

APPENDIX FOUR

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

The population of Redfern-Waterloo differs from that of Greater Sydney in a number of significant ways.

Indigenous people make up 4.4 per cent of the total population in Redfern-Waterloo and the Aboriginal community faces specific disadvantages not shared by the wider population. These include poor basic health levels, lower than average school participation and educational attainment, high unemployment and low incomes.

Consistent with the lower life expectancy of Aboriginal people, which is almost 20 years less than the general population, a relatively young Aboriginal population coexists with a relatively old non-Aboriginal population. In Waterloo, where over one third (37 per cent) of residents are aged 55 or over (compared to 22 per cent in Redfern and 20 per cent in Greater Sydney), the median age of Aboriginal people is only 24 years and 39 per cent of the Aboriginal population is aged under 15 years.

Children and young people in Waterloo are also almost three times more likely to be living in sole parent households than in Redfern and Sydney as a whole (11 per cent compared to 4 per cent). However, the proportion of Aboriginal children in sole parent households is higher again, with 46 per cent of Aboriginal families in Waterloo being sole parent families, compared to 19 per cent of Aboriginal households in Redfern and 15 per cent in Aboriginal households across Greater Sydney.

A high proportion of the housing in Redfern and Waterloo is rented public housing. In Waterloo 73 per cent of the housing is this form of tenure and in Redfern 23 per cent. The equivalent figure for Greater Sydney is only 5.1 per cent. Nearly all Aboriginal people in Waterloo (91 per cent) live in public housing while in Redfern, the equivalent figure is 79 per cent.

Overseas-born people make up 37 per cent and 43 per cent of the Redfern and Waterloo populations respectively. Around half the population of Redfern and Waterloo speak only English at home. Many of these people, particularly in Waterloo, are older, single, people living in public housing.

In Redfern, the profile of persons over 15 and not in the labour force is similar to the overall Sydney profile. In Waterloo, reflecting the high proportion of persons who are not in the labour force, the proportion of people employed full or part time is less than half the rate in Redfern and for Greater Sydney and among the Aboriginal population in Redfern and Waterloo levels of employment are lower again.

Income levels in the two suburbs are also low in comparison to the rest of Sydney. In Waterloo the majority of households (56 per cent) earn less than \$400 a week, and 25.8 per cent earn less than \$200 a week. In Redfern, 28.9 per cent of households earn less than \$400 a week and 12.1 per cent earn less than \$200 a week.

Highlighting the greater income and occupational mix in Redfern, 29.3 per cent of households earn \$1,000 or more a week.

Redfern and Waterloo score poorly on indicators of social disadvantage. (see Table 4.1, below).

APPENDIX Table 4.1

SOCIAL INDICATORS

WATERLOO		REDFERN	
Variable	Rank position	Variable	Rank position
Imprisonment	Bottom 5%	Mortality	Bottom 5-10%
Disability/sickness	Bottom 5%	Imprisonment	Bottom 5-10%
Court convictions	Bottom 5%	Court convictions	Bottom 5-10%
Long-term unemployed	Bottom 5%	Psych Hospital admissions	Bottom 15-20%
Unemployment	Bottom 5%	Disability/sickness benefit	Bottom 20-25%
Psychiatric hospital admissions	Bottom 5%	Long-term unemployment	Bottom 20-25%
Mortality	Bottom 5%	Low income families	Bottom 35-40%
Low income families	Bottom 30-35%	Unemployment	Bottom 40-45%
Low work skills	Bottom 35-40%	low birth weight	Bottom 55-60%
Childhood accidents	Bottom 35-40%	Childhood accidents	Bottom 55-60%
Early school leavers	Bottom 40-45%	Childhood maltreatment	Bottom 65-70%
Year 12 incomplete	Bottom 40-45%	Year 12 incomplete	Bottom 70-75%
Child maltreatment	Bottom 75-80%	Early school leavers	Bottom 75-80%
Low birth weight	Bottom 75-80%	low work skills	Bottom 75-80%

Source: Vinson T, 2004 Community adversity and resilience