

# HUNTER REGION ECONOMIC INDICATORS SPECIAL FOCUS: INEQUALITY

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Hunter Research Foundation Centre  
**11 MAY 2018**



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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. State of play
2. Locational inequality
3. Inequality's impact on wellbeing
4. Generational inequality
5. Inequality tomorrow?



# SUMMARY – 2017 Q4



- **Business confidence and performance**
- **Consumer spending improved**
- **Confidence in regional economy**
- **Full-time jobs growth & unemployment falling**

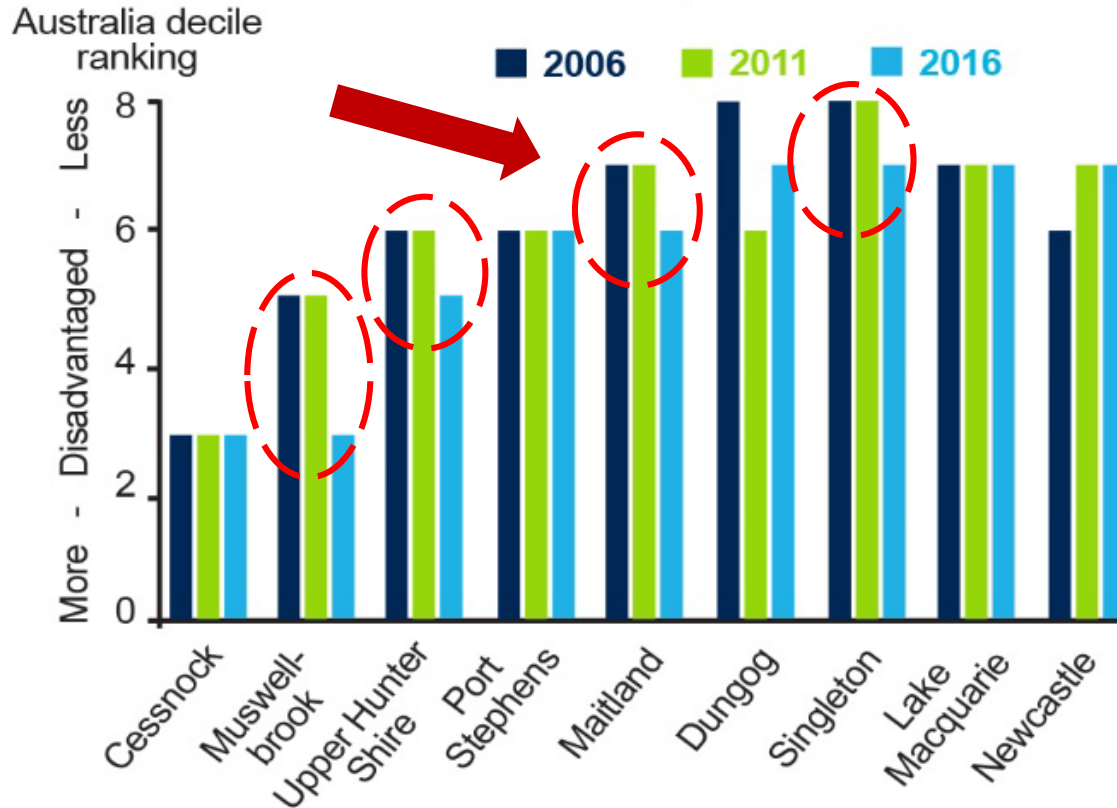


- **First home buyer affordability & household debt**
- **Consumer spending long term subdued**
- **New housing approvals down but pipeline resilient**

# LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE



# LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE

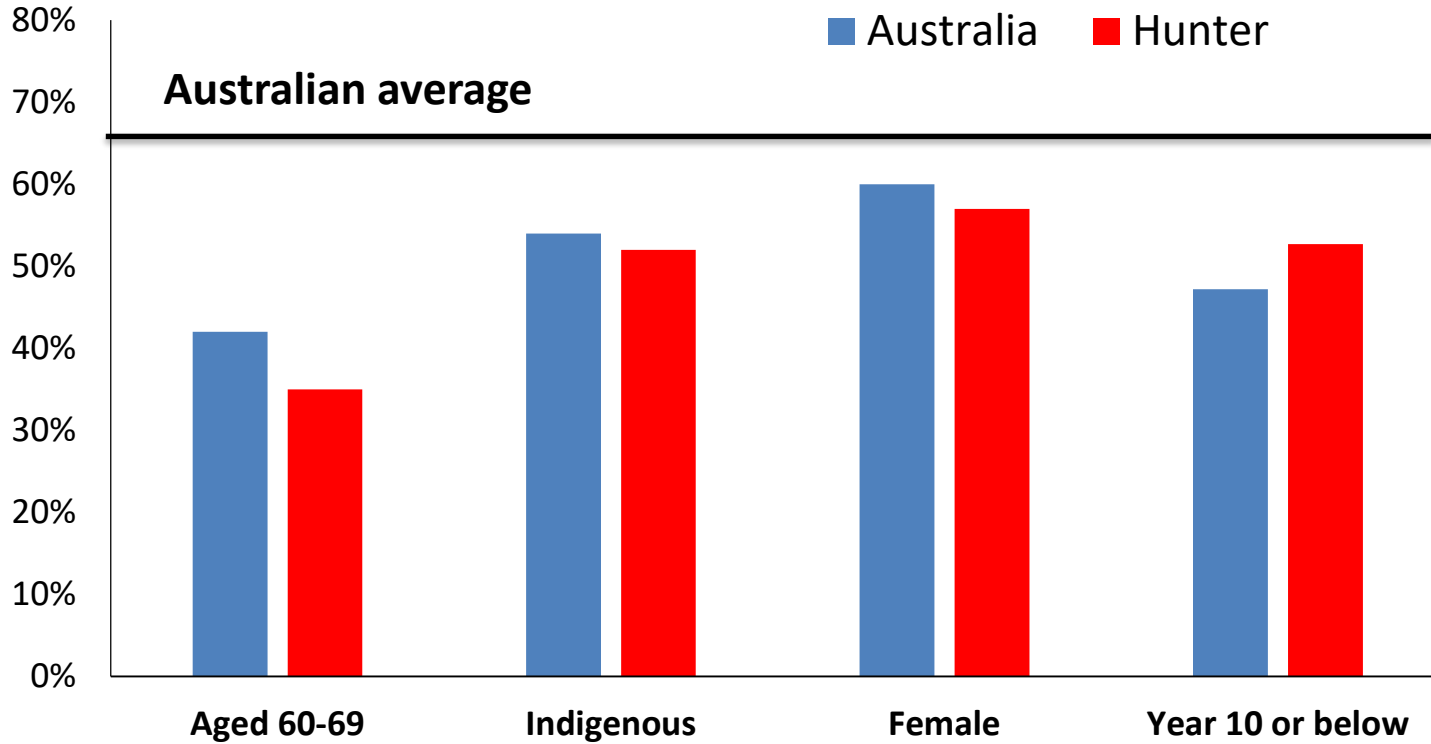


# MIND THE GAP: BEST & WORST SUBURBS

VARIABLE	HIGHEST	LOWEST	GAP	SYDNEY GAP
Unemployment Rate	15.9% Shortland – Jesmond	4.1% Merewether – Junction & Muswellbrook Region	3.9x	6x
Median Household Income (\$)	\$1,875 per week Seaham – Woodville	\$910 per week Tea Gardens – Hawks Nest	2.1x	3.4x
Median Family Income (\$)	\$2,444 per week Merewether – Junction	\$1,086 per week Tea Gardens – Hawks Nest	2.3x	3.7x
% Jobless Families with Children	4% Newcastle – Cooks Hill	21% Shortland – Jesmond	5.3x	20x

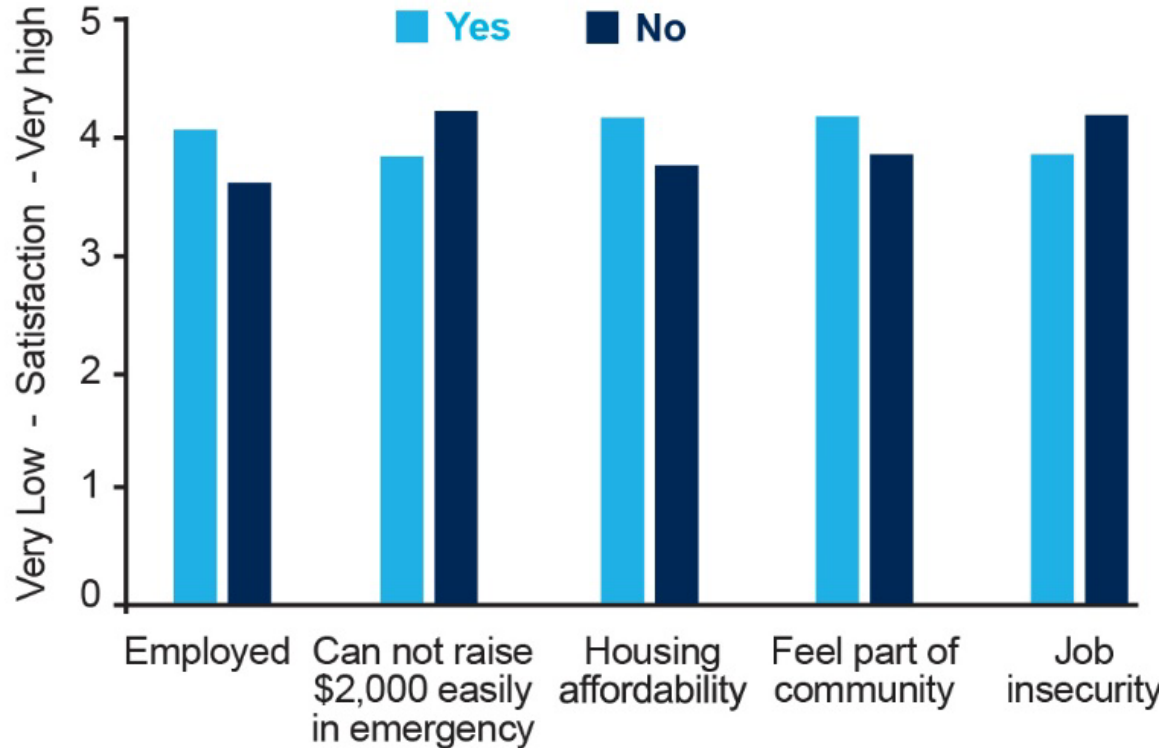
Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2016.

# LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION



# INEQUALITY IMPACTS WELLBEING

## WELLBEING SCORE BY KEY CHARACTERISTICS



2016 Wellbeing  
Watch research  
program was  
supported by



PORT WARATAH  
COAL SERVICES



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SOURCE: HRF Centre, Hunter Wellbeing Survey 2016



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# INEQUALITY TOMORROW

YOUTH  
OPPORTUNITIES

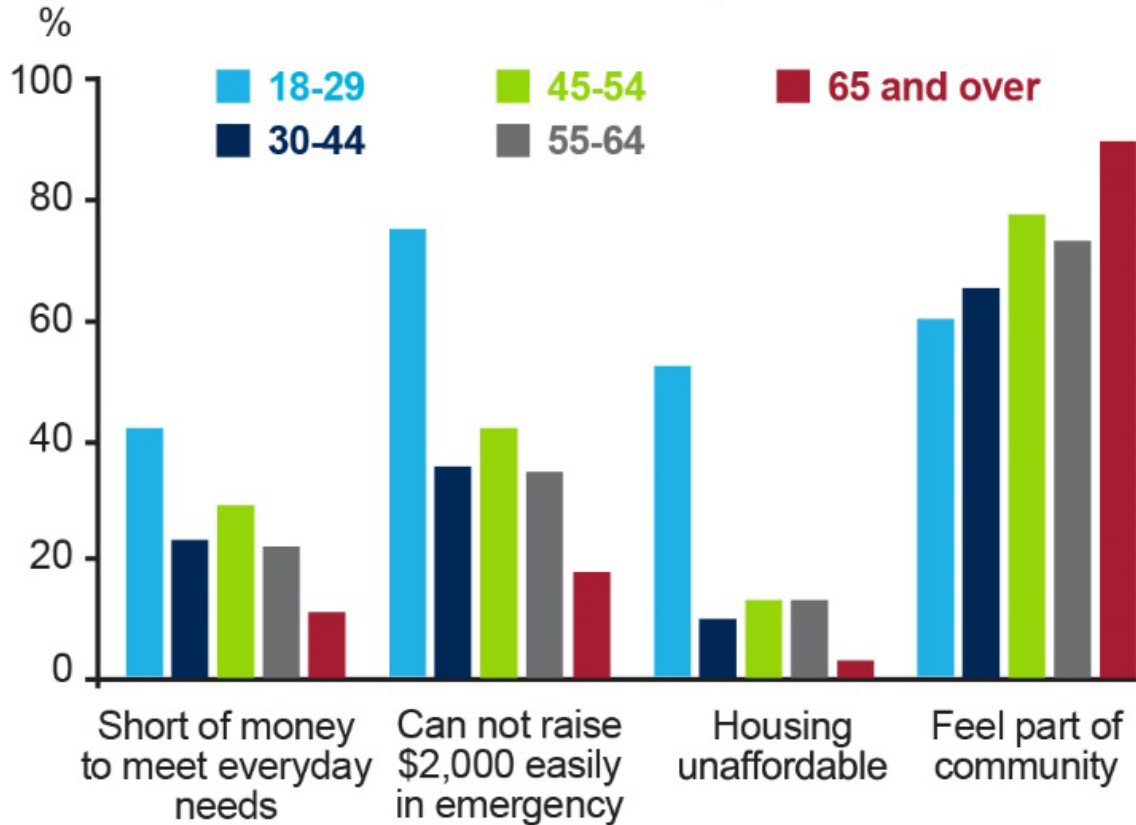


# GENERATIONAL INEQUALITY

2016 Wellbeing Watch research program was supported by



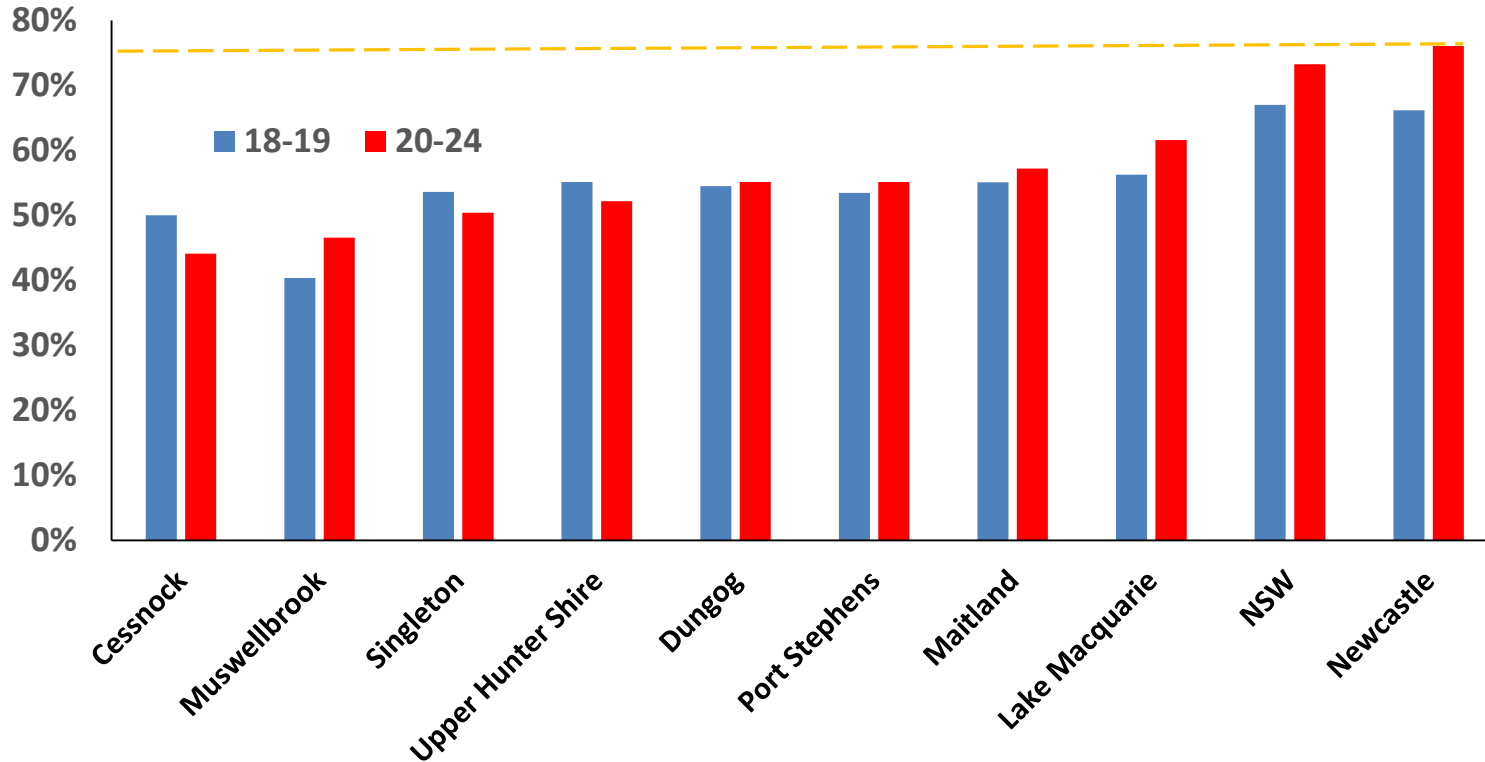
PORT WARATAH  
COAL SERVICES



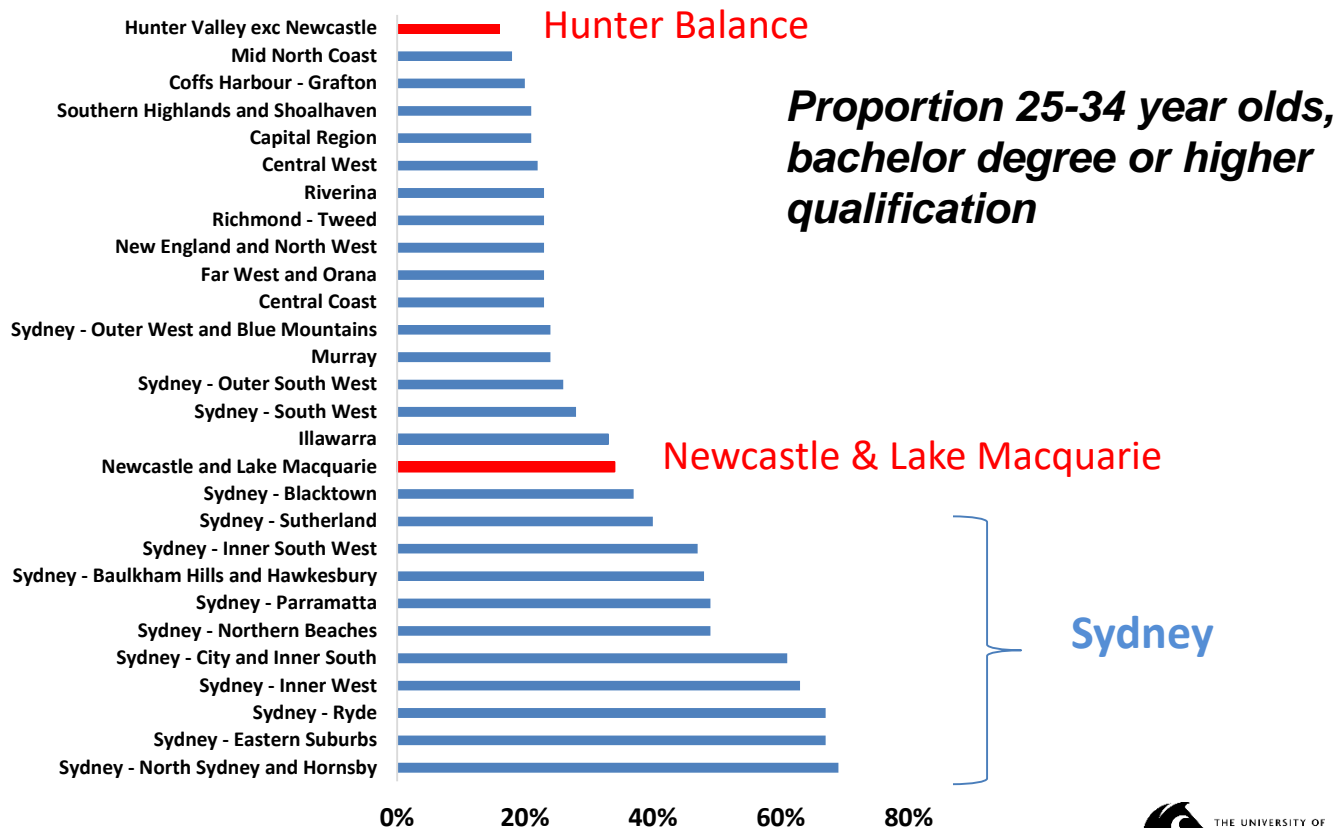
SOURCE: HRF Centre, Hunter Wellbeing Survey 2016

# EDUCATION GAP: HUNTER LGAs

## % Age Group Completed Year 12, LGA



# MISSED OPPORTUNITY: HIGHER EDUCATION



# SUMMARY

- **Winners and losers in the Hunter economy**
- **Locational dimension – gap not as big as Sydney**
- **Evidence of intensified spatial sorting**
- **Particular risks for younger households in the Hunter**
- **Variations in labour force and educational participation persist**



# THANK YOU

*Hunter Region Economic Indicators*  
*Special Issue: Inequality*  
Available as you leave today



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