

## People on low incomes

There are various definitions of low income, generally related to overall income and the cost of living. For this document, we consider low income as any individual with nil or negative income or income of \$499 or less per week.<sup>1</sup>

The 2021 Census identified significant variation in income across SESLHD.

In total, 22% of people in the district reported a weekly income of \$499 or less (\$26,000 annually), compared to 8% of people reporting a weekly income of \$3,000 or more (\$156,000 annually).<sup>2</sup>

Fifty nine percent (59%) of the low-income group were women, compared with 41% of men.

The LGA with the highest percentage of low income earners was Georges River (28%), while the lowest percentage of people with low or nil income was Waverley (15%).<sup>2</sup>

The 2021 Census reported that 2.4% of people in SESLHD were unemployed and looking for full-time or part-time work, with 55% of this population being males and 45% females.<sup>2</sup>

The LGA with the highest percentage (3.5%) of people unemployed and looking for full-time or part-time work was Sydney LGA. The LGA with the lowest percentage was Sutherland Shire (1.6%).<sup>2</sup>

In SESLHD, the highest percentage (5.7%) of social housing residents were in Sydney LGA, and the lowest rate was in Woollahra (0.4%).<sup>2</sup>

The social determinants of health are the conditions which shape our lives and influence our long-term health outcomes such as low income, lack of stable housing, unemployment and job insecurity. For example, the stress associated with unemployment or underemployment can contribute to poor mental health.<sup>3</sup>

1. This is based on individual income. However, some low-income households do not necessarily have a lower level of economic wellbeing, because they may have a high level of wealth.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021, 'Population: Census.'
3. World Health Organisation 2023, 'Social determinants of health.'