



Community Delivery Program 2010-2015



Based on achieving Goal 2 of the Community Strategic Plan – Our Social, Cultural and Community Relations 2010 – 2015.

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Introduction

Background

The Kempsey Shire Council Community Delivery Program 2010-15 has been developed in accordance with the Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998. In line with these regulations, Local Government is required to develop a community plan every five years, with an underlying emphasis on ensuring that the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights are a reality for all residents of the Shire.

Aim

The Program aims to recognise and build on the many existing Council efforts to promote the well being of their community members and effectively meeting their needs through social planning. The Program outlines the strategic direction Council will take over the next five (5) years to address the key social challenges, opportunities and aspirations of the Macleay Valley.

This program: -

- Outlines the composition of the Macleay Valley community
- Identifies local community assets and opportunities
- Examines seven mandatory target groups
- Identifies key social challenges and opportunities
- Outlines objectives for Council to work towards that address the whole community as a way of encouraging a socially inclusive community

Acknowledgement

Council would like to acknowledge the contribution of all residents and service providers who agreed to participate in the focus groups, interviews, provided written submissions and/or attended the community meetings.

Methodology

Key social challenges, opportunities and aspirations of those living within the Macleay Valley were identified through a comprehensive 'Community and Organisational Engagement Strategy'. This data was then considered, in conjunction with key local, state and federal plans in order to formulate objectives and strategies of the Program.

Community Engagement Strategy

The Community Engagement Strategy was developed in a holistic way in consultation with local residents, commercial groups, social groups, government and non-government agencies. Alignment with key stakeholder's strategic management plans were a major consideration when compiling the program.

Local Residents

Over 600 residents were consulted and informed Council of their needs through the Quality of Life Survey and Kempsey Shire Council Community Survey 2008.

In addition to this, residents of the nine village communities of Bellbrook, Crescent Head, Frederickton & Collombatti, Hat Head, Gladstone, Smithtown, South West Rocks and Willawarrin were consulted through a series of community meetings as part of the Macleay Valley ~ Explore the Possibilities Project. Local Action Plans for these communities form companion documents to the Program.

Representatives from the Macleay Regional Co-operative were consulted as part of the development of the Program. The Macleay Regional Co-operative Ltd is a retail Cooperative wholly owned and operated by Macleay Valley shareholders.

Youth Advisory Council

The Macleay Valley Youth Advisory Council (MVYAC) is the peak youth consultancy group that Council uses to identify youth based needs and issues within the Macleay Valley. The MVYAC hosted a youth forum in September 2008 that informed the Mid North Coast Youth Plan and this Program.

The MVYAC will also continue to be consulted in the implementation of actions that have been identified as youth specific.

Government Agencies

Working in partnership with Government agencies to deliver the strategies identified within the Program is integral to its implementation. Accordingly, Government agencies including Department of Community Services, Centrelink, NSW Department of Health – Community Health and TAFE NSW were consulted in the development of this Program.

Non-Government Agencies

Council consulted with a range of services across all mandatory target groups in the development of the Program.

The services consulted and their mandatory target groups were:

- Centacare – People with a Disability;
- Dr P Ackerley and Dr A Beilich Surgery – People with a Disability, Older Persons;
- Durri Aboriginal Medical Service Corporation – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI);
- Kempsey Children's Services - Children;
- Kempsey Residents and Ratepayers Assoc – all mandatory target groups;
- Kempsey Domestic Violence Court Support Service - Women;
- Kempsey Carers Group – Older People;
- Kempsey Community Centre – all mandatory target groups;
- Kempsey Family Support Services – Women, Men;
- Kempsey Legacy – Older people;
- Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre – all mandatory target groups;
- Kempsey Workpool – People with a disability;
- Mission Australia – Women, men, and people with a disability;
- Schools as Community Centres - Children;

- Yarrahapinni Community House – all mandatory target groups;
- YP Space Inc – Youth; and
- Kempsey Interagency – all mandatory target groups.

Council Committees and Related Organisations

Kempsey Shire Council has a number of working parties established to assist in the identification and actioning of needs around the various mandatory target groups.

In the development of the Program Council's working parties were also consulted. The working parties consulted included:

- Health and Ageing Working Party;
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention Working Party;
- Youth Network Working Party;
- Aboriginal Consultative Working Party; and
- Children's (Families NSW) Working Party.

Review of 2004-2009 Social Plan

The previous plan was very comprehensive and succinctly outlined the unmet needs of the community. The consultation process was comprehensive. This was evident in the significant amount of information detailed and the list of community members consulted.

However, one of the shortfalls of the previous Plan was that the action plans were too prescriptive and this did not allow flexibility with implementation if priorities changed or fresh opportunities arose, as they inevitably did. This community delivery program has been designed to set a broad direction rather than being too detailed.

Integration with other Strategic Documents

Critical to the success of this program is alignment with other key strategic planning documents from within Council, state and federal government departments. Where possible, this program has taken into consideration the concepts included within the following documents:

- Kempsey Shire Council, "Community Strategic Plan – Kempsey Shire Our 20 Year Vision", 17th April 2007;
- Kempsey Shire Council, "Kempsey Shire Council Social Plan 2004 ~ 2009", November 2004;
- Micromex Research, "Kempsey Shire Council Community Survey 2008", November 2008;
- Kempsey Shire Council, "Quality of Life Survey 2009", May 2009;
- NSW State Government, "NSW State Plan ~ A new direction for NSW", 2006;
- NSW State Government, "North Coast Regional Delivery Update 2008", 2007;

- Dunghutti Lands Council Business Plan; and
- Thungutti Lands Council Business Plan.



Council's Role

Council's role in the implementation of the Program over the next five years is to be a facilitator, advocate or provider of service, activities or events. For this reason the implementation of the Program will be undertaken utilising Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology.

Asset Based Community Development methodology works on the principles of identifying and mobilising community strengths, skills and knowledge rather than focusing on an inability to affect change or what is lacking within the community. By focusing on the strengths of the Macleay, which are numerous, key challenges can be met.

Our Vision

Kempsey Shire Council works towards the following Vision:

The value of our natural environment and lifestyle is preserved and enhanced by the community and Council.

Council strives to achieve this vision is by:

Providing high quality services and facilities through strong leadership which considers the needs of our community, the environment and future generations.

Our Values

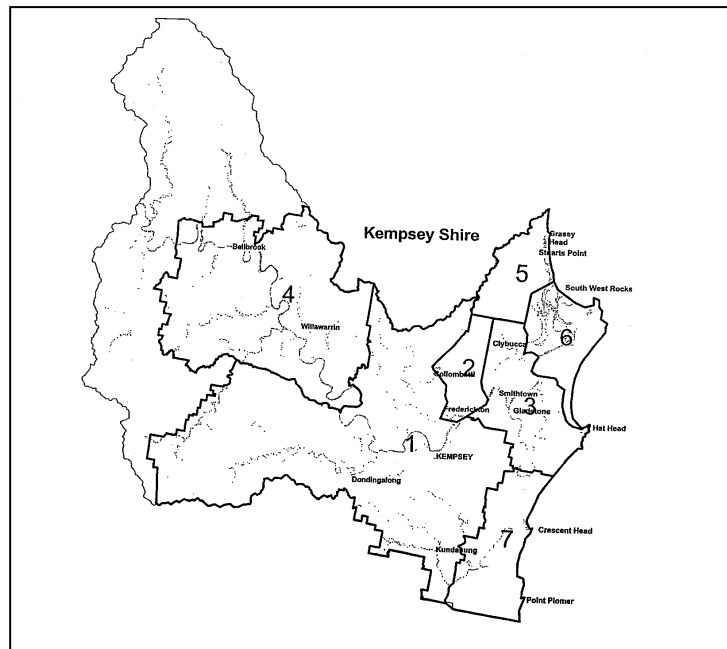
- Trust
- Co-operation
- Innovation
- Service
- Pride

Ongoing Community Engagement Process

The Program will be supported by Council's community engagement process to determine specific and timely actions to meet the desired outcomes.

Council's community engagement process is based on primarily on a geographic basis and secondly on special needs groups. The geographic community groups are:

- Kempsey East
- Kempsey South
- Kempsey West
- Frederickton Catchment
- Upper Macleay Catchment
- Smithtown/Gladstone Catchment
- Stuarts Point Catchment
- South West Rocks Catchment
- Crescent Head Catchment



The groups which Council has identified as having special needs and are not likely to have their issues raised through geographic bases are:

- Aboriginal
- Agricultural
- Business/Tourism
- Disabled Community
- Youth

These groups will be given the opportunity of participating in specific and varied consultation forums.

The objectives and strategies outlined in The Program will be undertaken by Council over the next five years to meet identified challenges; be it as a facilitator, advocate or provider of services, activities and events.



Our Community

Community Vision

Kempsey Shire Council is working towards a community vision, based on the Community Strategic Plan, that the value of our natural environment and lifestyle is preserved and enhanced by the community and Council.

Themes and Goals

The Community Strategic Plan, which was determined by the community, incorporates five goals which reflect the following themes: -

- Our Ecological and Economic Sustainability;
- Our Social, Cultural and Community Relations;
- Our infrastructure;
- Our Relationships; and
- Our Effectiveness, Efficiency and Accountability

Goal 1: To facilitate the ecological and economic sustainable development in the Shire.

Goal 2: To foster and enhance effective social, cultural and community relations, building respect and civic pride.

Goal 3: To plan and fund the Shire's infrastructure and service needs.

Goal 4: To pursue beneficial relationships with regional neighbours and other levels of government.

Goal 5: To ensure leadership and effective, efficient accountable management.

Location and Natural Environment

Located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, the Macleay Valley is set within the local government boundaries of the Kempsey Shire. Kempsey is the major commercial centre of the Valley, supporting the coastal villages of Stuarts Point, South West Rocks, Hat Head and Crescent Head. Other villages down river towards the coast, include Frederickton, Kinchela, Gladstone, Smithtown and Frederickton. While the two main villages in the hinterland are Willawarrin and Bellbrook.

Kempsey Shire encompasses the Macleay Valley which is unique in its diversity of landscapes, from the remote wilderness of the hinterland to stunning coastal villages.

The residents have a variety of backgrounds, experiences and skills that contribute to making our community rich in culture and expertise.

The Macleay Valley contains mountains and National Parks to the west with flood plains, wetlands and sensitive estuaries along the east coast. The Macleay River which gives the region its name, dissects the valley from the hinterland down to the coast near South West Rocks. The Valley is a rich source of cultural, social, historical, natural and man made attractions.

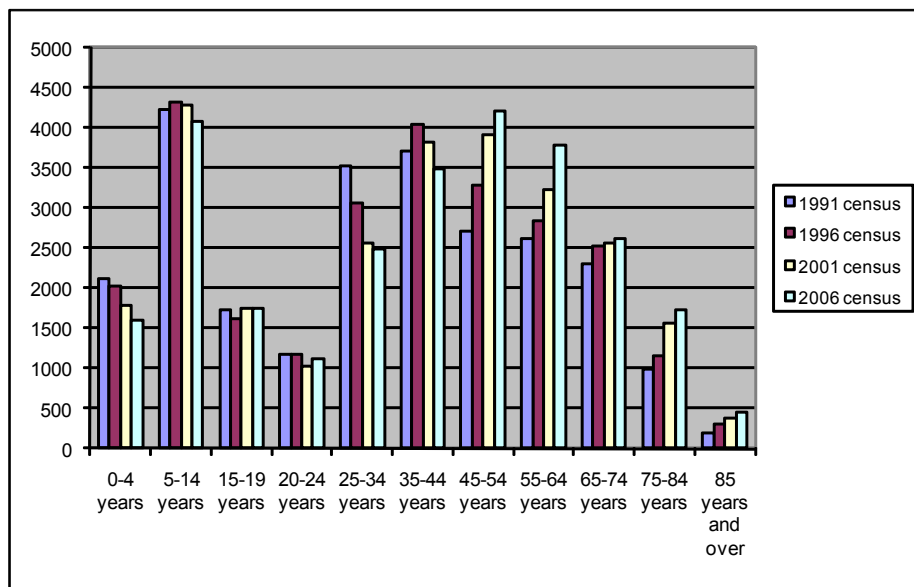
Macleay Valley Population Profile

In 2006 the estimated residential population for the Macleay Valley was 27,387 people; this represented an increase of 498 people from 26,889 in 2001. Figure 1 shows the changes in age group structures within the valley from 1991 to 2006.

The most significant changes to occur during this period include:

- A decrease in the 0-4 year's age group from 2,117 in 1991 to 1,602 in 2006 resulting in a decrease of 515 people.
- A decrease in the 25-34 years age group from 3,537 in 2001 to 2,499 in 2006 resulting in a decrease of 1,038 people.

Figure 1 ~ Macleay Valley Age Structure – 1991 to 2006



has numerous aged groups above the state average percentile including the 5-14 years and the 45 – 84 year groups.

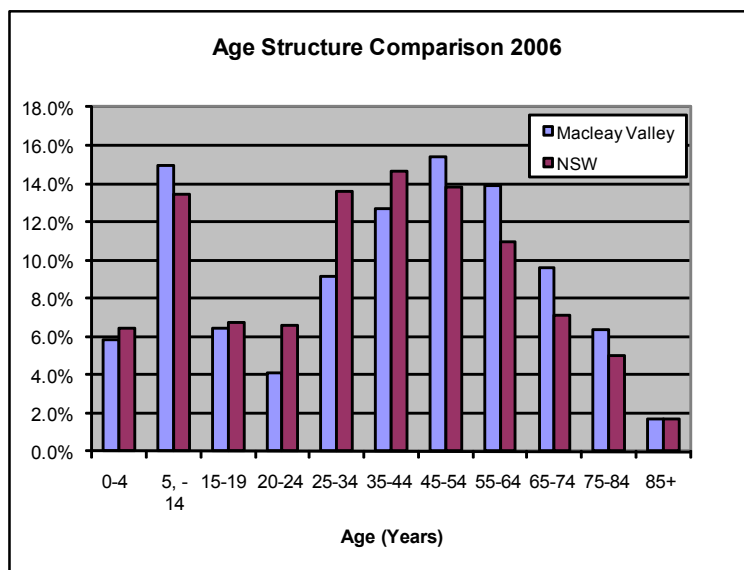
In 2006, there were a smaller proportion of females to males with 13,603 females (or 49.7%) to 13,783 males (or 50.3%)

Weekly Household Income

Households in the Macleay Valley have a relatively low weekly income in comparison to the state of NSW. In particular:

- 9.5% of households earn between \$150 - \$249 (NSW: 1.3%)
- 12.2% of households earn between \$250 - \$349 (NSW:3.0%)

Figure 1A ~ Age Structure comparison 2006



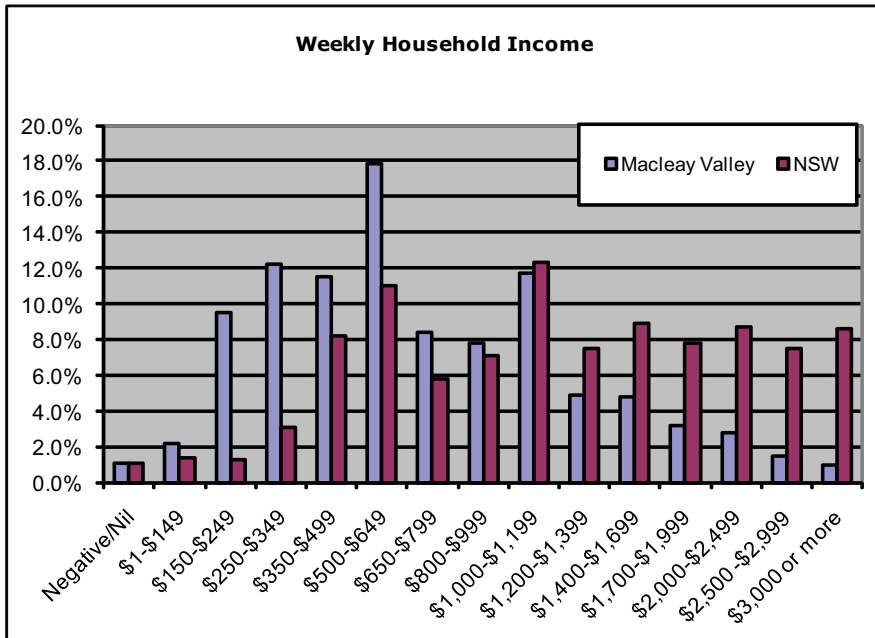
However, there are a higher percentage of households earning between \$500-649 in the Macleay Valley (17.8%) compared to the NSW state average (11%).

Occupation

The main occupations of residents in the valley are Technical and Trades Workers (15.2%), Labourers (14.9%), Managers (14.1%), Professionals (13.7%) and Community and Personal Service Workers (12.2%).

When comparing Kempsey Shire to the state of NSW it appears that the Valley

Figure 2 ~ Weekly Household income



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2006)

- Men’s Shed group; and
- Surf Clubs.

Cultural Diversity

The community is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of supporting cultural diversity, whether it may be through art, music, dance, language or heritage appreciation. The following groups and/or organisations provide a conduit for cultural diversity in the Macleay Valley:

- The Macleay Valley Arts Council, including the Stuarts Point Players;
- Dunghutti Ngaku Art Gallery;
- Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery - Gladstone;
- Wonderland Framing Gallery;
- Silver Band – including the Silver Strings and Choir;
- Wigay Food Park;
- Macleay River Historical Society;
- U3A;
- Writers Group;
- Kempsey Eisteddfod Society;
- Country Music Festival; and
- Tank Radio.

SOCIAL CAPITAL WITHIN THE MACLEAY VALLEY

Existing social capital within the Macleay Valley continues to be nurtured and strengthened throughout the community in many ways including volunteering, community based organisations, cultural diversity, community events and sporting organisations.

Volunteering and Community Based Organisations

There are a great number of ways that residents may contribute to their community. For many this involves volunteering their time or participating in a community based organisation. In the Macleay Shire, these groups include, but are not limited to:

- Royal Coastal Patrol;
- Rotary Clubs;
- Lions Clubs;
- Chamber of Commerce Groups;
- Local Progress Associations;
- Country Women’s Association;
- RSPCA;
- State Emergency Service;

Community Events

The following are key community social events that support community cohesion within the Valley as well as generating economic benefits:

- The Kempsey Agricultural Show;
- The Crescent Head Sky Show;
- The Kempsey Shire Art Prize;
- The Kundabung Rodeo;
- The Willawarrin and Gladstone Campdraft;
- The Macleay Valley Arts, Cancerian and Westpac Balls;
- Celebrate the Macleay;
- The Kempsey Cup;
- The South West Rocks Triathlon;
- Community Markets;

- Yarrahapinni Festival;
- Relay for Life; and
- Mid North Coast Trucking Association Show.

Sporting Organisations

Sport has always played a very big part of living in the Macleay Valley. It provides an opportunity for people of all backgrounds, education levels and abilities to come to together. Some of the major sports that are supported in the community are:

- Rugby League;
- Rugby Union;
- Football (soccer);
- Netball;
- Swimming Clubs;
- Pony Clubs;
- Softball;
- Baseball;
- Surf Life Saving;
- Little Athletics;
- Dancing;
- Motor Bike Racing; and
- Off Road Racing.

Community Centres

It is important for residents to have a centre which provides a neutral, multifunctional environment to support many of the above endeavours. In the villages, the local halls are very often such a place, and may play the role of a community centre. These halls are supported and managed by the residents or Council or, as is more often the case, together in partnership.

Kempsey does not have a 'town hall' but the library and the showground pavilion are both used as community centres. Over the past few years, Kempsey Library has increasingly catered for a wide range of interests outside of borrowing books, toys and other materials. It is now common for the library to hold art exhibitions, provide youth activities in school holidays, conduct education days for seniors, provide internet services, there are visiting poet and authors, staff assist with family ancestral searches and it is also a general meeting venue. The Kempsey Showground Pavilion has recently undergone extensive renovations to restore it to its former glory and is again becoming a community meeting centre.

Council demonstrates commitment to increasing the social capital within the community by supporting not for profit organisations, volunteers, sporting groups, various community events, halls and community centres in the following ways:

- Through Council's Annual Grants Policy;
- Through small donations to not-for-profit organisations;
- Being trustee of many public halls (involves providing assistance with maintenance, insurance and promotion);
- By supporting the Kempsey Library (and smaller village libraries);

- By supporting the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery and Dunghutti Ngaku Gallery.

Opportunities and Challenges

- The unknown impact of the imminent highway bypass;
- The ability to continue to provide affordable and accessible housing styles throughout the Macleay Valley, which is able to cater for the diverse needs and income levels of residents as well as preventing homelessness;
- The ability to generate genuine employment opportunities for residents of the valley; and
- The presence of a strong indigenous culture.

Mandatory Target Groups



An essential component of a community delivery program is the examination of the seven mandatory groups. The NSW social justice strategy is based on the four interrelated principles of equity, access, participation and rights. The groups most at risk of disadvantage in some way are:-

- Young People
- Children
- Women
- Older People
- People with disabilities including those with HIV/Aids
- Aboriginal People
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

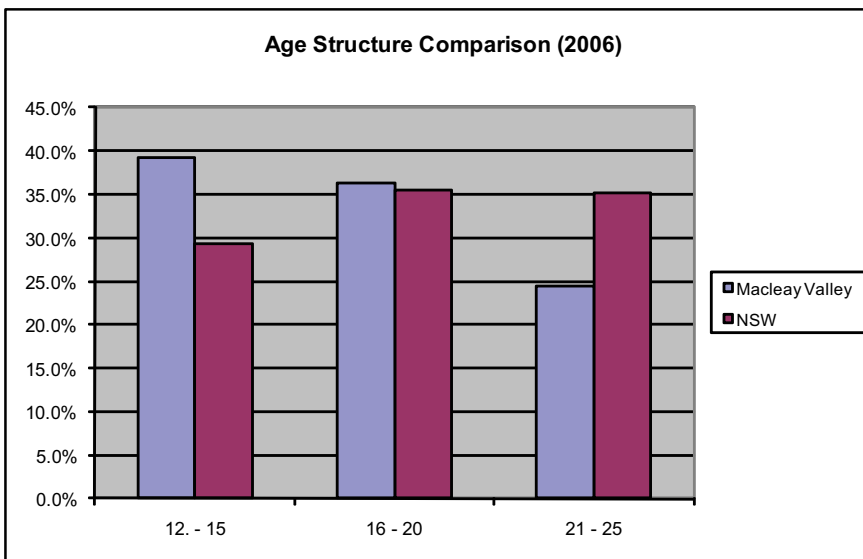




Young People

In 2006 the youth population for the Macleay Valley was 4,198. Of this population 2,182 were females and 2,016 males. Figure 3 shows the changes in age group structures within the valley from 1991 to 2006.

Figure 3 ~ Age Structure - Youth



Between 2001 and 2006 the youth population had experienced a slight increase of 49 more youth residing in the valley. The most significant increase in youth occurred within the 20 year old age bracket with a total increase of 38 youth whilst the 15 years age group decreased by 53.

Occupation

The main occupations of youth aged 15 – 24 years in the valley are Sales Workers (26.7%), Labourers (22.5%), Technical and Trades Workers (20.2%), Community and Personal Service Workers (12.6%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (7.4%).

Average Income

The weekly gross average income for the youth population is low compared to the remainder of the Valley. In particular 25.3% of youth earn between \$1-\$149 compared to 2.1% of the Macleay Valley.

Youth Advisory Council

Kempsey Shire Council values the opinions of younger people in the Shire and actively supports the Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The overall aim of the YAC is to give young people a say in voicing their views on matters and issues that are

important to them and others that may be related to Council.

The Macleay Valley YAC is an official advisory committee that provides a local “youth voice” in government policy and decision making. This ensures that all young residents of the Kempsey Shire are equitably represented in the decision making process and are actively able to participate in their community.

Opportunities and Challenges

Through a Consultation with Youth held in September 2008, the priorities for Youth were identified as:-

- Education /Employment - Young people have the opportunities to live rewarding and positive lives;
- Health & Safety - Young people feel, and are, safe; and
- Participation in decision making – The community values the participation and opinions of young people.

Further community consultation has highlighted other opportunities and challenges for Youth in our Shire:

- The attraction and retention of youth within the valley;
- Affordable and accessible housing;
- Anti social behaviour evident at South West Rocks;
- Genuine employment opportunities;
- Some degree of social isolation for Youth who reside in the smaller villages.
- Available and affordable public transport is limited.

***We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.
– Franklin D. Roosevelt***

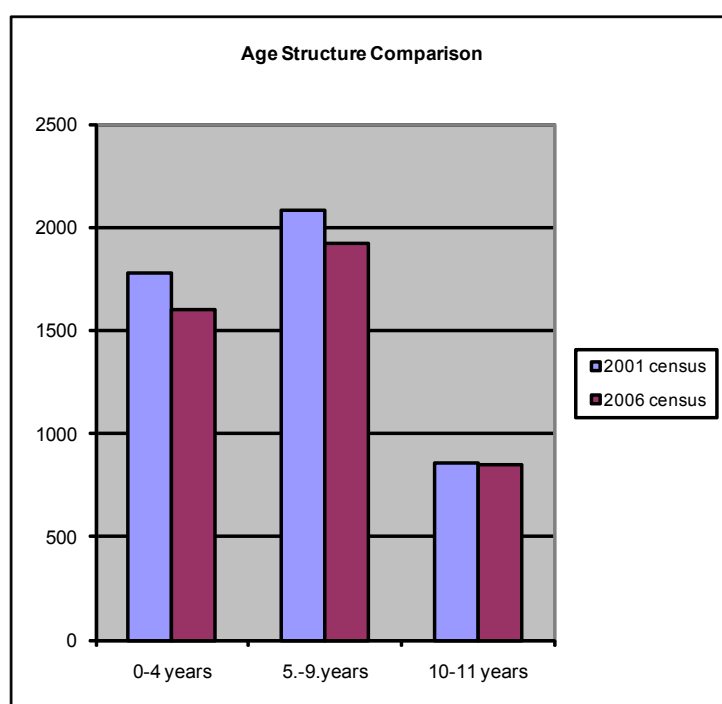


Children

In 2006 the child population for the Macleay Valley Coast was 4,373 (0-11 years of age). Of this population 2,087 were females and 2,286 were males. Figure 4 shows the changes in age group structures within the valley from 1991 to 2006.

Between 2001 and 2006 the child population had experienced a decrease of 351 children residing in the valley. The most significant decrease occurred within the 1-4 years age bracket with a total decrease of 179 children.

Figure 4 ~ Child Population Age Structure



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2001 & 2006)

The Macleay Valley caters for a wide range of services for children with the good availability of supported playgroups, long day care centres, pre-schools and both private and public education facilities.

A number of supported playgroups operate within Kempsey, this combined with the assistance of Schools as Community Centres allows for the easy transition of children from supported playgroups through pre-school and into the school education system. In the past five (5) years the valley has also expanded its

long day care / pre-school network with two (2) additional long day care / pre-schools commencing operation within Kempsey.

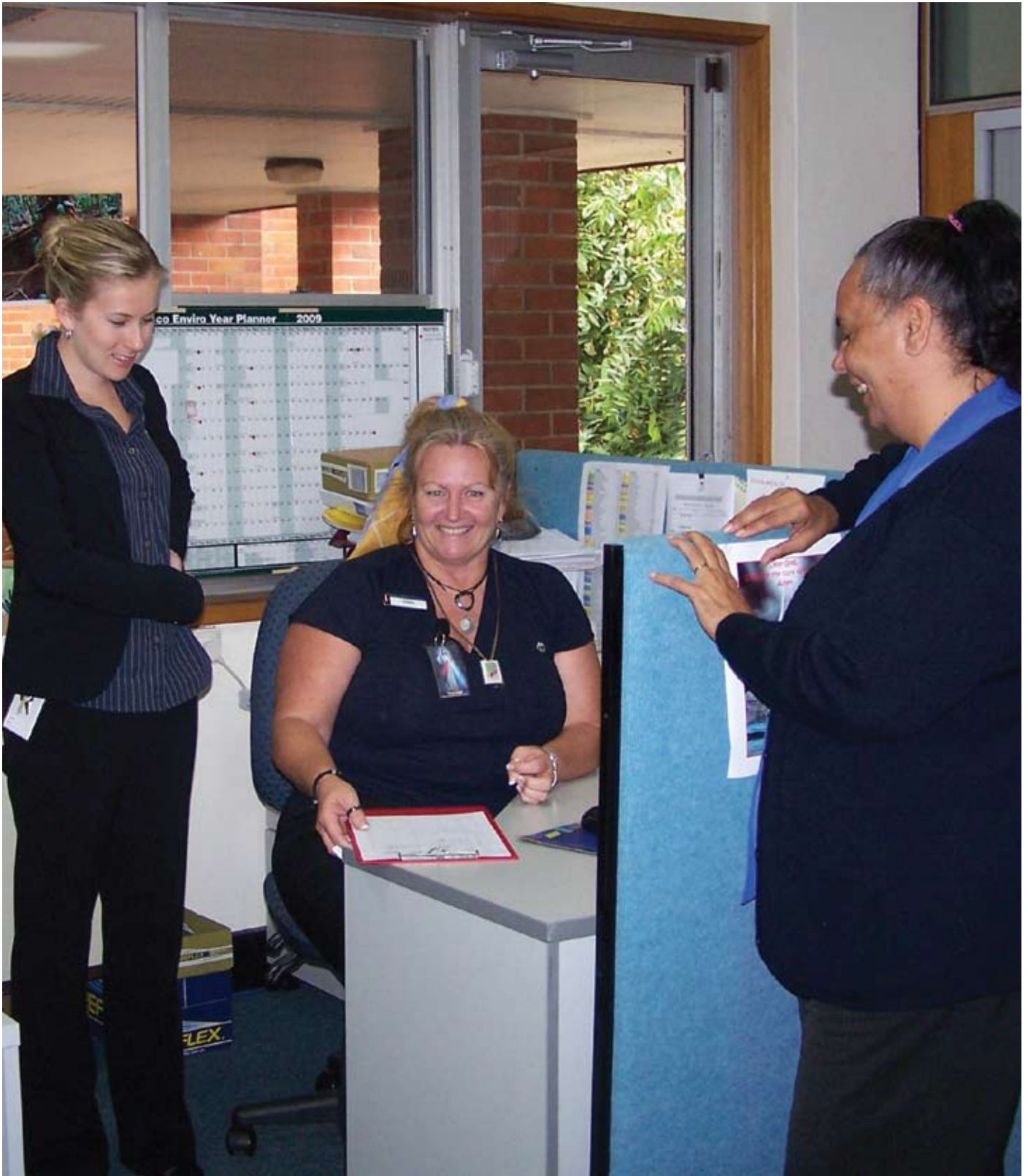
The Valley has over 20 public and private schools throughout the Shire. In 2010 this will be further enhanced with the Kempsey Adventist School (Private) continuing its development into the only K-HSC school within the valley.

The Macleay Valley offers a range of recreational activities for children from informal activities such as established playgrounds in village and town communities through to structured activities of Mini Movers, Tiny Tots (Little Athletics) and organised sports.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Difficulty for parents to access a full range of services for children living in isolated villages throughout the Shire;
- Securely fenced playgrounds that allow centre based care to have organised excursions in the community;
- The relaxed lifestyle of the Macleay is an attractive environment in which parents can raise children;
- Ability to attract families and younger people to the area due to the relative affordability and favourable location of the Macleay Valley; and
- Identify development opportunities for investors targeting demand from young families (e.g cafés, restaurant, multi purpose cinema).

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see
 – John W Whitehead



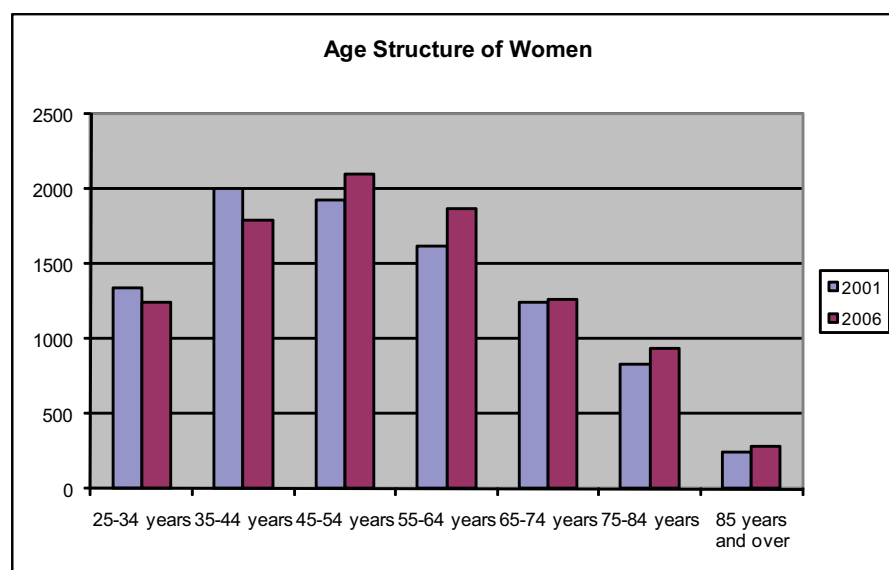
Women

In 2006 the Macleay Valley had 9,496 women over the age of 25 years within the valley. Of this population 7,006 females are between the ages of 25 – 64 years (classified as working age), and 2,490 are 65 years + (classified as older people which consists of people who may still be working, semi-retired or retired).

The age structure of the female population reflects that the female population in the shire is increasing getting older (as shown in Figure 5 ~ Age Structure of Women).

The most significant increase in number of female residents occurred in the 55-64 years age bracket with a total increase of 250 people from the 2001.

Figure 5 ~ Age Structure of Women



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2001 & 2006)

Occupation

The main occupations of women in the valley are Clerical and Administrative Workers (22.6%), Professionals (20.5%), Community and Personal Service Workers (18.4%), Managers (11.7%) and Sales Workers (10.8%).

Average Income

The weekly gross average income for the female population is low to medium compared to the remainder of the valley. In particular 23.2% earn between \$150 ~ \$249, 21.3% earn between \$250 ~ \$399 and 5.8% earn no income.

Opportunities and Challenges

- The attraction and retention of working age women especially 35-44 year olds within the valley;
- The majority of services within the Macleay Valley are accessible for women;
- The co-ordination of women's services particularly specialist services within the Macleay such as domestic violence and supportive counselling services; and
- The Sheila's Shed was recently established as an alternative recreational / social activity for creative women in the valley.

*Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform
- Dianne Mariechild*

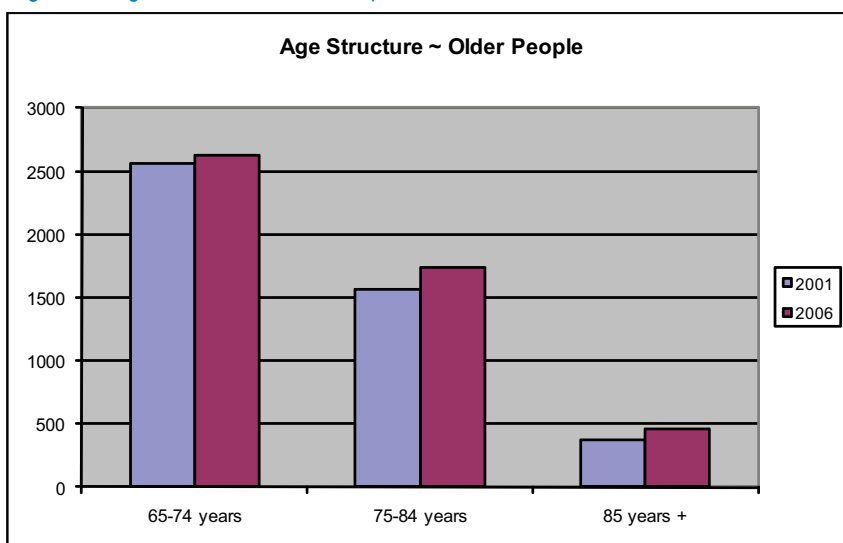


Older People

In 2006 the Macleay Valley had a population of 27,387 people. Of this population 4,824 people were 65+ years of age which represents an increase of 1,329 people from 1996.

The age structure of older people indicates that the Shire is increasingly attracting older people to our valley (as shown in Figure 6 ~ Age Structure ~ Older People).

Figure 6 ~ Age Structure ~ Older People



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2001 & 2006)

It is anticipated that these trends will continue with the 65+ population projected to increase from 5,158 (2007) to around 7,731 (2021). This equates to being 25% of the 2021 population. It is also anticipated that the number of residents aged 85+ is expected to increase from 573 to approximately 927.

More older people remain living in their homes longer and are not entering hostel type care until they are older and frailer. This means there will be a greater need for in-home care services both personal and domestic, including equipment and modifications, community transport, organised community events for seniors and higher level of trained staff for aged care facilities.

Kempsey has four established aged care facilities – BUPA, Vincent Court, Cedar Place and Booroongen Djugun. At the time of writing, late 2009, there are two more aged care facilities under construction. One at Frederickton and the other at South West Rocks.

In home care is provided by a range of service providers through state and/or federal funding. Home Care, Mayo Home Nursing, Macleay Community Care

Options (auspiced by Kempsey Shire Council) and Anglicare are some of the larger service providers. It is expected that there will be a distinct shortage of skilled workers once the other two nursing homes become operational.

Social isolation is a major concern associated with the elderly and the Kempsey Shire is fortunate to have a number of Day Centres operational. Seniors can socialise at Parklands Cottage, with the RSL Kookaburra Club, Boronia Gardens or the RSL Rockers at South West Rocks. Most of these day centres also cater for people living with dementia.

The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care provide a host of Home and Community Care services through various providers such as Meals on Wheels, Community Transport and Neighbour Aid.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Rapidly increasing ageing population due to increased life expectancy and an influx of 'sea changers' who are primarily moving to the coastal villages, particularly South West Rocks;
- Increased demand on local infrastructure;
- Increased demand for health services;
- Increased knowledge base;
- Increased number of volunteers;
- Greater intergenerational interaction; and
- Activities for healthy ageing.

*'Age' is the acceptance of a term of years. But maturity is the glory of years.
- Martha Graham*



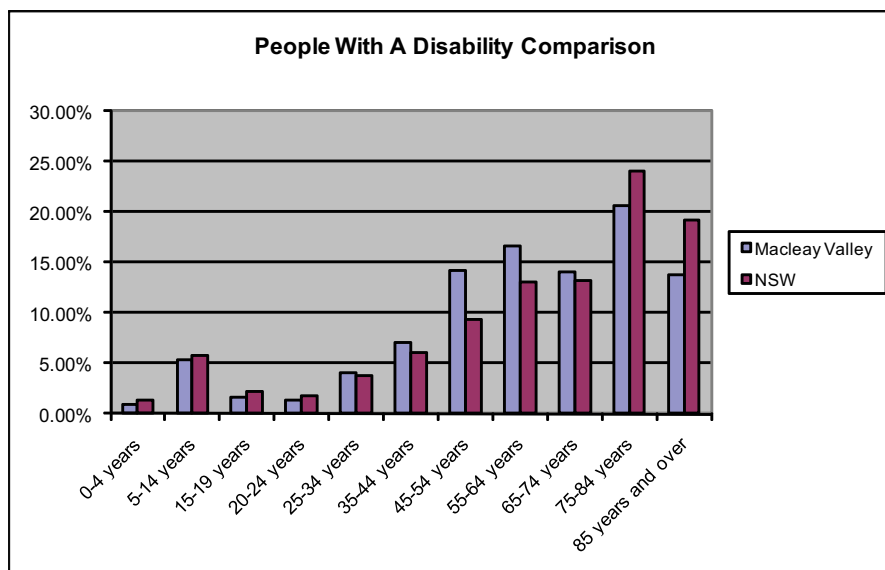
People with Disabilities including HIV/Aids

In 2006 the Macleay Valley had a population of 27,387 people. Of this population 1,740 people identified themselves as a person with a disability (866 female and 874 male).

The age structure of those who have identified themselves as having a disability reflects that as people get older that they identify with having a disability more readily (as shown in Figure 7 ~ People with Disabilities).

Population trends indication that the highest group of people with disabilities is in the 75-84 years age group whilst the age group with the lowest % of people with disabilities is the 0-4 year's age group.

Figure 7 ~ People with Disabilities



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2001 & 2006)

The Macleay Valley has a range of services available to support people with a disability (PWD). Private enterprise continues to support PWD through a range

of services from employment support such as Centacare and Workpool Inc who provide assistance for PWD to find work; and Macleay Options who support PWD by providing supported work placement through their business arms the Mowhawks, Threads, Woodies and Momacs.

Macleay Calipso Inc provides supported accommodation for PWD who are unable to live independently, while Leisure Link provides supported recreational opportunities for PWD.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Social isolation for people with a disability living throughout the Shire;
- Affordable and accessible housing for people with a disability who can live independently;
- Genuine employment opportunities;
- Community based support for the re-establishment of the disAbility Advisory Group for the valley;
- Upgrading of physical infrastructure to support a higher population with physical disabilities;
- Greater understanding of all disabilities types; and
- Adaptable housing.

*A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships
- Helen Keller*



Aboriginal People

The Macleay Valley's original inhabitants were the Dunghutti People on the coast and the Thunghutti People in the hinterland. Today the Macleay Valley continues to have strong indigenous linkages to the land through culture and heritage.

Torres Strait Islanders have also chosen to make the Macleay Valley their home.

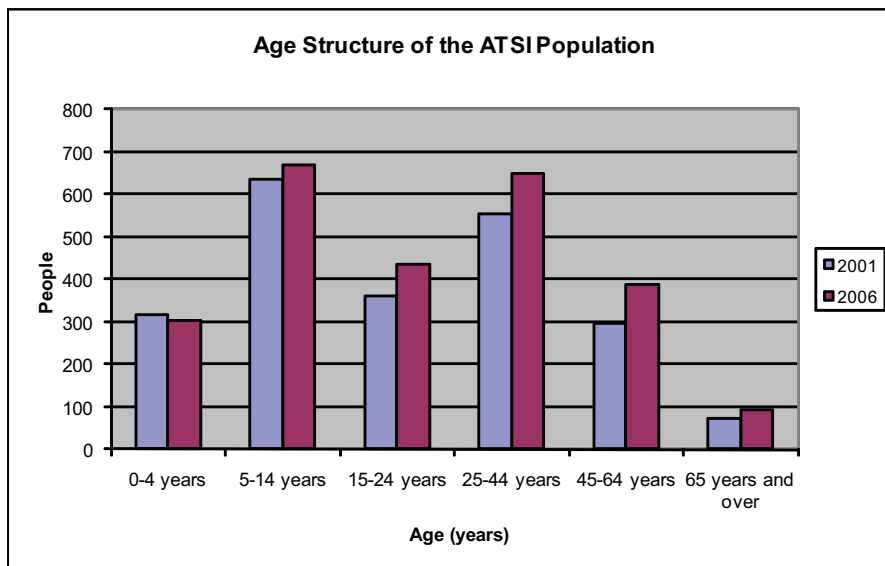
In 2006 the ATSI population was 2,540 people. Of this population 375 people live in the locality of Burnt Bridge / New Burnt Bridge / Greenhills and 156 people in the locality of Mirriwinni Gardens / Bellbrook. The remainder of the indigenous population is settled throughout the Macleay Valley.

Population trends further indicate that there is a larger proportion of ATSI people in the 5-14 years and 24-44 years living in the valley. The only age bracket to have a decrease in number of residents occurred in the 0-4.

Increases in age groups were recorded in all other age groups. The most significant increase in number of residents occurred in the 25-44 years age bracket with a total increase of 96 people.

The ATSI population reflects the overall trend of having a shorter lifespan than non-indigenous people and is reflected in the following graph.

Figure 8 ~ Age Structure of the ATSI Population



(Source: ABS, Census of Population & Housing, 2001 & 2006)

Occupation

The main occupations of ATSI people in the valley are Community and Personal Service Workers (24.9%), Labourers (21.9%), Professionals (14.3%), Clerical and Administrative Workers (13.3%) and Technical and Trades Workers (9.4%)

Average Income

The weekly gross average income for the ATSI community is low compared to the remainder of the valley. In particular 9.4% of ATSI people earn between \$150-\$249 compared to 8.3% of the Non ATSI community and 16.5% of ATSI people earn \$500 - \$649 compared to 15.8% of the non ATSI community.

The ATSI community of the Macleay Valley has a wide range of services available to meet their needs across all community services sectors.

Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation provides an aged care facility for both ATSI and non-ATSI people. Another division of the corporation is the training and educational arm of Booroongen Djugun College. The college offers a range of in class and distance education programs for the community.

Employment services for the ATSI community have increased over the three (3) years with Aboriginal Employment Connections and the commencement of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES). The AES has been particularly successful in placing ATSI people within ATSI and non-ATSI organisations, however the lack of genuine employment opportunities still exists despite these efforts.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are all diverse as are their people.



Aboriginal Building Connections (ABC) is another success story for the Macleay Valley with the creation of this building arm within the Guri Wa Ngundagar Aboriginal Corporation. The ABC group is competitively tendering for jobs through the NSW region including the Macleay Valley and is providing apprenticeships through building projects.

Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre still continues to be the main health care service provider for the ATSI community within the valley. Durri continues to provide early intervention and acute intervention services to the community and has also established a number of partnerships with non-ATSI based organisations. Durri also provides outreach services for isolated residents of the Macleay.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Lack of genuine employment opportunities within mainstream organisations eg: non-ATSI based organisations;
- Create a shire in which Aboriginal culture, heritage and contribution is widely acknowledged and celebrated;
- Retention of ATSI people within the educational system eg: Year 12 and beyond;
- Addressing health, education and housing needs with the ATSI community to close the gap between the ATSI and non-ATSI communities; and
- Industry development and tourism.

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

The 2006 population for the Macleay Valley Coast was 27,387 people. Of this population 1,708 residents were from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD). The top five (5) countries of origin included:

1. United Kingdom – 850 people
2. New Zealand – 247 people
3. Germany – 98 people
4. Netherlands – 72 people
5. Philippines – 62 people

Of those individuals living in the Macleay from CALD backgrounds only 611 come from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Those people who identify as being CALD and speak English have the ability to access the full range of services within the Macleay Valley; however the availability and specific services for those from non-English speaking backgrounds is limited within the Shire.

Opportunities and Challenges

- Limited number of translators within the valley and accessibility to translation services;
- Lack of services dedicated to non-English speaking CALD community members;
- Distance to travel to Newcastle to access immigration and other services that support the CALD community; and
- Social opportunities for CALD people within the valley.



Multiculturalism is a philosophy that recognizes ethnic diversity within a society and that encourages others to be enlightened by worthwhile contributions to society by those of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Objectives

1. Capacity Building

- 1.1 KSC to provide support for not for profit groups where possible, including in kind support (through advocacy, advice and information) and direct financial assistance through the Community Grants Program.
- 1.2 KSC to gain a broad understanding of the current issues/concern/projects of community groups by attending relevant meetings or liaising with key representatives.
- 1.3 Promote volunteering in the community.
- 1.4 KSC to develop and foster partnerships with community groups and service providers.

2. Aged

- 2.1 Ensure that there is an adequate level of community care and institutional aged care training in order to meet the growing service requirements in aged care.
- 2.2 KSC and other agencies to lobby and tender for increased funding to meet the increasing demand for aged care services.

3. Youth

- 3.1 KSC to take a leading role in valuing the opinions and achievements of the Youth.
- 3.2 Provide and promote existing spaces for young people within the community.
- 3.3 KSC to advocate for increased awareness of traineeships and tertiary education opportunities within the shire.

4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

- 4.1 Promote awareness of indigenous heritage, history and culture.
- 4.2 Promote Indigenous Cultural Awareness training within Council and also amongst commercial businesses.
- 4.3 Investigate and pursue innovative community consultation processes that the ATSIC community will welcome and participate in.

5. Health and Recreation

- 5.1 Identify and promote preventative health services available within the Macleay Valley.
- 5.2 Advocate for increased awareness and education of healthy living programs and services.
- 5.3 Advocate for improved hospital and medical facilities/services within the Macleay Valley.

5.4 Identify potential walking/bike tracks and funding alternatives.

6. Community Safety

6.1 KSC to develop and implement a new Crime Prevention Strategy.

6.2 KSC to promote Crime Prevention and Safety initiatives.

7. Disability Services

7.1 Develop and implement a Disability Action Plan.

8. Affordable Housing

8.1 Increase accessibility to appropriate housing for those at risk of homelessness.

9. Cultural Diversity

9.1 Improve the accessibility of arts to the broader community.

9.2 Encourage participation by diverse cultural and social groups in community events and activities.

10. Transport

10.1 Investigate alternative transport arrangements - particularly for those living in isolated communities.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting frameworks

The delivery program will involve creating a number of actions for each corresponding objective. These actions, once identified each year, will be integrated into Council's annual Management Plan.

The monitoring of these actions will be the responsibility of the Manager Community and Customer Services and ultimately the Director Corporate and Community Services. Each quarter a report will be prepared for Council, outlining the progress of the Program.

It is recognised that social issues and impacts require a 'whole of council' approach, and every effort will be made to familiarise and involve other departments in the implementation of this Program.

Integrated Reporting

The Community Delivery Plan is based on achieving Goal 2 of the Community Strategic Plan – Our Social, Cultural and Community Relations 2010 – 2015.

Supporting Council documents that will be integrated into the key objectives of the Community Delivery Program include the Cultural Plan, the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and the Ageing 2020 - Action on Ageing Strategy.

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