



**WentWest Limited**  
ACN 099 255 106 ABN 80 099 255 106  
Level 1, 85 Flushcombe Rd  
Blacktown NSW 2148  
PO Box 5, Blacktown Post Shop NSW 2148  
**Ph:** (02) 8811 7100 **Fax:** (02) 9622 3448  
**Email:** [wentwest@wentwest.com.au](mailto:wentwest@wentwest.com.au)  
**Web:** [www.wentwest.com.au](http://www.wentwest.com.au)

# Western Sydney Population Health and Workforce Needs Assessment Summary

September 2010

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## Contents

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Executive Summary.....                       | 2                                   |
| Introduction .....                           | 3                                   |
| Discussion of key area health trends .....   | 7                                   |
| Discussion of key area workforce trends..... | 14                                  |
| Recommendations .....                        | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |
| References .....                             | 15                                  |

## Executive Summary

**Report purpose and rationale:** This report is a population health and workforce needs assessment for the communities within Western Sydney served by the Hawkesbury Hills and WentWest Divisions of General Practice. The report was undertaken in September 2010 in an effort to identify health and workforce needs in our communities, to prepare for anticipated health reform legislation and to serve as a basis for plans to address health and workforce gaps.

**Health and social outlook:** The communities included in this report stretch from Parramatta through to Blacktown, and the Hills areas, covering an urban and outer urban population of about 820,000 people. The population in this region is as diverse as the geography, with foreign born populations of up to 44% in some areas, from affluent suburbs to extreme pockets of social disadvantage, and home to the largest Indigenous community living in urban Australia, as well as a high proportion of Refugees.

As this report shows, not only is our population rapidly expanding and ageing, health status in the region is below Metropolitan Sydney and state-wide averages for New South Wales, with major areas of socioeconomic and health disadvantage and consequent high prevalence rates for chronic conditions, hospital admissions and avoidable mortality. The most socially disadvantaged areas are often also those with the highest prevalence of risk behaviours (particularly rates for physical inactivity, male smokers and overweight males and females), chronic diseases (especially circulatory, respiratory and musculoskeletal system diseases), and workforce issues.

Particular areas of concern regarding health and social disadvantage include Auburn, Blacktown Southwest (Mt Druitt and surrounds), and Parramatta South. **Results of this analysis highlight the need to:**

- **Look after our ageing population:** In Blacktown Southwest and Parramatta South, people over 65 are expected to comprise 11% of the population by 2020.
- **Increase cultural competence in primary health care:** Almost half the residents of Auburn and a third in Blacktown Southwest and Parramatta South are foreign born, compared to 23% in Metropolitan Sydney; 16% of people in Auburn have poor English proficiency, compared to 5% in Metropolitan Sydney; and at least 4% of the population in Blacktown Southwest are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, compared to less than one percent in Metropolitan Sydney.

- **Support our at-risk families, children and mothers:** In Auburn, Blacktown Southwest and Parramatta South, roughly a third of families with children under 15 are jobless, compared to 14.1% in Metropolitan Sydney; in Blacktown Southwest, 9% of babies born have low birth-weight compared to 6.1% in Metropolitan Sydney, and nearly a third of all pregnant mothers in these areas smoke, compared to 8.8% in Metropolitan Sydney. Rates of domestic violence assaults for Blacktown are the highest in the region (712 per 100,000 people compared to 504 for Metropolitan Sydney).
- **Create sustainable employment:** Unemployment is markedly higher than the average of 4.3% for Metropolitan Sydney – 7.7% in Auburn, 13.6% in Blacktown Southwest, and 9% in Parramatta South.
- **Improve the way we support mental health and manage chronic disease:** 17-19% of people in Auburn, Blacktown Southwest and Parramatta South report high or very high levels of psychological distress, compared to 11.8% for Metropolitan Sydney. In most socially disadvantaged areas, chronic disease prevalence is higher than Sydney averages, except in areas such as Blacktown Southwest where reported chronic disease prevalence is relatively low, but premature and avoidable mortality rates are the highest in the region.

**Workforce trends are also cause for concern:**

- General Practitioner to population ratios and service provision under Medicare by practice nurses and social workers are lowest in the most socially disadvantaged and regional areas.
- Along with the entire population, the GP population is ageing and in areas such as Parramatta, up to 65% of GPs will retire in the next 1-3 years.
- Cervical screening rates are declining while the population of women aged 20 and 69 is expanding.
- Participation rates in the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) are declining or are relatively low for the Practice Nurse, Quality Prescribing and eHealth Incentives, compared to the total population size.
- The upward trend in Type 2 diabetes prevalence throughout the region appears to be outpacing completions of diabetes cycles of care, and there is concern around increasing numbers of uncontrolled diabetes patients and insulin management.
- Completions of asthma cycles of care are declining for Hawkesbury and WentWest Divisions. The population within Hawkesbury Division has the highest asthma rates in the region.
- Practitioners in Auburn and surrounds highlight the need for more female and bilingual GPs.
- There are capacity shortages around after-hours and aged care services.
- There is a lack of standardisation in measuring and linking health outcomes with program delivery.

Given the above factors, improving access to and effective delivery of integrated patient-centred primary health care in Greater Western Sydney are urgent priorities.

## Introduction

### Background and Rationale:

In proposing to launch a first wave Medicare Local, the strategy across the WentWest and Hawkesbury Hills Divisions is to create a strong, equitable, integrated Western Sydney primary health care network, building organically on what already exists, from local levels upward. The proposed Medicare Local structure is based not only on the utilisation and scale-up of existing organisational structures and infrastructure as well as local capacity and strategic partnerships; it is also based on the fact that the Western Sydney region has a well-recognised identity.

- Our communities, though very diverse, clearly identify themselves as part of Western Sydney.
- Equity and access to health services are significantly compromised.
- As shown in this report, health status in the region is below Metropolitan Sydney and state-wide averages for New South Wales, with major areas of socioeconomic and health disadvantage, and consequent high prevalence rates for chronic conditions, hospital admissions and avoidable mortality.

**Report Layout:** This report, which highlights key socio-demographic characteristics, health trends and workforce issues, is a summary of the comprehensive Population Health and Workforce Needs Assessment. The full report looks at Western Sydney SLAs (statistical local areas) in detail. For more information please contact Libby McCardle at WentWest on [libby.mccardle@wentwest.com.au](mailto:libby.mccardle@wentwest.com.au) or call (02) 8811 7137.

Even within the areas within Western Sydney, there are distinct population differences owing to social inequalities, access to and distribution of funds and health services, as well as other distinct population characteristics. Therefore, it is important to assess population health and workforce needs using a bottom-up approach, drilling to the lowest level of data available. For the purposes of our analysis, most subsets of the full report are presented at the SLA level (where data are available), which according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the smallest unit defined within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).<sup>1</sup>

**Scope:** The scope of the report includes the populations and workforce supported by Hawkesbury Hills Division of General Practice and WentWest Limited. The geographical boundaries (see map) and Divisional profile for these areas are shown below.

- WentWest LGAs (local government areas) include Auburn, Blacktown, Baulkham Hills, Holroyd and Parramatta;
- Hawkesbury includes parts of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Hornsby, Parramatta and Penrith; NB only Baulkham Hills, Blacktown and Parramatta are included in the Western Sydney Medicare Local catchment areas, thus Hawkesbury, Hornsby and Penrith are not included in the summary below.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics: Help: Use Census Data. <  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf//web+pages/Census+Data>>. Accessed 10 September 2010.

## Divisional Profiles<sup>2</sup>:

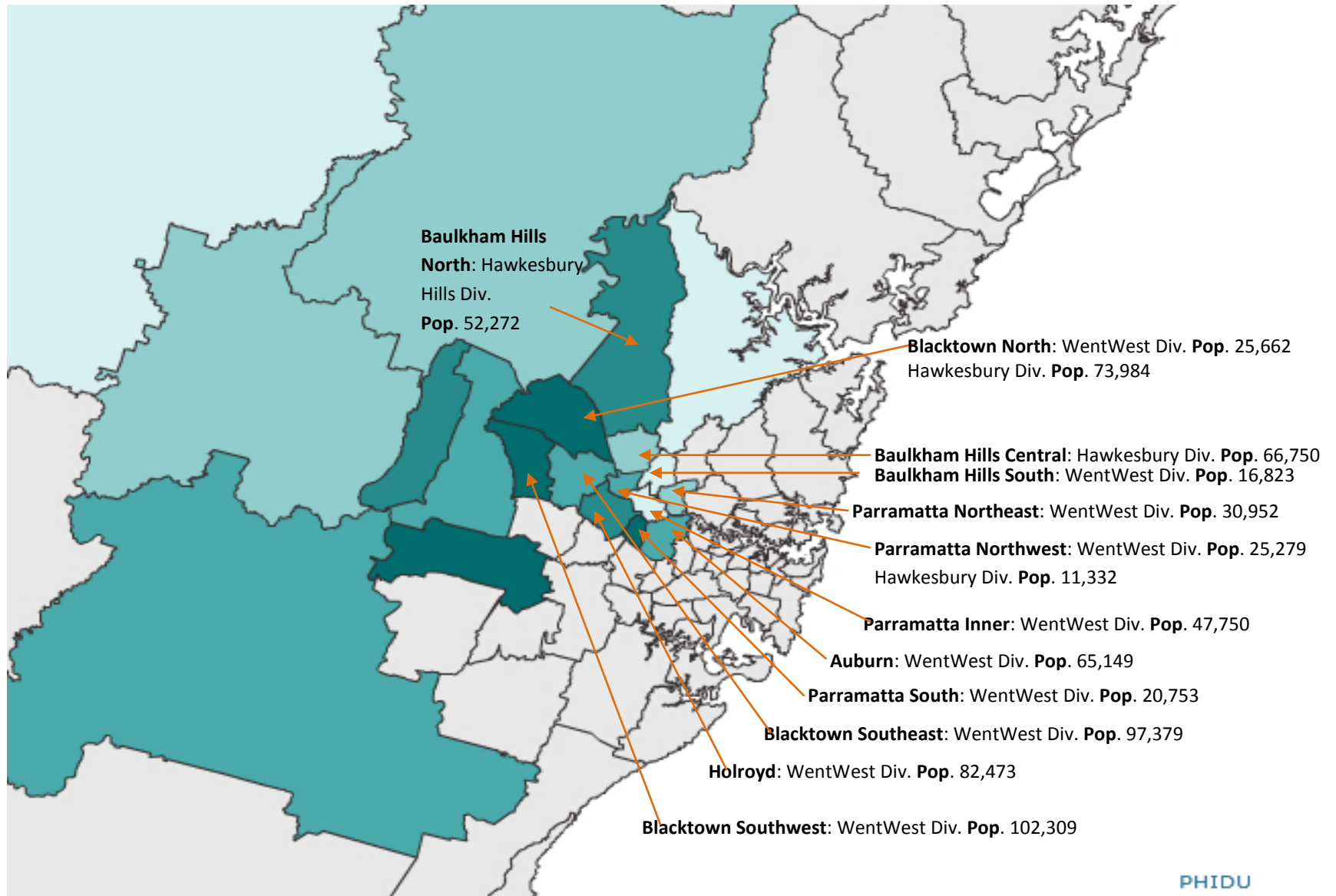
|  | Total population | Total practices | Estimated practicing GPs | % Female GPs | Estimated Indigenous population | % Indigenous | Population aged over 65 | % over 65 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Hawkesbury Hills Division of General Practice</b> | 259,984          | 85              | 263                      | 44.9         | 2,572                           | 0.99%        | 22,349                  | 8.60%     |
| <b>WentWest Limited</b>                              | 489,561          | 208             | 583                      | 30.8         | 9,519                           | 1.94%        | 48,834                  | 9.98%     |

**Purpose:** The full report will inform strategies and recommendations to address health and workforce needs based on demographic profiles, analysis of prevalence of key chronic diseases and risk factors, review of the social determinants of health, as well as an assessment of workforce needs.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHC RIS), Resources and Publications, Division and SBO Profiles <<http://www.phcris.org.au/divisions/profiles/index.php>>. Accessed 27 September 2010.

### Western Sydney Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)



## Discussion of key area health trends

On average, compared to Metropolitan Sydney and NWS as a whole, Western Sydney SLAs are more socially disadvantaged. Correspondingly, the most socially disadvantaged areas within Western Sydney are often those with the highest prevalence of risk behaviours (particularly rates for physical inactivity, male smokers and overweight) and chronic diseases (especially circulatory, respiratory and musculoskeletal system diseases). A morbidity, risk factor and mortality overview is shown below for all of Western Sydney; and health snapshots for individual SLA follow.

| Condition / Risk Factor   | Area with highest prevalence      | SLA prevalence | Metro Sydney prevalence |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Type 2 diabetes   | Blacktown Southwest               | 3.2            | 2.5                     |
| High cholesterol  | Parramatta Northwest              | 7.1            | 6.3                     |
| Males with mental and behavioural problems                              | Blacktown Southwest               | 10             | 8                       |
| Males with mood problems  | Blacktown Southwest               | 4.7            | 3.6                     |
| Females with mental and behavioural problems                            | Blacktown Southwest               | 11.8           | 9.8                     |
| Females with mood problems  | Blacktown Southwest               | 5.4            | 4.8                     |
| Circulatory system diseases   | Parramatta Northwest              | 16.8           | 15.1                    |
| Hypertensive disease  | Blacktown Southeast               | 12.2           | 9.2                     |
| Respiratory system diseases   | Baulkham Hills South              | 24.5           | 22.8                    |
| Asthma  | Blacktown Southwest               | 8.8            | 7.9                     |
| Musculoskeletal system diseases   | Blacktown Southeast               | 25             | 24.5                    |
| Arthritis   | Parramatta Northwest              | 13.3           | 12.4                    |
| Injury events   | Blacktown Southeast               | 19.9           | 17.9                    |
| Male smokers  | Blacktown Southwest               | 36.7           | 25.7                    |
| Female smokers  | Blacktown Southwest               | 22.8           | 16.1                    |
| High-risk alcohol consumption   | Baulkham Hills South              | 6.3            | 4.7                     |
| Physical inactivity   | Blacktown Southwest               | 42.3           | 31                      |
| Overweight males  | Baulkham Hills South              | 39.6           | 37.3                    |
| Obese males   | Blacktown Southeast and Southwest | 17.4           | 14.4                    |
| Overweight females  | Blacktown Southeast               | 22.2           | 21.2                    |
| Obese females   | Blacktown Southwest               | 16.8           | 11.9                    |
| At least one risk factor (smoking, alcohol, obese, physically inactive) | Blacktown Southwest               | 67.5           | 54.4                    |

| Avoidable Mortality                 | Area with highest death rate | SLA death rate | Metro Sydney death rate |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| All-cause                           | Blacktown Southwest          | 139            | 92                      |
| Cancer                              | Blacktown Southwest          | 126            | 95                      |
| Colorectal cancer                   | Blacktown Southeast          | 134            | 92                      |
| Lung cancer                         | Blacktown Southwest          | 168            | 93                      |
| Cardiovascular diseases             | Blacktown Southwest          | 164            | 97                      |
| Ischaemic heart disease             | Blacktown Southwest          | 174            | 96                      |
| Cerebrovascular diseases            | Blacktown Southwest          | 159            | 100                     |
| Respiratory system diseases         | Blacktown Southwest          | 247            | 87                      |
| COPD                                | Blacktown Southwest          | 259            | 84                      |
| Road traffic injuries               | Parramatta Northwest         | 82             | 57                      |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries | Blacktown Southeast          | 107            | 77                      |

**Note:** Areas highlighted in yellow indicate the highest rates for the entire region. For avoidable mortality the death rate is the standardised death rate (SDR), to allow for comparison across local areas. Source: Public Health and Information Development Unit (PHIDU). *A Social Health Atlas of Australia, 2010*.

## Auburn (estimated pop. 65,149)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 45.9% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 42.2%; and people over 65 comprise 8.2%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 9.3% of the population
- 46.8% of the population are foreign born and 16% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 72.7% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 7.6% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 26.2% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 29.6% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 24.9% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 7.7% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 922; and 33.1% of households have difficulty paying rent

- 35.9% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.7% of all babies born have low birth weight; 5.2% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is just 84.7%
- 17.7% of people report having fair or poor health and 15% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (10.6%), respiratory (15.6%) and musculoskeletal (17.7%) system diseases; rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 30.6% of people are physically inactive; 10.8% of men over 15 are overweight; and 9.9% are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 234 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (93 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (56 per 100,000)

## Baulkham Hills Central (estimated pop. 66,750)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 39.8% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 47.7%; and people over 65 comprise 9.8%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 16.2% of the population
- 21.2% of the population are foreign born and 2.1% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 83.8% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 4.5% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 5.4% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 5.1% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 72.3% of people over 65 are age pensioners
- 2.9% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1117; and 15.5% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 17.7% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 4.2% of all babies born have low birth weight; 2.8% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 92.9%
- 9% of people report having fair or poor health and 8.2% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (12.7%), respiratory (22.3%) and musculoskeletal (21.8%) system diseases and rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 17.4% of people are physically inactive; 14.1% of men over 15 are overweight and 7.9% of women over 15 are overweight

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 160 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (80 per 100,000)
- The largest causes of avoidable mortality are cancer and COPD (both 43 per 100,000)

## Baulkham Hills North (estimated pop. 52,272)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 41.8% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 46.9%; and people over 65 comprise 7.4%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 10.9% of the population
- 16% of the population are foreign born and 1.3% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 81.9% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 4.2% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 4.5% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 4.4% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 47.8% of people over 65 are age pensioners
- 3.7% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1121; and 16.7% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 16% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 5.5% of all babies born have low birth weight; 3.4% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 94%
- 7.5% of people report having fair or poor health and 6.9% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are respiratory (17.2%) and musculoskeletal (16.9%) system diseases and injury events (13.6%); rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 13.4% of people are physically inactive; 10.9% of men over 15 are overweight and 6.1% of women over 15 are overweight

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 165 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (86 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (48 per 100,000)

## Baulkham Hills South (estimated pop. 16,823)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 39.6% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 46.8%; and people over 65 comprise 11.1%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 17.6% of the population
- 26.9% of the population are foreign born and 3.8% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 86.9% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 4.5% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 7.1% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 7.1% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 70.4% of people over 65 are age pensioners
- 5.4% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1111; and 17.9% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 16.8% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.8% of all babies born have low birth weight; 2.2% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 92.7%
- 9.8% of people report having fair or poor health and 9.1% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (13.9%), respiratory (24.5%) and musculoskeletal system diseases(24%); rates are higher than Metro Sydney
- 19.1% of people are physically inactive; 15.5% of men over 15 are overweight and 8.7% of women over 15 are overweight

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 154 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (77 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (43 per 100,000)

## Blacktown North (estimated pop. 25,662)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 44.5% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 45.4%; and people over 65 comprise 6.2%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 9.3% of the population
- 23.4% of the population are foreign born and 2.5% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 72.8% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 7.8% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 10% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 10.4% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 83.8% of people over 65 are age pensioners
- 3.6% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1054; and 20.6% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 25.3% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.3% of all babies born have low birth weight; 8.4% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 93.2%
- 12.4% of people report having fair or poor health and 10.4% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (12.4%), respiratory (19.4%) and musculoskeletal system diseases (18.1%); rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 19.9% of people are physically inactive; 11.9% of men over 15 are overweight and 8.4% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 233 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (103 per 100,000)
- The largest causes of avoidable mortality are cancer and road traffic injuries (both 65 per 100,000)

## Blacktown Southeast (estimated pop. 97,379)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 42.2% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 43.7%; and people over 65 comprise 10.6%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 14.6% of the population
- 30.1% of the population are foreign born and 4.6% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 70.2% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 10.5% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 19% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 20.6% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 24.2% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 6.7% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 967; and 26.4% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 37.7% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.8% of all babies born have low birth weight; 13.6% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 93.8%
- 17.9% of people report having fair or poor health and 16.3% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (16.5%), respiratory (21.8%) and musculoskeletal system diseases (25%); rates are higher than Metro Sydney
- 29.5% of people are physically inactive; 14.5% of men over 15 are overweight and 11.5% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 288 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (109 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (71 per 100,000)

## Blacktown Southwest (estimated pop. 102,309)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 47.8% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 41.3%; and people over 65 comprise 7%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 11.2% of the population
- 26.9% of the population are foreign born and 3.6% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 62.5% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 16.5% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 27.4% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 29.7% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 28.6% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 13.6% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 903; and 27.5% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 39.6% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 8.6% of all babies born have low birth weight; 24.1% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 89%
- 19.1% of people report having fair or poor health and 18.7% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (11.7%), respiratory (21%) and musculoskeletal system diseases (20.4%); chronic disease rates are lower than Metro Sydney, but mortality rates are markedly higher than Sydney and all other SLAs
- 29.9% of people are physically inactive; 12.3% of men over 15 are overweight and 11% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 341 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (130 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (78 per 100,000)

## Holroyd (estimated pop. 82,473)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years comprise 41.7% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 43.4%; and people over 65 comprise 11.3%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 13.8% of the population
- 33.3% of the population are foreign born and 6.3% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 70.5% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 9.1% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 20% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 20.6% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 26% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 5.6% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 972; and 26.5% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 38% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.4% of all babies born have low birth weight; 6.5% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 90.2%
- 17.5% of people report having fair or poor health and 13.4% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (15.8%), respiratory (19.7%) and musculoskeletal system diseases (23.7%); rates are higher than Metro Sydney
- 28.5% of people are physically inactive; 13.8% of men over 15 are overweight and 10.8% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 252 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (99 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (64 per 100,000)

## Parramatta Inner (estimated pop. 47,750)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years 45% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 43.6%; and people over 65 comprise 8.1%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 8.4% of the population
- 44.8% of the population are foreign born and 8.3% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 66.9% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 7.9% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 17.5% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 19.5% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 18.7% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 4.2% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 979; and 21.7% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 29.7% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.7% of all babies born have low birth weight; 3.0% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 89.1%
- 14.1% of people report having fair or poor health and 10.3% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (14.3%), respiratory (18.3%) and musculoskeletal (20.2%) system diseases; rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 23.8% of people are physically inactive; 12.5% of men over 15 are overweight and 9.3% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 306 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is circulatory system disease (117 per 100,000)
- The largest causes of avoidable mortality are cardiovascular and ischaemic heart disease (both 72 per 100,000)

## Parramatta Northeast (estimated pop. 30,952)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years 37.9% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 45.6%; and people over 65 comprise 13.8%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 17.3% of the population
- 28.9% of the population are foreign born and 6.2% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 77.7% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 7.2% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 12.6% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 12.7% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 20.3% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 2.7% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1021; and 26.4% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 30% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 6.3% of all babies born have low birth weight; 5.9% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 93.9%
- 17.3% of people report having fair or poor health and 13% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (16.7%), respiratory (21.3%) and musculoskeletal (23.5%) system diseases; rates are higher than Metro Sydney
- 27.7% of people are physically inactive; 14.6% of men over 15 are overweight and 10.9% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 235 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (87 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (50 per 100,000)

## Parramatta Northwest (estimated pop. 25,279)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years 36.9% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 44.9%; and people over 65 comprise 14.7%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 19.6% of the population
- 22.7% of the population are foreign born and 3.4% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 78.5% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 6.4% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 10.3% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 10.9% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 20% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 2.6% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 1042; and 20% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 31% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 5.4% of all babies born have low birth weight; 5.3% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 91.6%
- 17.6% of people report having fair or poor health and 13.1% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (16.8%), respiratory (21.5%) and musculoskeletal (23.7%) system diseases; rates are higher than Metro Sydney
- 27.9% of people are physically inactive; 14.8% of men over 15 are overweight and 11% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 229 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (88 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cancer (51 per 100,000)

## Parramatta South (estimated pop. 20,753)

### Population & Demographics

- People under 29 years 47.5% of the population; people aged 30-64 comprise 39%; and people over 65 comprise 9.6%
- By 2020, people 65 and over are expected to comprise 11.6% of the population
- 36.6% of the population are foreign born and 10.8% have poor English proficiency

### Social Determinants

- 67.5% of 16 year olds are enrolled in secondary education
- 9.2% of families are single-parent with children under 15
- 31.4% of families with children under 15 are jobless
- 32.7% of children under 15 live in jobless families
- 29.6% of people hold Centrelink concession cards
- 9% of the labour force are unemployed; the SEIFA IRSD is 893; and 33.4% of households have difficulty paying rent
- 43% of dwellings have no internet connection

### Morbidity and Risk Factors

- 5.2% of all babies born have low birth weight; 9.1% of mothers smoke during pregnancy; and the childhood immunisation rate is 92.1%
- 17% of people report having fair or poor health and 13.1% report high or very high psychological distress
- The most prevalent chronic diseases are circulatory (15.3%), respiratory (19.5%) and musculoskeletal (21.6%) system diseases; rates are lower than Metro Sydney
- 25.4% of people are physically inactive; 13.4% of men over 15 are overweight and 10% of men are smokers

### Mortality

- The all-cause premature death rate is 280 per 100,000 and the largest cause of premature mortality is cancer (108 per 100,000)
- The largest cause of avoidable mortality is cardiovascular disease (60 per 100,000)

## Discussion of key area workforce trends

Workforce service trends across Western Sydney are cause for concern, and when considered with the above health profiles, highlight potential gaps in primary health care services across the region.

### GP Service Provision

- According to labour force data, GP to population ratios are lowest in socially disadvantaged and regional areas of Western Sydney (e.g., Auburn, Blacktown Southwest, Holroyd, and Parramatta South) as compared to NSW.
- Only a third of GPs in the WentWest Division are female.
- Rates for 45 year old health checks, annual health assessments for people over 75, and general psychologist services are low in areas with high prevalence of chronic diseases and risk factors, extreme social disadvantage, ageing populations and mental health issues, particularly Auburn, Blacktown Southeast and Southwest and Parramatta South.
- Urgent GP after-hours services are trending steadily downward for Hawkesbury Hills and WentWest under MBS, and steadily downward for both Divisions under the PIP.
- Cervical screenings provided under MBS and the PIP are trending steadily downward.

### Chronic Disease

- Completions of asthma cycles of care under the PIP are declining for Hawkesbury and WentWest.
- Numbers of annual cycles of care for diabetes patients are trending slightly upward over time, but Type 2 diabetes prevalence rates for many SLAs are above average and increasing.
- Hospitalisations due to Type 2 diabetes co-morbidities increased steadily from 2000 to 2007; and there is an anecdotal shortage of diabetes educators and a concern around GPs' comfort levels using insulin, as well as concern around numbers of uncontrolled diabetes patients.
- GP mental health treatments are trending upward but ATAPS is over-subscribed and general psychologist service provision under MBS and DVA is low for all areas.

### Practice Nursing and Community Service Linkages

- The most socially disadvantaged areas are also those with the lowest rates of social work and practice nurse services under the MBS.
- Numbers of multidisciplinary care plans and case conference services are trending upward, but overall GP attendances, after-hours service provision rates, and PNI participation rates are trending downward.

### Participation in PIP

- Participation rates for the PIP QPI are low relative to practice enrolment in PIP across both Divisions.
- Absolute numbers of participation in the eHealth incentive under the PIP are low relative to the population size of certain Divisions, particularly WentWest.
- WentWest's participation in the PNI is in decline and is low relative to its population size (i.e., 16 practices participating in the PNI as of May 2010 for a population of about 500,000 persons and with 113 practices participating in the PIP overall), and relative to its proportion of Aboriginal Australians and socially disadvantaged SLAs (particular areas of concern are Auburn and Blacktown Southwest).

### Aged Care

- Numbers of low-level residential aged care places are below average in Auburn, Baulkham Hills North, and Blacktown Southeast. Parramatta South has no low-level aged care places (and proportion of the population over 65 is 11.6%).
- Numbers of community care places for most SLAs are below average compared to NSW and Metropolitan Sydney.

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