

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 2016¹:



- **9,197 people (or 5.9% 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 = 5.4%)
- An additional **8,549 (5.5% of population)** did not state whether or not they had a need for assistance
- Had increased **2.1%** since 2011.



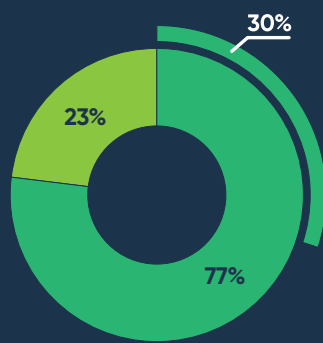
A disability is any condition that restricts a person's mental, sensory or mobility functions.
Almost 90% of disabilities are not visible.

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

17% of the NSW population had a 'reported disability' in 2018², as opposed to **5.4%** being recorded as 'requiring assistance' in the 2016 Census- suggesting that the number of people with disability in Newcastle may be higher.

In June 2020³, there were **7,542 people** receiving the Disability Support pension in the Newcastle LGA, being **6.8%** of people aged **16 to 64 years (NSW=6.4%)**. This has decreased since June 2017, when there were **8,385 or 7.8% (NSW=5.3%)**



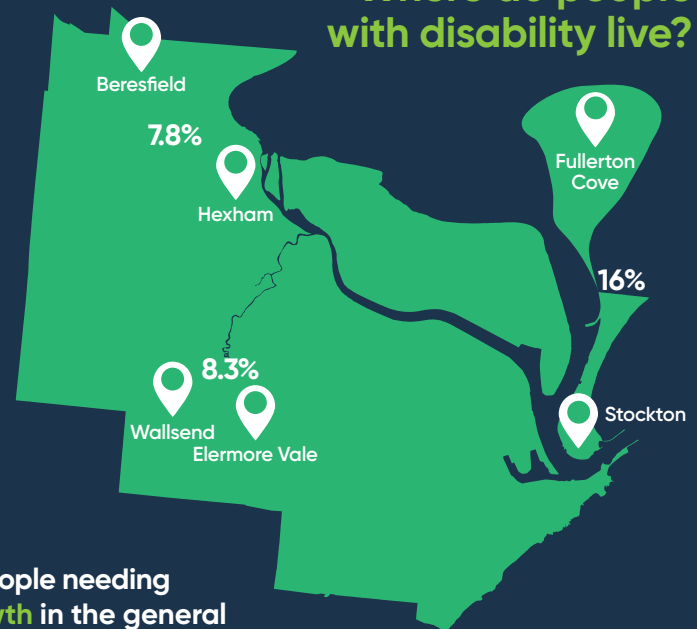
In Australia in 2018 of people living with disability:⁴

- **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.

In Newcastle LGA in 2016⁵:

- Stockton - Fullerton Cove SA2 had the highest proportion of people 'needing assistance' (**16%**) followed by Wallsend - Elmore Vale (**8.3%**) and Beresfield - Hexham (**7.8%**). In total, these 3 areas accounted for **2,687 people**.

Where do people with disability live?



Age

In Newcastle LGA in 2016⁶:

- **74%** of people who required assistance were aged 45 years and over (**NSW=77%**)
- **35%** were 75 years and over (**NSW=39%**)
- The largest age bracket was for 85 years and over (**19%**)
- Only **12%** were under 20 years of age.

Although there was a **5% increase** in the number of people needing assistance from 2011 to 2016 (compared to **4.6% growth** in the general population), there were marked differences in changes in various age groups:

- younger people between 5 and 34 years = **31 to 38% increase**
- older people = **decreases of up to 19%** (75-84 years).

Income

In the Newcastle LGA in 2016⁷:

- Only **21%** of people 'requiring assistance' had a weekly personal income of **\$650** or more, compared to **60%** of people not requiring assistance
- The most represented income brackets for people 'requiring assistance' were between \$300-\$500 per week - at **44%**, compared to **18%** of people not requiring assistance
- The proportion of people requiring assistance who did not state their income was **15%**, compared with only **2%** of people not requiring assistance.



Employment and labour force participation

In the Newcastle LGA in 2016, of people over 15 years who needed assistance with core activities⁸:

- **88%** were not in the labour force (31% for people who have no need for assistance)
- **9.6%** were employed (713 people) (63.6% for people who had no need for assistance)
- Unemployment rate was **17.7%** (7.3% for people who had no need for assistance) - 60 were looking for full-time work and 93 for part-time work



Education level

In the Newcastle LGA in 2016, of people who needed assistance with core activities⁹:

- **25.7%** had a secondary education of Year 9 or below (7.8% for people who did not require assistance)
- **4.9%** had a Bachelor degree (18.2% for people who did not require assistance)
- **1.2%** had a Postgraduate degree (5.6% for people who did not require assistance)
- **23%** did not state or adequately describe their educational level (6.5% of people who did not require assistance)



¹ ABS Population Census 2016 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, Feb 2021 and 2020.
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020. Cat No 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2018.
⁵ ABS Population Census 2016 using Tablebuilder
⁶ ABS Population Census 2016 using Tablebuilder
⁷ ABS Population Census 2016 using Tablebuilder
⁸ ABS Population Census 2016 using Tablebuilder
⁹ ABS Population Census 2016 using Tablebuilder

A summary sheet of 'Demographic analysis to inform Newcastle City Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan
Prepared by Jan Fallding, May 2021

NB:

- SA = Statistical Area (geographical area used in Population Census)
- All references unless specified are: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census: data for Newcastle LGA