

The top half of the page features a large, abstract graphic design. It consists of overlapping organic shapes in two shades of teal: a darker, navy blue and a lighter, forest green. The shapes are layered, with the darker blue appearing behind the lighter green. There are several white, rounded rectangular cutouts of varying sizes scattered across the composition, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**A policy platform to respond to Liverpool LGA's cultural and linguistic diversity**

**November 2021**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



### Message from CEO Kamalle Dabboussy

For over 40 years Western Sydney MRC has been working with the diverse communities of Liverpool LGA to facilitate their integration into local mainstream life. We seek to build resilience and participation, and this is evidenced by our work and the partnerships we have and enjoy.

As part of our role, we have identified that the local Liverpool community have a range of issues and needs that require some specific attention. Whilst by no means comprehensive, this sets out the current needs and items that are part our current discussions within the communities and the stakeholders we work with. As a community-based organisation, it is part of our role to promote the local issues, and work with decision makers, such as local elected representatives, to find solutions.

Below are four main issues that we present and seek to highlight,

- Increase Infrastructure to address CALD specific service gaps
- Ensure Distribution of the \$5 billion WestInvest fund into the Liverpool vulnerable
- Equitable access to modern facilities and digital capabilities for young people
- Recognise and cater to emerging groups in the LGA

In essence, we seek to highlight that Liverpool is diverse in its populations, its income base and advantage / disadvantage. There is a need for a more active local leadership to champion investment into its people and infrastructure to ensure that the whole of community can continue to enjoy and participate equitably in our future. A want for a more vibrant and prosperous city. Western Sydney MRC hopes to be a partner of communities, services, and Government in achieving this vision.

**Kamalle Dabboussy**  
CEO, Western Sydney MRC

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre operates, the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation and pay our respects to their ancestors past, present and emerging. We also pay respect to all our Community elders past, present and emerging.

## Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre

### About us

The company is a community-based non-profit organisation established to actively and directly relieve the situation of people and communities from diverse backgrounds whose social condition finds them disadvantaged. We aim to promote the principles of access and equity for diverse communities and identify and promote particular disadvantaged groups' needs to ensure that no one is left behind. Underpinning our principles are the core values for Human Rights. We all have our thoughts and ideas, should all be treated in the same way, and given the same opportunities, living in freedom and safety.

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## SEEKING COMMITMENT

Western Sydney MRC is seeking Liverpool City Council's commitment to:

01

Increase Infrastructure to address CALD specific service gaps.

02

Ensure Distribution of the \$5 billion WestInvest fund into the Liverpool vulnerable suburbs.

03

Equitable access to modern facilities and digital capabilities for young people

04

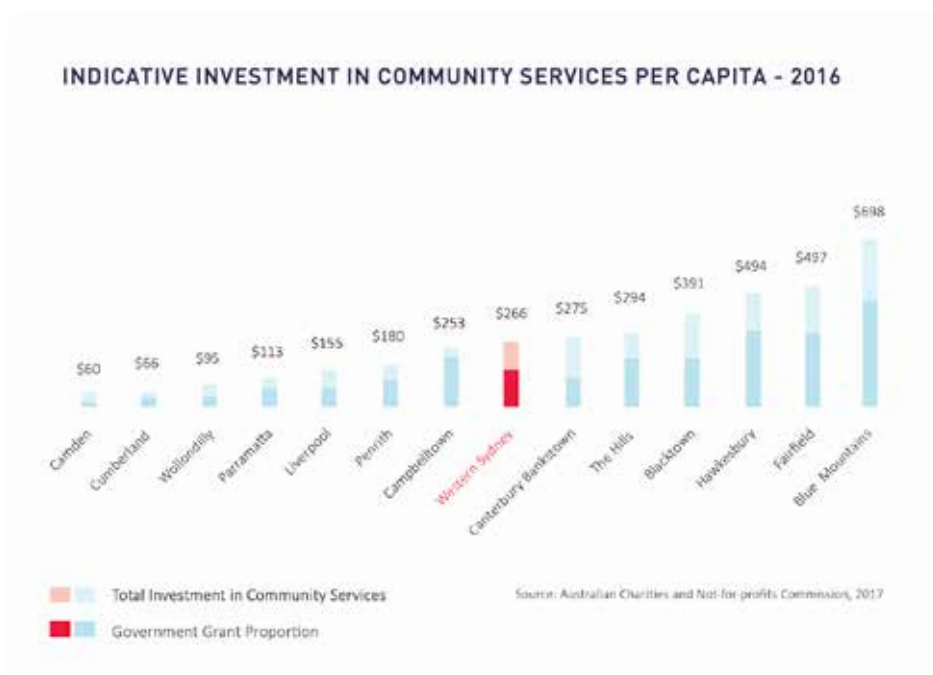
Recognise and cater to emerging groups in the LGA.

# Key Policy Positions

## 01

## INCREASE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADDRESS CALD SPECIFIC SERVICE GAPS

Investments in Liverpool are lacking despite evidence of the need for infrastructure and services. While some parts of Liverpool such as Voyager Point, Holsworthy are doing well, there are other parts that are struggling such as Miller and Cartwright (see Table 1 on page 7). In fact, the indicative investments in Liverpool LGA are much less in relation to comparable LGAs (See Graph below).



Graph 1: Indicative Investment in Community Services per capita - 2016: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits commission, 2017.<sup>1</sup>

Illustrating this point is a 2018 study of the estimated prevalence of mental illness in Southwest Sydney, which identified that in a 12-month period, approximately 165,852 people would be likely to have mental illness. The study also estimated that 43% of those with mental illness will require treatment<sup>2</sup>.

Nonetheless, there is limited availability of trauma informed and culturally competent mental health programs and services (clinical and non-clinical) in SWS<sup>3</sup>.

Similarly, the rapid investment-driven densification of Liverpool city has led to uneven green spaces, reduced walkability and increased apartment dwelling<sup>4</sup>. Research has identified that a 20-minute walk built into a person's daily routine reduces the risk of early death by 22% and increases a person's mental health by 33%<sup>5</sup>.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for Liverpool City Council to be a champion for local communities, to ensure that Liverpool gets an equitable share of investments in community services per capita.

References: 1. Western Sydney Community Forum (2018). Communities of Change: Western Sydney now and into the future (p 143): [http://www.wscf.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Communities\\_of\\_Change\\_Report\\_COMPLETED-For-Web.pdf](http://www.wscf.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Communities_of_Change_Report_COMPLETED-For-Web.pdf). 2. SWSLHD (2018). South West Sydney: Our Health. An in-depth study of the health of the population now and into the future : <https://www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/SWS%20Our%20Health%20in%20depth.pdf>. 3. Voola, A. P. (2021). Pulse of South West Sydney CALD communities: Amplifying voices during COVID-19. Research Report, Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre, Liverpool, NSW, Australia. 4. Hendrigan, C. et al. (2019). Dense, urban and walkable: The lived experience of apartment dwellers in post-suburban Sydney : <https://apo.org.au/node/303676>. 5. Greater Sydney Commission (2018). Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities- connecting people. : <https://www.greater.sydney/metropolis-of-three-cities/introduction>.

# 02

## ENSURE DISTRIBUTION OF THE \$5 BILLION WESTINVEST FUND INTO THE LIVERPOOL VULNERABLE SUBURBS

The SEIFA index of Advantage and Disadvantage for Liverpool LGA demonstrates a clear tale of 2 cities, with some suburbs experiencing above national average of advantage and others experiencing below national average of disadvantage.

Added to this is the fact that close to 70% Liverpool's population works outside the LGA<sup>7</sup> due to the long-standing imbalance of jobs between Western and Eastern Sydney.

Advantaged Suburbs	SEIFA score	Disadvantaged Suburbs	SEIFA score
Voyager Point – Pleasure Point	1,148.9	Miller	754
Edmondson Park	1,103	Cartwright	775
Wattle Grove	1,084	Sadleir	779
Holsworthy	1,077	Busby	810
Middleton Grange	1,071	Ashcroft-Mount Pritchard	812.9

Table 1: Liverpool LGA SEIFA index of Advantage and Disadvantage<sup>6</sup>

An in-depth analysis of industry sector of employment of the residents of Liverpool LGA reveals that only 4.8% of local population is employed in professional, scientific, and technical services and about 4.6% is employed in financial and insurance services both sectors with higher paying jobs and more flexibility in workplace arrangements e.g. Work from home.<sup>8</sup>

On the other hand, the primary industry sectors of employment for the residents are healthcare and social assistance at 11.4%, retail trade at 10.1% and construction at 9.9%<sup>8</sup>, all of which offer relatively lower paying jobs that are mostly casualized, contract work that cannot be performed from home.

Rather than perpetuating this divide, we want Liverpool City Council to champion and invest equitably into individuals, families and communities that reside in the LGA to take advantage of future opportunities.

## 03

## EQUITABLE ACCESS TO MODERN FACILITIES AND DIGITAL CAPABILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people entering Australia as humanitarian entrants are more likely to have a Year 8 level of education which is lower when compared to all migrants.<sup>9</sup> This has detrimental impacts on their educational and employment trajectories. According to the 2016 census data, 10.5% of Liverpool LGA's population aged 15 to 24 years were not employed or attending an educational institute compared to 7.6% in Greater Sydney<sup>10</sup> The recent disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated unemployment rates, especially in Liverpool and surrounding LGAs<sup>11</sup> as shown in the table below.

Electorate	Jobseekers (July 2021)
Sydney	2895
Fairfield	8454
Liverpool	7255
Cabramatta	6730
Bankstown	6305

Table 2: Pandemic data

Future employment forecasts note that 90% of the workforce will need digital skills by 2023<sup>12</sup> or they will be left behind in the digital transformation of the Australian Economy. But the schools attended by some of the most vulnerable groups in Liverpool are unable to meet this digital divide, especially for refugee and migrant communities that speak a language other than English at home. Additionally, some of the public primary and high schools in the Liverpool LGA serving the most vulnerable groups are overcrowded with no new school investments being made yet.<sup>13</sup>

Clearly, there is a gap between opportunities and current ability. Young people of Liverpool are missing out on these opportunities. Therefore, Liverpool City Council should ensure investments into the education, training, and employment of young people in the LGA.

References: 9. Hugo, G. (2011). Changing Spatial Patterns of Immigrant Settlement. In J. Jupp & M. Clyne (Eds.), *Multiculturalism and Integration: A harmonious relationship* (pp. 1-40). ANU Press. 10. Liverpool City Council: Social Atlas - Disengaged youth: <https://atlas.id.com.au/liverpool/maps/disengaged-youth>. 11. McCallum, J. (September 24, 2021). JobSeeker unemployment rates: Western Sydney, North Coast communities out of work: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/jobseeker-unemployment-rates-western-sydney-north-coast-communities-out-of-work/news-story/a0cfff9746d1e8bc945e42eaf9e5581d>. 12. Australian Government (2018). *Australia's Tech Future: Delivering a strong, safe and inclusive digital economy*. : <https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-12/australias-tech-future.pdf>. 13. Camden-Narellan Advertiser (2021). South west Sydney locals fight for more schools: <https://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/7103490/south-west-sydney-locals-fight-for-more-schools/>



## 04

## RECOGNISE AND CATER TO EMERGING GROUPS IN THE LGA

The Liverpool LGA's population increased by 13.4% from 2011 to 2016<sup>14</sup>. This change in population has created emerging groups of people with specific needs.

These emerging groups are:

- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59) (+4,022 people)
- Young workforce (25 to 34) (+3,370 people)
- Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) (+3,310 people)
- Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) (+3,213 people)

With over 40% of Liverpool's population born overseas and 52% speaking a language other than English at home, there is an urgent need to nurture harmonious relationships amongst established and emerging groups in the LGA.

For example, a) Access to community facilities for emerging groups is very challenging (hall hire, sporting grounds etc). b) the Georges River which is significant for the Darug and Dharawal Aboriginal people of the area as well as newly arrived groups such as the Mandaean Community, requires a focus on clean water security for all of Liverpool.

We call on Liverpool City Council to recognise and cater to established and emerging groups via consultation, representation, collaboration and investment.

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