

A snapshot of people with lived experience of disability in Newcastle

Estimates of the number of people living with disability



People with profound or severe disability in Newcastle LGA in 2021¹:

- **10,752 people (or 6.4% of the population)** had a 'profound or severe disability', defined as people "needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age" (NSW = 5.8%)
- An additional **8,289 (4.9% of population)** did not state whether or not they had a need for assistance



The likelihood of living with disability increases with age.

- **31%** of **55-64-year olds** are living with disability.
- Almost **9 in 10 people aged 90 and over (88%)** have a disability

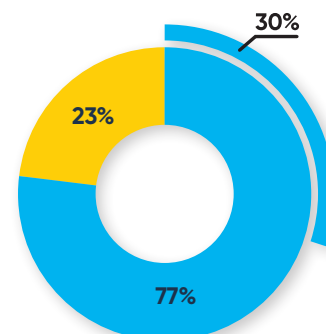
A disability is any condition that restricts a person's mental, sensory or mobility functions. Almost 90% of disabilities are not visible.

17% of the NSW population had a 'reported disability' in 2018², as opposed to **6.4%** being recorded as 'requiring assistance' in the 2021 Census- suggesting that the number of people with disability in Newcastle may be higher.

In June 2022³, there were **5,072 people** participating in the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** in the Newcastle LGA. This has decreased since June 2020, when there were **7,542 people**.

In Australia in 2018 of people living with disability: ⁴

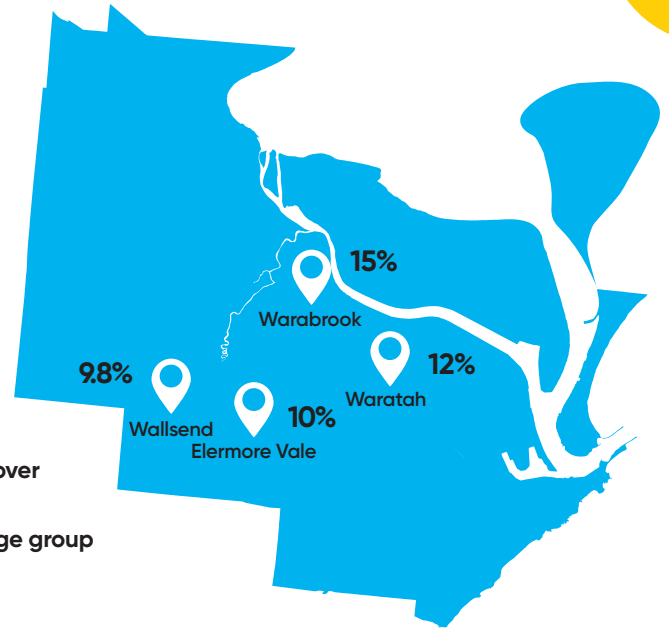
- **77%** reported a physical disorder as their main condition, the most common being a musculoskeletal disorder (**30%**)
- **23%** reported a mental or behavioural disorder as their main condition.



Where do people with disability live?

In Newcastle LGA in 2021⁵:

- **Warabrook SA2** had the highest proportion of people 'needing assistance' (**15%**) followed by **Waratah (12%)**, **Elmore Vale (10%)** and **Wallsend (9.8%)**. In total, these 3 areas accounted for **2,762 people**.



Age

In Newcastle LGA in 2021⁶:

- **81%** of people who required assistance were aged **45 years and over**
- **41%** were **75 years and over (35% in 2016)**
- The largest age bracket was for **85 years and over 52% of total age group**
- Only **12%** were **under 20 years of age**, same as in 2016.



Income

In the Newcastle LGA in 2021⁷:

- Only **16%** of people '**requiring assistance**' had a weekly personal income of **\$650 or more (21% in 2016)**, compared to **62%** of people **not requiring assistance**
- The most represented income brackets for people '**requiring assistance**' were between **\$300-\$500 per week – at 45%**, compared to **14%** of people **not requiring assistance**
- The proportion of people requiring assistance who **did not state their income** was **11%**, compared with only **1%** of people **not requiring assistance**.



Employment and labour force participation

In the Newcastle LGA in 2021, of people over 15 years who needed assistance with core activities⁸:

- **86% were not in the labour force** (28% for people who have no need for assistance)
- **7% were employed** (711 people) (64% for people who had no need for assistance)



Education level

In the Newcastle LGA in 2021, of people who needed assistance with core activities⁹:

- **25%** had a **secondary education of Year 9 or below** (6% for people who did not require assistance)
- **6%** had a **Bachelor degree** as compared to 4.9% in 2016 (21% for people who did not require assistance)
- **2%** had a **Postgraduate degree** (7% for people who did not require assistance)

¹ ABS Population Census 2021 using Tablebuilder

² Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Cat No 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2018.

³ Public Health Information Development Unit, June 2022.

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Cat No 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2018.

⁵ ABS Population Census 2021 using .idcommunity.

⁶ ABS Population Census 2021 using .idcommunity

⁷ ABS Population Census 2021 using Tablebuilder

⁸ ABS Population Census 2021 using Tablebuilder

⁹ ABS Population Census 2021 using Tablebuilder

NB:

• SA = Statistical Area (geographical area used in Population Census)
• All references unless specified are: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census: data for Newcastle LGA

