

# Data Sheet 54 (DS 054)

## Relative Level of Socio-Economic Disadvantage

### What are we monitoring?

The relative level of socio-economic disadvantage within the Blue Mountains in comparison to other Local Government Areas in NSW as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) – Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. This index is based on information obtained from the five-yearly Census.

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage combines a number of variables (such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations) relative to families and dwellings within an area, and ranks these areas on a scale of relative disadvantage. It should be noted that relative disadvantage scores are based on summary measures that represent an average of people and households in an area and should not be assumed to apply to all individuals within that area. The index scores indicate the average socio-economic characteristics of the people, families, and households living in the area.

A higher score on the index means a lower level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage.

As a measure of socio-economic conditions, this index is best interpreted as ordinal measures. It can be used to rank (order) areas, and is also useful to understand the distribution of socio-economic conditions across different areas. However, the scores do not represent some quantity of advantage or disadvantage. For example, it cannot be inferred that an area with an index value of 1000 is twice as advantaged as an area with an index value of 500.

### What is the trend?

The Index results show that the Blue Mountains LGA overall is less disadvantaged and more advantaged than the majority of NSW Local Government Areas. In 2011 there were 127 NSW LGAs with worse disadvantage scores than the Blue Mountains. As shown in the tables below, the disadvantage index score for the Blue Mountains in 2011 was 1039 giving us a relatively high and favourable ranking of 128 out of 153 LGAs. The Blue Mountains disadvantage score however, was more favourable (higher) in 2001 (at 1061) and in 2006 (at 1051) than in 2011 (at 1039).

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage provides a general view of the relative level of disadvantage in the Blue Mountains compared to other areas. The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) also helps us better understand the relationship between socio-economic status and various health and educational outcomes. The index is a useful tool for identifying areas requiring funding and service provision.

### Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

| Year           | 2001 | 2006 | 2011 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Score          | 1061 | 1051 | 1039 |
| Rank NSW       | N/A  | 130  | 128  |
| Rank Australia | N/A  | 608  | 483  |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census Data 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011  
[http://censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile](http://censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile)

### 2011 Index of Socio-Economic Disadvantage: Ranking of Blue Mountains Relative to Other NSW Local Government Areas

A higher index score means a lower level of disadvantage.  
 A lower score on the index means a higher level of disadvantage.

| Ranking | NSW Local Government Area | Index Score |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 153     | Ku-ring-gai (A)           | 1,120.7     |
| 152     | Mosman (A)                | 1,110.7     |
| 151     | Woollahra (A)             | 1,107.0     |
| 150     | Lane Cove (A)             | 1,106.9     |
| 149     | North Sydney (A)          | 1,104.8     |
| 148     | The Hills Shire (A)       | 1,101.1     |
| 147     | Manly (A)                 | 1,099.4     |
| 146     | Pittwater (A)             | 1,094.4     |
| 145     | Hunters Hill (A)          | 1,092.2     |
| 144     | Hornsby (A)               | 1,085.2     |
| 143     | Willoughby (C)            | 1,083.5     |
| 142     | Palerang (A)              | 1,081.7     |
| 141     | Waverley (A)              | 1,079.6     |
| 140     | Leichhardt (A)            | 1,078.9     |
| 139     | Warringah (A)             | 1,077.3     |
| 138     | Sutherland Shire (A)      | 1,074.6     |
| 137     | Canada Bay (A)            | 1,067.0     |
| 136     | Yass Valley (A)           | 1,060.6     |
| 135     | Kiama (A)                 | 1,054.6     |
| 134     | Ryde (C)                  | 1,050.4     |
| 133     | Snowy River (A)           | 1,050.0     |
| 132     | Camden (A)                | 1,047.1     |
| 131     | Queanbeyan (C)            | 1,045.7     |
| 130     | Randwick (C)              | 1,042.7     |
| 129     | Conargo (A)               | 1,040.1     |
| 128     | Blue Mountains (C)        | 1,038.6     |
| 127     | Kogarah (C)               | 1,036.2     |
| 126     | Wollondilly (A)           | 1,033.6     |
| 125     | Wingecarribee (A)         | 1,023.8     |
| 124     | Strathfield (A)           | 1,022.1     |
| 123     | Unincorporated NSW        | 1,021.8     |
| 122     | Marrickville (A)          | 1,021.6     |
| 121     | Hawkesbury (C)            | 1,020.3     |
| 120     | Sydney (C)                | 1,019.9     |
| 119     | Ashfield (A)              | 1,015.4     |
| 118     | Singleton (A)             | 1,013.0     |
| 117     | Hurstville (C)            | 1,006.9     |

# Data Sheet 54 (DS 054)

## Relative Level of Socio-Economic Disadvantage

| Ranking | NSW Local Government Area   | Index Score |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 116     | Upper Lachlan Shire (A)     | 1,006.3     |
| 115     | Gosford (C)                 | 1,006.3     |
| 114     | Cabonne (A)                 | 1,000.3     |
| 113     | Lockhart (A)                | 999.3       |
| 112     | Jerilderie (A)              | 997.6       |
| 111     | Wagga Wagga (C)             | 997.6       |
| 110     | Penrith (C)                 | 996.3       |
| 109     | Burwood (A)                 | 996.1       |
| 108     | Lake Macquarie (C)          | 994.8       |
| 107     | Newcastle (C)               | 993.9       |
| 106     | Maitland (C)                | 992.8       |
| 105     | Rockdale (C)                | 991.2       |
| 104     | Bathurst Regional (A)       | 991.0       |
| 103     | Cooma-Monaro (A)            | 990.6       |
| 102     | Greater Hume Shire (A)      | 989.3       |
| 101     | Ballina (A)                 | 988.7       |
| 100     | Dungog (A)                  | 988.5       |
| 99      | Murray (A)                  | 987.7       |
| 98      | Armidale Dumaresq (A)       | 986.9       |
| 97      | Uralla (A)                  | 984.7       |
| 96      | Parramatta (C)              | 983.7       |
| 95      | Blayney (A)                 | 982.2       |
| 94      | Upper Hunter Shire (A)      | 981.5       |
| 93      | Port Stephens (A)           | 979.9       |
| 92      | Wollongong (C)              | 979.6       |
| 91      | Albury (C)                  | 978.6       |
| 90      | Dubbo (C)                   | 977.0       |
| 89      | Orange (C)                  | 977.0       |
| 88      | Byron (A)                   | 976.6       |
| 87      | Oberon (A)                  | 975.9       |
| 86      | Wakool (A)                  | 975.7       |
| 85      | Botany Bay (C)              | 975.7       |
| 84      | Coolamon (A)                | 975.1       |
| 83      | Bland (A)                   | 974.5       |
| 82      | Walcha (A)                  | 973.9       |
| 81      | Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) | 968.9       |
| 80      | Carrathool (A)              | 968.8       |
| 79      | Bega Valley (A)             | 968.7       |
| 78      | Shellharbour (C)            | 968.6       |
| 77      | Blacktown (C)               | 968.5       |
| 76      | Muswellbrook (A)            | 968.2       |
| 75      | Corowa Shire (A)            | 967.8       |
| 74      | Holroyd (C)                 | 965.6       |
| 73      | Boorowa (A)                 | 963.8       |
| 72      | Griffith (C)                | 963.7       |
| 71      | Gundagai (A)                | 961.6       |
| 70      | Mid-Western Regional (A)    | 961.5       |
| 69      | Tamworth Regional (A)       | 959.9       |
| 68      | Tweed (A)                   | 958.5       |
| 67      | Coffs Harbour (C)           | 958.4       |
| 66      | Wentworth (A)               | 957.4       |
| 65      | Cobar (A)                   | 956.7       |
| 64      | Eurobodalla (A)             | 955.8       |
| 63      | Temora (A)                  | 955.6       |
| 62      | Shoalhaven (C)              | 954.6       |
| 61      | Leeton (A)                  | 954.5       |
| 60      | Tumbarumba (A)              | 954.3       |
| 59      | Berrigan (A)                | 954.1       |

| Ranking | NSW Local Government Area | Index Score |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 58      | Narrabri (A)              | 953.4       |
| 57      | Lismore (C)               | 952.7       |
| 56      | Bombala (A)               | 952.5       |
| 55      | Wyong (A)                 | 951.7       |
| 54      | Goulburn Mulwaree (A)     | 951.4       |
| 53      | Tumut Shire (A)           | 951.3       |
| 52      | Gloucester (A)            | 951.0       |
| 51      | Liverpool (C)             | 951.0       |
| 50      | Bellingen (A)             | 950.1       |
| 49      | Young (A)                 | 947.3       |
| 48      | Forbes (A)                | 946.8       |
| 47      | Gunnedah (A)              | 946.7       |
| 46      | Balranald (A)             | 946.2       |
| 45      | Bogan (A)                 | 946.1       |
| 44      | Weddin (A)                | 945.0       |
| 43      | Campbelltown (C)          | 944.8       |
| 42      | Parkes (A)                | 943.5       |
| 41      | Harden (A)                | 941.9       |
| 40      | Junee (A)                 | 941.7       |
| 39      | Deniliquin (A)            | 941.6       |
| 38      | Cootamundra (A)           | 941.5       |
| 37      | Warren (A)                | 941.2       |
| 36      | Gwydir (A)                | 939.9       |
| 35      | Lachlan (A)               | 938.1       |
| 34      | Urana (A)                 | 937.1       |
| 33      | Cessnock (C)              | 936.4       |
| 32      | Bourke (A)                | 932.6       |
| 31      | Great Lakes (A)           | 932.3       |
| 30      | Bankstown (C)             | 931.7       |
| 29      | Guyra (A)                 | 931.0       |
| 28      | Murrumbidgee (A)          | 928.3       |
| 27      | Cowra (A)                 | 928.0       |
| 26      | Hay (A)                   | 927.0       |
| 25      | Narromine (A)             | 926.6       |
| 24      | Narrandera (A)            | 925.2       |
| 23      | Lithgow (C)               | 924.2       |
| 22      | Canterbury (C)            | 922.0       |
| 21      | Glen Innes Severn (A)     | 921.8       |
| 20      | Inverell (A)              | 921.4       |
| 19      | Liverpool Plains (A)      | 921.3       |
| 18      | Clarence Valley (A)       | 919.4       |
| 17      | Auburn (C)                | 916.7       |
| 16      | Tenterfield (A)           | 915.4       |
| 15      | Moree Plains (A)          | 915.1       |
| 14      | Greater Taree (C)         | 913.7       |
| 13      | Warrumbungle Shire (A)    | 911.3       |
| 12      | Gilgandra (A)             | 910.6       |
| 11      | Kyogle (A)                | 907.1       |
| 10      | Nambucca (A)              | 900.0       |
| 9       | Broken Hill (C)           | 899.6       |
| 8       | Richmond Valley (A)       | 899.5       |
| 7       | Wellington (A)            | 893.2       |
| 6       | Kempsey (A)               | 879.7       |
| 5       | Coonamble (A)             | 879.6       |
| 4       | Walgett (A)               | 856.2       |
| 3       | Fairfield (C)             | 854.0       |
| 2       | Central Darling (A)       | 824.4       |
| 1       | Brewarrina (A)            | 788.4       |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011