Blacktown City	3,039	72.0	2,647	80.0	5,685	76.0
Blue Mountains	1,056	77.0	1,156	84.0	2,212	81.0
Camden	505	77.0	588	84.0	1,094	82.0
Campbelltown	1,498	71.0	1,439	80.0	2,937	75.0
Fairfield	2,174	76.0	1,910	82.0	4,084	79.0
Hawkesbury	686	75.0	667	83.0	1,353	79.0
Holroyd	1,220	78.0	1,161	83.0	2,382	80.0
Liverpool	1,716	74.0	1,482	79.0	3,198	76.0
Parramatta	1,917	77.0	2,058	84.0	3,975	81.0
Penrith	1,774	73.0	1,700	81.0	3,473	77.0
The Hills Shire	1,359	77.0	1,357	84.0	2,715	80.0
Wollondilly	499	73.0	404	80.0	903	76.0
Greater Sydney	52,960	78.0	52,850	84.0	105,810	81.0
Rest of New South Wales	45,937	78.0	42,605	83.0	88,542	81.0
New South Wales	99,235	78.0	95,641	84.0	194,876	81.0
AUSTRALIA	295,906	78.0	282,325	84.0	578,231	81.0

Source: Social Atlas of Australia 2015 Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU). Medicare Local (online). <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/phidu/maps-data/data/> (accessed April 2015).

2.5 Fertility rate

The total fertility rate is the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her reproductive life, expressed as a rate. In 2011, Australia's fertility rate was 1.88 babies per woman, down very slightly from the 2010 rate of 1.89 babies per woman.

In 2014, Blacktown City's fertility rate was 2.14. This was considerably higher than Greater Sydney (1.78) and New South Wales (1.87). During the years 2011-2014, the number of births for Blacktown City exceeded 5000 births each year.

The numbers of births and fertility rates for each statistical local area in Blacktown City showed different patterns during 2008-2011. Blacktown South West statistical local area had the highest fertility rate each year and reached a peak of 2.33 in 2011. Blacktown South East statistical local area experienced an increase in the fertility rate from 1.97 (1,417 births) in 2005 to a rate of 2.1 (1,687 births) in 2011. Blacktown North statistical local area's rate remained relatively stable.

Blacktown City's birth rate was higher than births in Parramatta and Liverpool and was the highest for any local government area in New South Wales.

Table 5: Total fertility rate Blacktown City and selected regions

Region	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	No. of births	Total Fertility Rate	No. of births	Total Fertility Rate	No. of births	Total Fertility Rate	No. of births	Total Fertility Rate
Blacktown City	5,602	2.2	5,462	2.28	5,568	2.24	5,077	2.14
<i>Blacktown North</i>	1,954	2.11	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Blacktown South-East</i>	1,687	2.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Blacktown South-West</i>	1,961	2.33	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greater Sydney	66,448	1.83	66,476	..	67,868	1.85	62,083	1.78
New South Wales	99,054	1.91	98,508	1.97	100,462	1.95	91,074	1.87

Births, Australia, NSW, ABS Table 3301.0, 2014 Released October 2015

Table 6: Total fertility rate, selected regions, 2011-2014

Total Fertility Rate, selected regions, 2011 - 2014								
Region	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	No. of births	Total fertility rate	No. of births	Total fertility rate	No. of births	Total fertility rate	No. of births	Total fertility rate
Blacktown City	5602	2.20	5,462	2.28	5,568	2.24	5,077	2.14
Parramatta	3226	2.00	3,231	2.08	3,342	2.05	3,162	1.97
Liverpool	3097	2.07	3,056	2.15	3,210	2.14	2,900	2.06
Penrith	2880	1.99	2,789	2.03	2,935	2.02	2,654	1.93
Fairfield	2665	1.83	2,724	1.90	2,693	1.90	2,390	1.83
Campbelltown	2458	2.06	2,341	2.17	2,370	2.10	2,109	1.97
Holroyd	2011	2.25	2,002	2.29	2,077	2.25	1,959	2.16
Auburn	1579	2.21	1,665	2.34	1,667	2.32	1,594	2.25

Births, Australia, NSW, ABS Table 3301.0, 2014 Released October 2015

2.6 Labour force participation

In 2011, across Blacktown City, 33,818 females and 57,801 males were in full time employment. This trend was also evident for Greater Sydney and across New South Wales. At the same time, the number of females who worked part-time was 22,492 compared to 11,395 males. The different trends in labour force status between males and females in Blacktown City mirrored the trends across the wider population.



Table 7: Labour force status of all persons 15 years and over, by gender, Blacktown City and selected regions, 2011

Labour force status	Blacktown City			New South Wales		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Employed, worked full-time	57,801	33,818	91,619	1,271,542	736,382	2,007,924
Employed, worked part-time	11,395	22,492	33,887	308,835	630,628	939,463
Employed, away from work	1,885	2,738	4,623	51,410	68,711	120,121
Employed, hours of work not stated	2,289	1,369	3,658	42,627	28,195	70,822
Total Employed	73,370	60,417	133,787	1,674,414	1,463,916	3,138,330
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	3,785	2,686	6,471	73,599	43,098	116,697
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	1,430	2,401	3,831	31,777	48,051	79,828
Unemployed and looking for work total	5,215	5,087	10,302	105,376	91,149	196,525
Total labour force	78,585	65,504	144,089	1,779,790	1,555,065	3,334,855
Not in the labour force	28,430	46,296	74,726	780,956	1,152,320	1,933,276
Labour force status not stated	5,494	5,326	10,820	163,558	153,459	317,017
Total	112,509	117,126	229,635	2,724,304	2,860,844	5,585,148

Data Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing

In 2011, across each of the statistical local areas, approximately 33,819 (40%) full time workers were females. The number and rates varied across the city with 13,352 (36.9%) in Blacktown North, 10,860 (36.9%) in Blacktown South-East and 9,607 (36.8%) women employed in full time work.

A total of 5,088 females and 5,216 males were looking for work. Across the statistical local areas the number and rate of females looking for work were: 1,425 (50.8%) in Blacktown North, 1,719 (49.2) in Blacktown South-East and 1,944 (48.5%) in Blacktown South West.

Table 8: Labour force status of persons 15 years and over, Blacktown City and selected areas, 2011

Labour force Status	Blacktown North			Blacktown South-East			Blacktown South-West		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Employed, worked full-time	22,772	13,352	36,124	18,535	10,860	29,395	16,493	9,607	26,100
Employed, worked part-time	3,756	9,139	12,895	4,113	7,213	11,326	3,524	6,141	9,665
Employed, away from work	695	1,120	1,815	594	848	1,442	598	768	1,366
Employed, hours of work not stated	658	389	1,047	780	478	1,258	850	503	1,353
Total Employed	27,881	24,000	51,881	24,022	19,399	43,421	21,465	17,019	38,484
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	948	658	1,606	1,269	903	2,172	1,567	1,126	2,693
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	431	767	1,198	505	816	1,321	496	818	1,314
Unemployed & looking total	1,379	1,425	2,804	1,774	1,719	3,493	2,063	1,944	4,007
Total Labour Force	29,260	25,425	54,685	25,796	21,118	46,914	23,528	18,963	42,491
Not in the labour force	8,060	12,550	20,610	10,133	16,308	26,441	10,237	17,438	27,675
Labour force status not stated	1,385	1,264	2,649	1,882	1,830	3,712	2,225	2,233	4,458
Total	38,705	39,239	77,944	37,811	39,256	77,067	35,990	38,634	74,624

Data Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing

2.7 Work life balance and weekly working hours

Maintaining a health work life balance is a major challenge for all workers in Blacktown City. When a person works longer hours it impacts on their quality of life, while inadequate work hours may impact on a person's income level. Females in Blacktown work less long hours (>49 hours per week) than females New South Wales rate. A higher rate of females in Blacktown work 35-39 hours when compared to other parts of New South Wales.

In the 2011 Census, females commonly reported working 35-39 hours per week. In Blacktown City 25.2% of females worked between 35-39 hours, ahead of Greater Sydney (22.6%), New South Wales (19.1%) and Greater Western Sydney (18.5%).

The next most common number of hours worked by females was 40 hours per week with the remainder of females tending to work less hours rather than more.

For males the most common number of hours per week was 40 hours with Blacktown City having the highest proportion of male workers in this category (25.8%) ahead of Greater Western Sydney (24.6%) and Greater Sydney (23.8%). Across New South Wales, the largest group was the 'working 49 hours or more' category (23.1%) followed by those working 40 hours (22.5%).

For males in Blacktown, Greater Western Sydney and Greater Sydney the next most common number of hours was 35-39 hours. The remainder of males tended to work more hours rather than less in contrast with trends in data for females.

Table 9: Number of hours worked, females, Blacktown City and selected regions, 2011

Region	None	1-15 hours	16-24 hours	25-34 hours	35-39 hours	40 hours	41-48 hours	49 hours +	Not stated	Total
Total females										
Blacktown City	2,739	7,203	7,574	7,716	15,207	11,309	3,750	3,553	1,370	60,421
Greater Western Sydney	68,711	216,382	209,725	204,505	270,952	231,832	104,530	129,088	28,194	1,463,919
Greater Sydney	16,153	48,199	48,587	47,652	82,842	65,519	23,565	24,927	8,652	366,096
New South Wales	43,045	130,292	132,296	121,819	182,865	168,660	73,691	88,044	18,559	959,271
%										
Blacktown City	4.5	11.9	12.5	12.8	25.2	18.7	6.2	5.9	2.3	100.0
Greater Western Sydney	4.7	14.8	14.3	14.0	18.5	15.8	7.1	8.8	1.9	100.0
Greater Sydney	4.4	13.2	13.3	13.0	22.6	17.9	6.4	6.8	2.4	100.0
New South Wales	4.5	13.6	13.8	12.7	19.1	17.6	7.7	9.2	1.9	100.0

Source: ABS Census 2011 from Table Builder

Although 8.3% of total persons in Blacktown City worked 25-34 hours, 12.8% of females worked these hours compared to 5.5% of males. This trend was exhibited in each of the regions.

In contrast, only 5.9% of Blacktown City females worked 49 hours or more per week compared to 17.3% of male. However, these proportions were lower than females and males in comparative regions, particularly New South Wales where 9.2% of females and 23.1% of males worked 49 hours or more per week. The hours of work tables provide no insight into which industries people are working longer hours.

In 2011, 8.2% of Blacktown City's workforce worked less than 16 hours compared to 10.4% of the Greater Western Sydney workforce, 9.1% of Greater Sydney and 9.7% of the New South Wales workforce. In the same year, 11.9% of the female workforce and 5.2% of the male workforce worked 1-15 hours per week. This was an increase from 11.7% for women and 4.8% for men compared to rates in 2006.

2.8 Occupation as an indicator of social mobility

Occupations are linked with a person's income and social mobility. Skilled occupations or professions are more likely to contribute to a higher income levels and greater social mobility than less skilled or unskilled occupations. This section highlights selected occupation types by gender and compares trends for occupation types across Blacktown City, Greater Western Sydney and Greater Sydney in 2011.

The occupation types examined are broadly categorised as 'skilled' (e.g. managers, administrators, professionals, or associate professionals), 'less skilled' (e.g. clerical, service or sales workers) and 'unskilled' (labourers and related workers).

Long-term employment in less skilled or unskilled occupations can have detrimental effects on a person's job security and financial and social status. Less skilled and unskilled occupations often require little or no training and provide few opportunities for workers to expand or develop knowledge and skills. This may limit the employability and work choices of unskilled or under-skilled workers especially with the diminishing local industrial sector.

Limited employment opportunities impact on the financial resources of these workers and their families, as well as their social mobility and security.

In 2011, there were 15,571 males employed as technicians and trades workers in Blacktown City compared to 2,555 females. Another example of this gender bias is the number of machinery operators and drivers with 12,726 males compared to 1,839 females.

Other occupations have higher numbers of females than males such as clerical and administrative workers with 6,604 males compared to 17,828 females. Male dominated occupations and female dominated occupations were evident in all the other Greater Western Sydney local government areas and Greater Sydney.

As in 2006, there was a smaller gap between male and female professionals with 11,125 males and 12,211 females indicating gender gaps were reduced in occupations requiring higher levels of education. However, there were still more male managers (7,875 or 10.7%) than female managers (4,210 or 7.0%).

Table 10: Professions by gender for females, no. and %

Professions by gender for females, no. and %, 2011											
Region	Managers	Professionals	Technicians & Trades Workers	Community & Personal Service Workers	Clerical & Admin. Workers	Sales Workers	Machinery Operators and Drivers	Labourers	Occupation inadequately described	Not stated	Total
Number of females											
Blacktown City	4,210	12,211	2,555	7,956	17,828	7,564	1,839	5,112	586	559	60,420
Blacktown North	2,131	5,791	956	2,833	7,243	2,900	399	1,392	198	162	24,005
Blacktown South- East	1,195	3,873	882	2,610	5,760	2,389	564	1,694	225	203	19,395
Blacktown South- West	884	2,547	717	2,513	4,825	2,275	876	2,026	163	194	17,020
Greater Western Sydney	28,893	79,246	15,782	47,786	105,688	45,467	8,507	27,744	3,459	3,524	366,096
Greater Sydney	98,974	270,156	38,196	118,078	245,462	108,212	13,016	50,933	8,691	7,556	959,274
% of females											
Blacktown City	7.0	20.2	4.2	13.2	29.5	12.5	3.0	8.5	1.0	0.9	100.0
Blacktown North	8.9	24.1	4.0	11.8	30.2	12.1	1.7	5.8	0.8	0.7	100.0
Blacktown South-East	6.2	20.0	4.5	13.5	29.7	12.3	2.9	8.7	1.2	1.0	100.0
Blacktown South-West	5.2	15.0	4.2	14.8	28.3	13.4	5.1	11.9	1.0	1.1	100.0
Greater Western Sydney	7.9	21.6	4.3	13.1	28.9	12.4	2.3	7.6	0.9	1.0	100.0
Greater Sydney	10.3	28.2	4.0	12.3	25.6	11.3	1.4	5.3	0.9	0.8	100.0

Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing

2.9 Personal and family violence

Family and domestic violence is a widespread problem in all sections of Australian society. It encompasses a wide range of physically and psychologically violent acts (including intimidation, coercion or isolation, emotional, physical, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse) and can create devastating effects for individuals, families and the community as a whole.

Statistically it is most commonly exhibited by a male to his female partner or ex-partner and is also reported between same sex partners, among family members (including siblings and parent-child violence either way), and by female against male partners.

Two measures of aggression and violence are included in this profile - apprehended violence orders granted and incidence of domestic violence related assault for populations of Blacktown City, Sydney statistical division by statistical subdivisions and New South Wales. These orders are granted as either domestic or personal.

In 2011, 1411 domestic apprehended violence orders (AVO's) were granted to the population of Blacktown City (447.9 per 100,000 persons). This rate was higher than New South Wales (345.3) and all statistical divisions with the exception of Outer South West. The number increased to 1,446 (451.7 per 100,000 people) in 2013.

In 2013, in addition to the domestic orders, a further 299 personal apprehended violence orders were granted, equivalent to a rate of 93.4 per 100,000 persons. This rate was higher than New South Wales with a rate of 82.6 per 100,000 and all other statistical subdivisions in Sydney statistical divisions.

'Domestic violence related assaults' measures actual incidents of family and domestic violence for each local government area. The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Statistics up-dates and publishes the statistics quarterly.

'Domestic violence related assaults' are the largest single component (41%) of the total 'recorded domestic violence related incidents'. Incidence of domestic violence related assaults recorded in 2013 show that Blacktown City recorded a total of 1,858 domestic violence related assaults in during this time.

The rate per 100,000 has fluctuated during 2009 to 2013 from 584.2 – 619.7 per 100,000 and rankings have dropped from 22 (2009) to 32 (2013).

In the 2013 calendar year Blacktown City had the highest number of 'domestic violence related assaults' of any local government area in New South Wales. This number compares unfavourably to the next two highest local government areas, Campbelltown (993 or 642.6/100,000) and Liverpool (1016 or 520.1/100,000).

Table 11: Apprehended violence orders, statistical area of residence, 2011-2013

Statistical Area of residence of POI (a)	2011				2012				2013			
	Domestic AVO		Personal AVO		Domestic AVO		Personal AVO		Domestic AVO		Personal AVO	
	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
Blacktown City	1,411	447.9	312	99.0	1,306	408.0	312	97.5	1,446	451.7	299	93.4
Central Coast	1,089	338.5	274	85.2	1,024	315.9	236	72.8	1,050	323.9	263	81.1
City and Inner South	867	304.8	228	80.2	804	277.4	224	77.3	803	277.1	227	78.3
Eastern Suburbs	382	142.6	131	48.9	369	136.2	101	37.3	428	158.0	112	41.3
Inner South West	1,346	244.6	245	44.5	1,330	238.7	247	44.3	1,398	250.9	205	36.8
Inner West	507	181.7	115	41.2	464	164.1	87	30.8	504	178.2	81	28.6
North Sydney and Hornsby	298	75.2	75	18.9	303	75.5	75	18.7	343	85.5	67	16.7
Northern Beaches	323	129.0	105	41.9	267	105.4	121	47.7	269	106.2	67	26.4
Outer South West	1,148	471.3	213	87.4	1,015	410.8	222	89.9	1,049	424.6	178	72.0
Outer West and Blue Mountains	1,140	382.6	222	74.5	915	304.5	185	61.6	1,086	361.4	177	58.9
Parramatta	1,325	320.0	279	67.4	1,181	278.9	243	57.4	1,314	310.3	262	61.9
Ryde	192	112.3	43	25.1	153	88.1	31	17.8	190	109.4	35	20.1
South West	1,358	360.7	318	84.5	1,320	345.8	251	65.7	1,366	357.8	175	45.8
Sutherland	421	192.1	87	39.7	403	183.2	124	56.4	371	168.7	77	35.0
NSW	24,902	345.3	7,194	99.8	23,918	328.1	6,705	92.0	25,535	350.3	6,022	82.6

Source: BOCSAR, NSW Local Courts 2013,

AVO's Notes: (a) The AVOs were granted against the PO'Is (persons of interest).

2.10 Smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy

Smoking has wide-ranging health and social impacts, including increased rates of cardiovascular disease and various forms of cancer. In 2012, around 1 in 7 women smoked during pregnancy, and about half of pregnant women drank alcohol, nationally.

In the years from 2004 to 2013, the rate of smoking per 100 people in Blacktown City reduced considerably from 24.7 one of the highest figures in Greater Western Sydney to 16.5. Smoking rates for women during pregnancy also decreased between 2006 – 2010 for Blacktown City and in each of the statistical local areas. Between 2006 and 2010, the percentage of women who smoked decreased from 15.6% to 13.4%. This trend was evident across each of the statistical local areas within the city. (Social Atlas of Australia 2015)

2.11 Obesity and diabetes

Obesity is classified as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or greater. BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight, in kilograms, by the square of height in metres. There are many causes of overweight and obesity, including genetics, unhealthy diets and a lack of regular exercise.

In 2011, 52.6% of New South Wales adults (59.8% of males and 45.4% of females) were overweight or obese and in 2010, 22.8% of children (24% of boys and 21.5% of girls) were overweight or obese. The estimated number of people in Blacktown City who are overweight increased substantially between 2011 and 2013 from 27.8 per 100 adults to 34.4 per 100. Obesity rates have also increased markedly from 20.2 per 100 to 28.2 per 100.

Obesity is a major contributor to Type 2 diabetes with estimates showing that eliminating obesity from the population could reduce the incidence of this disease by over 40%.

During 2007 – 2013 the diabetes rate for Blacktown City increased markedly from 3.6 per 100 to 7.8 per 100 - an estimated increase of 7,141 people diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. This rate is higher than for Sydney statistical division (6.2) and New South Wales (5.8).

Statistical local area data were not available in the Social Atlas at the time of this report.

The percentage of all mothers with gestational diabetes in Western Sydney tends to be higher than for NSW. Women who have had gestational diabetes are at greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse groups at high risk for Type 2 diabetes include those of Melanesian, Polynesian, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Asian (especially Indian subcontinent) background and these are well represented in the residents of Western Sydney. Many of these ethnic groups develop diabetes at lower levels of obesity and at a younger age than people of European descent. (A picture of diabetes in overseas-born Australians, AIHW 2003)

Cancer screening

Mammography screening is proven to reduce mortality and morbidity attributable to breast cancer, by detecting early-stage breast cancer in women between the ages of 50-69 years. (BreastScreen Australia)

Western Sydney has low screening rates for breast cancer with 4 out of 5 LGAs in Western Sydney below the state average rate with Auburn and Blacktown have the lowest screening participation rates. Smaller areas such as Blacktown South-West and Inner Parramatta have very low screening participation rates.

In 2014, the rate of premature mortality of breast cancer in females in western Sydney (18 per 100,000) was higher than the Australian average (17 per 100,000). In the same year, Parramatta North West and Blacktown South West recorded very high rates (more than 50%) of premature mortality due to Breast cancer in women. (WentWest, 2016).

2.12 Social capital for women

Social capital is a term used to describe particular social relationships within a group or community. This includes levels of trust between people; whether they have a shared understanding of how they should behave towards, and care for one another and participation in civic organisations, such as sporting clubs and school councils. It is also used to describe the resources available within communities that are built from networks of mutual support, reciprocity, trust and obligation. It can be accumulated when people interact with each other in families, workplaces, neighbourhoods, local associations and a range of informal and formal meeting places. (ABS, 2000) It can be measured by surveying residents about levels of community belonging, trust, safety, participation and harmony.

Regular community surveys across the city provide a snapshot of community belonging and see how community perceptions vary for each community and target group over time. In previous surveys (2006, 2011), residents from across the city have reported positive levels of 'feeling that they belong to their community'.

During March-May 2015, Blacktown City engaged 2155 residents from across the city in a Social Plan 2016 "Have Your Say" survey. The survey included the following social capital questions:

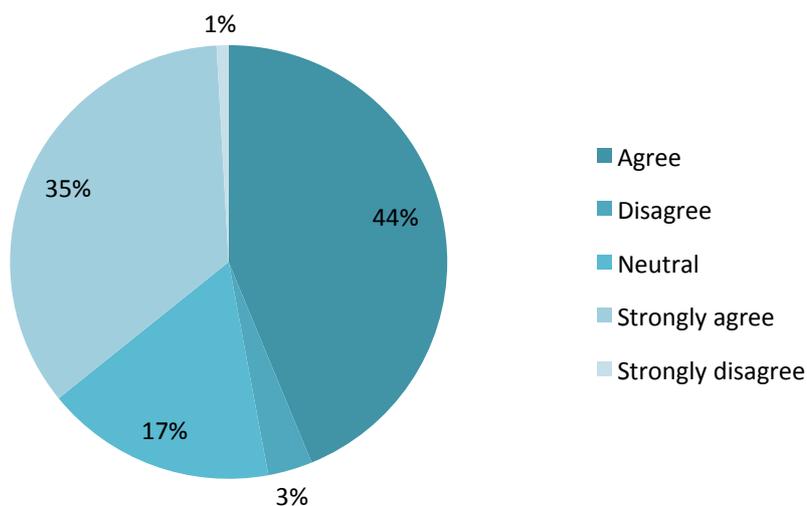
- I feel like I belong in this neighbourhood
- If you had a problem, could you rely on one of your neighbours to help you?
- I feel safe walking down my street
- I speak with my neighbours – frequently, sometimes, never
- How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live, work and spend time?

The following results are from female respondents to the survey.

I feel like I belong in this neighbourhood

The majority of female participants reported feeling "they belonged in their neighbourhood" (79%). This was the same (79%) for all participants. This response was higher than in 2011, when 69.8% of women surveyed reported feeling "they belonged in their neighbourhood".

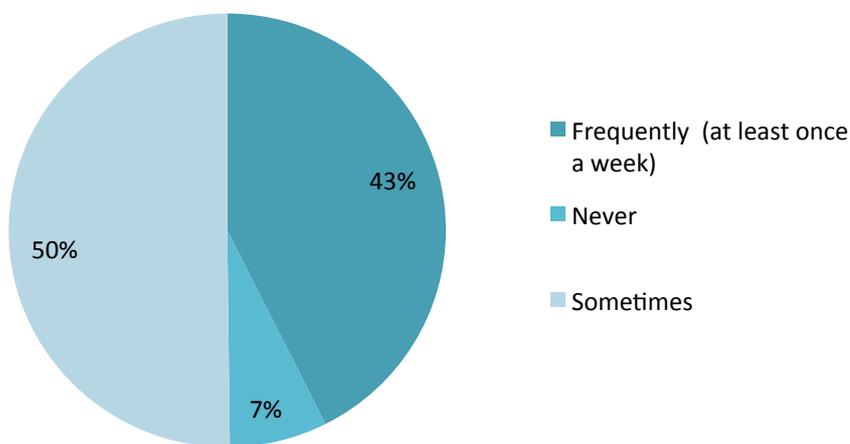
Figure 3: Belonging



Speaking with neighbours

This was the first time this question was included in the survey and it provides a baseline for comparison for future surveys. Women were just as likely to speak to a neighbor at least once a week (43%) when compared to all participants (43.1%).

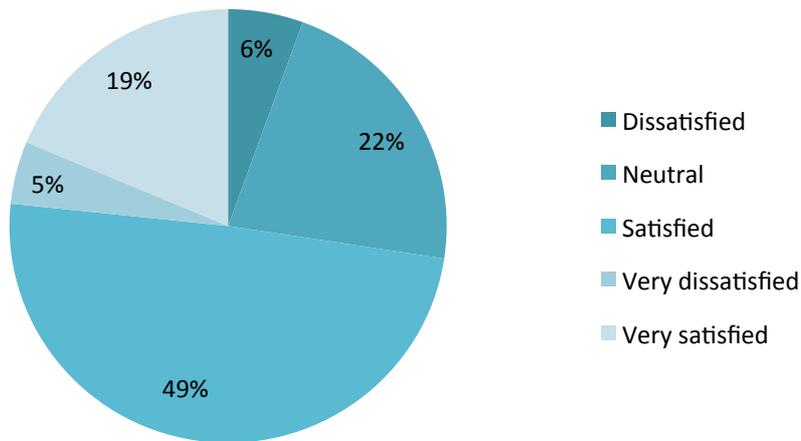
Figure 4: Speaking with neighbours



Satisfaction with neighbourhood

The majority of women were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live work and spend their time (49%) compared to 49.2% for all participants. 19% were very satisfied compared with 18.4% of all participants. In 2011, 49.1% were satisfied and 15.6% were very satisfied.

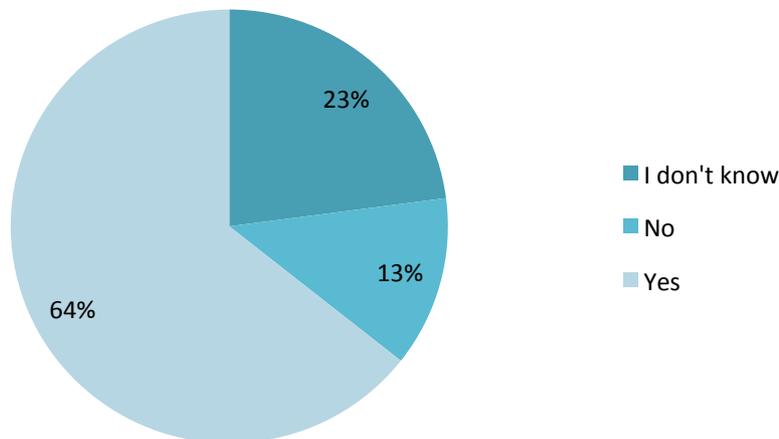
Figure 5: Satisfied with their local neighbourhood



If you had a problem, could you rely on a neighbour for help?

The majority (64%) reported being able to “rely on a neighbour for help with a problem”. This compared to 64.1 % for all participants. This compared to 55% of women in 2011.

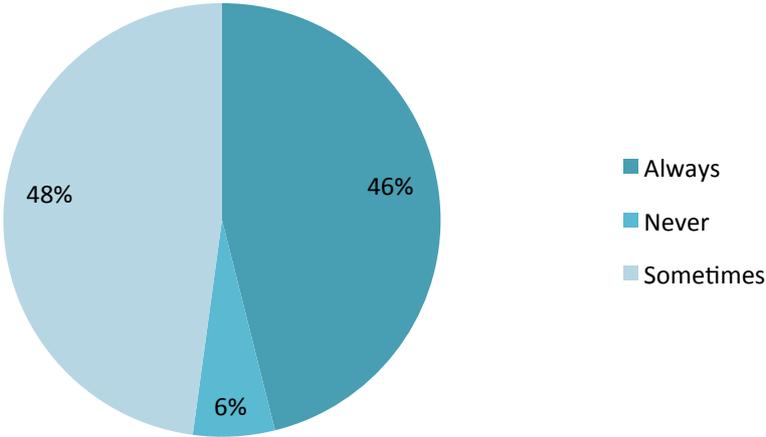
Figure 6: Could you rely on neighbours?



Feeling safe walking down their street

This was the first time this question was included in the survey and it provides a baseline for comparison for future surveys. The majority (48%) reported always feeling safe walking down their street compared to 48.8% for all participants. Women had the same rate of “never” feeling safe (6%) when compared to all participants (6%).

Figure 7: Perceptions of safety



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3. What do the community and service providers say?

The results of our community engagement (with residents, workers and service providers) are presented using the World Health Organisation Social Determinants of Health (Wilkinson & Marmot 2003). The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between communities.

The key aspects of social and economic circumstances affecting social wellbeing and health: The social gradient, stress, early life, social exclusion, work, unemployment, social support, addiction food and transport. As a result of the community engagement, we have included an eleventh priority area focussing on how services can be enhanced or supported to improve outcomes for the community - service development.

3.1 Social gradient

- The cost of living, including housing, utilities and food is high and beyond the budgets of some women, particularly single women living alone.
- However, there are many women who say they like that the city has an affordable lifestyle especially food, services, shopping and entertainment.
- Some women say that a lack of stable, long-term housing can undermine a woman's prospect for quality of life.
- Residents say affordability of many services and activities is a real challenge for mums
- There is ongoing inter-generational social disadvantage in areas of the city that has remained unchanged for decades.
- People would like to see more, higher-end shops, cafes and restaurants in the CBD
- There is wide spread concern about shopping centres closing down or in poor condition.

3.2 Stress

- Some residents report that they do not like having no local shops in the neighbourhood
- There are a high number of residents who identify that the convenience and availability of shops and services is the thing they like best about living in the city.
- Residents are overwhelmingly positive about the range of activities and family friendly facilities in the city (like the showground).
- There are many residents who are passionate about the environment and want to learn more about environmental practices and methods they can implement to increase sustainable, environmentally friendly living e.g. Lalor Park community garden group.

- Residents say the Arts Centre has a great variety of initiatives and exhibitions and supports the arts in Blacktown City.
- Residents are concerned about antisocial behaviour, in their neighbourhoods, around shopping centres, parks and transport interchanges (including drinking alcohol, drug-taking, abusive language and swearing).
- Women are very aware of high crime rates. Many report feeling unsafe in public and some in their own homes.
- Services continue to see domestic violence and its impact on women and families.

3.3 Early life

- Single mothers want a chance for education, low cost-housing, childcare and social support groups to give them and their children the best opportunities.
- A lack of flexible and affordable childcare is a concern for some women.
- Services report some parents lack basic life skills, are unable to teach these to their children, and need intensive family support.
- The need for early childhood education and care programs that engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
- The need within families for both parents to work is driving extended hours of care for young children.

3.4 Social exclusion

- There is tension across communities due to media and government focus on the issue of terrorism and migration.
- There is a need to promote community measures against racism and to build community tolerance and respect.
- There is intergenerational disadvantage and welfare dependency in some families and locations.

3.5 Work

- A shortage of affordable child care impacts some people's availability for work.

3.6 Unemployment

- Lack of support for job seekers in terms of training and other support services, especially those returning to work after having children or who have come from diverse cultural backgrounds.

3.7 Social support

- People say they like being close to their friends and family.
- Family is a great support in times of difficulty. Living close to family is important to many of our residents.
- The city has lots of great services and organisations that know the community well.
- There is a shortage of adult community services, in particular, mental health services.
- A lack of services to assist people facing domestic violence.

3.8 Addiction

- The impact of alcohol and drugs in the community in particular the antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol and drug use is a concern for many respondents.

3.9 Food

- There is interest in seeing more farmers' markets in the city.
- There is community interest in having more community gardens with residents saying community gardens are great ways to learn about growing your own food. Large backyards and blocks of vacant land could be used for growing fresh fruit and vegetables.
- There is an increasing interest in growing your own food at home.
- Fast foods are convenient and affordable.
- Residents say buying fast food is cheaper than buying fresh food.

3.10 Transport

- There is widespread concern about traffic especially issues with congestion, poor traffic flow and disruptions to traffic from roadwork, poorly synchronised cycles of traffic lights and rail crossings.
- A lack of parking in Blacktown City, specifically Blacktown CBD, Blacktown Hospital, Stanhope Gardens and around railways and bus interchanges, availability of parking is a frustration to many drivers.

- Concern about unsafe parking in school zones.

3.11 Service development

- A lack of services and supports for women escaping violence or trying to deal with drug and alcohol issues.
- Many services report they face uncertainty in regards of funding. This is impacting on service provision, clients and staff.
- Many organisations are concerned about the stress on staff having to 'do more with less', an impact of funding changes and the uncertainty in the sector.

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