



An Australian Government Initiative



MID NORTH COAST

Regional Snapshot

Lord Howe Island

September 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 Lord Howe Island.



Summary Statistics

Table 1: Key area statistics.

Description	Data
Population	445
Annualised population growth (2016-2021)	3.2%
Median Age	45 years
Median Weekly Income	\$946
Labour force participation	65.17%

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

RIF Statistics

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

Table 2: People, places and industry statistics

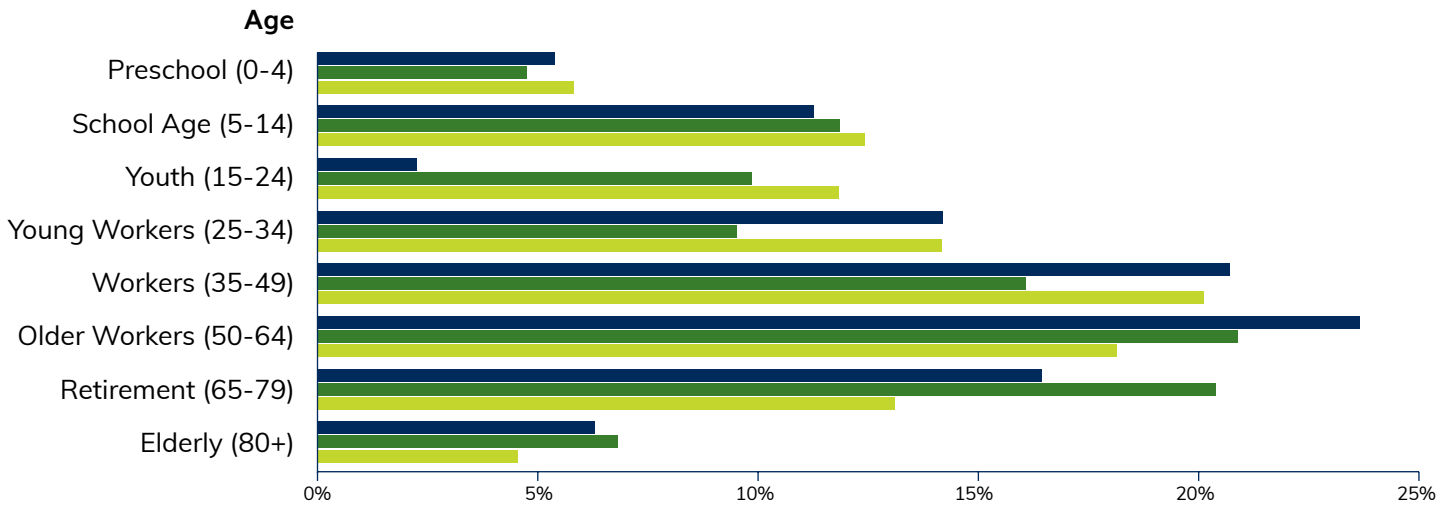
Description	Data
People	
% of population between 50-79 years	40%
% of Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander	1.12%
% of households with two people	43.59%
% of families not in the labour force	10.95%
% of disengaged youth (15-24 years)	0%
% of pop. requiring assistance with core activities	2.7%
% of population living with one or more long term health conditions	21.13%
Places	
% of dwellings owned outright	35.38%
% of dwellings with spare bedrooms	67.24%
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage Score	1053
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage LGA ranking	1726/2353
Industry	
Industry with largest output contribution	Accommodation & Food Services
Industry with largest value-add contribution	Accommodation & Food Services
Industry with largest employment contribution	Accommodation & Food Service
Highest ranking field of study	Engineering & related technologies

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

Lord Howe Island Comparisons

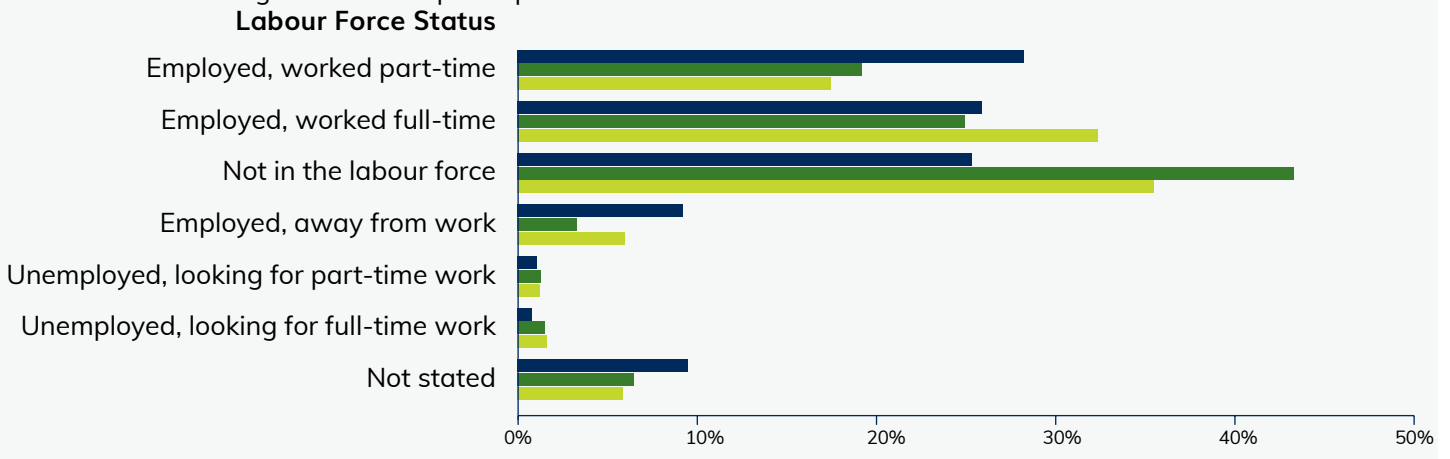
Population by Life Stage

Lord Howe Island has 40% of the population as older workers or retirees. In comparison, the MNC has 41.17% and NSW has 31.14%.



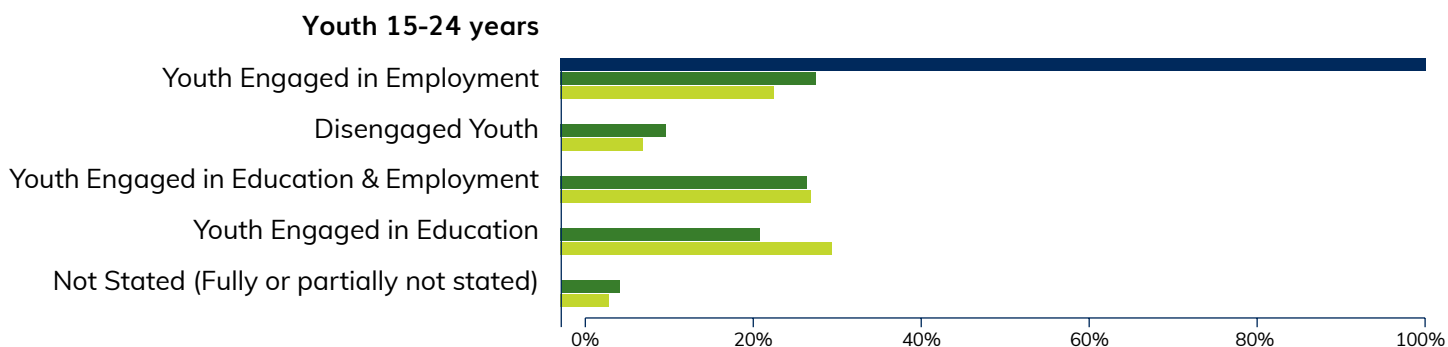
Population by Labour Force

Lord Howe Island has 25.33% of the population not in the labour force. This statistic is in stark contrast to the MNC which has a much higher percentage of the population not in the workforce at 43.26% and NSW has 35.46%. This statistic shows greater labour participation rates on Lord Howe Island than that of the MNC and NSW overall.



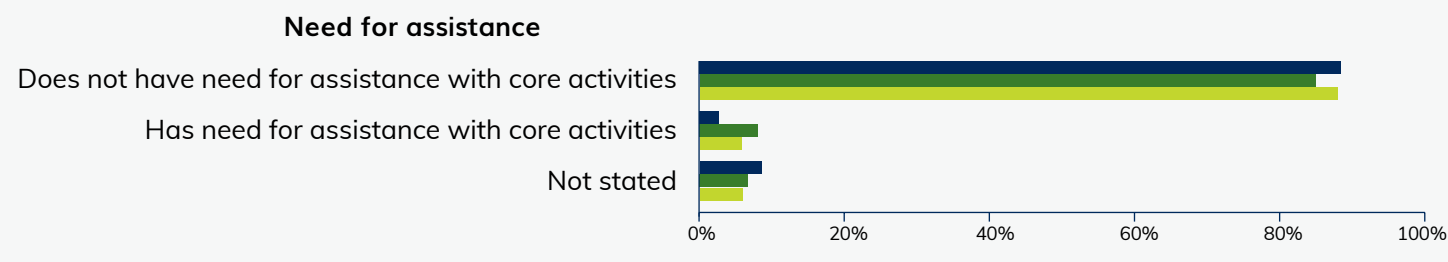
Youth Engagement (15-24 years)

0% of Lord Howe Island's youth are disengaged, meaning not engaged in employment or education. The MNC has 12.19% youth disengagement and NSW has 9.46%.



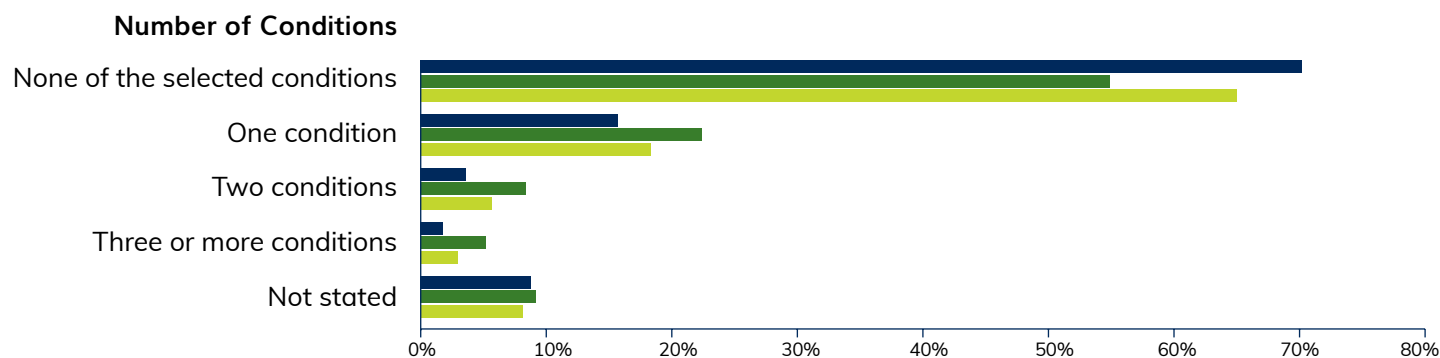
Need for assistance

Lord Howe Island has 2.7% 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

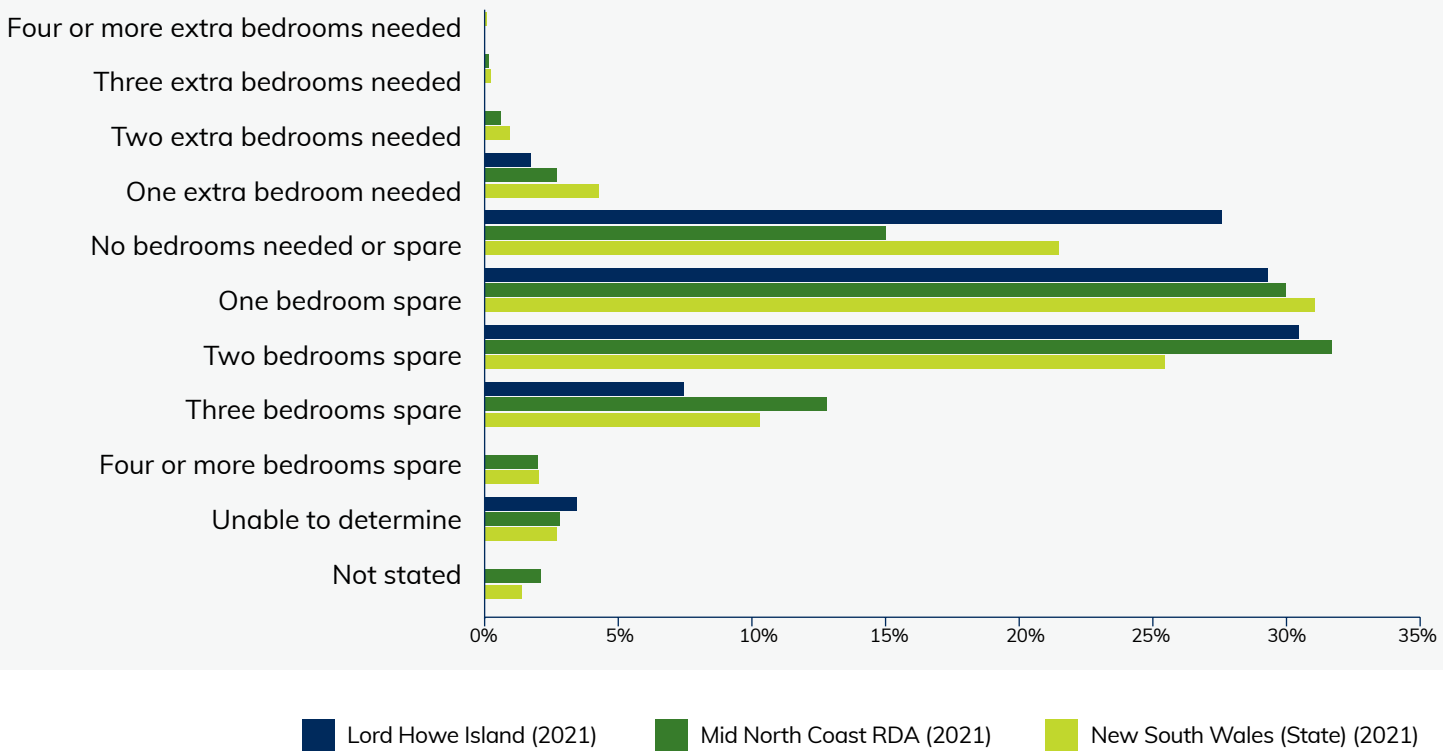
There are 21.13% of Lord Howe Island's population is living with one or more long-term health conditions. In comparison, the MNC's overall population has 35.95% of the population living with long-term health conditions, while NSW overall has 26.97%.



Housing Suitability

Of the dwelling structures on Lord Howe Island, 67.24% of them have spare bedrooms. MNC has 76.52% and NSW has 68.86%. Looking at the reverse, 1.72% of dwellings need additional bedrooms on Lord Howe Island, compared to 3.55% in the MNC and 5.52% across NSW. 27.59% of dwellings on Lord Howe Island have no spare bedrooms OR need additional rooms. Comparatively, the MNC is less at 15.02% and 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. Lord Howe Island's SEIFA score is 1053 and is higher than any of the LGAs on the Mid North Coast, meaning they are classified as being more advantaged than those areas.

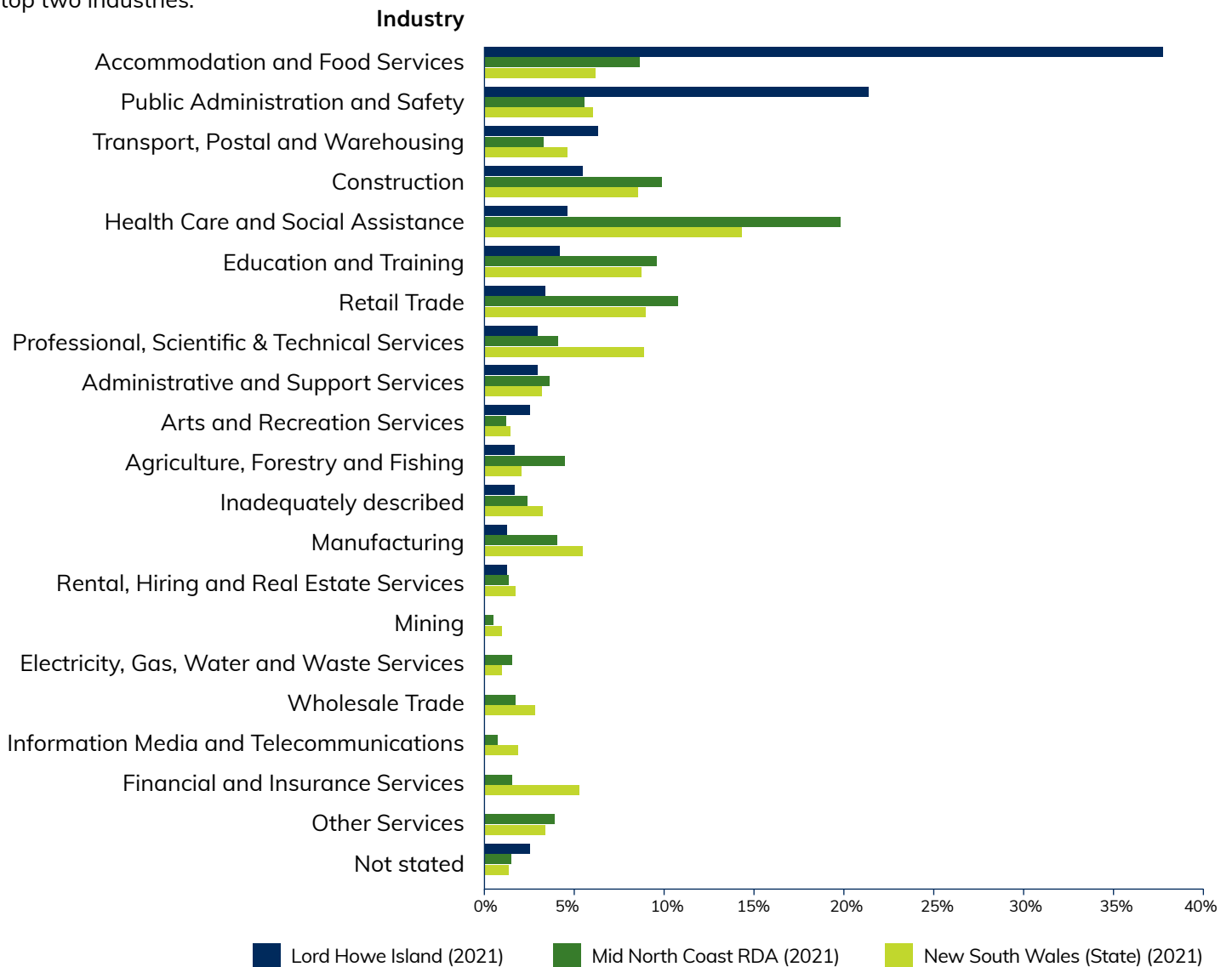
Table 3: SEIFA rankings by MNC LGA.

LGA	Ranking
Lord Howe Island	1053
Port Macquarie – Hastings	985
Bellingen	981
Coffs Harbour	972
Midcoast	943
Nambucca Valley	920
Kempsey	903

Source: Remplan / ABS Census 2021

Industries of employment

The top three industries of employment on Lord Howe Island are Accommodation and Food Services, Public Administration and Safety and Transport, Postal & Warehousing. 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 Lord Howe Island:

- The annualised population figure of 3.2% is just over double that of the Mid North Coast and NSW overall.
- According to the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage, Lord Howe Island is a more advantaged region than anywhere on the MNC of NSW.
- Between the MNC, NSW and Lord Howe Island – Lord Howe is utilising its available housing to a greater capacity.
- Whilst the percentage of the population living with long-term health conditions is significantly lower than that of the MNC or NSW – there is still enough that will require more specialised care into the future which will put increased strain on the island's resources.
- Lord Howe Island's labour force participation rates are significantly greater than the MNC and NSW. Whilst the data suggests that they will continue to meet demand in the future, their difficulties may not be as great as those on the mainland.
- Lord Howe Island has 100% youth engagement – this is not seen anywhere else on the MNC or NSW.