



State of Australian Cities 2014 - 15

Newcastle

Population and Settlement

- The population of Newcastle-Maitland grew by an average of 1.2% per annum from 401,436 in 2008 to 425,895 in 2013.
- The life expectancy for Newcastle and Lake Macquarie SA4 residents increased from 80.4 years in 2006 to 81.4 years in 2012.
- The percentage of overweight or obese adults in Newcastle-Maitland increased by 7.0 percentage points from 63.5% in 2007-08 to 70.5% in 2011-12.
- Newcastle-Maitland saw smoking rates decrease by 12.4 percentage points from 27.2% in 2001 to 14.7% in 2011-12.
- The percentage of adults in Newcastle-Maitland who met physical activity guidelines decreased by 12.7 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2011-12, to 45.3%.
- Homelessness in Newcastle-Maitland rose by 7.3 persons per 10,000 from 2006 to reach 31.3 persons per 10,000 in 2011.
- The percentage of households that owned their own home in Newcastle-Maitland (with or without a mortgage) dropped by 1.0 percentage point from 69.5% in 2001 to 68.5% in 2011.
- The average house price in Newcastle rose from almost \$153,000 in 1999 to \$431,000 in 2012.

Economy & Human Capital and Labour

- The unemployment rate for Newcastle-Maitland dropped by 4.6 percentage points from 10.1% in 2001 to 5.5% in 2011. Newcastle-Maitland recorded the largest increase in employment rate of all the major cities.
- Newcastle-Maitland saw one of the largest increases in labour force participation rates with a 3.3% increase from 56.3% in 2001 to 59.6% in 2011.
- The proportion of people in Newcastle-Maitland with a vocational or higher education qualification rose by 11.5 percentage points from 52.5% in 2001 to 64.0% in 2011.
- Newcastle-Maitland residents with a Certificate III or above, or who were employed in a skilled occupation rose by 11.1 percentage points from 47.5% in 2001 to 58.6% in 2011.
- Of the major cities, the largest increase in young persons aged 15 to 24 'earning or learning', of 3.7 percentage points, to 73.4% was in Newcastle-Maitland between 2001 and 2011.

Infrastructure and Transport

- Newcastle's port had an increase of \$9,589 million in the value of international freight from 2012-13, nevertheless this represented more than a doubling of the 2006-07 value.
- The volume of freight through Newcastle's port increased by 53.1 million tonnes from 95.6 million tonnes in 2008-09 to 148.7 million tonnes in 2012-13, the highest increase in volume of freight through a port in a major urban area.