



An Australian Government Initiative



MID NORTH COAST

Regional Snapshot

Kempsey Shire 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 Kempsey Shire LGA.



Summary Statistics

Table 1: Key area statistics.

Description	Data
Population	30,688
Annualised population growth (2016-2021)	1.2%
Median Age	48 years
Median Weekly Income	\$550
Labour force participation	44.88%

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

RIF Statistics

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

Table 2: People, places and industry statistics

Description	Data
People	
% of population between 50-79 years	42.1%
% of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander	12.91%
% of households with two people	37.26%
% of families not in the labour force	21.26%
% of disengaged youth (15-24 years)	16.52%
% of pop. requiring assistance with core activities	9.52%
% of population living with one or more long term health conditions	36.4%
Places	
% of dwellings owned outright	36.35%
% of dwellings with spare bedrooms	73.91%
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage Score	903
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage LGA ranking	67/547
Industry	
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	3	8	28
Disability Services	3	4	13
Childcare / Preschool	16	8	43
Primary School	16	12	30
High School	4	3	9
Special Schools	1	1	1
Higher education	2	2	4
Hospitals	1	1	4
Medical Centre's (GP)	11	10	23
Pharmacies	11	7	23
Counsellors / Psychotherapists	0	0	11
Physiotherapy / chiropractic	4	5	22

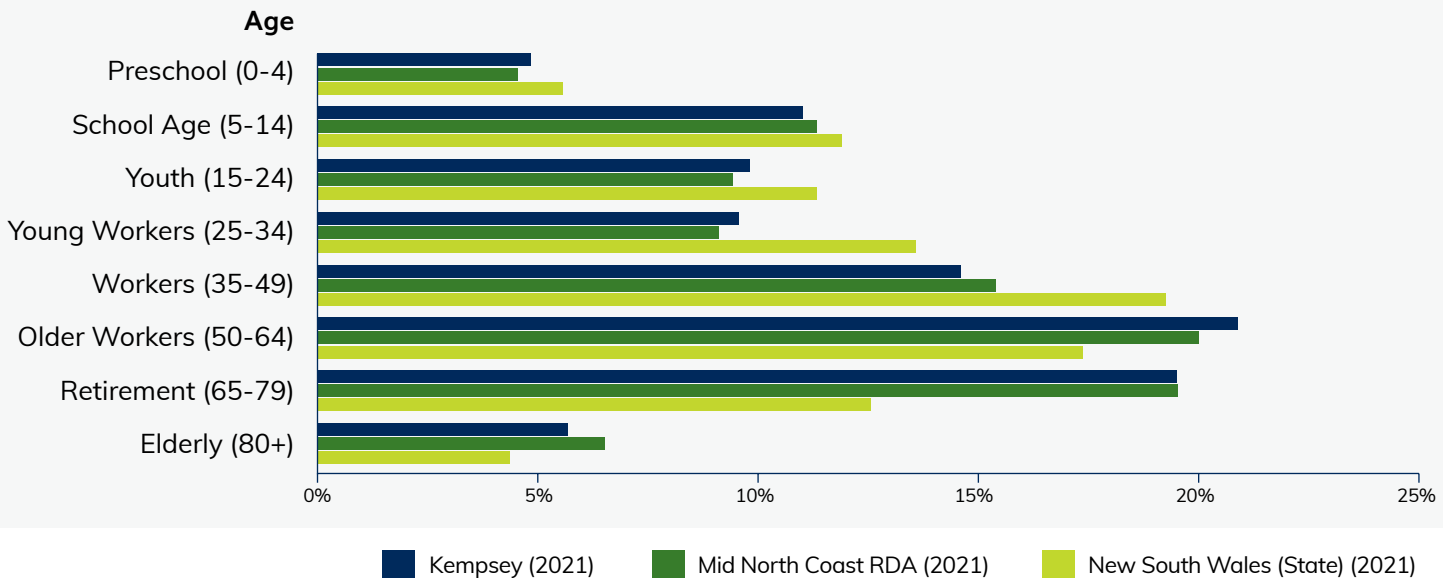
Type	No.	Small LGA Avg	Large LGA Avg
Dentists	5	4	20
Service NSW	1	1	2
Accountants	13	7	30
Lawyer / Solicitors	7	7	26
Financial planners	5	3	11
Transport Services	5	6	10
Major shopping centres	0	0	3
Supermarkets	8	7	16
Department stores	1	0	3
Sporting Clubs	23	23	71
Aquatic & Fitness Centres	6	5	20

Source: Publicly available internet listings as at August 2023

MNC & NSW Comparisons

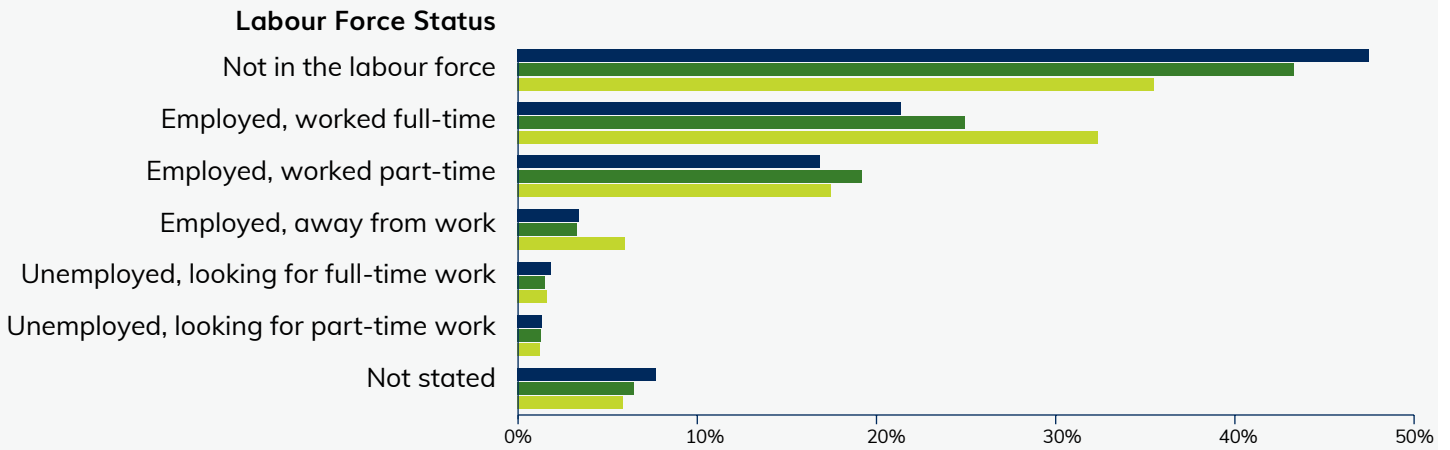
Population by Life Stage

Kempsey LGA has 42.1% 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 Kempsey Shire LGA has 47.43% of the population not in the labour force. By comparison the MNC has 43.26% and NSW has 35.46%. Kempsey Shire LGA's full-time workforce percentage is lower than both the MNC and New South Wales.



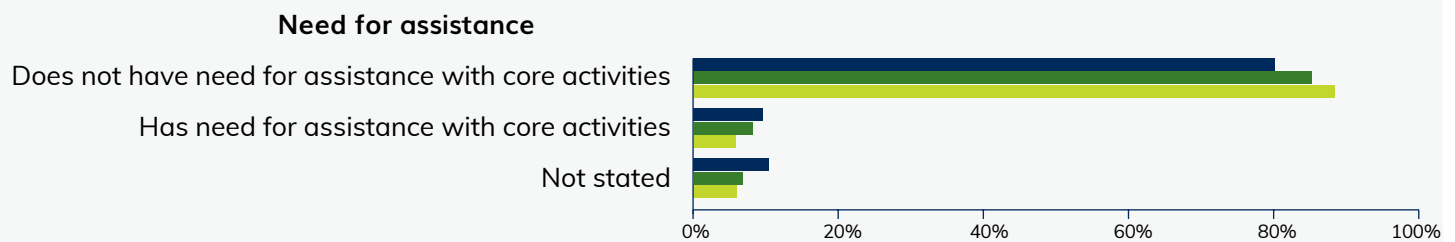
Youth Engagement (15-24 years)

16.52% of the Kempsey Shire 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.



Need for assistance

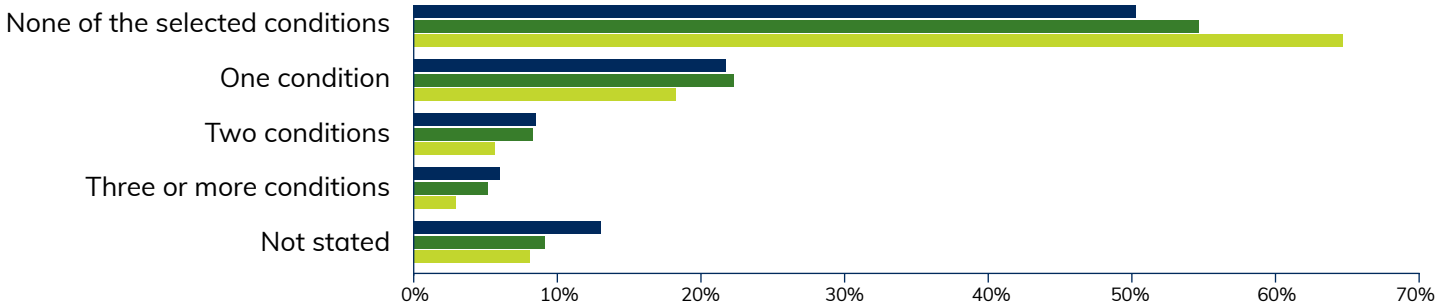
Kempsey Shire LGA has 9.52% of its population requiring assistance to undertake core activities. The MNC overall has 8.09% of the population requiring assistance and NSW has 5.76%.



Long Term Health Conditions

There are 36.4% of the Kempsey Shire LGA's 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%.

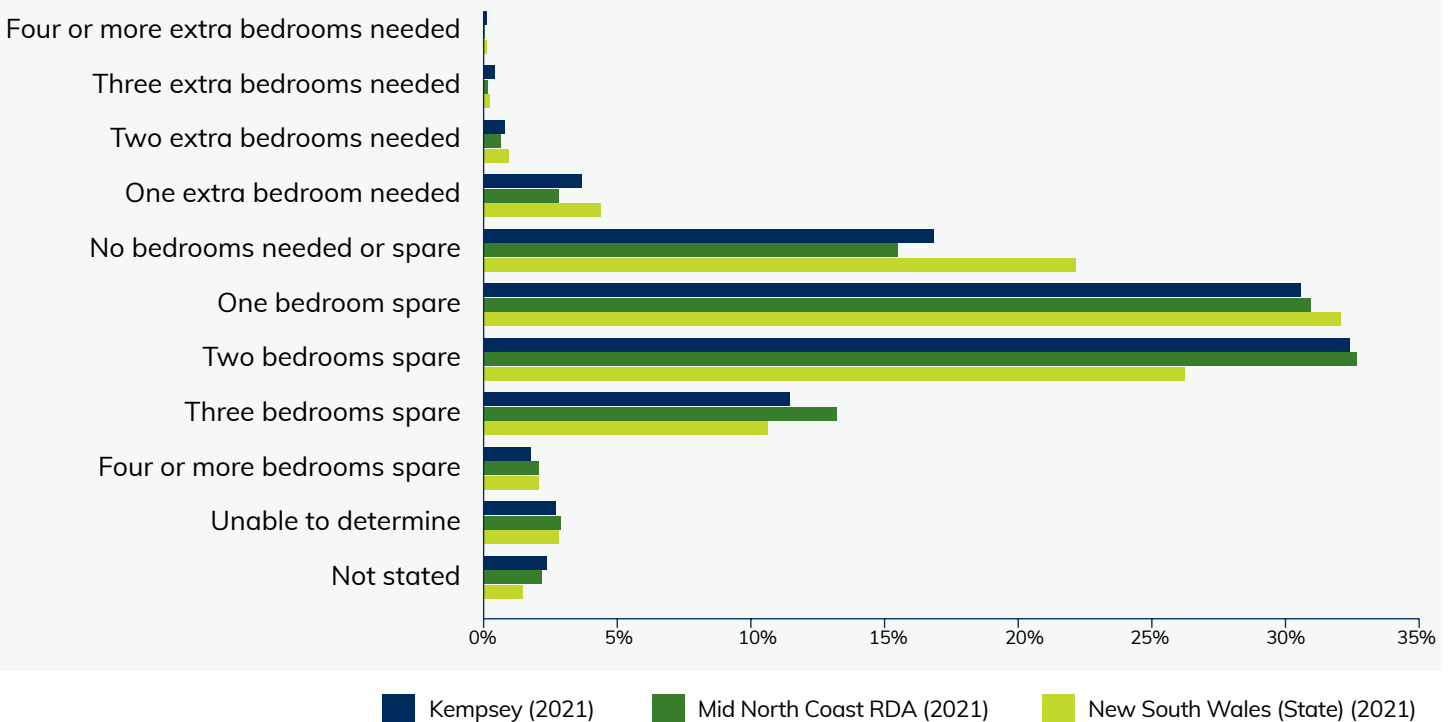
Number of Conditions



Housing Suitability

Of the dwelling structures in the Kempsey Shire LGA, 73.91% of them have spare bedrooms. MNC has 76.52% and NSW has 68.86%. Looking at the reverse, 4.83% of dwellings need additional bedrooms in the Kempsey Shire, compared to 3.55% in the MNC and 5.52% across NSW. In the Kempsey Shire LGA, 16.33% of dwellings have no spare bedrooms OR need additional rooms. Comparitively, the MNC is less at 15.02% but NSW is 21.48%.

Bedrooms needed or spare



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 Kempsey Shire LGA's SEIFA ranking is 67 / 547. Meaning, there are 480 LGAs which are less disadvantaged and only 66 LGAs that are more disadvantaged. A comparison with other LGAs on the MNC are highlighted in the table below.

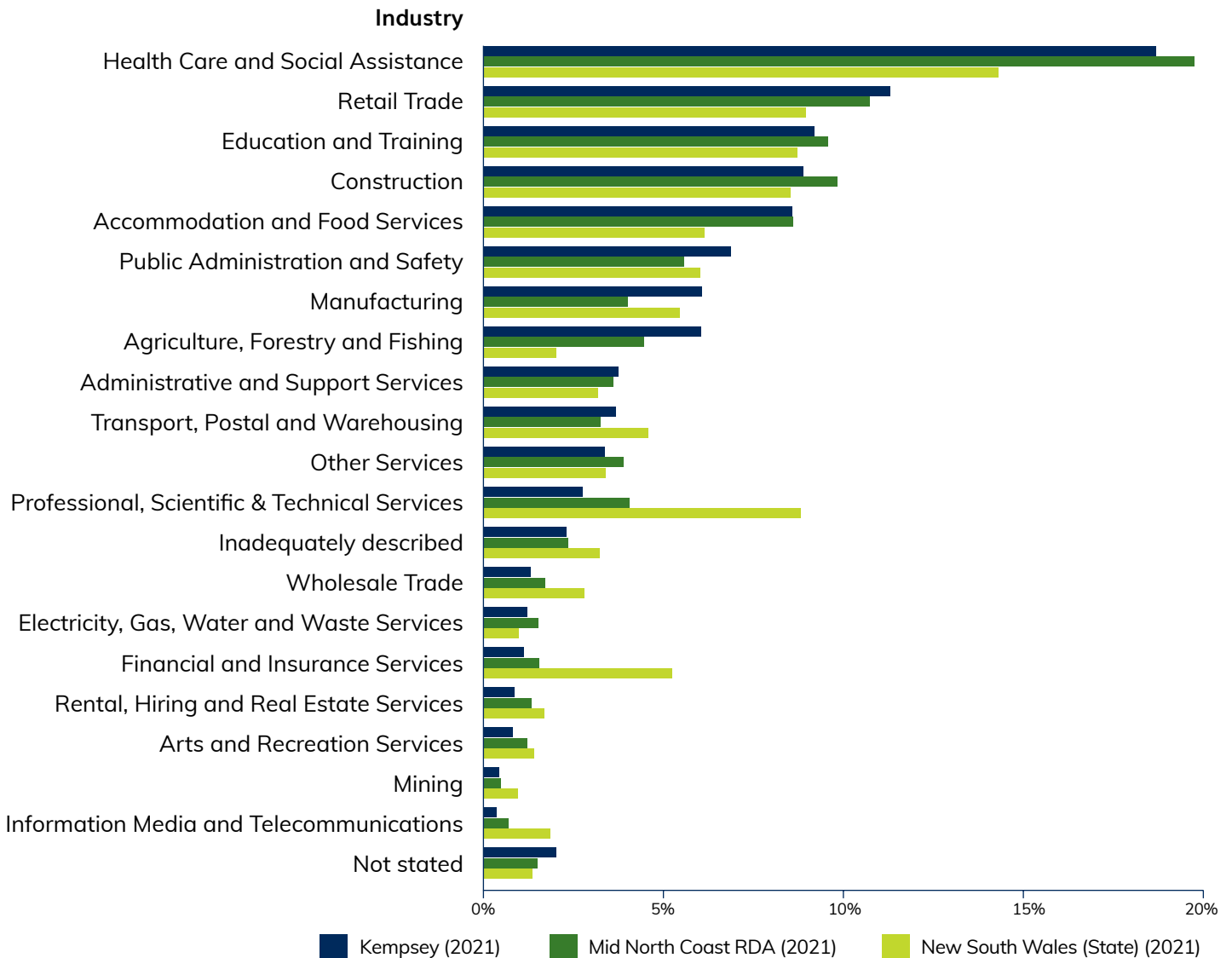
Table 3: SEIFA rankings by MNC LGA.

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 Kempsey Shire LGA are Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade and Education & Training. 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 Kempsey LGA:

- Has the fourth highest population in the MNC region.
- Has the third largest land area in the region.
- Is the 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 Kempsey Shire LGA will not be equipped to provide the services needed to support the developing demographics.