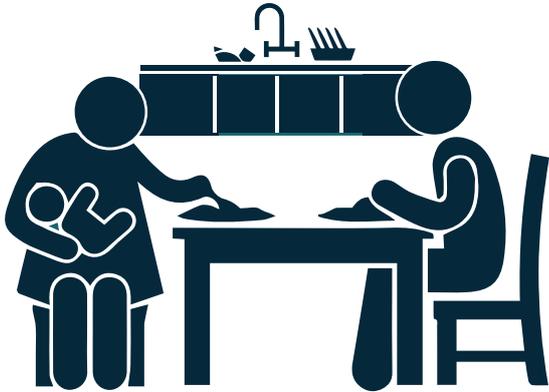




# People on low incomes



## In SESLHD

There are various definitions of low income, generally related to overall income and the cost of living.

**In NSW in 2013-2014 the mean weekly income for low income households was \$449 (<\$25,000 per year).<sup>1</sup>**

For the purpose of this document we consider low income as any individual with income less than \$499 per week.<sup>2</sup>

The 2016 Census identified substantial variability in income across the SESLHD with 32% of people 15 years and older reporting a weekly income of \$499 or less (\$26,000 annually), compared to 6% of people reporting a weekly income of more than \$3,000 per week.

## Population profile

**Sixty percent (60%) of the low-income group were women, compared with 40% of men.** This equates to approximately 37% of all women within the District and 27% of all men having a low income.

**A higher percentage of Aboriginal people** over the age of 15 years (38%) reported having low income compared with 34% of non-Aboriginal people.

**The LGA with the highest percentage of low income was Georges River (34%)** whilst the LGA with the lowest percentage of low income was Woollahra (17%).

## Issues and challenges

Low income and levels of socioeconomic advantage link closely to health outcomes for populations. Low income is often associated with lower educational attainment, underemployment and the receipt of welfare payments, and ultimately increased burden of long term (chronic) health conditions which may be due to people having fewer resources to engage in their own health.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Low, middle and high income and wealth households. Household Income and Income Distribution, NSW, 1994-95 to 2013-14. Available online: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/6523.0~2013-14~Main%20Features~Low,%20Middle%20and%20High%20Income%20and%20Wealth%20households~7>

2. This is based on individual income, however some low income households do not necessarily have a lower level of economic wellbeing, because some low income households may have a high level of wealth. For instance, some retirees drawing on cash savings.

3. Diana Warren. Low-income and poverty dynamics: Implications for child outcomes, 2017. Social Policy Research Paper No. 47. Australian Institute of Family Studies. Available online: [https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/11\\_2017/srpr47\\_low\\_income\\_web.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/11_2017/srpr47_low_income_web.pdf)

4. Underemployment. ABS Australian Social Trends 4102.0, June 2010. Available online: [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/F132F8C5891DC104CA2577510019FE8F/\\$File/41020\\_underemployment.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/F132F8C5891DC104CA2577510019FE8F/$File/41020_underemployment.pdf)

5. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. Australia's health 2016. Australia's health series no. 15. Cat. no. AUS 199. Canberra: AIHW. Available online: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/australias-health-2016/contents/summary>