



An Australian Government Initiative



MID NORTH COAST

Regional Snapshot

Coffs Harbour 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. RDA MNC has collated some key data in these areas for the Coffs Harbour LGA.



Summary Statistics

Table 1: Key area statistics.

Description	Data
Population	78,759
Annualised population growth (2016-2021)	1.5%
Median Age	44 years
Median Weekly Income	\$688
Labour force participation	55.51%

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

RIF Statistics

The following table highlights some key data for the Coffs Harbour LGA that are relevant to RDA MNC's work on the Regional Investment Framework.

Table 2: People, places and industry statistics

Description	Data
People	
% of population between 50-79 years	36.9%
% of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander	5.79%
% of households with two people	37.33%
% of families not in the labour force	17.44%
% of disengaged youth (15-24 years)	11.22%
% of pop. requiring assistance with core activities	6.88%
% of population living with one or more long term health conditions	41.89%
Places	
% of dwellings owned outright	30%
% of dwellings with spare bedrooms	74.9%
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage Score	972
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage LGA ranking	243/547
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	Management & Commerce

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	20	8	28
Disability Services	14	4	13
Childcare / Preschool	43	8	43
Primary School	27	12	30
High School	8	3	9
Special Schools	1	1	1
Higher education	3	2	4
Hospitals	3	1	4
Medical Centre's (GP)	15	10	23
Pharmacies	17	7	23
Counsellors / Psychotherapists	15	0	11
Physiotherapy / chiropractic	29	5	22

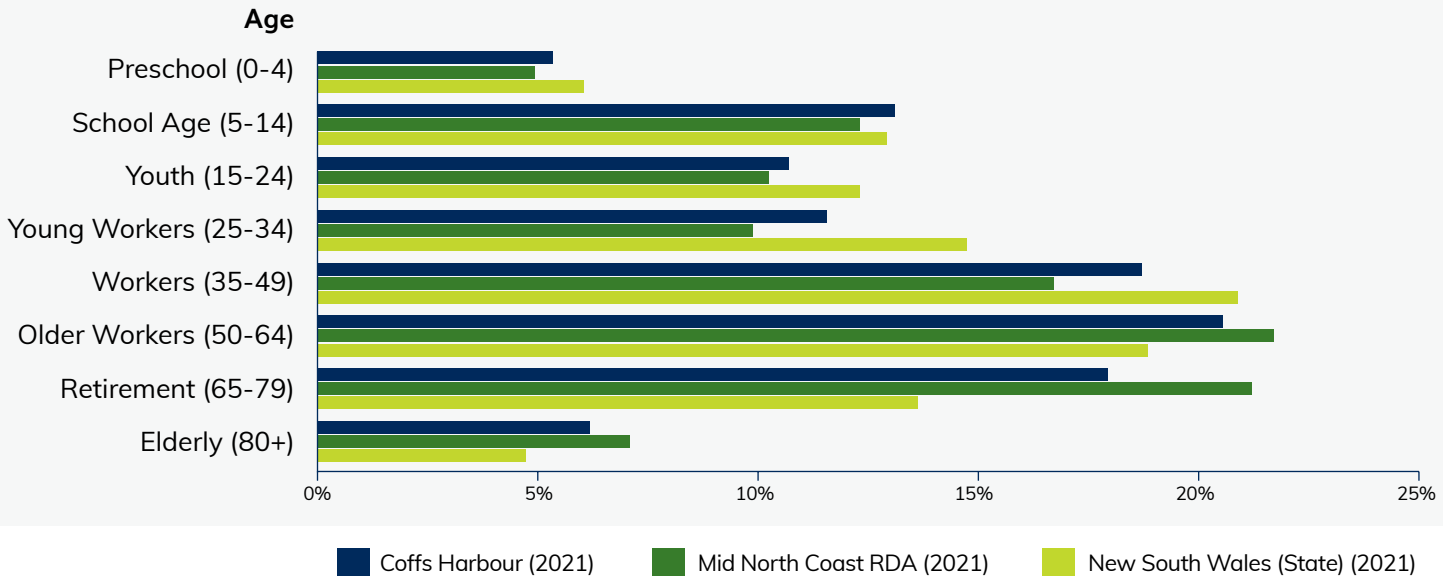
Type	No.	Small LGA Avg	Large LGA Avg
Dentists	5	4	20
Service NSW	1	1	2
Accountants	5	7	30
Lawyer / Solicitors	8	7	26
Financial planners	3	3	11
Transport Services	5	6	10
Major shopping centres	0	0	3
Supermarkets	7	7	16
Department stores	0	0	3
Sporting Clubs	20	23	71
Aquatic & Fitness Centres	5	5	20

Source: Publicly available internet listings as at August 2023

MNC & NSW Comparisons

Population by Life Stage

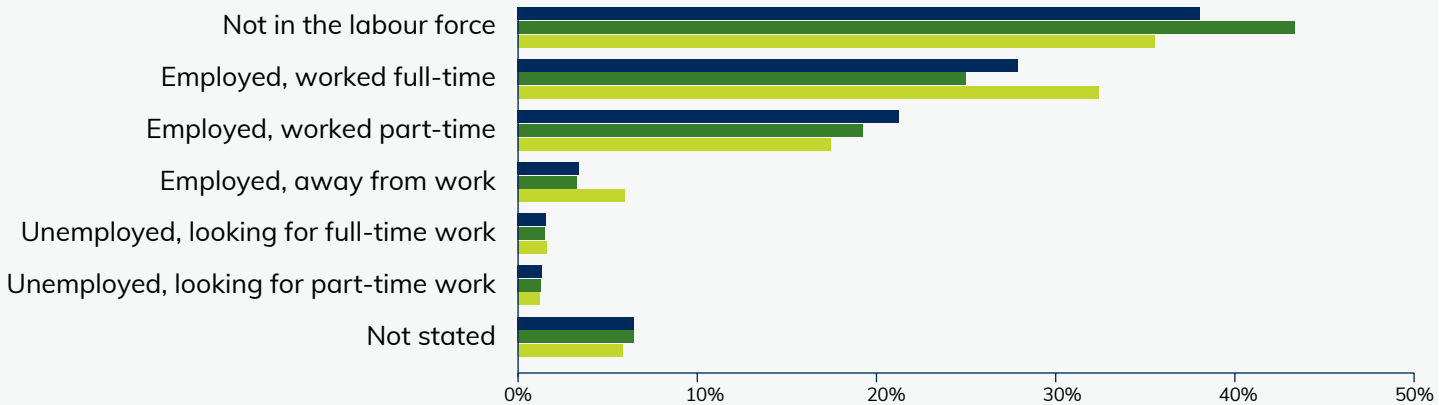
Coffs Harbour LGA has 36.9% of the population as older worker or retirees. In comparison, the MNC has 41.17% and NSW has 31.14%.



Population by Labour Force

The Coffs Harbour LGA has 38% of the population not in the labour force. By comparison the MNC has 43.26% and NSW has 35.46%. Coffs Harbour LGA's full-time workforce percentage is greater than the MNC overall but lower than the state percentage.

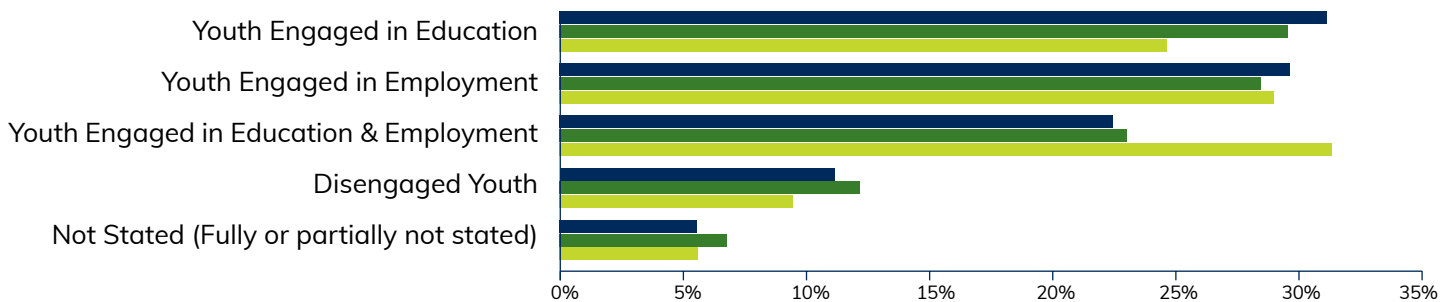
Labour Force Status



Youth Engagement (15-24 years)

11.22% of the Coffs Harbour 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.

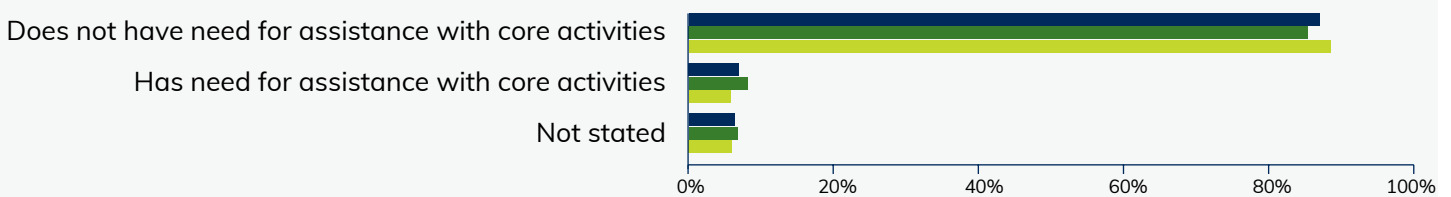
Youth 15-24 years



Need for assistance

Coffs Harbour LGA has 6.88% 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%.

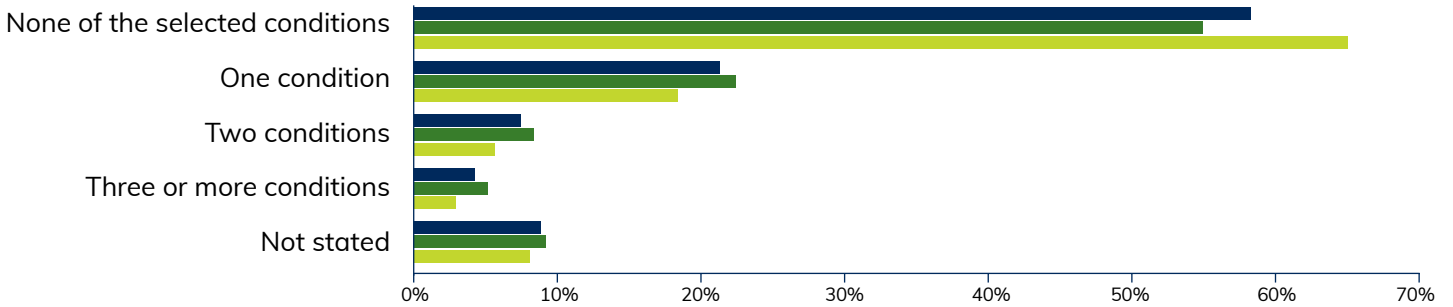
Need for assistance



Long Term Health Conditions

There are 33.03% of the Coffs Harbour 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%.

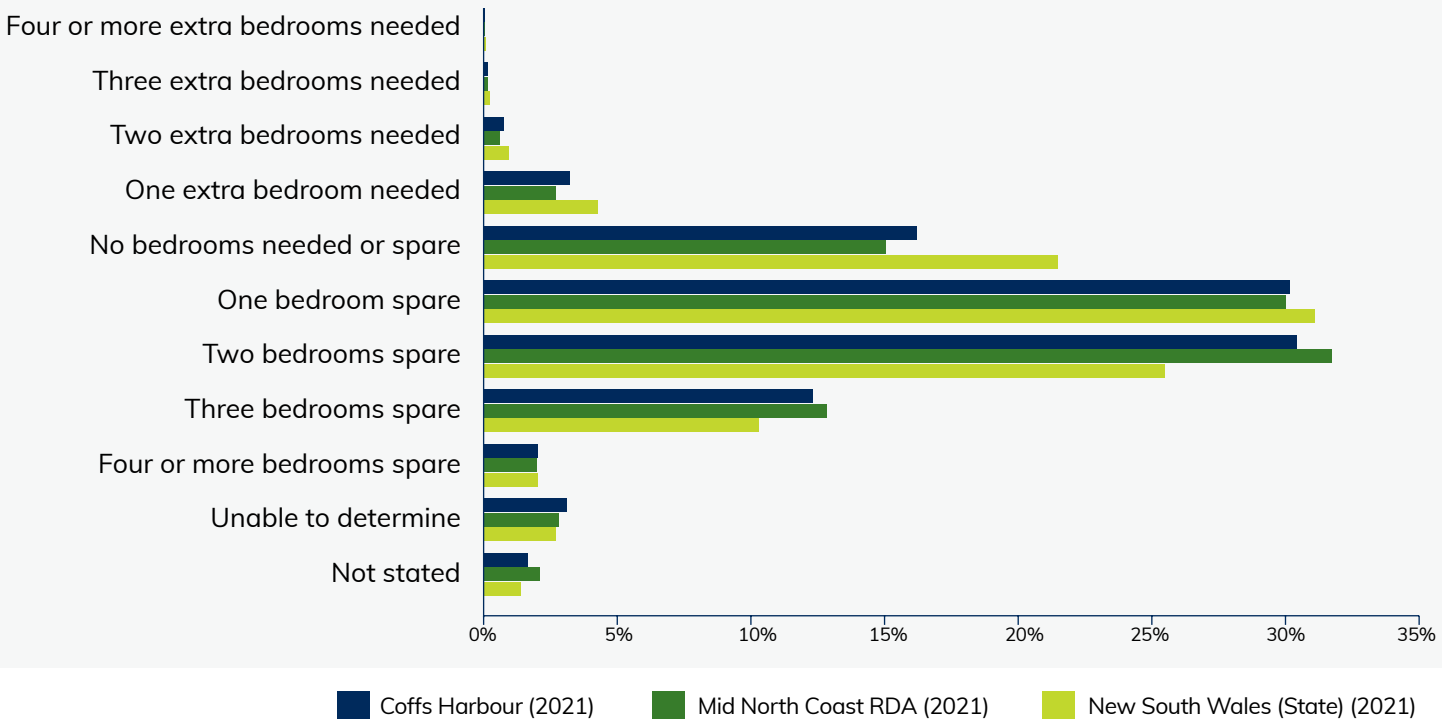
Number of Conditions



Housing Suitability

Of the dwelling structures in the Coffs Harbour LGA, 74.9% of them have spare bedrooms. MNC has 76.52% and NSW has 68.86%. Looking at the reverse, 4.15% of dwellings need additional bedrooms in the Coffs Harbour LGA, compared to 3.55% in the MNC and 5.52% across NSW. In the Coffs Harbour LGA, 16.06% 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 Coffs Harbour LGA's SEIFA ranking is 243 / 547. Meaning, there are 304 LGAs which are less disadvantaged and 242 LGAs that are more disadvantaged. A comparison with other LGAs on the MNC are highlighted in the table below.

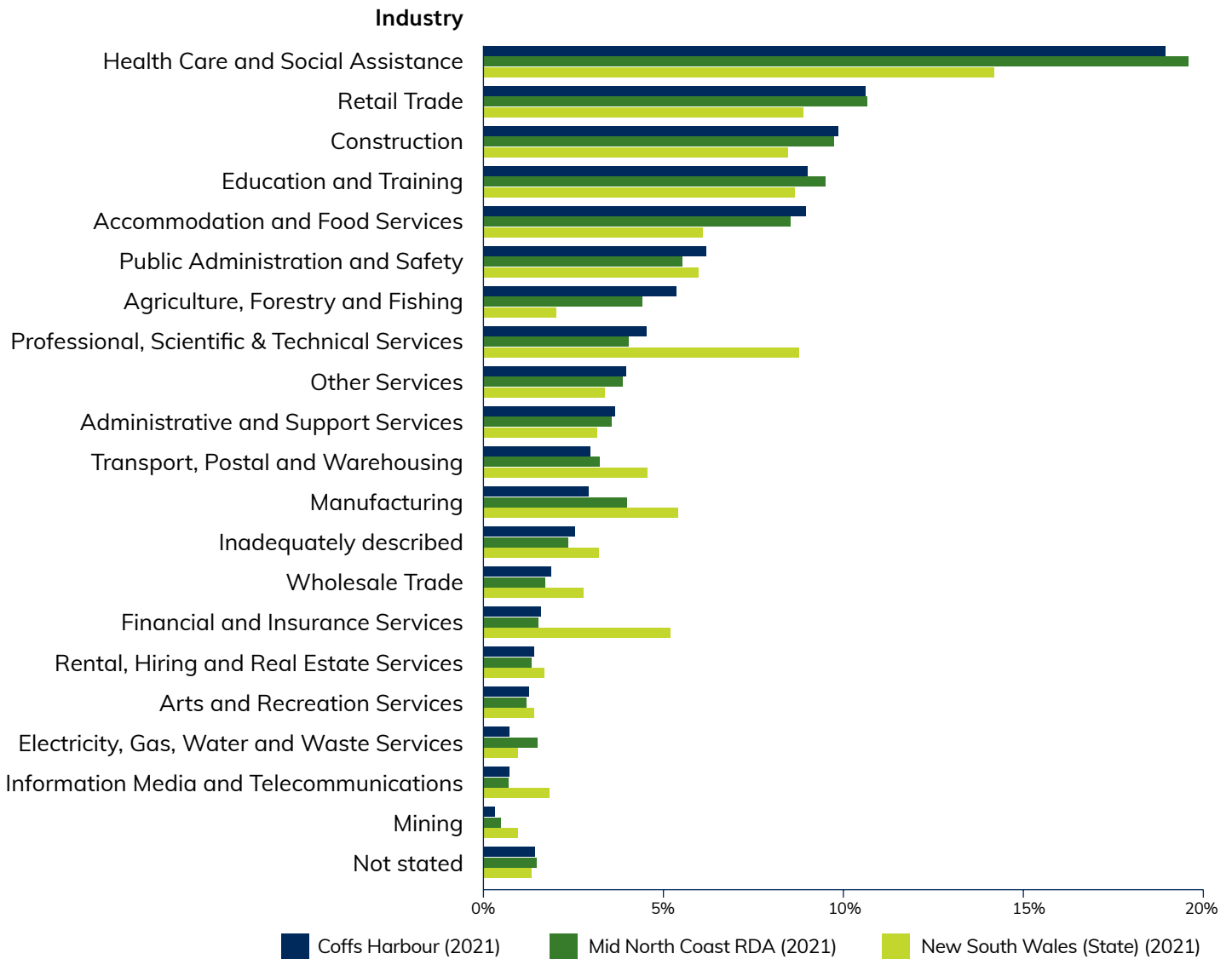
Table 3: SEIFA rankings by MNC LGA.

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 Nambucca Valley 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 Coffs Harbour LGA:

- Has the third highest population in the MNC region.
- Has the smallest land area in the region.
- Is the third most advantaged 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 Coffs Harbour LGA will not be equipped to provide the services needed to support the developing demographics.