



An Australian Government Initiative



## MID NORTH COAST

# Regional Snapshot

## Midcoast LGA

August 2023

### RDA Charter - RIF

The RDA network has been issued a new Charter to operate within the Regional Investment Framework (RIF). The focus of the RIF is People, Places, Services, and Industries. RDAMNC has collated some key data in these areas for the Midcoast LGA.



### Summary Statistics

Table 1: Key area statistics.

Description	Data
Population	96,579
Annualised population growth (2016-2021)	1.4%
Median Age	54 years
Median Weekly Income	\$564
Labour force participation	43.94%

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

### RIF Statistics

The following table highlights some key data for the Midcoast LGA that are relevant to RDAMNC's work on the Regional Investment Framework.

Table 2: People, places and industry statistics

Description	Data
<b>People</b>	
% of population between 50-79 years	46.91%
% of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander	7.27%
% of households with two people	47%
% of families not in the labour force	26.68%
% of disengaged youth (15-24 years)	14.44%
% of pop. requiring assistance with core activities	9.02%
% of population living with one or more long term health conditions	39.13%
<b>Places</b>	
% of dwellings owned outright	39.68%
% of dwellings with spare bedrooms	78.62%
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage Score	943
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage LGA ranking	138/547
<b>Industry</b>	
Industry with largest output contribution	Construction
Industry with largest value-add contribution	Rental, hiring & real estate services
Industry with largest employment contribution	Health Care & social assistance
Highest ranking field of study	Engineering & Related Technologies

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

RDAMNC has categorised the 6 LGAs in the region into small (Kempsey, Bellingen, and Nambucca) and large (Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Midcoast). Comparative services data is outlined below.

**Table 3: Services in the Region**

Type	No.	Small LGA Avg	Large LGA Avg
Aged Care	38	8	28
Disability Services	13	4	13
Childcare / Preschool	46	8	43
Primary School	38	12	30
High School	8	3	9
Special Schools	0	1	1
Higher education	5	2	4
Hospitals	5	1	4
Medical Centre's (GP)	26	10	23
Pharmacies	26	7	23
Counsellors / Psychotherapists	7	0	11
Physiotherapy / chiropractic	18	5	22

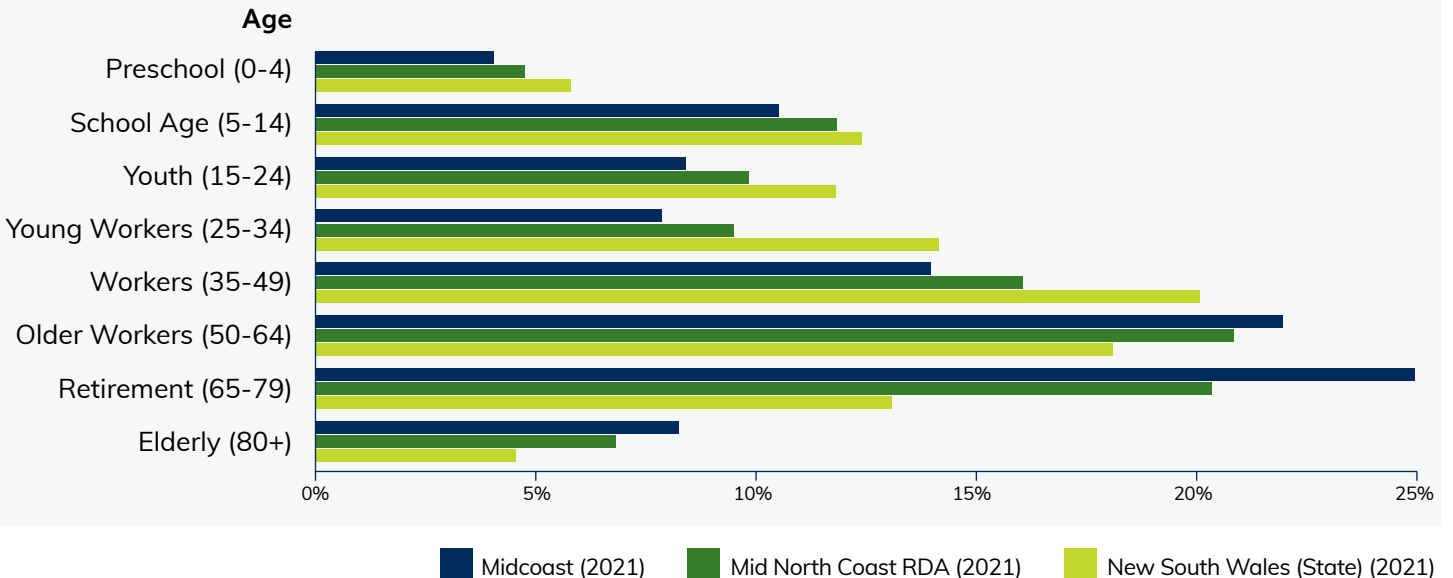
Type	No.	Small LGA Avg	Large LGA Avg
Dentists	14	4	20
Service NSW	3	1	2
Accountants	23	7	30
Lawyer / Solicitors	23	7	26
Financial planners	10	3	11
Transport Services	11	6	10
Major shopping centres	4	0	3
Supermarkets	18	7	16
Department stores	3	0	3
Sporting Clubs	76	23	71
Aquatic & Fitness Centres	24	5	20

Source: Publicly available internet listings as at August 2023

## MNC & NSW Comparisons

### Population by Life Stage

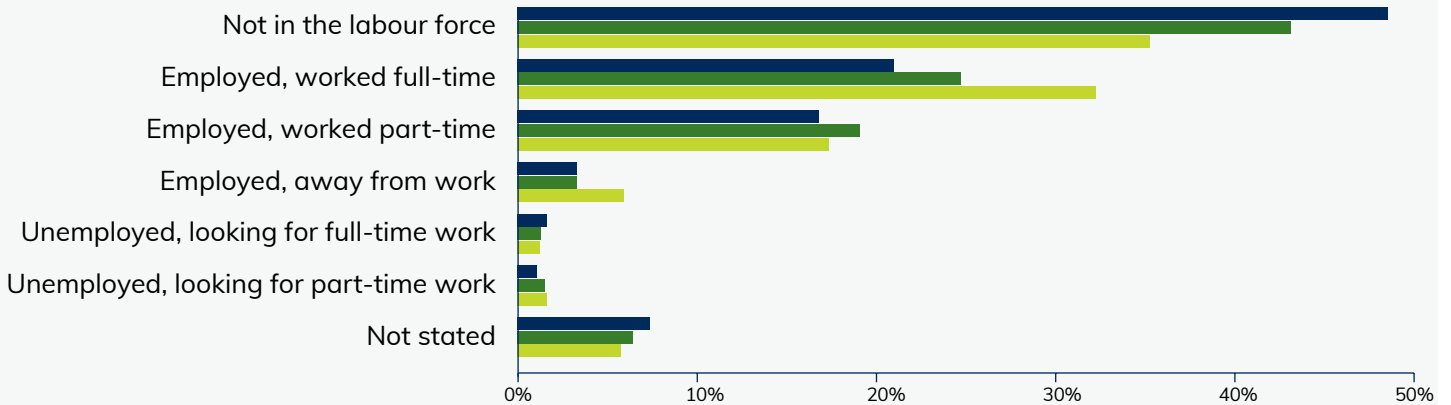
Midcoast LGA has 46.91% of the population as older worker or retirees. In comparison, the MNC has 41.17% and NSW has 31.14%.



## Population by Labour Force

The Midcoast LGA has 48.64% of the population not in the labour force. By comparison, the MNC has 43.26% and NSW has 35.46%. Midcoast full-time workforce percentage is higher than the MNC overall and lower than the state percentage.

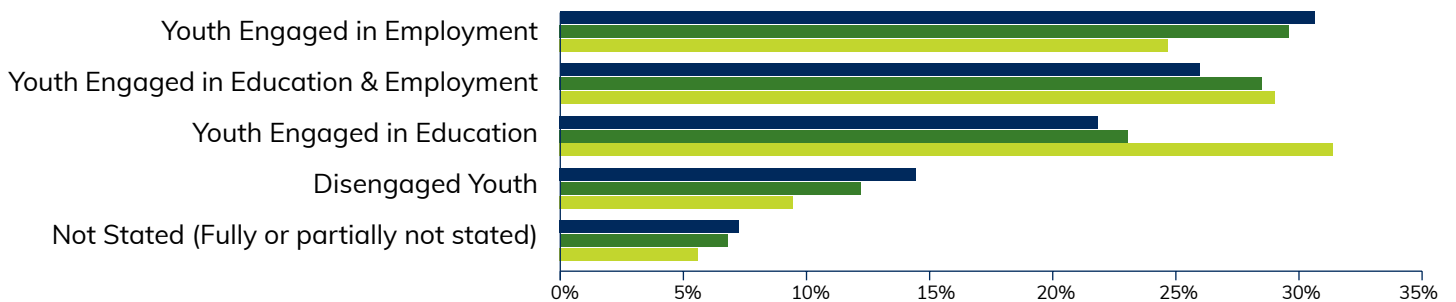
### Labour Force Status



## Youth Engagement (15-24 years)

14.44% of the Midcoast LGA's youth are disengaged, meaning not engaged in employment or education. However, MNC overall has 12.19% youth disengagement compared to 9.46% across NSW.

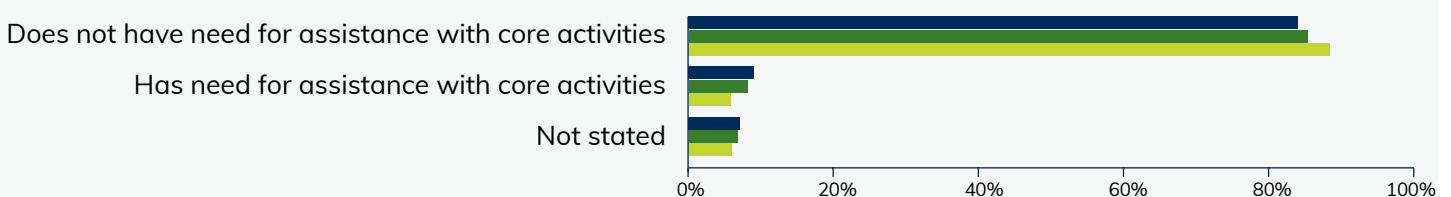
### Youth 15-24 years



## Need for assistance

Midcoast has 9.02% of its population requiring assistance to undertake core activities. The MNC overall has 8.09% of the population requiring assistance and NSW has 5.76%.

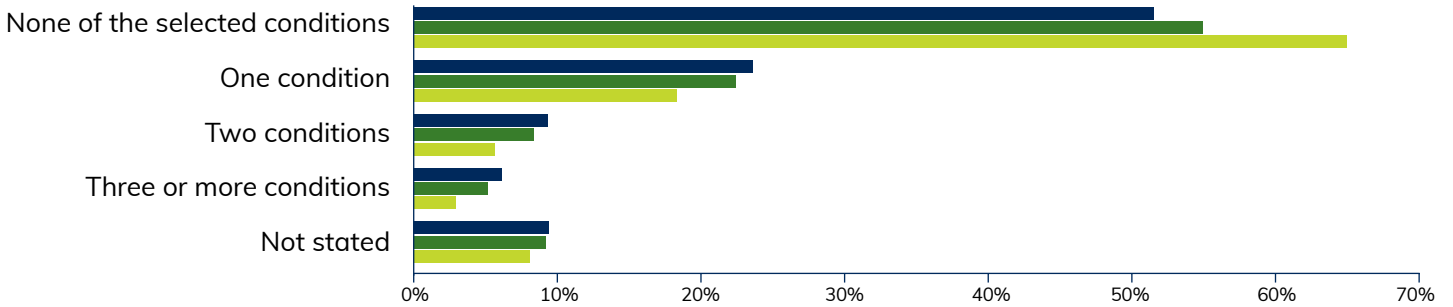
### Need for assistance



# Long Term Health Conditions

There are 39.13% of the Midcoast population living with one or more long-term health conditions. In comparison, the MNC's overall population has 35.95% of the population living with long-term health conditions, while NSW overall has 26.97%.

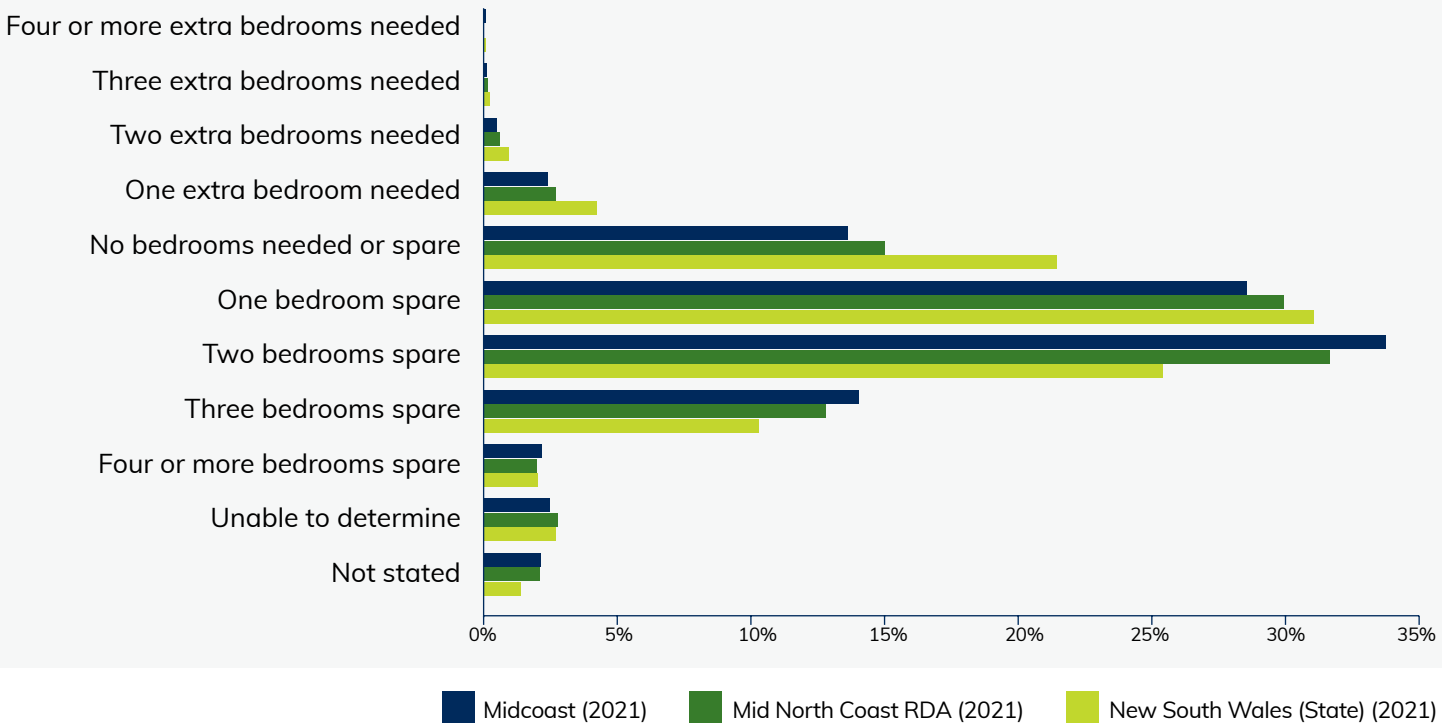
## Number of Conditions



# Housing Suitability

Of the dwelling structures in the Midcoast LGA, 78.62% of them have spare bedrooms. MNC has 76.52% and NSW has 68.86%. Looking at the reverse, 3.1% of dwellings need additional bedrooms in the Midcoast LGA, compared to 3.55% in the MNC and 5.52% across NSW. In the Midcoast LGA, 13.64% of dwellings have no spare bedrooms OR need additional rooms. Comparatively, the MNC is more at 15.02% and NSW is 21.48%.

## Bedrooms needed or spare



Midcoast (2021) Mid North Coast RDA (2021) New South Wales (State) (2021)

# SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

The SEIFA scores range from 143 (min) to 1207 (max) with 143 having the highest level of disadvantage and 1207 being the least disadvantaged. There are 547 LGAs in Australia that have been given a SEIFA score. The Midcoast LGA SEIFA ranking is 138 / 547. Meaning, there are 409 LGAs which are less disadvantaged and 137 LGAs that are more disadvantaged. A comparison with other LGAs on the MNC are highlighted in the table below.

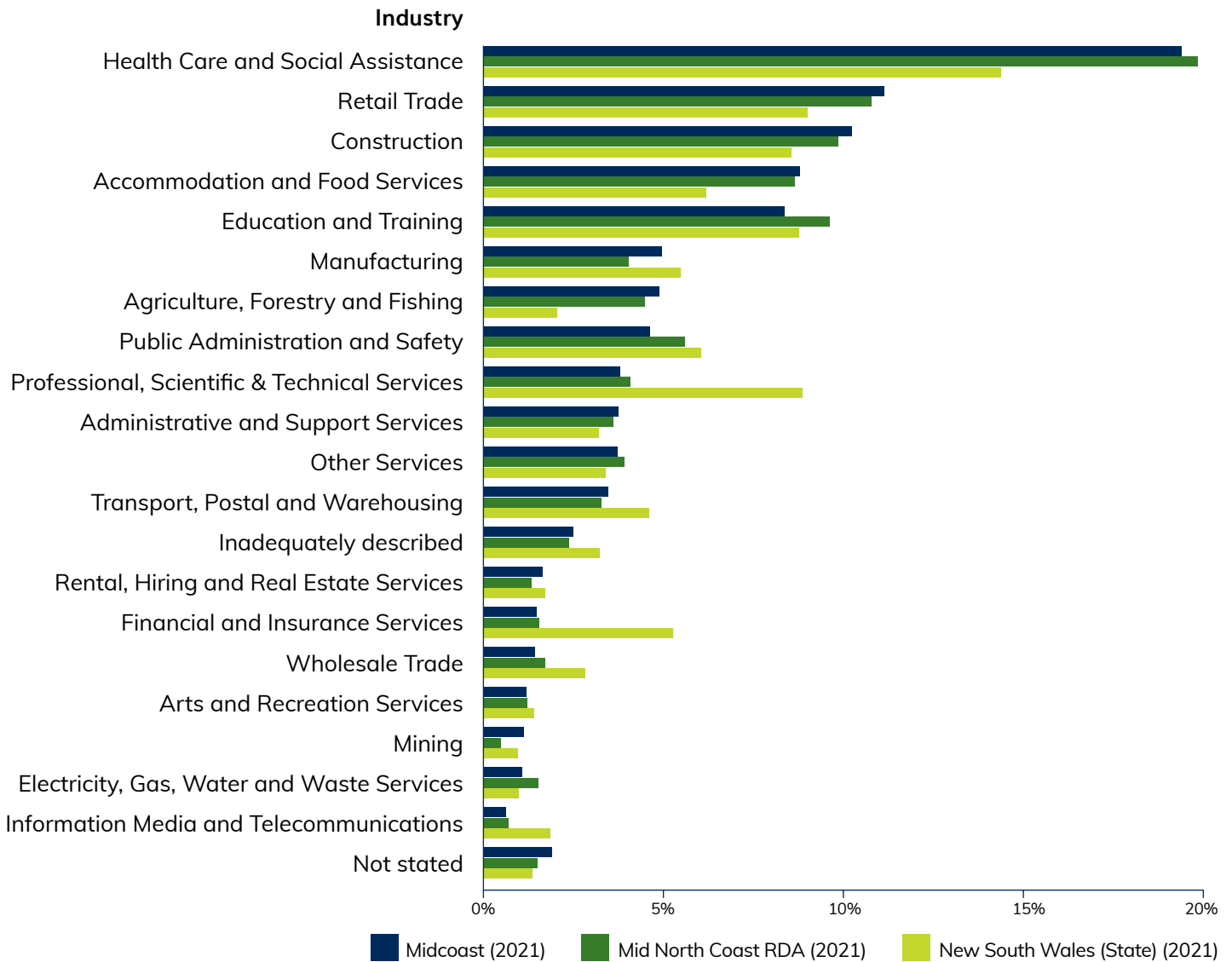
Table 3: SEIFA rankings by MNC LGA.

LGA	Ranking
Port Macquarie – Hastings	295 / 547
Bellingen	283 / 547
Coffs Harbour	243 / 547
Midcoast	138 / 547
Nambucca Valley	91 / 547
Kempsey	67 / 547

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

# Industries of employment

The top three industries of employment in the Midcoast LGA are Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade and Construction. The top three for the MNC overall are Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade and Construction. NSW also has Health Care & Social Assistance as its top industry of employment; however, Retail Trade and Professional, Scientific, and technical services are there other top two industries.



## Key Insights

Below is a summary of the key statistical data for the Midcoast LGA:

- Has the largest population in the MNC region.
- Has the largest land area in the region.
- Is the third most disadvantaged LGA in the MNC.
- High population in older workers and retirees, combined with family composition and dwelling suitability aligns with the region's current housing and key worker crisis.
- Number of available bedrooms highlights need for urgent review of current living arrangements to enable greater utilisation of existing structures in addition to development of new housing.
- The high percentage of population living with long-term health conditions suggests that the need for services and assistance with core activities will only increase in the short-medium term.
- Labour force participation numbers suggest that the Midcoast LGA will not be equipped to provide the services needed to support the developing demographics.