



Lithgow City Council

Social Plan 2006-2011

Revised edition December 2008



Message from the Mayor

Council is pleased to present this 2008 update to its Social Plan 2006-2011. The 2008 update uses data from the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing, data that was not available at the time Council's Social Plan was developed in 2006. The inclusion of data from the 2006 Census means that the Social Plan provides a more up to date picture of the Lithgow Community which will assist Council, other government agencies and the community to better understand and plan for the future of Lithgow.

The Plan continues to represent Council's commitment to enhance the social well being of all people living in the Lithgow Local Government Area which now includes parts of the former Evans and Rylstone Shires.

The Social Plan has identified community strengths, such as a friendly and close knit community with a range of quality community services and facilities. It also acknowledges the existence of issues and problems and the existence of significant areas of community disadvantage. The 2008 Social Plan Update identifies that Lithgow continues to have a low rate of population growth, an increasingly ageing population and that in general the numbers of children and young people continue to fall. These factors will present challenges to Council and other agencies concerned with planning for Lithgow's future.

I look forward to Council's continued work with the community and other agencies in achieving the actions listed in the Social Plan.

Councillor Neville Castle
Mayor
December 2008



Table of Contents

<i>Message from the Mayor</i>	Pg 1
Table of Contents	2
1. Preamble	3
2. Community Social Profile	7
3. Target Group Profiles – Mandatory	
• Children	27
• Young People	43
• Women	56
• People with Disabilities	68
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	80
• People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds	91
• Older People	101
Target Group Profiles – Additional	
• Men	113
• Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People	124
• Department of Housing Residents	128
• Sole Parents	137
4. Community Action Plan	146
5. Appendices	
• Service Inventory	150
• Target Group Action Plans	163
• Community Service Providers Focus Group Report	178
• Acknowledgements	179
• List of Tables	180
• List of Figures	182
• List of Abbreviations	183
• Bibliography	184



Living in the Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Lithgow City Council has produced this 2008 update of the 2006 Social Profile using data from the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing, data that was not available at the time Council's Social Plan was developed in 2006.

Unless otherwise shown, all data in this profile has been updated using the 2006 Census. Some data in the People with Disabilities target group profile however remains unchanged as 2006 updates are not yet available.

Community consultation outcomes and action plans have not been updated from the 2006 originals.

Service Inventories have been updated.

The Lithgow Local Government Area (LGA) is a relatively large geographical area located approximately 140 kilometres west of the Sydney CBD and within the eastern part of the Central West Region. The Lithgow LGA lies almost wholly within the Wiradjuri Aboriginal nation, with the Gundungurra nation situated to the south and the Darug nation to the east.

The Lithgow LGA is made up of one large urban centre Lithgow, the townships of Portland and Wallerawang and numerous villages, hamlets and rural localities of varying proximity to Lithgow.

There are about 20 000 people living in the Lithgow LGA. The Lithgow LGA is currently classified as a small rural LGA.

The social planning process has identified a number of social characteristics and community perceptions which contribute to an

over all picture of life in the Lithgow LGA. These are detailed within the community and target group profiles contained in this Plan, however at a glance:

- In the 10 years between 1996 and 2006, Lithgow LGA had a 2.6% rate of population growth which was well below the NSW average of 8.7% but higher than the Central West region rate of -0.9%.
- The Lithgow LGA median age increased from 34 years in 1996 to 37 years in 2001 and again to 40 years in 2006. By comparison, in 2006 the median age of the Central West was 38 years and NSW 37 years.
- The Lithgow LGA had a slightly older than average population which is ageing at a relatively fast rate compared with NSW.
- There were proportionately fewer young people aged 20–24, 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 living in the Lithgow LGA compared with NSW.
- In Lithgow there were significant declines between 1996 and 2006 in the numbers of children, young people aged 20-24 and adults aged 25-54 years.
- In Lithgow there were more men than women in almost all age groups up to age 60.
- The Lithgow LGA had a higher than NSW average of Indigenous people. The indigenous population in Lithgow grew by approximately 50% between 1996 and 2006, with the greatest percentage increases being people aged 45 years and over.
- The Lithgow LGA had significant cultural diversity with people from a wide variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, however the numbers of people from these backgrounds was relatively small.
- People in the Lithgow LGA had lower median incomes compared with NSW and the Central West region.

- The Lithgow LGA had a higher level of unemployment compared with the Central West and NSW.
- Proportionately more people in the Lithgow LGA owned their own homes compared with the Central West region and NSW.
- People in the Lithgow LGA had significantly lower levels of Higher School Certificate or University qualification completion than in NSW, and higher rates of trade certificate qualifications.
- Population health data indicates that the Lithgow LGA faces a number of significant challenges in relation to a range of health issues.
- The Lithgow LGA has relatively high rates of recorded crime in relation to domestic violence related assaults, sexual assaults and assaults in general.
- There are geographical pockets of significant relative social disadvantage within the Lithgow LGA.

A number of significant community strengths and perceived advantages of living in the Lithgow LGA were identified in the course of developing this Plan. These strengths and advantages are likely to contribute to community resilience in the face of challenges. They include:

- Social connectedness and a perception that the community is friendly, supportive and "close knit".
- The geography and environmental setting of the area, with considerable natural beauty, fresh air and close proximity to mountains, bush and national parks.
- The significant heritage of the area.
- Slow paced lifestyle relative to metropolitan LGAs.
- Relative proximity and ease of access to Sydney.
- The range and quality of community services and facilities.

In addition to these identified strengths and advantages, it is worth highlighting that there exists considerable networking, partnership

and good will between community stakeholders in the Lithgow LGA. There are currently a range of community groups and forums which seek to work together to improve social outcomes in the Lithgow LGA. These include a large number of locality based progress associations, issues based committees and interagency.

Social Planning in the Lithgow LGA

Why a Social Plan?

The Department of Local Government requires all local councils in NSW to develop a social/community plan and report on all identified access and equity activities in their annual reports. This requirement is set out by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

This document forms the Lithgow LGA Social Plan from 2006 - 2011. The first Social Plan for the Lithgow LGA was produced in 2000. The Department of Local Government Guidelines require councils to review Social Plans in their entirety every five years. The review period for the Lithgow LGA was extended by the Department of Local Government from 2004 to 2006 in recognition of boundary changes in May 2004 where the Lithgow LGA was augmented by areas from the former Evans and Rylstone Shire Councils.

This Social Plan is underpinned by four key social justice principles as identified in the NSW Government's Social Justice Directions Statement (2000). These are:

- **Equity:** meaning there should be fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those in need. This means that planning processes should pay close attention to involving and protecting the interests of people in vulnerable circumstances.
- **Access:** meaning that all people should have fair access to economic resources, services and rights

essential to improving their quality of life.

- **Participation:** meaning all people should have the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions which affect their lives.
- **Rights:** equality of rights should be established, promoted and protected.

An Integrated Approach

Careful attention has been taken to promote the integration of this Social Plan across the variety of Council's functions and activities. It is recognised within the social planning process that social and community characteristics, trends and issues do not exist in isolation and therefore need to be incorporated across a range of Council's planning functions, as well as promoted for consideration in other community and government processes. For example, a number of issues and associated actions within this Social Plan refer to partnering and lobbying activities. Particular importance has been given to relating the Social Plan to the current strategic planning process being undertaken by Council, and to ensure that processes to include the action items in budget considerations are undertaken.

Methodology

This Social Plan has been developed in house by Council with considerable direction and assistance from the Social Plan Working Group, which is made up of Councillors, Council Officers and Community Service provider representatives. Council thanks those who have participated in the Working Group or who have provided feedback on the document throughout its formulation.

This Social Plan targets the whole of the Lithgow LGA as well as eleven specific target groups, identified to facilitate the incorporation of the social justice principles underpinning this Plan. Seven of the target groups are mandated by the Department of Local Government. These are children, young people, women, people with disabilities,

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and older people. Additional target groups included at the request of the Social Plan Working Group are men, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, Department of Housing residents and sole parents.

The Social Plan includes a number of components. A study of demographic and other data sources was undertaken in order to develop the demographic profiles contained for the community as well as for the eleven target groups.

A community needs assessment was undertaken utilising focus group research methodology. Focus groups were conducted with self selected representatives from all of the target groups as well as service providers, and were publicised in a number of ways including local media and community forums. The focus group facilitators sought and recorded answers to the following questions:

- What is good about the community?
- What is not so good about the community?
- What is needed by this group?

Responses to these questions were collated and have been included within the target group profiles contained in this Social Plan.

A review of the previous Social Plan is embedded within the target group profiles, under the sub titles "Actions to Date".

Core issues were identified as a result of the community needs assessment considered in conjunction with demographic factors and other evidence as identified in the profiles. The core issues identified informed the formation of social planning objectives for each of the target groups, and a synthesis of these issues and objectives across the target groups informed the development of an overarching Community Action Plan. A focus group was also held with Community Service Providers. The results of this group have been incorporated into the target group and community issues and action plans as

appropriate, and have been documented as an Appendix to the Social Plan.

Community engagement and participation in the development of this Social Plan has been invited through invitation into focus group participation, by supplementing this input with mailed surveys such as in the case of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse group, and by inviting comment during a period of public exhibition of a draft of the document. Opportunities to view the draft were provided at a variety of locations throughout the LGA, as well as via the Council website, in an attempt to enable maximum access across the community. Comments were reviewed and incorporated into a final draft of the Social Plan for the consideration for adoption by Council.

Council emphasises that its Social Plan is an active document. An annual review of priorities will take place throughout the life of the Social Plan, and will be incorporated into management planning and annual reporting activities for the coming five years.



Community Profile

boundary changes which incorporated small areas of Rylstone and Evans LGA's.

Geographical Location

The Lithgow LGA covers approximately 4 551 square kilometres (an increase from 3 517 square kilometres, prior to boundary changes in May 2004) and covers an area from Little Hartley in the East, Hampton-Tarana in the South, Meadow Flat in the West and Capertee and Wolgan Valley in the North. The Lithgow LGA is bordered by six other Local Government Areas - Bathurst Regional LGA in the West, Mid Western Regional LGA in the North West, Singleton LGA in the North East, City of Hawkesbury LGA in the East, City of Blue Mountains LGA in the South East and Oberon LGA in the South West. Approximately two thirds of the Lithgow LGA is National Parks or State Forests. Figure 2.1 is the current Department of Lands map of the Lithgow LGA and shows the 2004 boundary changes.

Geographical Distribution of Population

The Lithgow LGA includes the urban centres of Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang (being population clusters of more than one thousand people under the Australian Standard Geographical Classifications 2001) plus a number of rural localities.

Cullen Bullen is a population cluster classified as a rural locality (that having 200 – 999 people). Other smaller rural populations in the Ben Bullen, Capertee, Glen Alice, Glen Davis, Hartley, Sodwalls, Rydal, Hampton, Tarana and Marrangaroo. Table 2.1 is a breakdown of the population of the Lithgow LGA by ABS Urban Centre/Locality classification.

Population

Population and Population Growth

At the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census, the Lithgow LGA population was 19 756. The population of the Lithgow LGA was 11.6% of the population of the Central West and 0.3% of the population of NSW.

Table 2.1 Population clusters by ABS Urban Centres/Localities 2006

Location	Population
Lithgow	11 298
Wallerawang	1 906
Portland	1 882
Cullen Bullen	199
Other	4 114
Total	19 756

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Although the population of Lithgow LGA fell slightly between 1996 and 2001, it increased by 559 people or 2.9% between 2001 and 2006. The overall increase between 1996 and 2006 was 508 people or 2.6 %. By comparison, between 1996 and 2006 the population of the Central West fell by 0.9% and NSW increased by 8.7%. **See Table 2.4.** Note that the 1996 and 2001 figures have been adjusted in line with the May 2004 LGA

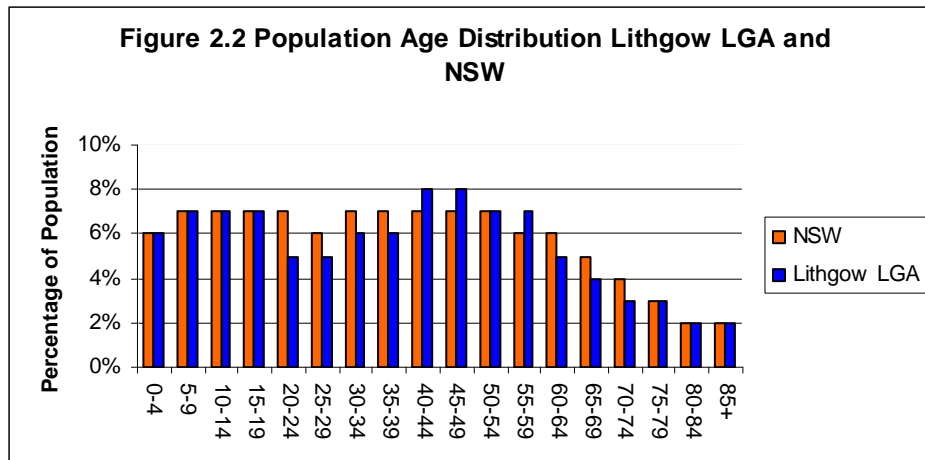
Figure 2.1 Map of the Lithgow LGA



Age Distribution

Table 2.4 shows that the Lithgow LGA had a slightly older median age than the Central West and NSW. In 2006 the Lithgow LGA had a median age of 40 years, up from 37 years in 2001 and 34 years in 1996. The Central West median age in 2006 was 38 years and the NSW median age was 37 years. Table 2.2 gives an indication of age distribution in the Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census.

Figure 2.2 shows a comparison between Lithgow LGA and NSW as a whole across 5 year age groupings. In some age groups NSW had a significantly higher percentage of the population than the Lithgow LGA, particularly in the 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups and to a lesser extent in the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups. Lithgow however has a higher percentage of people aged between 40 and 59 years.



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 2.2 Age by Sex of Males & Females in Lithgow LGA

Age	Males	Females	Total
0-4	586	549	1 135
5-9	697	602	1 299
10-14	732	694	1 426
15-19	690	674	1 364
20-24	524	456	980
25-29	481	462	943
30-34	611	603	1 214
35-39	668	593	1 261
40-44	720	765	1 485
45-49	806	710	1 516
50-54	705	682	1 387
55-59	770	681	1 451
60-64	654	598	1 252
65-69	464	473	942
70-74	382	376	738
75-79	295	336	631
80-84	152	261	413
85 and over	95	223	318
Total	10 017	9 738	19 755

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006



Community Profile

Age Distribution over Time

Table 2.3 shows that there were significant population declines in the ten years from 1996-2006 for children, young people aged 20-24 years and adults aged 25-54 years.

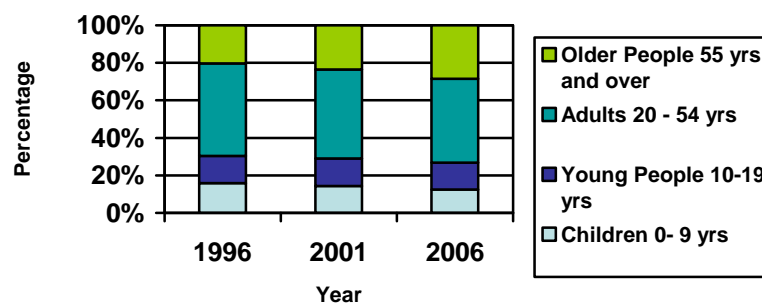
There were however significant increases in the number of older people in the same period. Figure 2.3 shows changes in the percentage of each age group in the total population.

Table 2.3 Population by Age Group over time in the Lithgow LGA

Age Structure	1996	2001	2006	% Change 1996-2006
Children (0-4 yrs)	1 538	1 314	1 134	-26.3%
Children (5-9 yrs)	1 573	1 475	1 294	-17.7%
Young People (10-19 yrs)	2 815	2 882	2 756	-2.1%
Young People (20-24 yrs)	1 237	1 014	958	-22.5%
Adults (25-54 years)	8 399	8240	7705	-8.3%
Older People (55 - 64yrs)	1 678	2 101	2 618	+56%
Older People (65 years and over)	2 288	2 500	2 905	+27%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

**Figure 2.3 Age groupings as percentage of total population over time
Lithgow LGA**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Population Projections

The latest population projections produced by the NSW Department of Planning in 2005* project almost no population increase for Lithgow over the 25 years between 2006 and 2031. Their projection is a population of 20 840 in the year 2031 however their projection of 20 880 for the year 2006 is approximately 1 100 greater than the actual 2006 census population, so the 2031 projection may not be reached.

Caution needs to be applied when looking at population projections – they cannot be treated as “predictions”, but rather as estimates of future population sizes after applying sets of assumptions. Changes in economic circumstances and changes in the availability of new land for employment and housing may have an impact on the Lithgow population. Lithgow Council, in its 2007 Lithgow City Council Strategic Plan has identified a desirable growth rate of 1% to 2% per year for the period to 2025. This would increase the total population to between 25,500 and 31,000.

Age Projections

The Department of Planning* also projects that the Lithgow population will further age in the period to 2031. The percentage of 0-14 year olds will fall from 21.7% of the population in 2001 to 13.2% in 2031. The percentage of people aged 65 years and over will increase from 13.2% in 2001 to 31.6% in 2031. The median age in 2031 will be 51, up from 37 in 2001.

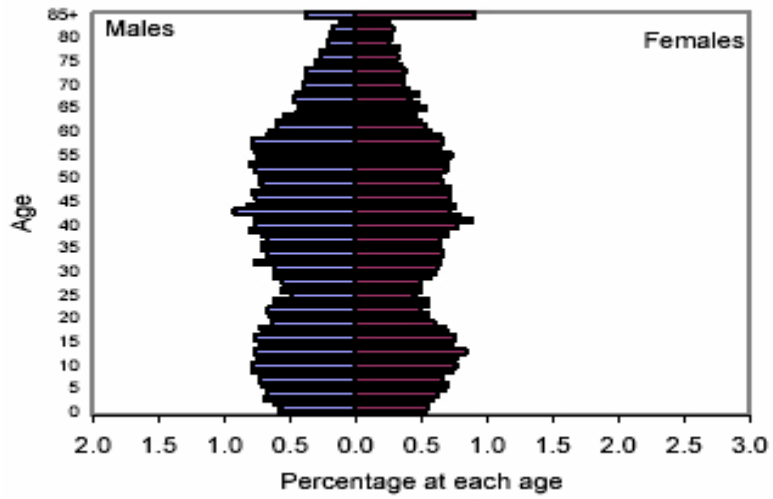
**NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections 2001 -2031 2005 Release. NSW Department of Planning*

The NSW Population Ageing Project in 2004 developed provisional projections for the amalgamated Lithgow LGA. These showed the Lithgow LGA as the 88th oldest LGA out of NSW's 154 LGA's. The report used projections to predict that the Lithgow LGA would be the 46th oldest LGA in NSW by 2022. Projections for ageing in the report indicated

that “premature ageing” caused by migration related loss of young people and/or migration gain in older age groups, combined with general population ageing, would mean that the Lithgow LGA will age at a significantly higher rate than the populations of NSW, Greater Sydney and the balance of NSW. Figures 2.4 and 2.5 depict the population age structures in the Lithgow LGA according to the 2004 estimates and future projections for 2022.

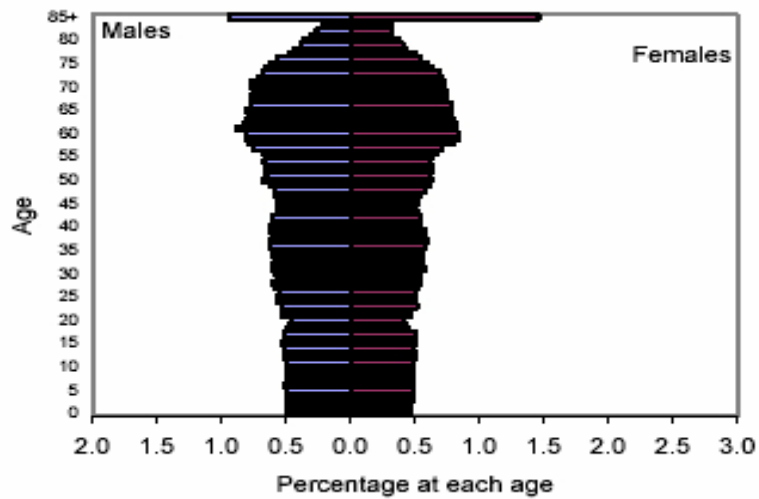
Note that at the time this Social Plan was updated in 2008, updates to the 2005 Population Projections produced by the NSW Department of Planning were not available.

Figure 2.4 2004 Population Age Structure Lithgow LGA



Source: NSW LGSA Local Government Population Ageing Project

Figure 2.5 Projected 2022 Population Age Structure Lithgow LGA



Source: NSW LGSA Local Government Population Ageing Project

Selected Population Characteristics of Lithgow LGA

the Lithgow LGA, the Central West and NSW from the ABS 2006 Census. The Central West region is the area bounded by Lithgow and Oberon in the east, Mid Western in the north, Parkes and Lachlan Shires in the west and Bland in the south.

Table 2.4 outlines selected characteristics of

Table 2.4 Selected Characteristics Lithgow LGA, Central West Region and NSW

ABS Census	City of Lithgow LGA	Central West Region	NSW
Population			
Total Population 2006	19 756	170 899	6 549 178
Total Population 2001	19 197	170 180	6 371 745
Total Population 1996	19 248	172 438	6 024 728
% Change 1996 - 2006	+2.6%	-0.9%	+8.7%
ABS Census 2006			
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People			
Aboriginal	563	7 294	130 787
Torres Strait Islander	28	203	4 771
Identifying as Both	15	134	2 949
Total Indigenous Persons	606	7 631	138 507
Indigenous population as percentage of Total Population	3.1%	4.5%	2.1%
Born in Australia	16 837 85.2%	150 369 88.0%	4 521 155 69.0%
Born Overseas	1 718 8.7%	11 112 6.5%	1 555 842 23.8%
Speaks English Only	18 088 91.6%	159 439 93.3%	4 846 670 74.0%
Speaks language other than English	481 2.4%	4 000 2.3%	1 314 556 20.1%
Employed	7 718	73 275	2 909 444
Unemployed	716	4 896	183 159
Not in the Labour Force	6 615	49 854	1 801 010
Unemployment Rate (official ABS) %	8.5%	6.3%	5.9%
Labour Force Participation %	53.1%	58.2%	58.9%
Mobility			
Same address 5 years ago	11 148 59.9%	89 307 55.9%	3 369 032 55.0%
Different address same SLA* 5 years ago <i>*Statistical Local Area</i>	3 299 17.7%	29 119 18.2%	798 806 13.0%
Different address elsewhere in Australia 5 years ago	2 673 14.4%	29 907 18.7%	1 219 375 36.2%
Overseas 5 years ago	99 0.5%	1 417 0.9%	277 961 4.5%
Median Age	40	38	37
Median weekly individual income	\$353	\$389	\$461
Median weekly family income	\$1 026	\$1 053	\$1 181
Median weekly household income	\$738	\$808	\$1 036
Average household size	2.4	2.5	2.6

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006
(Percentages unless otherwise stated are of total population in geographical area)

Table 2.4 shows that:

- Lithgow LGA had a higher percentage of indigenous people than NSW as a whole but a lesser percentage than the Central West region.
- Lithgow LGA had a significantly higher percentage of Australian born residents than NSW as a whole but a lesser percentage than the Central West Region.
- Almost 92% of Lithgow residents spoke English only at home compared to 74% in NSW as a whole.
- Lithgow LGA's unemployment rate of 8.5% was significantly higher than both NSW as a whole and the Central West.
- Lithgow LGA had a less mobile population than both NSW as a whole and the Central West with almost 60% of residents living at the same address 5 years before the 2006 census.

Table 2.4 shows that in 2006 the median weekly **individual** income in Lithgow LGA was \$356 compared to \$389 in the Central West and \$460 for NSW.

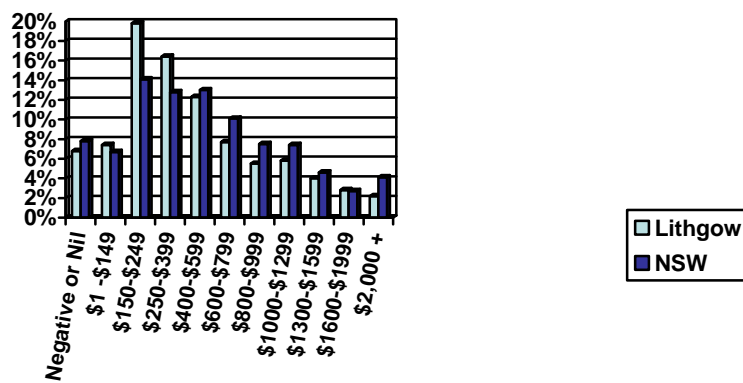
Median weekly **family** incomes in Lithgow were \$1 026 compared to \$1 053 in the Central West and \$1 181 for NSW.

Figure 2.6 shows the percentage of individuals within each weekly income band for Lithgow LGA and NSW as a whole. The percentage of individuals in Lithgow LGA earning incomes below \$400 per week was higher than for NSW as a whole. Similarly, the percentage of individuals in Lithgow LGA earning incomes above \$400 per week was lower than for NSW as a whole.

Income

The median incomes of individuals, families and households in Lithgow LGA were lower than in both the Central West region and NSW as a whole. The median income is the point at which 50% of people earn less and 50% earn more.

Figure 2.6 Weekly Individual Incomes - Lithgow LGA and NSW



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 2.5 Work Patterns for People over 15 Years in the Lithgow LGA and NSW

Work Patterns (15 years and over)	Lithgow LGA	% of Total population over 15 years	NSW	% of Total population over 15 years
Working full time	4 826	30.4	1 879 628	35.8
Working part time	2 404	15.1	842 713	16.1
Away from work	287	1.8	103 525	2.0
Not Stated	201	1.3	83 578	1.6
Total in Employment	7 718	48.6	2 909 444	55.4
Unemployed looking for work	716	4.5	183 159	3.5
Total Labour Force	8434	53.1	3 092 603	58.9
Total not in labour force	6 615	41.6	1 801 010	34.3
Not Stated	848	5.3	356 648	6.8
Total population over 15	15 897		5 250 261	
Unemployment rate	8.5%		5.9%	
Labour force participation	53.1%		58.9%	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Employment

Table 2.5 shows work patterns for the Lithgow LGA compared with NSW. In 2006 the percentage of people in the Lithgow LGA in full time employment was significantly less than in NSW as a whole. Labour force participation in Lithgow was also significantly less than in NSW as a whole.

At the 2006 Census 48.6% of people over the age of 15 years living in the Lithgow LGA were in paid employment compared to 55.4% in NSW as a whole. At the 2006 Census, the official ABS unemployment rate for Lithgow LGA was 8.5% which was higher than both the Central West (6.3%) and NSW (5.9%).

Table 2.6 shows that at the 2006 Census, people living in the Lithgow LGA were more likely than people in NSW as a whole to be employed in technical and trades, community and personal services, machinery operating and driving and labouring and less likely than people in NSW as a whole to be employed in

managerial, professional and clerical and administrative positions.

Table 2.6 Occupations of people over 15 years in the Lithgow LGA and NSW

Occupation	Lithgow LGA	%	NSW %
Managers	816	10.6	13.6
Professional	887	11.5	21.2
Technicians and Trades Workers	1 362	17.6	13.6
Community and Personal Service Workers	857	11.1	8.6
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1 007	13.0	15.4
Sales	689	8.9	9.7
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1020	13.2	6.4
Labouring	952	12.3	9.5
Total	7 720		

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Housing Characteristics

Table 2.7 Housing and Accommodation over Time

	1996	1996	2001	2001	2006	2006
Type of tenure	Occupied Dwellings	% ¹ of Total	Occupied Dwellings	% ¹ of Total	Occupied Dwellings	% ¹ of Total
Fully Owned	3 499	48.8	3 575	47.9	3 206	41.4
Being purchased (b)	1 646	22.9	1 747	23.4	2 148	27.7
Total Owned or Purchased	5 145	71.7	5 322	71.3	5 354	69.2
Other tenure type (d) and tenure type not stated	277	3.9	393	5.3	505	6.5
Rented		% of Total Rented Dwellings		% of Total Rented Dwellings		% of Total Rented Dwellings
Real Estate Agent	618	35.3	640	36.5	815	43.3
Housing Authority	501	28.6	443	25.3	438	23.3
Person not in same household	394	22.5	468	26.7	457	24.3
Housing Cooperative	26	1.5	31	1.7	32	1.7
Other Landlord and landlord type not stated	213	12.2	170	9.7	141	7.5
Total Rented	1 752	24.4¹	1 752	23.5¹	1 883	24.3¹
Not stated and other tenure type	277	3.9¹	393	5.3¹	505	6.5¹
Total occupied private dwellings	7 174		7 467		7 742	

¹ Percentage of total occupied private dwellings

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Table 2.7 shows that at the time of the 2006 Census, 5 354 (69.2%) of a total of 7 742 occupied private dwellings in the Lithgow LGA were either fully owned or being purchased. These figures compared with 68.0% in the Central West and 63.4% in NSW as a whole. The percentage of dwellings in Lithgow LGA which were either fully owned or being purchased fell from 71.7% in 1996 to 69.2% in 2006.

The proportion of rented occupied dwellings in the Lithgow LGA remained almost unchanged between 1996 and 2006 at 24.3%. The Central West proportion of rented dwellings in 2006 was 28.1% and for NSW the proportion was 28.4%.

Education

Table 2.8 shows that in 2006, Lithgow LGA residents attended pre-schools, primary and secondary schools and TAFE institutions at similar rates to the Central West and NSW. University attendance in Lithgow was however markedly less than in the Central West and NSW as a whole. This perhaps partly reflects the lower proportions of young people completing Year 12 high school and the fact that there is no university in Lithgow.

Table 2.8 also shows that a higher percentage of the Lithgow population has completed Year 10 high school than is the case in the Central West and NSW as a whole. Lithgow residents are however only almost half as likely to have completed a Higher School Certificate or equivalent compared to those in NSW as a whole. People in the Lithgow LGA also have significantly lower rates of tertiary qualification compared to the Central West and NSW. Certificate level qualifications are higher in the Lithgow LGA than in the Central

Table 2.8 Selected Educational Characteristics for the Lithgow LGA, Central West and NSW

	Lithgow LGA Males	Lithgow LGA Females	Lithgow LGA All Persons	Lithgow %	Central West Region %	NSW %
Population						
Total Population 2006	10 017	9 739	19 756			
Population currently attending an educational institution				Percentage of population currently attending an educational institution		
Pre-school	183	126	309	5.1	6.0	5.4
Infants/Primary	893	790	1 683	27.9	30.0	26.1
Secondary	632	702	1 334	22.1	23.7	20.9
Technical or Further Educational Institution	288	255	543	9.0	8.0	7.7
University or other Tertiary Institution	87	169	256	4.2	7.6	11.4
Other type of educational institution	26	57	83	1.4	1.2	2.0
Not Stated	1 079	740	1 819	30.2	23.7	26.6
Total	3 188	2 839	6 027			
Highest Level of Schooling Completed				Percentage of total responses		
Year 8 or below	754	752	1 506	9.5	9.1	6.7
Year 9 or equivalent	937	1 064	2 001	12.6	11.1	7.9
Year 10 or equivalent	3 101	2 767	5 868	36.9	34.2	25.8
Year 11 or equivalent	506	534	1 040	6.5	6.4	5.9
Year 12 or equivalent	1 573	1 998	3 571	22.5	29.6	42.4
Still at School	1 090	757	1 847	11.6	9.2	10.2
Did not go to school	46	22	68	0.4	0.4	1.0
	8 007	7 894	15 901			
Non School Qualification (level)				Percentage of total responses		
Postgraduate Degree	59	57	116	1.5	2.5	5.7
Graduate Degree and Graduate Certificate	43	89	132	1.7	2.1	2.3
Bachelor Degree	296	483	779	10.3	15.2	22.2
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	312	430	742	9.8	11.7	13.6
Certificate	2 436	953	3 389	44.9	41.1	30.9
Not described or stated	1 282	1 105	2 387	31.6	27.4	25.4
Total	4 428	3 117	7 545			

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

West and NSW as a whole.

Health Characteristics of the Lithgow LGA

Note: This Health Characteristics section was not updated in 2008 and remains unchanged from the original 2006 Social Plan.

Morbidity and Mortality data collected and reported by Sydney West Area Health Services' Centre for Epidemiology, Indicators, Research and Evaluation (2005) show that the Lithgow LGA faces a number of serious health issues.

Morbidity data in this summary is largely taken from separation rates from hospitals in the Lithgow LGA for the three year financial period 2000-2003 (which in turn is taken from patient episode based data collection by NSW Health). The Lithgow LGA has significantly higher hospital separation rates than the NSW average or Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS). Standardised rate ratios calculated by SWAHS indicate that the Lithgow LGA has hospital separation rates 26% higher than the average for NSW.

The Lithgow LGA has a higher than NSW average for hospital separation rates across a number of causes. Significantly higher rates for the Lithgow LGA are identified by SWAHS for: all cancers, cerebrovascular disease, ischemic heart disease, acute myocardial infarction, all injury, asthma, and diabetes. Asthma and diabetes hospital separation rates are particularly high in relation to the NSW averages with asthma rates 80% higher than the NSW rate and diabetes rates more than 100% higher than the NSW rate.

Mortality rates for the Lithgow LGA, measured by the ABS, also indicate health concerns. Average annual rates for all causes of death for the period 2000-2002 indicate the annual death rate for the Lithgow LGA is more than 30% higher than NSW and significantly higher than the remaining LGA's within the SWAHS boundaries. For males the rate is 25% higher than the NSW male rate, and for females the rate is 40% higher than the NSW female rate.

Premature death rates, which is one of the most important indicators for the health of a community according to SWAHS, also indicate concern for the health status of the population of the Lithgow LGA. The premature death rate for the Lithgow LGA (which measure rates of death occurring before the age of 75 years) is 32% higher than the NSW rate.

NSW Health survey data, also reported by Sydney West Area Health Services' Centre for Epidemiology, Indicators, Research and Evaluation, supports the notion that the Lithgow LGA faces significant health issues. The report measures six health risk factors through self report. The data indicates significantly elevated rates (compared with both rural and urban area health data) for smoking; overweight and obesity; inadequate physical activity; and poor general health. The report indicates an elevated rate of risk drinking (compared with urban but not rural rates) but not high risk drinking. Self reports for psychological distress were slightly lower for the Lithgow LGA compared with rural and urban areas.

Characteristics of Townships within Lithgow LGA

Table 2.9 shows selected characteristics of Lithgow (urban centre), Wallerawang, Portland, Cullen Bullen and the Lithgow LGA.

Population

At the 2006 Census, the population of:

- Lithgow urban centre was 11 298 (58.2% of Lithgow LGA).
- Wallerawang was 1 906 (9.8% of Lithgow LGA).
- Portland was 1 882 (9.7% of Lithgow LGA)
- Cullen Bullen was 199 (1.0% of Lithgow LGA).

Population Growth

Population growth was very modest between 2001 and 2006. Lithgow LGA as a whole recorded a population increase of 1.1% but Wallerawang and Cullen Bullen both recorded small population decreases. Lithgow Urban Area recorded a 2.4% increase and Portland a 3.6% increase.

Age

The percentage of 0-4 and 5-14 year olds in Wallerawang were higher than the Lithgow LGA average.

The percentage of people aged 65 years and over was highest in Lithgow urban area.

Portland had the highest median age (42 years) and Wallerawang the lowest (36 years).

Indigenous People

Lithgow urban area had the highest number of indigenous people and people born overseas. Portland had the highest percentage of indigenous people.

Unemployment

Unemployment rates across the LGA as a whole (8.5%) and in all townships exceeded the NSW average of 5.9%. See Table 2.10.

Income

Cullen Bullen had the lowest median weekly individual, family and household incomes and Wallerawang had the highest incomes across these same measures. See Table 2.12.

Housing Characteristics

Table 2.10 shows that Cullen Bullen had the highest percentage (79.5%) of private dwellings that are fully owned or being purchased followed by Portland (78.6%).

Lithgow Urban Area and Wallerawang had the highest percentage of rented dwellings.

The highest percentage of Public Housing Authority dwellings (ie. Department of Housing) were in Wallerawang followed by Lithgow Urban Area.

Education Levels

Only 22.5% of the total Lithgow LGA population have completed year 12 high school or equivalent. In Wallerawang, Portland and Cullen Bullen a smaller percentage completed year 12 or equivalent.

22.1% of the total Lithgow LGA population left school by year 9 or equivalent. In Cullen Bullen the percentage was much higher but the numbers were small. See Table 2.12.

Income

Income levels varied considerably across townships. Weekly

Transport

As would be expected in a regional area like Lithgow, the motor vehicle is the predominant means of transport. Table 2.11 details from the 2006 Census, motor vehicle ownership levels and the methods that people used to travel to work across Lithgow. In the Lithgow urban area, 16.5% of households had no motor vehicle which was a significantly higher than in both the Central West region and NSW as a whole. The Lithgow LGA average of 12.3% was also slightly above the NSW rate. In the Lithgow urban area, where people have relatively easier access to public transport and services, having no motor vehicle may not present the same difficulties than it would in

remoter townships of Portland with 10.4% of households having no motor vehicle and Wallerawang with 8.4%.

family and household incomes were highest in Wallerawang and were also above the LGA average. Weekly individual, family and household incomes in Cullen Bullen were the lowest and were also well below the LGA average.

travelled to work by motor vehicle, either as driver or passenger. This was well above the Central West and NSW rates. Very few people travelled to work by train. Rates of walking to work in Lithgow LGA (5.1%) and Lithgow urban area (6.4%) were above the NSW average.

Motor vehicle ownership rates in Wallerawang are higher than elsewhere in Lithgow. 40.9% of households in Wallerawang had two motor vehicles and 14.9% had three or more motor vehicles. Both rates were above the NSW average. 71.2% of people in Lithgow LGA

Table 2.9 Selected Population Characteristics of Lithgow Townships

Characteristics	Lithgow Urban Area	Wallerawang	Portland	Cullen Bullen	Lithgow LGA
Total Persons 2006	11 298	1 906	1 882	199	19 399
Total Persons 2001	11 033	1 935	1 817	207	19550
Population growth 2001-2006	+2.4%	-1.5%	+3.6%	-3.9%	-0.8%
2006 Census					
Females	5 740	936	928	93	9 526
Males	5 558	970	954	106	9 844
Children 0-4 yrs					
Number	644	146	111	14	1 136
%	5.7%	7.7%	5.9%	7.0%	5.6%
Children 5-14 yrs					
Number	1 537	303	250	25	2 724
%	13.6%	15.9%	13.3%	12.6%	14%
Total Persons 15 years & over	9 117	1 457	1 521	160	15 547
Total Persons 65 years & over					
Number	1 988	196	316	17	3 038
%	17.6%	10.3%	16.8%	8.5%	15.7%
Median Age (years)	40	36	42	40	40
Aboriginal	332	41	68	7	563
Torres Strait Islander	22	3	0	0	28
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	9	6	0	0	15
Total Indigenous Persons					
Number	363	50	68	7	606
%	3.2%	2.6%	3.6%	3.5%	3.1%
Born in Australia	9 770	1 705	1 552	180	16 837
Born overseas	905	120	125	9	1 718
Speaks English only	10 605	1 811	1 654	191	18 088
Speaks language other than English	275	41	43	5	481
Australian Citizens	10 382	1 793	1 622	186	17 742

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006



Community Profile

Table 2.10 Employment and Housing Characteristics of Lithgow Townships 2006

Characteristics	Lithgow Urban Area	Wallerawang	Portland	Cullen Bullen	Lithgow LGA
People aged 15 years and over	9 115	1 457	1 521	155	15 897
Employed (15 years & over)					
Full time	2 686	489	378	41	4 826
Part time	1404	218	179	22	2 404
Employed – away from work	156	31	31	0	287
Hours not stated	109	21	18	0	201
Total Employed	4 355	759	606	63	7 718
<i>% of people aged 15 years and over¹</i>	<i>47.8%</i>	<i>52.0%</i>	<i>39.8%</i>	<i>40.6%</i>	<i>48.6%</i>
Unemployed (15 years & over)	455	73	71	13	707
Total labour force (15 years & over) % ¹	4 810 <i>52.8%</i>	832 <i>57.1%</i>	677 <i>44.5%</i>	76 <i>49.0%</i>	8 434 <i>53.1%</i>
Not in the labour force (15 years & over) % ¹	3 881 <i>42.6%</i>	575 <i>39.5%</i>	675 <i>44.4%</i>	75 <i>48.4%</i>	6 388 <i>40.2%</i>
Official unemployment rate (15 years & over)	<i>9.5%</i>	<i>8.5%</i>	<i>9.9%</i>	<i>19.7%</i>	<i>8.5%</i>
Housing (occupied private dwellings)					
Fully owned	1 864	245	326	36	3 206
Being Purchased	1 171	239	201	22	2 148
Total owned and being purchased	3 035	484	527	58	5 354
Fully owned and being purchased as % of all occupied private dwellings	<i>66.6%</i>	<i>70.0%</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>79.5%</i>	<i>69.2%</i>
Rented					
Real Estate Agent	655	55	62	6	815
State/Territory Housing Authority	347	78	10	0	438
Person not in same household	262	46	41	3	457
Housing Cooperative/community/church group	32	0	0	0	32
Other landlord type	23	5	11	0	72
Not Stated	30	3	0	3	69
Total Rented	1 349	187	124	12	1 883
Total rented as % of all occupied private dwellings	<i>29.6%</i>	<i>27.1%</i>	<i>18.5%</i>	<i>16.4%</i>	<i>24.3%</i>
Other and not stated	171	20	19	3	505
Total Occupied private dwellings	4 555	691	670	73	7 742
Average household size (people)	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.4

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Transport

Table 2.11 Motor Vehicle Ownership and Method of Travel to Work of Lithgow Townships

	Lithgow Urban Area	Wallerawang	Portland	Cullen Bullen	Lithgow LGA	Central West	NSW
Number and % of Motor Vehicles by occupied private dwelling (including motor bikes and scooters)							
Households with no motor vehicles	750 16.5%	58 8.4%	70 10.4%	7 9.3%	918 12.3%	5 894 9.4%	271 156 11.6%
Households with one motor vehicle	1 778 39.0%	226 32.8%	254 37.9%	25 33.3%	2 629 35.3%	21 913 34.8%	892 686 38.3%
Households with two motor vehicles	1 333 29.3%	282 40.9%	233 34.8%	24 32.0%	2 503 33.6%	22 379 35.5%	770 773 33.1%
Households with three or more motor vehicles	480 10.5%	103 14.9%	91 13.6%	11 14.7%	1 093 14.7%	10 446 16.6%	303 035 13.0%
Number occupied private dwellings	4 554	690	670	75	7 439	63 013	2 328 218
Method of Travel to Work (Number and % of total employed)							
Train (including train plus other method)	33 0.8%	5 0.7%	3 0.5%		48 0.6%	89 0.1%	201 439 6.9%
Bus	12 0.3%	0 0%	4 0.7%		18 0.2%	385 0.5%	134 968 4.6%
Car as Driver	2 766 63.5%	510 67.2%	383 63.0%	47 74.6%	4 877 63.2%	43 971 60%	1 639 528 56.4%
Car as Passenger	353 8.1%	45 5.9%	56 9.2%	3 4.8%	539 7.0%	5 138 7.0%	166 871 5.7%
Truck	53 1.2%	11 1.4%	15 2.5%		134 1.7%	1 668 2.3%	45 953 1.6%
Taxi	22 0.5%	0 0%	0 0%		25 0.3%	177 0.2%	8 219 0.3%
Motor bike/ scooter	18 0.4%	5 0.7%	7 1.2%		38 0.5%	457 0.6%	16 495 0.6%
Bicycle	37 0.8%	11 1.4%	0 0%		54 0.7%	520 0.7%	19 274 0.7%
Walked only	278 6.4%	28 3.7%	17 2.8%		391 5.1%	4 332 5.9%	127 446 4.4%
Worked at home	105 2.4%	18 2.4%	10 1.6%	3 4.8%	368 4.8%	5 976 8.2%	138 641 4.8%
Total Respondents	4 355	759	608	63	7 721	73 274	2 909 439

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 2.12 Education Levels and Median Income levels of Lithgow Townships

Characteristics	Lithgow Urban Area	Wallerawang	Portland	Cullen Bullen	Lithgow LGA
Highest Level of Schooling Completed (15 and over) (b)					
Year 8 or below ¹ % ²	939 10.3%	146 10.0%	174 11.4%	29 18.9%	1 506 9.5%
Year 9 or equivalent	1 253 13.7%	186 12.7%	194 12.7%	31 19.9%	2 001 12.6%
Year 10 or equivalent	3 346 36.7%	650 44.6%	550 36.2%	56 35.9%	5 868 36.9%
Year 11 or equivalent	620 6.8%	103 7.1%	91 6.0%	10 6.4%	1 040 6.5%
Year 12 or equivalent	2 035 22.3%	272 18.7%	263 17.3%	17 10.9%	3 571 22.5%
Did not go to school	46 0.5%	9 0.6%	9 0.6%	4 2.6%	68 0.4%
Total All Years	9 115	1 457	1 520	156	15 901
Selected Averages					
Median Monthly housing loan repayment (\$)	1 083	1 150	867	867	1 109
Median Weekly rent (\$)	140	130	135	110	135
Median weekly individual income (\$)	347	350	315	241	353
Median weekly family income (\$)	965	1 092	946	700	1 026
Median weekly household income (\$)	669	908	681	596	738

¹ Number who left school at that level

² Percentage of total all years

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Social Advantage and Disadvantage in the Lithgow LGA

Index of Disadvantage: Jesuit Social Services/Tony Vinson

Note: Index of Disadvantage data is based on the 2001 Census. At the time this Social Plan was updated in 2008, Jesuit Social Services had not produced an update using 2006 Census data.

In March 2004 The Ignatius Centre for Social Policy and Research published *Community Adversity and Resilience* by Tony Vinson which included a comprehensive index of social disadvantage for postcodes in NSW and Victoria. The purpose of the report was to help to establish priorities for areas needing long term special assistance, and to target assistance for particular social groups within these areas.

The disadvantage index classified 542 NSW postcodes into quintile groupings, each quintile representing a five percent grouping of postcodes on a continuum of relative disadvantage. The 5% of postcode areas that are most disadvantaged are designated 1st quintile, those occupying positions between 5 and 10% are labelled 2nd quintile, and so on up to the last 5% (20th quintile). The index scores were determined by combining the weighted scores for 13 social indicators.

One of the postcodes in the Lithgow LGA, postcode 2846, was found to be in the first quintile of disadvantage in NSW, ie. in the top 5% of disadvantaged postcodes. Postcode 2846 covers the localities of Ben Bullen, Blackmans Flat, Capertee, Glen Davis, Newnes, Round Swamp and has a population of 241.

Two postcodes lying wholly or almost wholly within the Lithgow LGA were found to lie in the 3rd quintile of disadvantage ie. between the 10 and 15 percent most disadvantaged

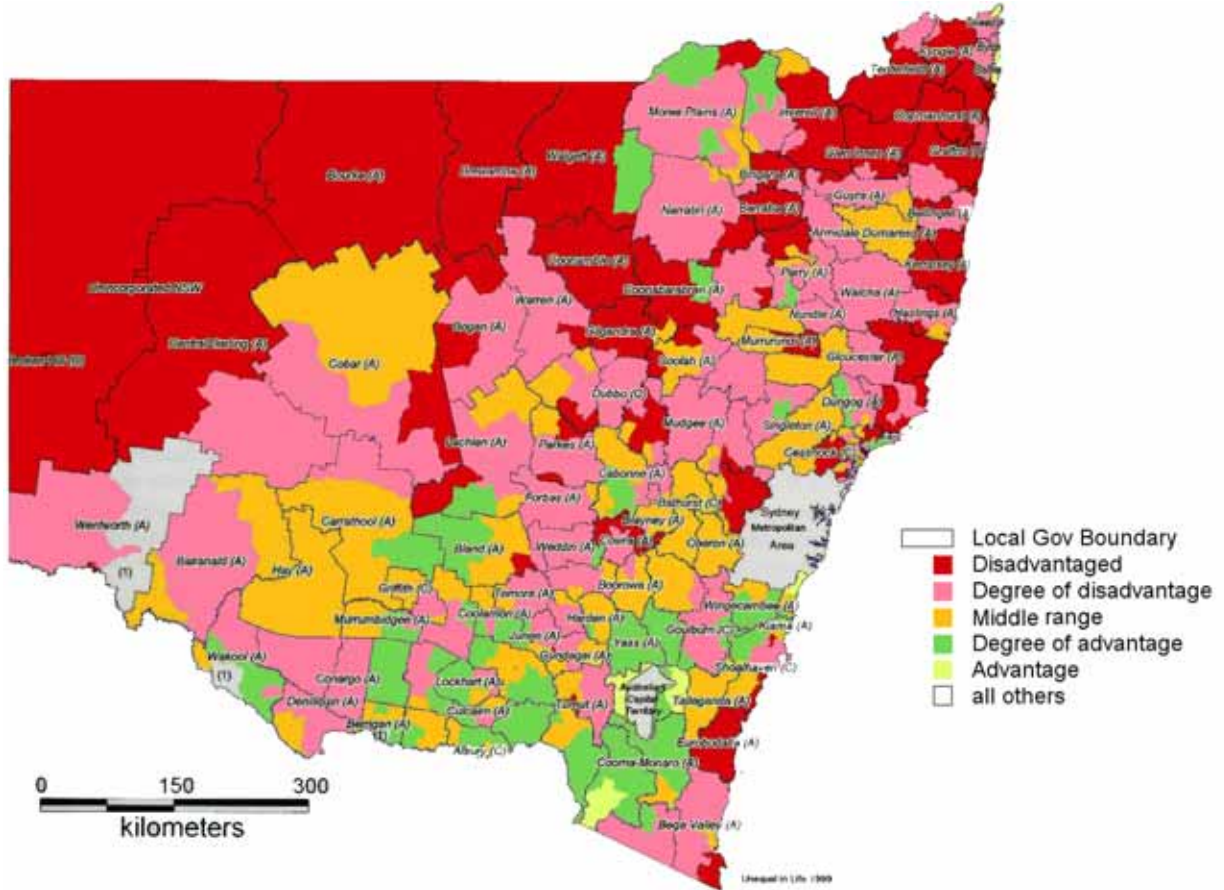
postcodes in NSW. These were postcodes 2790 and 2847.

Postcode 2790 has a population of 14 088 and covers the localities of Lithgow, Bowenfels, Cobar Park, Corney Town, Cullen Bullen, Dargan, Doctors Gap, Ganbenang, Hampton, Hartley, Hartley Vale, Hassans Walls, Hermitage Flat, Kanimbla, Little Hartley, Littleton, Lowther, Marrangaroo, McKellars Paddock, Morts Estate, Oakey Park, Old Bowenfels, Pottery Estate, Rydal, Sheedys Gully, South Bowenfels, South Littleton, Springvale, State Mine Gully, Vale Of Clwydd, Wolgan Valley, Wollangambe, Bell, Clarence.

Postcode 2847 has a population of 2 229 and includes the localities of Portland, Meadow Flat and Mount Lambie.

The Lithgow LGA's position of relative disadvantage according to the index is shown in Figure 2.7. Areas depicted in red are the most disadvantaged in NSW according to the study.

Figure 2.7 NSW Map showing areas of relative advantage and disadvantage from the Community Adversity and Resilience Report



Source: Community Adversity and Resilience: the distribution of social disadvantage in Victoria and NSW and the mediating role of social cohesion The Ignatius Centre for Policy and Research 2004

Socio- Economic Indices for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Advantage/Disadvantage

ABS also produces indices of social advantage and disadvantage based on 2006 Census data. SEIFA uses a broad definition of relative socio-economic disadvantage in terms people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage:

Is a continuum of advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values) which is derived from Census variables related to both advantage and disadvantage, like household with low income and people with a tertiary education.

This index placed the Lithgow LGA, compared to all other NSW LGA's, in the 3rd decile of advantage and disadvantage. This means that the Lithgow LGA is in the 20-30% lowest LGA's in NSW on this index. Lithgow had the 35th ranking of all LGA's in NSW meaning that there were 34 other LGA's that had a lower index than Lithgow.

The SEIFA index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.

This index placed the Lithgow LGA, compared to all other NSW LGA's, in the 2nd decile of disadvantage. This means that according to the index, the Lithgow LGA is among the 10-20% most disadvantaged LGA's in NSW. Looked at another way, Lithgow LGA had the 28th ranking for most disadvantaged LGA's in NSW. There were only 27 other LGA's in NSW that were more disadvantaged than Lithgow.

The SEIFA index of Economic Resources focuses on Census variables like the income, housing expenditure and assets of households.

This index placed Lithgow in the 2nd decile of this index and 28th ranking compared to other NSW LGA's.

The SEIFA index of Education and Occupation includes Census variables relating to the educational and occupational characteristics of communities, like the proportion of people with a higher qualification or those employed in a skilled occupation.

This index placed Lithgow in the lowest decile, that is among the lowest 10% of all NSW LGA's. Lithgow's ranking is 5th, meaning there are only 4 other LGA's in NSW with a lower ranking on this index.

Source: Index of ABS Census of Population and Housing SEIFA 2006



Target Group Profiles

Children of Lithgow LGA

Government Act 1993 a council has the charter to “promote and plan for the needs of children”.

Demography

Introduction

Children aged 0-11 years form one of the seven mandatory target groups for social planning under the Department of Local Government Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

In addition to mandatory social planning for this target group, under the Local

Table 3.1.1 shows that at the 2006 Census there were 2 988 children aged 0-11 years living in the Lithgow LGA - 15.1% of the total population. There was a decline between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, in both number (421) and proportion (2.2%) of children. The decline in the 10 years between the 1996 and 2006 Censuses was 738 children or 19.8% (not shown in table 3.1.1).

Table 3.1.1 Age of Children in Lithgow LGA in 2001 and 2006

Age (years)	2001 Census				2006 Census			
	M	F	Total	% of Total Population	Male	Female	Persons	% of Total Population
0	123	101	224		114	114	228	
1	138	120	258		101	111	212	
2	122	140	262		114	108	222	
3	142	140	282		116	106	222	
4	154	134	288		141	109	250	
0-4	679	635	1 314	6.7%	586	548	1 134	5.7%
<i>0-4 year olds Change 2001-2006</i>					<i>-93</i>	<i>-87</i>	<i>-180</i>	<i>-1.0%</i>
5	129	150	279		138	125	263	
6	162	144	306		138	117	255	
7	155	147	302		125	126	251	
8	140	147	287		147	121	268	
9	149	152	301		145	112	257	
10	152	178	330		133	132	265	
11	146	146	292		154	141	295	
5-11	1 033	1 064	2 097	10.6%	980	874	1 854	9.4%
<i>5-11 year olds Change 2001-2006</i>					<i>-53</i>	<i>-190</i>	<i>-243</i>	<i>-1.2%</i>
Total	1 710	1 699	3 409	17.3%	1 566	1 422	2 988	15.1%
<i>0-11 year olds change 2001-2006</i>					<i>-144</i>	<i>-277</i>	<i>-421</i>	<i>-2.2%</i>

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

National birth rates are reported by the Federal Government to have increased significantly over the past three years, and it will remain to be seen whether this change will be reflected in the Lithgow LGA in future years.

Table 3.1.2 shows that preschool attendance increased by 25 children - 8%, between 2001 and 2006.

**Table 3.1.2 Preschool Attendance
Lithgow LGA in 2001 and 2006**

	Male	Female	Persons
2001 Census	137	149	286
2006 Census	183	126	309

Source: ABS Censuses of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006

According to the 2006 Census, primary school enrolments in the Lithgow LGA have showed a marked decline over the last 5 years. Table 3.1.3 shows that in the five years between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses total school attendance for infants and primary declined by 14.4% from 1 966 to 1 683 children. Enrolments at government schools fell by 17.3% while Catholic school attendance was unchanged. This overall decrease in school enrolments in large part reflects the recorded 12.4% decrease in numbers of children aged 0 - 11 years in the population in the same period (See Table 3.1.1).

Data provided by the Commonwealth Department of Education Science and Training in Tables 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 shows enrolment data at the individual school level from 2000-2007.

Cullen Bullen, Glen Alice and Meadow Flat schools were the only ones to record enrolment increases although the numbers were small.

Zig Zag School recorded a significant 37.1% decrease and Coerwull School a 31.8% decrease between 2000 and 2007 although the rate of enrolment decrease at Coerwull School was less in the 2 years since 2005.

Although Lithgow Public School recorded an overall 6.8% decrease since 2000, enrolments actually increased by 7% between 2005 and 2007 indicating that enrolments are turning around.

The population of the Lithgow urban area increased by 2.4% between 2001 and 2006 which partly explains the increase in school enrolments at Lithgow Primary School although as stated above, enrolments at Coerwull and Zig Zag schools fell in the same period.

Wallerawang school enrolments have fallen by 13.3% since 2000 but in the past two years have increased by 9% despite a small decrease of 1.5% in the overall population.

Table 3.1.5 shows that enrolments in the two non government primary schools have been steady in the period 2000 to 2007.

Table 3.1.3 School Attendance and School Type 2001 and 2006

School Type	2001 Census			2006 Census			
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	% change 2001- 2006
Infants/Primary							
Government	736	775	1 511	670	581	1 251	-17.3%
Catholic	197	204	401	209	192	401	0%
Other Non Government	30	24	54	14	17	31	-42.6%
Total	963	1 003	1 966	893	790	1 683	-14.4%

Source: ABS Censuses of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006

Table 3.1.4 Government Primary & Infants Schools Enrolments Lithgow LGA

School	Year			
	2000	2005	2007	% Change 2000 -2007
Capertee Public School	17	18	11	-65.3%
Coerwull Public School	567	486	387	-31.8%
Cullen Bullen Public School	16	14	29	+81.25%
Glen Alice Public School	7	12	9	+28.6%
Hampton Public School	37	18	12	-67.6%
Lithgow Public School	490	427	457	-6.8%
Meadow Flat Public School	18	33	29	+61.1%
Wallerawang Public School	257	204	223	-13.3%
Zig Zag Public School	89	85	56	-37.1%
Total	1498	1297	1 213	-19.1%
Portland Central School	296	201	194	-34.5%

Source: Commonwealth Department of Education Science & Training.

Note: Portland Central School is a combined Primary, Infants & Secondary School

Table 3.1.5 Non-Government Primary & Infants Schools Enrolments Lithgow LGA

School	Year				
	2000	2005	2006	2007	% Change 2000 -2007
Scots School Lithgow	N/A	N/A	9	38*	+475%*
St Patrick's Catholic School Lithgow	363	380	N/A	386	+6.3%
St Joseph's Catholic School Portland	79	65	N/A	65	-17.8%
Total	442	445	9	451	+2.0%

Source: Commonwealth Department of Education Science & Training

*Scots School enrolments are for 2008

Table 3.1.6 shows family types including the number of males, females and total persons living in the different family types. The majority (77.5%) of people living in the Lithgow LGA lived in some form of family. 29.1% of families were couple families with children under 15 years. 39.8% of all families were couple families without children and 17% were one parent families.

**Table 3.1.6 Family Type
Families and Persons in Families in Occupied Dwellings**

Family Type	Families	% of all Families	Males	Females	Persons
Couple Families with Children					
with children under 15	1 516	29.1%	3 207	3 101	6 308
without children under 15	650	12.5%	1 175	982	2 157
Total	2 166	41.6%	4 382	4 083	8 465
Couple Families without children	2 073	39.8%	2 050	2 079	4 129
One parent families					
with children under 15	503	9.7%	533	918	1 451
without children under 15	382	7.3%	386	450	836
Total	885	17.0%	919	1 368	2 287
Other Families	82	1.6%	97	70	167
Total Families and Persons	5 206	100%	7 448	7 600	15 048

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.1.7 gives further information about family structures in the Lithgow LGA from the 2006 Census. 3 700 people living in households were children under 15 years of age, representing 20.4% of all people in households.

Of all lone parent households, 731 (82.5%) were comprised of women and 154 (17.4%) were comprised of men.

38.5% of people in households were a husband or wife in a registered marriage, 7.3% were in a de facto marriage, 4.9% were a lone parent and 11.9% were a lone person household.

Table 3.1.7 Relationships in Household by Age and Sex

Males	0-14	15-24	25-54	55 +	Total	%
Husband or wife in registered marriage		26	1 849	1 595	3 470	38.4
Partner in de facto marriage		81	475	104	660	7.3
Lone parent		--	99	55	154	1.7
Child under 15	1 902	--	--	--	1 902	21.0
Dependent student (15-24)		324	--	--	324	3.6
Non-dependent child		460	294	25	779	8.6
Other related individual		46	44	65	155	1.7
Unrelated individual living in family household		21	34	10	65	0.7
Group household member		43	91	49	183	2.0
Lone person		46	485	558	1 089	12.0
Visitor (from within Australia)	33	59	108	58	258	2.9
Total	1 935	1 106	3 479	2 519	9 039	100%
Females	0-14	15-24	25-54	55+	Total	%
Husband or wife in registered marriage		45	2 129	1 343	3 517	38.6
Partner in de facto marriage		128	469	71	668	7.3
Lone parent		63	495	173	731	8.0
Child under 15	1 741	--	--	--	1 741	19.1
Dependent student (15-24)		405	--	--	405	4.4
Non-dependent child		237	125	8	370	4.1
Other related individual		28	30	115	173	1.9
Unrelated individual living in family household		26	7	3	36	0.4
Group household member		49	51	44	144	1.6
Lone person		23	249	802	1 074	11.8
Visitor (from within Australia)	24	64	84	88	260	2.9
Total	1 765	1 068	3 639	2 647	9 119	100%
Persons	0-14	15-24	25-54	55+	Total	%
Husband or wife in registered marriage		71	3 978	2 938	6 987	38.5%
Partner in de facto marriage		209	944	175	1 328	7.3%
Lone parent		63	594	228	885	4.9%
Child under 15	3 643	--	--	--	3 643	20.1
Dependent student (15-24)		729	--	--	729	4.0
Non-dependent child		697	419	33	1 149	6.3
Other related individual		74	74	180	328	1.8
Unrelated individual living in family household		47	41	13	101	0.6
Group household member		92	142	93	327	1.8
Lone person		69	734	1 360	2 163	11.9%
Visitor (from within Australia)	57	123	192	146	518	2.6
Total	3 700	2 174	7 118	5 166	18 158	100%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.1.8 Weekly Family Income by Family Type

Weekly Family Income	Couple family with children	%	Couple family without children	%	One parent family	%	Other family	%	Total	Total %
\$0- \$349	50	2.3	100	4.8	245	27.7	7	8.4	402	7.7
\$350-\$799	292	13.5	833	40.2	331	37.4	32	38.6	1 488	28.6
\$800 - \$1 199	364	16.8	349	16.8	116	13.1	16	19.3	845	16.2
\$1 200 – \$1 699	397	18.3	242	11.7	66	7.5	6	7.2	711	13.7
\$1 700 – \$2 499	463	21.4	238	11.5	18	2.0	6	7.2	725	13.9
\$2 500 and over	284	13.1	127	6.1	11	1.2	3	3.6	425	8.2
Partial income stated	276	12.7	128	6.2	65	7.5	5	6.0	474	9.1
All incomes not stated	40	1.8	56	2.7	32	3.6	8	9.6	136	2.6
Total	2 166	100%	2 073	100%	884	100%	83	100%	5 206	100%

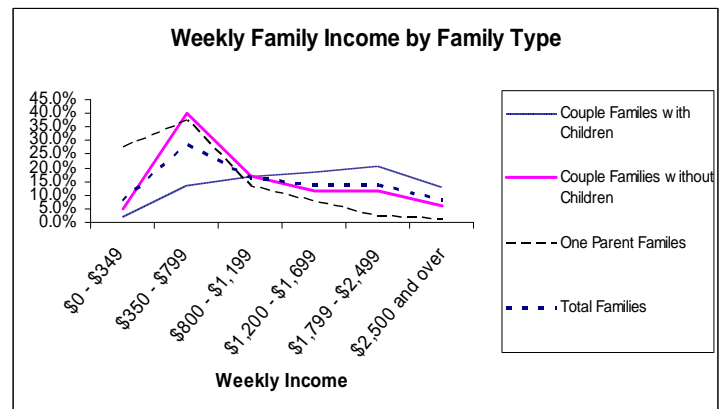
Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.1.8 and Figure 3.1.1 show weekly income for various family types. As would be expected, one parent families had generally lower incomes than other family types. 27.7% of one parent families earned less than \$350 per week while the average for all family types was only 7.7%.

40.2% of one parent families earned between \$350 and \$799 per week while the average for all family types was 28.6%. Only 10.7% of one parent families earned over \$1,200 per week while the average for all family types was 35.8%.

Interestingly, couple families with children had higher incomes than couple families without children - 52.8% of couple families with children earned over \$1,200 per week, compared to 29.3% of couple families without children. This is likely because couple families without children are more likely to include older people receiving the pension.

Figure 3.1.1 Weekly Family Income by Family Types with Children



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Indigenous Children

There was a small decline in the number and percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in the Lithgow LGA between 2001 and 2006 as shown in Table 3.1.9 This decline was similar to the decline in the general child population. The overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population rose however from 406 in 1996 to 553 in 2001 and 606 in 2006.

Table 3.1.9 Age by Sex Indigenous children

Age (yrs)	1996 Census			2001 Census			2006 Census		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 4	24	27	51	29	23	52	38	28	66
5 - 9	27	26	53	37	34	71	34	20	54
10 - 14	35	23	58	31	36	67	31	32	63
Total	86	76	162	97	93	190	103	80	183
<i>ATSI Children as % of Total ATSI Population</i>			<i>39.9%</i>			<i>34.4%</i>			<i>30.2%</i>

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group “children” were identified through two focus groups, with 0-5 year olds represented by parents and carers in one and 6-11 year olds in the other.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of the parents and carers. These included:

0-5 year olds

- The Families First Parents as teachers program in Portland
- The Families First Central West supported playgroups
- Blinky Bill Child Care Centre
- Child and Family Health Service and Community Health Services for Lithgow people
- The Library in Lithgow has good opening hours
- Cheap housing.

6-11 Year Olds

- Outdoor sports such as soccer have relatively low fees
- Free dental through school clinic
- Good variety of schools
- Lots of bush – children can go for bush walks.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by children.

0-5 Year Olds

- Isolation
- Bus service could be better for Portland residents
- “Them and Us” mentality between middle class and lower socioeconomic groups
- Lack of child friendly parks in some areas

- Safety issues in Portland – open drains throughout residential areas, speeding traffic
- Lack of GPs – two about to retire in Portland
- Lack adequate pram access in shopping centres
- Lack of family friendly facilities in Lithgow i.e. Parent room
- Department of Housing estate at Bowenfels – has centralised problems and caused stigmatisation for families living there
- Under funded Health service
- Not enough bulk billing doctors means that people have to use the hospital
- Maternity doesn’t work as an integrated unit – babies shouldn’t be mixed in with other sick patients
- Swimming pool is hard to access from Main Street in Lithgow due to lack of pedestrian access through the Viaduct
- No fluoride in the water means there are lots of children here whose teeth are rotten and need extraction.

6-11 year olds

- Some sporting fees are too expensive
- Not enough cycle tracks
- The major schools are too big and over crowded
- Not enough good after school care/ does not cater for pupil free days
- Not enough recreational activities for families and children
- No good indoor sporting complex
- No indoor swimming pool
- No fluoride in water – children have more cavities in teeth
- Not enough parks to suit 6-11 age group
- Increase in poverty which affects children
- Transport – insufficient to outlying areas like Portland and Wallerawang
- Problems with bullying on school buses – contributed to by combining Primary and High School students. No seatbelts on buses.
- Lack of public toilets in main CBD area
- Not enough parents contributing to children’s activities
- No code of conduct enforcement for parents at children’s sporting events

- Need a better skate facility for 10-11 year olds – current one in Tony Luchetti Sports Ground is unsafe/insecure and too isolated

- More parks which are family friendly
- Better toilet facilities with good access located in the CBD
- Good skate board facility/park which is central and not isolated
- More sporting clinics
- Good cinema complex so we don't have to go out of town.

What's Needed

0-5 year olds

- Improved bus services to Portland and Wallerawang
- Community friendly parks with fenced areas, covered areas, accessibility to toilets and off street parking
- Much improved toilet and change room facilities for parents and children – centrally located and “family friendly”
- Better pram and wheelchair access for all areas of Lithgow and outlying communities especially shopping centres and CBD's
- Improved Doctors Service i.e. Bulk billing and replacement doctors for those retiring in Portland
- Heated indoor pool in a more accessible position than the current outdoor pool – allowing year round access
- Walking and riding track in Portland
- Baby friendly businesses, cafes and restaurants
- Directory for Children's Services
- Improved crossings to Main Street and shopping centre
- Improve Bowenfels Department of Housing Estate area – don't put all public housing together
- Visitors centre with all facilities
- Play equipment at shopping centres
- A major cycle/pedestrian access way the full length of Lithgow CBD will address obesity/children/healthy lifestyle/enhance tourism and accessibility to businesses and also brings community together

6-11 year olds

- A multi sports complex which includes indoor heated pool for all year use
- More cycle/pedestrian tracks
- More variety of recreational activities for children and families

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group children identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Affordable Child Care

Children in the Lithgow LGA are serviced by a number of high quality child care services offering a range of options for care.

Child care was not reported in the focus groups as being an outstanding issue in the Lithgow LGA. There was however a need identified in the 6-11 year age group for better access to out of school hours care – and a gap in current service levels was identified for pupil free days. Child care service providers report high uptake of child care places available and some centres have a waiting list for some days. There is some indication that the demand for care places is growing and this may be exacerbated by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations changes regarding return to work (*2005-2006 Budget Papers, Welfare to Work Measures, Australian Government*).

Access to quality child care services has been demonstrated to improve outcomes across a broad range of indicators, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“Research evidence suggests that of all single strategy interventions, high quality child care is the most effective in improving child outcomes and providing children with a chance to start school on a

more equal footing to their more advantaged peers."

*Department of Community Services
(2005) Prevention and Early
Intervention Literature Review.*

This has particular implications for policy development for the Lithgow LGA. Given the relative socioeconomic disadvantage experienced by many children in the Lithgow LGA, policies aimed at improving access for children to quality child care should improve developmental and other outcomes for children. The impending commencement of the Department of Community Services Early Intervention Program in Lithgow, with the Benevolent Society to take up a key role in coordinating case management targeting vulnerable families, will have some impact on improving access for vulnerable children to quality child care.

Geographical isolation is a major factor affecting children's access to child care services in many parts of the Lithgow LGA. Galloping Gumnut Mobile Children's Services Van Inc. provides a weekly preschool program to children in Hartley, and, fortnightly or monthly play sessions in Hampton, Meadow Flat, Glen Alice (all fortnightly) and Capertee (monthly). Galloping Gumnut also provide play sessions in a number of communities adjacent to the Lithgow LGA boundaries, and therefore accessible to children living in the more outlying areas. These are Ilford, Kandos, Rylstone, O'Connell and Hill End. The service is currently piloting an additional toy/parent library literacy program to Portland, Wallerawang and two venues in Lithgow.

Health Services

Community consultation identified a number of issues relating to access to health services in the Lithgow LGA.

Access to speech pathology has been continually identified by participants in the Lithgow Child Protection Interagency as an issue for children in the Lithgow LGA. Lithgow Child Protection Interagency made some progress towards identifying possible

alternatives for families in 2005. Directly accessing the services of a speech pathologist became difficult for families after a significant period of time with both the positions for speech pathologists remained unfilled. This situation has since partially abated through a successful recruitment process, however speech pathology continues to be a big need for children in the Lithgow LGA and needs to be continually monitored.

Access to General Practitioner services particularly in the Portland area was identified as a concern. Since the time of the community consultation there is now one General Practitioner servicing Portland, who since 2006 has been co-located on site at the new Hospital, with allied health services. Access to bulk billing GPs was also an identified need.

Affordable and Appropriate Recreational Activities

This relates to a number of items identified in the focus groups for children, particularly in the 6-11 age group. These are itemised in the community consultation section. There is a need for Council to comprehensively analyse the current provision for recreational activities appropriate to various groups in the community.

For children it is particularly important to be able to access recreational activities (both passive and active) within relatively close distance in their community. As identified by NSW Health and Sydney West Area Health Service this has long term implications for health and prevention of chronic disease related to inactivity such as poor bone density, obesity and diabetes.

Affordability and accessibility are particularly important considerations for children in the Lithgow LGA. This is due to the socioeconomic profile of the community (many families are on low incomes) and the geographical isolation experienced by many parts of the community. Even children living in parts of the Lithgow LGA as centralised as the Bowenfels community is to the Lithgow township, experience physical barriers to accessing town including a major highway

with a lack of crossings, lack of transport and barriers relating to social stigma.

The Lithgow LGA has a strong tradition in club based organised sports such as soccer and hockey. This was reflected in the community consultation sessions.

There was also a need identified for passive recreational activities based in town such as cinemas and “baby friendly” cafes and restaurants.

Family Friendly Facilities

There were identified in the community consultation a number of issues relating to the accessibility of family facilities such as public toilets, parent rooms and pram access at shopping centres.

Information and Networking

There is an outstanding need for a directory of children’s services for the Lithgow LGA. This need has been identified by the community, service providers and school principals. The need is partially met through the Lithgow Community Guide, and there was some hope that the Human Services Intranet “HS Net” would provide an online solution to this need.

Networking between children’s services takes place in a number of specific and broader forums at a local level. There is a children’s services network of child care providers; a Child Protection Interagency with representation including health, education, Department of Community Services, Children’s Services, Family Support, LINC Families First Supported playgroups, Portland Families First Parents as Teachers program and Council; as well as broader networks.

Actions to Date

Child Protection Interagency

Council has had long standing involvement with the Lithgow Child Protection Interagency, which provides a networking forum for government and non-government service providers to improve co-ordination of services

and outcomes for children. This is an ongoing commitment and has led to the development of the Family Friendly Community initiative.

Community Fun Days

One of the recent success stories emerging from the Lithgow Child Protection Interagency have been the development and implementation of the Community Fun Days. These have been taking place with significant community response over the past three years with the two Families First projects (supported playgroups and parents as teachers) taking a lead role with Council and other agencies’ support.

Community Fun Days have taken place on a regular basis at Portland, Wallerawang, Lithgow and Bowenfels Community and have followed and expanded on a formula designed to engage families in community activity based interaction. This includes the free provision of food and drink, sport activities



Teddy Bears Picnic Family Fun Day

(such as balls, skipping ropes, sack races and jumping castle), craft activities as well as the provision of access to workers from relevant organisations and written information on anything from how to make play dough to nutritious meal ideas to where to access specialist assistance.

In 2005, Council made a financial contribution to the second Lithgow Family Christmas Party, under the Community Fun Days banner. The day engaged a number of community partners in providing a free opportunity for Lithgow

families to experience a Christmas Party, and was a huge success in terms of attendance.

Lithgow as a Family Friendly Community

This is a relatively new initiative with Council giving its in principle support and in kind assistance to the project from 2005. The Family Friendly Community initiative provides the platform for an expansion of the success of the Community Fun Days and enables the development of various activities aimed at better linking and supporting families in the community. The Lithgow Family Friendly Community initiative has gained important support from the Lithgow Business Association.

Activities in the Lithgow LGA so far have included the development of an events calendar (including events such as library story times, sporting club registrations and community fun days), guidelines and promotion for family friendly businesses and events, a logo competition engaging children in local primary schools which has been used to identify association with the initiative and features on the front cover of this year's "Community Guide", and a continuation and planned expansion of the Community Fun Days into more of the outlying areas in the Lithgow LGA such as Cullen Bullen, Capertee, Rydal and Hartley. Council received grant funding from Joblink Plus this year to assist with this expansion.

Lithgow Library Learning Centre

In December 2004 Lithgow Library moved location to a newly purpose renovated building in the centre of Main Street Lithgow. This provides an improved facility for families and children, with children's Library services (including free story times and school holiday activities, the Homework zone (with financial support from Delta Electricity), Community Technology Centre and other services. The new facility has improved access to toilet facilities during opening hours (which are relatively extensive) and a wall mounted baby change table. Library Learning Centre management and staff have paid particular attention to the child and family friendliness of the new facility.



Winning entry for cover of Community Guide under the Family Friendly Community initiative

Early Intervention Program

Council coordinated a series of forums in 2005 with services based in Lithgow to develop a response to the call for Expressions of Interest in the Early Intervention Program (Child Protection) being rolled out by the Department of Community Services over the next five years. A community document developed as a result of the forum outlined key local issues and needs in relation to the program and fed this information into the process through the Department of Community Services and to interested organisations to consider in developing their expressions of interest. One of these organisations, the Benevolent Society, was successful in gaining lead agency recognition in Lithgow and across the Central West.

Active Lithgow Communities Project and Active Young Bowenfels Project

Council was recently successful in obtaining funding from NSW Health, Sydney West Area Health Service and the Local Government and Shires Associations under the Healthy Local Government Program, for two 18 month projects targeting children, young people and the general community. One project will entail upgrading walking tracks at Lake Pillans

in Lithgow and promoting uptake of physical activity, while the other project involves auditing and improving the facilities at Emora Park in the Bowenfels area and providing a series of school holiday activities targeting child and young people.

Lithgow Learning for Life Program

Council through the Lithgow Learning City Project was successful in attracting the Smith Family Learning for Life program to the Lithgow LGA. This program provides scholarship financial assistance to families in need to assist children and young people of the Lithgow LGA to achieve their educational goals. The program provides more than 300 scholarships and has received financial contributions from Council, as well as having received support through the Lithgow Learning City Committee.

Table 3.1.10 Actions relating to Children from 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Need	Action	Time frame	Partnership	Progress/Action Taken
MEDIUM	3.1. Improved availability of Doctors and Specialists	3.1.1. Continually review the number of Doctors and Specialists available	Ongoing	Council/State Government	Council has lobbied the State Government and Mid West Area Health, and now the Sydney West Area Health, regarding this matter continuously. Council has given incentives to a number of new Doctors to the area, including the purposeful renovation and lease of premises to a new Medical practice in Lithgow. These efforts are continuing.
		3.1.2 Continue to participate in the Rural Doctors program	Ongoing	Council/State Government	
MEDIUM	3.2 Additional Education programs	3.2.1 Encourage and support the development and promotion of appropriate programs for parents/carers and children including child protection, drug education, life skills, and parenting skills	Ongoing	Children's Services Service Provider's/ Education Service Providers.	Families First Central West Supported Playgroup program based in Lithgow. Council through Lithgow Library initiated and maintains the Books for Babies program. Delta Electricity sponsored Homework Zone at the Lithgow Library, which takes place 2 days a week during school term. Council has also supported the homework centre at Bowenfels Community. Where possible Council facilitates community input into the Area Strategic Planning Processes. Council has staff representation on the Lithgow Child Protection Interagency.
		3.2.2 Work with local Children's Service's service providers through the Child Protection Interagency to identify ongoing needs in this area.	Jan-01	Council/ Children's Services /Child Protection Interagency.	
MEDIUM		3.2.3 Be involved in the DoCS Area Strategic Planning Process.	Ongoing	Council/Docs	
HIGH	3.3 Improved Library facilities and appropriate educational resources.	3.3.1 Investigate feasibility of additional / new premises to accommodate the Lithgow Library.	July / April 2000	Council	New Library Learning Centre complete November 2004. Homework Zone established and Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) Collection with trained staff at Library. Community promotion through local media, networks.
		3.3.2 Survey the community to assess community support and canvas funding options	Feb / Mar 2000	Council	
		3.3.3 Develop additional educational resources ie Homework Centre, Legal Access.	Ongoing	Lithgow City Library Staff	
		3.3.4 Promote existing services to the community to enhance community participation.	Ongoing	Lithgow City Library Staff and the Community	
MEDIUM	3.4 Accessible and affordable childcare	3.4.1 Undertake an audit of existing services and potential demand for future services places.	Jan-01	Council / Community Services	Audit and planning not undertaken due to resource limitations and other priorities.
		3.4.2 Subject to the outcome of 3.4.1, work with existing Children's Services service providers to lobby Government for funding for additional places.	Ongoing 2001	Council / Community Services Service Providers	

Table 3.1.11 Action Plan 2006 - 2011

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Children					
Enhance protective factors in the community and address child protection concerns.	Consider continued participation and support for Child Protection Interagency.	Ongoing	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$1 800
	Considered continued participation and support for Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Ongoing	Council, Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Participation	\$1 800
	Create procedures for staff in relation to child protection. Council to make procedure work available to organisations in the Lithgow LGA to assist in their procedure development.	December 2007 then ongoing	Council	Adoption of procedure.	\$5 000
	Training for relevant staff (eg. Library and Swimming Pool staff) in Child Protection recognition and mandatory reporting procedures. Consider inclusion of training in staff induction.	June 2008	Council and Department of Community Services	Training program delivered	\$1 500
	Refer to Community Action Plan - Develop a Crime Prevention Plan including provision for addressing domestic violence and sexual assaults.				
Ensure optimum access to affordable quality child care.	Council to lobby relevant government agencies for access to affordable quality child care, such as through CENTROC and other relevant bodies.	Ongoing	Council, Children's Services network, government and CENTROC	Referral of issues as needed	\$100 per activity
Develop Lithgow LGA as a Family Friendly Community Initiative	Consider providing financial and in kind resources as a partner of the Family Friendly Community initiative in Lithgow LGA in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Ongoing	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$3 000

Table 3.1.11 Action Plan 2006 – 2011 Continued

Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Children					
Improve access for children to affordable and appropriate recreational activities across the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve health outcomes for children in the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve information dissemination	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a directory of children's services. 	June 2010	Council and education/service providers	Completion of directory	\$1 000

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Young People of Lithgow LGA

lack of recreational and cultural activities, further education and employment opportunities, and transport.

Demography

Introduction

Young people aged 12-24 years form one of the seven mandatory target groups for social planning under the Department of Local Government Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

Young people in the Lithgow LGA face a number of challenges including a perceived

Table 3.2.1 shows that at the 2006 Census there were a total of 3 207 young people living in the Lithgow LGA, representing 16.2% of the total population. There was a small decline from 3 231 or 16.3% at the 2001 Census.

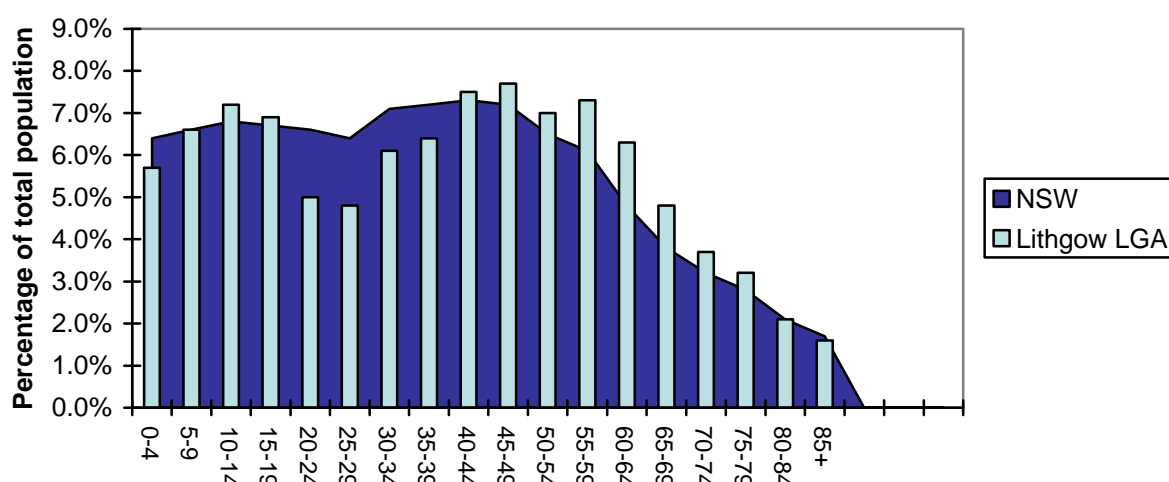
The population of the 12-14 and 20-24 age groups decreased slightly while the 15-19 age group increased slightly.

Table 3.2.1 Young People Aged 12-24

Age	2001 Census				2006 Census			
	Male	Female	Persons	% of Total Pop	Male	Female	Persons	% of Total Pop
12	153	145	298		151	140	291	
13	160	151	311		146	143	289	
14	140	141	281		144	139	283	
12-14	453	437	890	4.5%	441	422	863	4.4%
15	154	164	318		144	171	315	
16	145	143	288		146	138	284	
17	137	133	270		130	141	271	
18	118	112	230		149	120	269	
19	144	92	236		121	104	225	
15-19	698	644	1 342	6.8%	690	674	1 364	6.9%
20	100	93	193		99	108	207	
21	117	109	226		95	98	193	
22	97	80	177		96	85	181	
23	101	95	196		105	93	198	
24	107	100	207		129	72	201	
20-24	522	477	999	5.1%	524	456	980	5.0%
Total	1 673	1 558	3 231	16.3%	1 655	1 552	3 207	16.2%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Figure 3.2.1 Age distribution Lithgow LGA and NSW



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Figure 3.2.1 shows that the percentage of young people between the ages of 20 - 24 and 25-29 were considerably less than the NSW average. The percentage of young people aged 10-14 and 15-19 years were however slightly above the NSW average.

This is most likely the result of migration out of the area by young people due to educational, work and lifestyle factors. This was identified by the Lithgow Youth Synergy Forum in 2005.

Young People and Household Relationships

Table 3.2.2 shows the relationships of young people aged 15 – 24 years in households. The largest groups of young people in this age group were dependent students (729) and non-dependent children (697).

There were a total of 63 sole parents in the 15-24 age group, 2.9% of all 15-24 year olds. Of these, 63 were female and 0 were male. There were also 280 young people in a registered marriage or defacto marriage - 12.9% of young people aged 15-24.

Table 3.2.2 Relationship in Household – Young People (15-24 Years)

Relationship	Males	Females	Total	%
Husband or wife in registered marriage	26	45	71	3.3
Partner in de facto marriage	81	128	209	9.6
Lone parent	0	63	63	2.9
Child under 15	-	-	-	
Dependent student (15-24)	324	405	729	33.5
Non-dependent child	460	237	697	32.1
Other related individual	46	28	74	3.4
Unrelated individual living in family household	21	26	47	2.2
Group household member	43	49	92	4.2
Lone person	46	23	69	3.2
Visitor (from within Australia)	59	64	123	5.7
Total	1 106	1 068	2 174	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Young People and Education

Figure 3.2.2 shows that significant changes took place in High School enrolments in the Lithgow LGA between 1996 and 2006.

The total number of students enrolled remained fairly steady between 1996 and 2006 although enrolments fell by about 4.6% between 2001 and 2006. The number of government high school students fell significantly between 1996 and 2001 although the decrease since 2001 has been small.

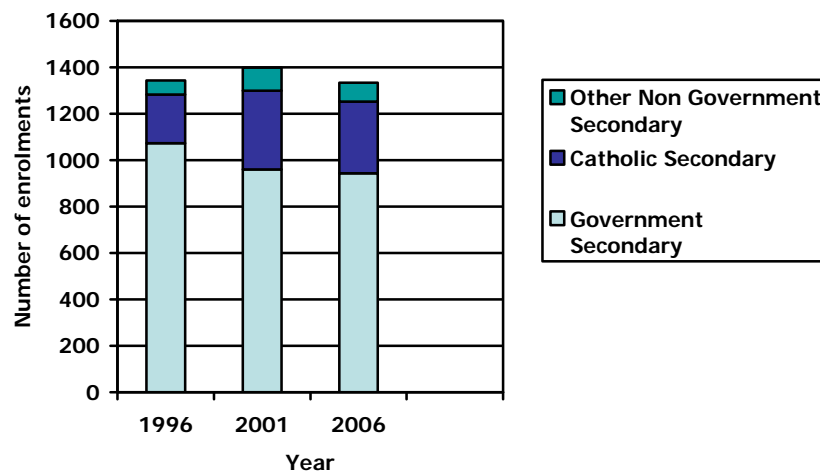
Enrolments at Catholic High Schools increased significantly between 1996 and 2001 although fell back slightly after 2001. Enrolments at non-catholic independent schools have remained relatively small and stable since 1996.

Table 3.2.3 Enrolments for full time Students at Secondary Schools, Lithgow LGA

School Type	1996	2001	2006
	Persons	Persons	Persons
Government Secondary	1 073	960	943
Catholic Secondary	210	340	309
Other Non Government Secondary	60	99	82
Total	1 343	1399	1 334

Table 3.2.3 and Figure 3.2.2 Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Figure 3.2.2 Full Time Secondary School Enrolments 1996-2006



There are two Government secondary schools in the Lithgow LGA, one of which is Kindergarten to year 12 (Portland Central School). There is one Catholic secondary school. Tables 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 indicate the number of enrolments in secondary schools in Lithgow LGA. Differences between ABS data in the tables and school enrolments reflect that Portland Central School enrolments are for K-12 and that there are a number of out of area enrolments in Lithgow, both at Lithgow High School and La Salle Academy.

At the 2006 Census, there were 260 15-24 year olds attending TAFE with 77.3% of these as part-time students. Further, 65% of TAFE students aged 15-24 years were male.

There were also 133 15-24 year olds attending Universities with 83.5% as full-time students. Conversely to TAFE students, 67.7% of university students aged 15-24 years were female.

Table 3.2.4 School Enrolments in Government Secondary Schools

School	Year		
	2000	2005	2008
Lithgow High School	1 007	1 066	1030
Portland Central School	296	201	194
Total	1 303	1 267	1224

Source: NSW Department of Education & Training.

Note: Portland Central School is a combined Primary, Infants & Secondary School.

Table 3.2.5 School Enrolments in Secondary Non Government Schools

School	Year		
	2000	2005	2008
La Salle Academy	380	402	363
Total	380	402	363

Source: La Salle Academy

Young People and Employment

1 185 or 50.6% of young people aged 15-24 in the Lithgow LGA were employed at the 2006 Census. This represented 14.0% of the total labour force across all ages.

247 young people were unemployed looking for work which was 34.5% of all unemployed across all ages.

Young men aged 15-19 years were far more likely to be employed in full-time positions than young women with only 24.4% of women in full-time employment compared to 55.0% of young men in the same age group.

The percentage of young people in full-time employment increases as they age. The percentage of young men aged 20-24 years in full-time employment rises to 79.5% and for young women to 51.3%.

Table 3.2.6 Age by Labour Force Status by Sex

2006		Males		Females		Total
		15 - 19	20 - 24	15 - 19	20 - 24	
Employed working:	Full-time	160	267	70	139	636
	<i>% of employed</i>	<i>55.0</i>	<i>79.5</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>51.3</i>	<i>53.7</i>
	Part-time	116	46	194	121	477
	<i>% of employed</i>	<i>39.9</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>67.6</i>	<i>44.6</i>	<i>40.3</i>
	Away from work and Not Stated	15	23	23	11	72
	Total	291	336	287	271	1 185
Unemployed looking for:	Full-time work	50	63	26	28	167
	<i>% of unemployed</i>	<i>64.1</i>	<i>88.7</i>	<i>44.1</i>	<i>71.8</i>	<i>67.6</i>
	Part-time work	28	8	33	11	80
	<i>% of unemployed</i>	<i>35.9</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>32.4</i>
	Total	78	71	59	39	247
Total Labour Force		369	407	346	310	1 432
<i>% of Total</i>		<i>53.2</i>	<i>77.5</i>	<i>51.6</i>	<i>68.3</i>	<i>61.1</i>
Not in the Labour Force		286	96	296	135	813
Not Stated		38	22	28	9	97
Total		693	525	670	454	2 342

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.2.7 shows that by far the largest industry employing young people in the Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census was the Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants sector (267 or 23.4%) The next largest employers of young people were Retail and Trade (261 or 22.7%), followed by construction (90 or 7.8%) & manufacturing (90 or 7.8%). According to the 2006 Census just 67 (or 5.8%) young people from the Lithgow LGA were employed by the mining industry and 38 (or 3.3%) by the electricity, gas and water supply industry.

Table 3.2.8 shows the types of occupations in which young people were employed.

- The largest industry of employment was Sales with 27.2%, comprised mainly of females aged 15-19 years.
- This was followed by Tradespersons and Related workers, comprised mainly of male workers aged 20-24 years, with 19%.
- Labourers was the third largest occupation group, comprised mainly of males aged 15-19 years with 17.4%.

Table 3.2.7 Industry by Age and Sex

Industry	Males		Females		Total	Total %
	15 - 19	20 - 24	15 - 19	20 - 24		
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	0	6	0	5	11	1.0
Mining	19	45	0	3	67	5.8
Manufacturing	37	38	6	9	90	7.8
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	12	22	4	0	38	3.3
Construction	32	50	3	5	90	7.8
Wholesale Trade	7	12	3	4	26	2.3
Retail Trade	48	39	103	71	261	22.7
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	80	24	108	55	267	23.3
Transport & Storage	0	15	0	5	20	1.7
Communication Services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finance & Insurance	3	7	7	10	27	2.4
Property & Business Services	0	3	4	3	10	0.9
Professional, scientific & technical services	3	8	7	14	32	2.8
Administrative & support services	5	6	3	16	30	2.6
Public admin and safety	7	17	0	13	37	3.2
Education	0	3	3	7	13	1.1
Health care & social assistance	0	6	17	36	59	5.1
Art and recreational services	3	0	3	0	6	0.5
Other services	19	21	14	10	64	5.6
Total	275	322	288	266	1 148	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.2.8 Occupation by Age by Sex

Occupation	Males		Females		Total	Total %
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24		
Managers & Administrators	5	5	4	13	27	2.6
Professionals	3	3	4	27	37	3.5
Community & personal workers	8	8	54	66	136	12.9
Tradespersons & Related Workers	21	142	17	21	201	19.0
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	7	17	27	52	103	9.7
Sales workers	50	21	156	60	287	27.2
Machinery Operators & drivers	12	45	3	3	63	6.0
Labourers & Related Workers	78	55	24	27	184	17.4
Inadequately described/not stated	6	8	0	5	19	1.8
Total	190	304	289	274	1 057	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

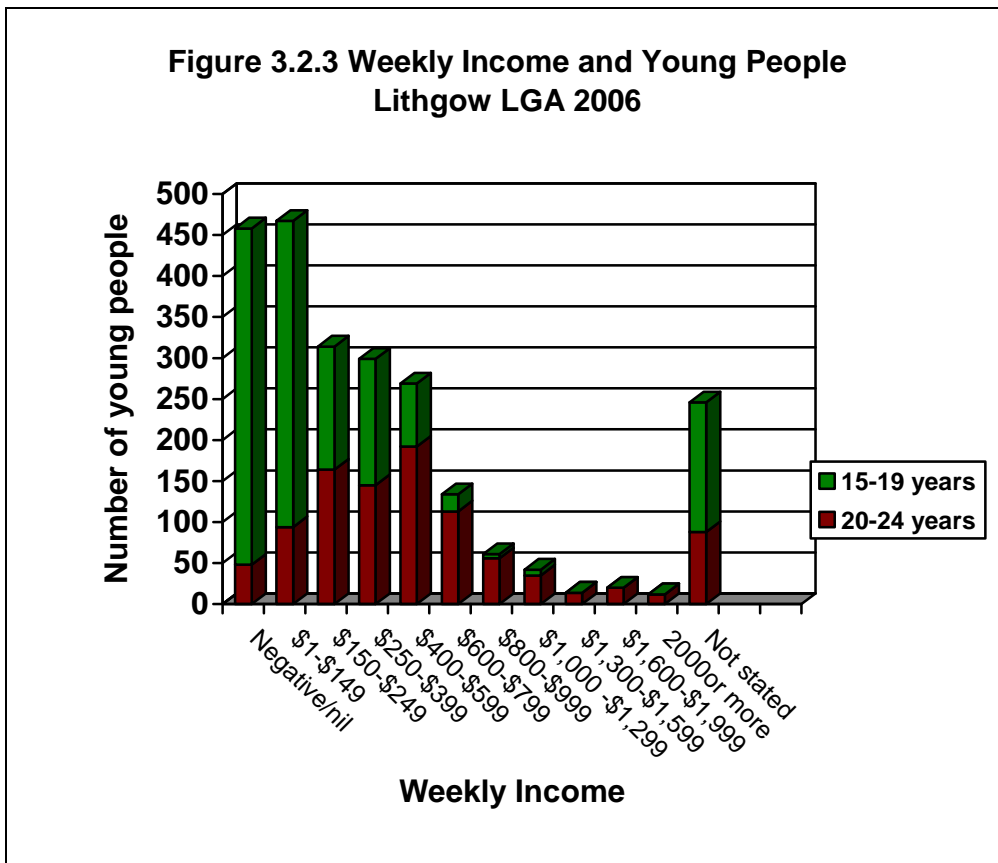
Table 3.2.9 and Figure 3.2.3 show individual incomes of young people in the Lithgow LGA. As would be expected given youth unemployment rates in Lithgow and other factors such as study commitments, the income levels for young people tend to be relatively low, particularly of 15-19 year olds. 58.1% of 15 -19 year olds had an income less than \$150 per week compared to only 14.5% of 20 -24 year olds and 14.2% of the population as a whole. In the income range between \$400 and \$999 per week however the percentage of 20-24 year olds was actually greater than the Lithgow population as a whole.

For income ranges above \$1,000 per week, the proportion of 20-24 year olds again falls below the rest of the Lithgow population.

Table 3.2.9 Income Young People

Weekly Income	15-19 years %	20 -24 years %	Total 15-24 years %	Lithgow Total %
Negative/Nil	30.0	4.9	19.5	6.8
\$1-\$149	28.1	9.6	20.3	7.4
\$150-\$249	11.0	16.7	13.4	19.8
\$250-\$399	11.3	14.8	12.7	16.4
\$400-\$599	5.6	19.6	11.5	12.3
\$600-\$799	1.5	11.5	5.7	7.7
\$800-\$999	0.4	5.7	2.6	5.5
\$1,000-\$1,299	0.5	3.6	1.8	5.8
\$1,300-\$1,599	0	1.4	0.6	4.0
\$1,600-\$1,999	0	2.0	0.9	2.8
\$2,000 or more	0	1.2	0.5	2.2
Not stated	11.6	9.0	10.5	9.5
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group “young people” were identified through two focus groups. One involved young people in general from the community, and the other involved the Lithgow Youth Council. What follows is the combined results of the focus groups.

Community Strengths

- TAFE offers a range of alternative options if school is not suitable. Also TAFE offers more freedom and young people are treated more like adults.
- Ride for Respect
- Local historical sites e.g. blast furnace, small arms factory etc
- Youth activities such as Little Day Out, band nights etc
- Support and accommodation provided by Youth Worx
- Access to the City (Sydney) is relatively easy to access from Lithgow
- Most young people grow up in Lithgow and therefore have family supports locally
- Nice location
- Sporting opportunities
- Good lifestyle
- New business development
- Nice people
- Close to major locations (not too far to travel).

Community Limitations

- Police and education systems judge young people on their family name, past reputation, peer group etc
- Police need to be more understanding of young people and more friendly
- Skate park is not well equipped, not suitable in winter months and caters for only 1 group of young people
- No place for young people to hang out
- Most activities organised for young people are expensive and/or not well advertised
- Lack of public transport on weekends and after 5pm Monday to Friday

- Historical sites are being knocked down, vandalised etc
- Cost associated with joining a sport club
- Too many junkies. They are cranky at you for no reason, and don't treat their children well
- Young people tend not to access PCYC for the following reasons:
 - Perceived to only offer gymnastics, computer club and the gym
 - Membership fee is too expensive
 - Police involvement
 - Activities are not advertised well.
- Not enough community spirit
- Not enough recreational activities other than sport.

Identified Needs

- Organised weekend activities such as camps, go-karts, out of town excursions etc
- A set of accredited standards for youth services
- Better skate park (possibly indoors) with; protection from the weather, closer to Main Street, better equipment, suitable for both skate boards and bikes
- A space for young people to access, create and exhibit art work
- A flying fox
- Organised holiday camps which are inexpensive
- A place for young people to hang out which is safe and supervised with, arcade games, music, play station and organised activities and is available after hours and weekends
- More ashtrays need to be located around town
- Lithgow needs a movie theatre, a bowling alley and lazer zone
- Indoor pool
- Cinema
- Fashion store.

Core Identified Issues

Recreation and Cultural Activities

Youth expressed satisfaction with youth activities such as Little Day Out and Bands nights, however due to resourcing issues these do not occur with sufficient regularity. Young people also indicated appreciation for the relative ease of access to “major locations” including Sydney.

The need for access to a range of affordable and appropriately advertised locally based activities was a key theme of the focus group research. A number of problems were identified in relation to access to activity based recreation in the Lithgow LGA.

The existing skate park in Lithgow was considered inadequate in terms of equipment, suitability in winter, as well as perceived exclusivity of access due to location. The need for better skate park facilities was identified in both focus groups with young people.

Young people also said that they experience a need for a “place to hang out” – an indication of the lack of drop in facilities for young people. Young people in Capertee have access to the games room at the Police Station there, however the availability of such spaces is not uniformly experienced by youth across the Lithgow LGA. A Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) exists in Lithgow however this was reported to not be accessed by young people because: it is perceived to only offer gymnastics, computer club and the gym; membership fees are too expensive; and the involvement of the Police.

Young people expressed a need for regular affordable organised activities as well as a safe supervised drop in space which is available after hours and on weekends. Young people also expressed a need for a creative arts space where young people can access, create and exhibit creative arts.

A number of additional facilities and amenities were identified which young people perceive a

lack of in the Lithgow LGA. These include an indoor pool, cinema, bowling alley and video arcade.

Young people also indicated that in their experience activities are not always advertised well.

Education and Employment

It was not specified in the focus group research; however there is some anecdotal evidence from young people and service providers to suggest that education and employment opportunities are to some extent deficient for young people in the Lithgow LGA. While young people in the Lithgow LGA have access to High School education and TAFE offering some courses, the closest university campus is at Bathurst which offers a limited range of courses. As with other regional areas, young people in the Lithgow LGA tend to leave the area.



Dept of Industrial Relations Youth Week video conference

Transport

Young people in focus groups reported experiencing a lack of public transport on weekends and after 5pm Monday to Friday. It needs to be acknowledged that the groups met in the township of Lithgow and that young people in the more rural parts of the Lithgow LGA experience much greater limitations relating to transport than those likely to have been represented in those groups. Nonetheless, the limitations to transport after hours pose significant challenges to young people needing to travel

within the Lithgow LGA. Young people in the research did express satisfaction with the relative ease with which they could access Sydney, which is likely to be a result of having a train line from Lithgow.

Community Safety

Several points raised in the focus groups indicated that young people have concerns relating to community safety in the Lithgow LGA. Two of these points referred to respectful and appropriate policing, while another related to there being “too many junkies”. Local issues raised in other forums include concerns about the need for young people to have more opportunities to learn about respect in relationships, which is a major prevention strategy needed to reduce domestic and sexual violence.

Information and Networks

Young people identified that there is a need for better networking between youth services, groups and other organisations. They indicated that advertising for events was sometimes insufficient. They also perceived that there is a need for a set of accredited standards for youth services. While a formalised youth services network previously existed in the Lithgow LGA, this forum has been superseded by more informal forms of networking.

Actions to Date

Youth Week

Council has made a co-contribution with the Department of Community Services to Youth Week activities each year for some years. Youth Week activities have taken place in the Lithgow LGA and have varied each year according to circumstances and need. In 2006 a successful partnership was formed with Lithgow Community Projects and Indent to resource a group of young people to plan and deliver a series of band competition events held in the Union Theatre and beginning in Youth Week. These events were

extremely well attended with in excess of 300 young people attending each of the three heats.

Lithgow Youth Council

Lithgow Youth Council has had continuous support from Council over the past five years. This support has been in the form of a budget allocation and Officer assistance. Representation on Lithgow Youth Council has been enhanced by recent support from Portland Central School in transportation of students and La Salle in enabling students to attend. Lithgow High School has continued high levels of representation.

Learning City

Lithgow Learning City Committee, with membership from a number of key community stakeholders including education providers and employers has for some time identified a need for greater opportunities for young people to access education and training. The Learning City was active in developing strategies to address this issue up until the end of 2005. The Learning City Committee had made approaches to various organisations including further education providers, and successfully partnered with the Smith Family to set up a Learning for Life Program in The Lithgow LGA.

Lithgow Young Citizen of the Year

In 2006 Council is administering a project funded under the Department of Community Services Youth Advisory Council with the Lithgow LGA's Young Citizen of the Year. The project is called "Roll Over Racism" and aims to promote community harmony amongst young people.

Support for Youth Groups and Youth Services

Council gives small amounts of financial support to a number of Youth Groups and Services located through out the Lithgow LGA through its financial assistance program, under section 356 of the Local Government Act. In 2004, Council donated funding to Capertee Police Station in order to equip their games room, which serves as a youth "drop-in" space. Assistance has also been made available to the PCYC and Lithgow Community Projects in support of the Drift project.

Lithgow Youth Synergy Forum

Two forums initiated by the Department of Education took place in 2005 to attempt to address issues related to a perceived severe lack of opportunities for young people in the Lithgow LGA. Concerns were identified including fewer apprenticeships and traineeships being available than traditionally and a lack of careers pathway information for young people before leaving school. Some work was undertaken including careers expos for High School students, however the forum has not continued to meet due to the unavailability of someone to convene it.



Artwork for Capertee Police Station Games Room

Active Lithgow Communities Project and Active Young Bowenfels Project

Council was recently successful in obtaining funding from NSW Health, Sydney West Area Health Service and the Local Government and Shires Associations under the Healthy Local Government Program, for two 18 month projects targeting children, young people and the general community. One project will entail upgrading walking tracks at Lake Pillans in Lithgow and promoting uptake of physical activity, while the other project involves auditing and improving the facilities at Emora Park in the Bowenfels area and providing a series of school holiday activities targeting children and young people. The Bowenfels Project will resource the Bowenfels Youth Uprise Committee to engage young people in the community in determining the school holidays program.

Table 3.2.10 Actions relating to Young People from 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Action	Time Frame	Partnerships	Progress/ Action Taken
4.1 Opportunities for youth to express themselves	4.1.1 Continue to support Youth through State Government and Council's co-contribution to Youth Week.	Annual	Council / LINC / PCYC	Ongoing. Support and involvement with community activities including Lithgow Community Projects Youth Worx/ the Drift, PCYC and LINC activities.
	4.1.2 Support initiatives which encourage participation of youth in community activities	Ongoing	Youth Council	
	4.1.3 Refer all youth related issues to the Lithgow Youth Council for input.	Ongoing	Council / Youth Council	
4.2 Opportunities to reduce the feeling of alienation from the community	4.2.1 Promote the Lithgow Youth Council as a voice for young people.	Ongoing	Council / Youth Council	Lithgow Youth Council meets monthly

Table 3.2.11 Action Plan 2006 - 2001

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Young People					
To provide quality support, recreational and cultural opportunities which meet the needs of young people.	Refer to actions under Community Action Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces study to include audit of skate park facilities. 				
	Council to participate in local informal or formal youth services networks.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services	Participation	\$76 per hour
	Council to lobby government for youth drop in services.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services	Lobbying activities completed	\$100 per activity
	Council to continue to seek and administer Youth Week funding.	Annual	Council, Dept Community Services, Lithgow Youth Council	Successful completion of activities	\$1 500
To enable young people to have a voice to Council.	Consider status of Lithgow Youth Council in Council's structure.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services, Young People,	Lithgow Youth Council functioning.	\$9 000
	Continue to support and develop Lithgow Youth Council to achieve their objectives.	Ongoing	High Schools		
To improve access and promote opportunities for learning for young people in the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan.				
Improve Community Safety for young people	Refer to Community Action Plan.				
Improve youth service networking.	Investigate need and feasibility for a Youth Services Network.	Dec 2007	Council, Youth Council and service providers	Need and feasibility determined	\$1 600

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Women of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Women are one of seven mandatory target groups for social planning under the Department of Local Government Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

Women of the Lithgow LGA make enormous contributions to the social fabric of communities within the LGA, and often do this with low levels of public recognition. Women experience a number of limitations within the Lithgow LGA, including in areas such as employment, finances, education and safety.

Demography

At the 2006 ABS Census there were 9 738 women 15 years and over in the Lithgow LGA, which was 49.3% of the total population over 15 years. Table 3.3.1 shows a break down of ages of women and men in Lithgow LGA.

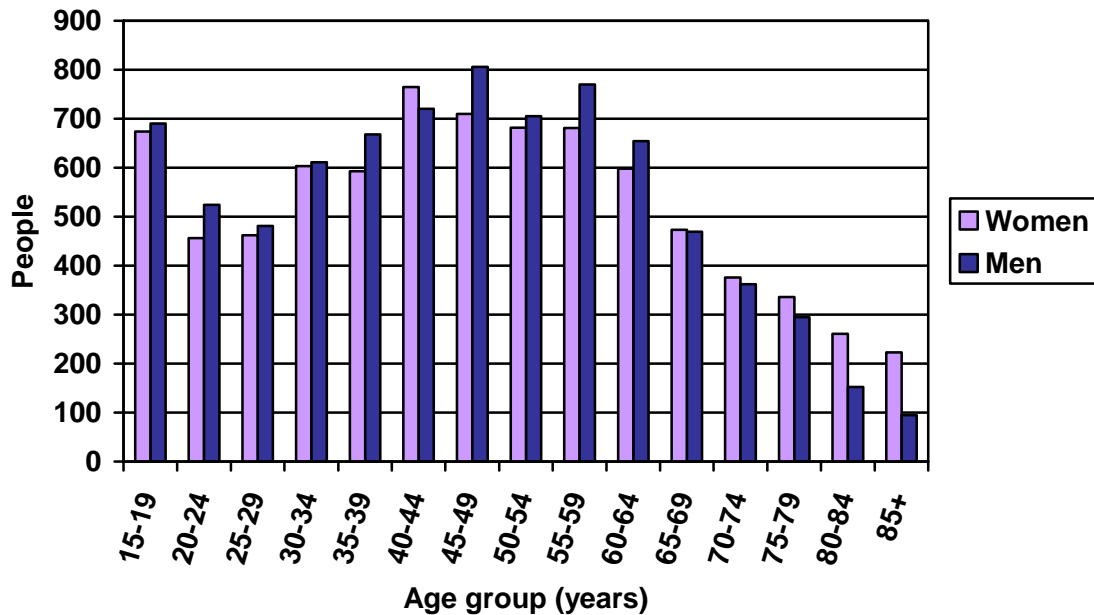
Table 3.3.1 Age by Sex – Men & Women

Age	Men	Women	Total
15-19	690	674	1 364
20-24	524	456	980
25-29	481	462	943
30-34	611	603	1 214
35-39	668	593	1 261
40-44	720	765	1 485
45-49	806	710	1 516
50-54	705	682	1 387
55-59	770	681	1 451
60-64	654	598	1 252
65-69	469	473	942
70-74	362	376	738
75-79	295	336	631
80-84	152	261	413
85 and over	95	223	318
Total	10 017	9 738	19 755

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Figure 3.3.1 shows in chart form, the same data shown in Table 3.3.1. Notably, there were fewer women than men in most age categories up until 65-69, after which the relationship reversed. The greater number of men than women may be reflective of the traditional industrial base in Lithgow which was dominated by trades and professions traditionally taken up by men. From the age category 75-79 onward there were increasingly more women than men in each category. This is reflective of higher life expectancy of women and earlier mortality of men.

Figure 3.3.1 Women and Men by Age Group



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Women and Work

Women in the Lithgow LGA make significant contributions to the community through paid and unpaid work. Unpaid work undertaken by women includes child rearing, care of family members and home making responsibilities, as well as other valuable contributions to the community through volunteering. There are a significant number of women who work within various volunteer schemes in the Lithgow LGA communities.

Table 3.3.2 shows the working patterns of women in the Lithgow LGA, compared to men and to NSW as a whole. Women in the Lithgow LGA were considerably less likely to be employed in full-time work than men in the Lithgow LGA and women in NSW as a whole. Only 18.6% of women in Lithgow were employed in full-time work compared to 42% of men and 25.3% of women in NSW as a whole. Only 43.7% of Lithgow women were

Table 3.3.2 Work Patterns for Women and Men in NSW and Lithgow LGA

Work Patterns (15 yrs and over)	Women Lithgow LGA	% Total Women Lithgow	% Total Women NSW	Men Lithgow LGA	% Total Men Lithgow	% Total Men NSW
Working full time	1 466	18.6	25.3	3 360	42.0	46.9
Working part time	1 763	22.3	21.2	641	8.0	10.6
Employed away from work	142	1.8	2.1	145	1.8	1.9
Employed Not Stated	77	1.0	1.2	124	1.5	2.0
Total Employed	3 448	43.7	49.8	4 270	53.3	61.3
Unemployed looking for full-time work	163	2.1	1.5	348	4.3	2.9
Unemployed looking for part-time work	129	1.6	1.6	76	0.9	1.0
Total Unemployed	292	3.7	3.1	424	5.3	3.9
Total Labour Force	3 740	47.4	52.9	4 694	58.6	65.2
Not in labour force	3740	47.4	40.7	2 875	35.9	27.6
Not Stated	412	5.2	6.5	436	5.4	7.1
Total population over 15	7 892			8 005		

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.3.3 Occupations of Women and Men Lithgow LGA and NSW

Occupation	Women Lithgow	Women Lithgow %	Women NSW %	Men Lithgow	Men Lithgow %	Men NSW %
Managers and Administrators	304	8.8	10.2	512	12.0	16.5
Professional	544	15.8	24.2	343	8.0	18.6
Technicians and Trades	183	5.3	4.3	1 179	27.6	21.6
Community and personal service workers	587	17.0	12.5	270	6.3	5.3
Clerical and administrative Workers	821	23.8	25.6	186	4.4	6.7
Sales Workers	521	15.1	12.8	168	3.9	7.1
Machinery operators and drivers	46	1.3	1.4	974	22.8	10.7
Labourers	399	11.6	7.3	553	13.0	11.4
Not Stated	45	1.3	1.7	85	2.0	2.1
Total	3 450			4 270		

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

employed at all, compared to 49.8% of women in NSW as a whole and 53.3% of Lithgow men. Lithgow women also had lower labour force participation rates (47.4%) compared to women across NSW (52.9%) and Lithgow men (58.6%).

This pattern for women in the Lithgow LGA to be less likely to be employed and more likely if employed to work part time, has implications for the relative resources available to women and is likely to interact with other identified issues such as geographical and social isolation, health issues and personal safety.

Table 3.3.3 details the occupations held by women in the Lithgow LGA at the ABS Census 2006. Interestingly, while Lithgow women were less likely than women across NSW as a whole to be employed as managers/administrators and professionals, they were more likely than Lithgow men to be employed in these occupations. Men were most likely to be employed in technicians/trades and machinery operators/drivers occupations which reflects the local labour market. Women had higher rates of employment in the community and personal service occupations than women across NSW and

again reflecting the local labour market, were more likely than both women and men across NSW as a whole to be employed as machinery operators/drivers and as labourers.

Women and Income

Tables 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 show weekly incomes for men and women by age grouping and as a whole. Compared to men, women were more likely to be receiving low incomes and less likely to be receiving higher incomes. 61.6% of women received \$399 or less per week compared to 39.3% of men. Only 5.4% of women received an income between \$1,000 and \$1,599 per week compared to 14.0% of men. 1.2% of women received an income of \$1,600 or higher per week compared to 8.6% of men.

Young women in particular were more likely to receive a lower income than men. 85.8% of women aged 15-19 years received an income of \$399 or less compared to 75.1% of men. 58.9% of women aged 20-24 years received a weekly income of \$399 or less compared to 34.7% of men. 51.0% of women aged 25-34 years received a weekly income of \$399 or less compared to 22.2% of men.

Table 3.3.4 Weekly Income Women

Weekly Income	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65-74 yrs	75-84 yrs	85+ yrs	Total
Negative/Nil	218	25	59	112	121	126	19	16	3	699
\$1-\$149	211	60	118	124	78	101	39	23	5	759
\$150-\$249	80	83	159	193	203	397	385	229	56	1 785
\$250-\$399	69	101	207	244	214	234	231	211	107	1 618
% \$0-\$399	85.8	58.9	51.0	49.6	44.3	67.0	79.6	79.8	76.7	61.6
\$400-\$599	27	101	196	258	253	152	74	33	17	1 111
\$600-\$799	5	35	81	124	170	75	16	11	5	522
\$800-\$999	0	25	55	88	75	54	6	4	0	307
% \$400-\$999	4.7	35.2	31.2	34.7	35.8	22.0	11.3	8.0	9.9	24.6
\$1 000-\$1 299	0	3	67	63	95	34	5	0	0	267
\$1 300-\$1 599	0	0	23	40	66	24	4	0	3	160
% \$1 000-\$1 599	0	0.7	8.5	7.6	11.6	4.5	1.1	0	1.3	5.4
\$1 600-\$1 999	0	0	4	13	19	8	0	0	0	44
\$2 000 or more	0	3	3	13	13	5	8	3	0	48
% \$1 600 or more	0	0.7	0.7	1.9	2.3	1.0	0.9	0.5	0	1.2
Not stated	64	21	93	84	85	70	60	70	27	574
Total	674	457	1 065	1 356	1 392	1 280	847	600	223	7 894

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.3.5 Weekly Income Men

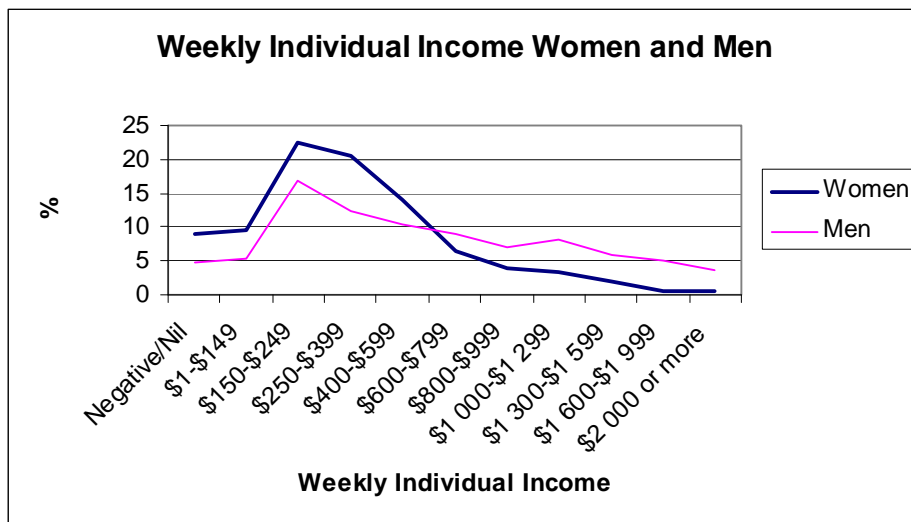
Weekly Income	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65-74 yrs	75-84 yrs	85+ yrs	Total
Negative/Nil	192	23	27	19	52	43	14	5	0	375
\$1-\$149	172	34	24	29	41	56	38	16	8	418
\$150-\$249	70	81	115	123	153	286	313	187	29	1 357
\$250-\$399	85	44	76	111	124	208	202	109	36	995
% \$0-\$399	75.1	34.7	22.2	20.2	24.5	41.6	68.3	71.7	76.0	39.3
\$400-\$599	50	91	108	128	128	158	111	61	6	841
\$600-\$799	16	78	128	136	144	147	45	12	4	710
\$800-\$999	5	31	108	155	132	122	12	6	0	571
% \$400-\$999	10.3	38.2	31.5	30.5	26.7	30.0	20.2	17.9	10.4	26.5
\$1 000-\$1 299	7	32	124	166	181	132	7	0	0	649
\$1 300-\$1 599	0	14	81	135	164	68	7	0	0	469
% \$1 000-\$1 599	1.0	8.8	18.8	21.6	22.8	14.0	1.7	0	0	14.0
\$1 600-\$1 999	0	20	81	112	124	60	0	0	0	397
\$2 000 or more	0	9	26	92	119	36	9	3	0	294
% \$1 600 or more	0	5.5	9.8	14.6	16.1	6.7	1.1	7.0	0	8.6
Not stated	94	67	194	188	151	109	72	43	13	931
Total	691	524	1 092	1 394	1 513	1 425	830	442	96	8 007

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Tables 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 also show that even in the younger age groups, men were far more likely to receive higher incomes than women. Figure 3.3.2 also demonstrates the significant income differentials for men and women in the Lithgow LGA. The blue line represents

women across all age categories and the pink line represents men. Women were more highly represented than men in the lower income ranges up to \$600-\$799 per week after which the percentage of women on higher incomes was less than men.

Figure 3.3.2 Weekly Income Comparisons for Women and Men



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Income differentials are likely to reflect a variety of factors including that women in families with children are more likely to take an unpaid caring role and as a result have more interrupted careers and/or work part time. It reflects the higher concentration of women in part time roles and in lower paid occupations.

Women and Education

Table 3.3.6 shows that Lithgow women (25.3%) were considerably more likely than

Lithgow men (19.6%), but less likely than women in the Central West (32.1%) and NSW (42.4%) to have completed year 12 at high school or its equivalent. Lithgow women (34.0%) were also far more likely than Lithgow men (15.9%) to have a university qualification. Lithgow women were considerably less likely than women in the Central West and NSW as a whole to have a university qualification. Lithgow women were less likely than Lithgow men to have a certificate qualification.

Table 3.3.6 Education Levels Women and Men

	Lithgow LGA Women	%	Lithgow LGA Men	%	Lithgow LGA All Persons	Lithgow % All Persons	Women Central West %	Women NSW %
Highest Level of Schooling Completed						Percentage of total responses		
Year 8 or below	752	9.5	754	9.4	1 506	9.5	8.4	6.8
Year 9 or equivalent	1 064	13.5	937	11.7	2 001	12.6	10.8	8.0
Year 10 or equivalent	2 767	35.1	3 101	38.7	5 868	36.9	33.6	25.9
Year 11 or equivalent	534	6.8	506	6.3	1 040	6.5	6.6	5.8
Year 12 or equivalent	1 998	25.3	1 573	19.6	3 571	22.5	32.1	42.4
Did not go to school	22	0.3	46	0.6	68	0.4	0.4	1.2
	7 894		8 007		15 901			
Non School Qualification (level)						Percentage of total responses		
Postgraduate Degree	57	1.8	59	1.3	116	1.5	2.2	5.2
Graduate Degree and Graduate Certificate	89	2.9	43	1.0	132	1.7	3.0	3.0
Bachelor Degree	483	15.5	296	6.6	779	10.3	20.0	25.1
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	430	13.8	312	7.0	742	9.8	15.5	16.7
Sub Total University Qualification	1 059	34.0 %	710	16.0 %	1 769	23.0%	40.0%	50.0%
Certificate	953	30.6	2 436	55.0	3 389	44.9	29.2	21.5
Not described or stated	1 105	35.5	1 282	29.0	2 387	31.6	30.0	28.4
Total	3 117		4 428		7 545			
<i>Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006</i>								

Women and Violence

The Lithgow LGA has significant rates of recorded domestic violence related assaults. According to the NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 2004, 109 domestic violence related assaults occurred in that year in the Lithgow LGA. This was a rate of 532.7 per 100 000 and gave the Lithgow LGA a rate ranking of the 34th highest in NSW. In 2005 there were 121 domestic violence related assaults. The rate ranking for 2005 was 588.4, which was the 27th highest ranking in NSW (BOSCAR).

The Lithgow LGA also had a relatively high rate of recorded sexual assaults. In the year 2004, there were 24 sexual assaults recorded in the Lithgow LGA which was a rate of 117.3 per 100 000. This placed Lithgow's rate ranking at 27th in the state for 2004. In 2005 there were 42 sexual assaults in the Lithgow LGA, a rate of 204.2 per 100 00. This was the 47th highest LGA rate ranking in NSW (BOSCAR).

While gender was not recorded with these statistics, it is well documented that a significant majority of victims of both domestic violence and sexual assaults are women. It is also well documented that recorded rates of domestic violence and sexual assault significantly under represent actual rates. This is mainly due to the role of secrecy and fear of reporting involved in both these types of crime.

Domestic or family violence takes place in the context of a number of factors related to power and control. These factors include restricted access to economic and other resources, social isolation, education levels, stability of employment and other stresses in relationships, as well as community and individual attitudes toward women.

The following Australian statistics on domestic/family and sexual violence were taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Study Women's Safety in Australia, which was the first national study measuring the extent of the problem in Australia.

- 23% of women who had ever been married or in a de-facto relationship, experienced violence by a partner at some time during the relationship (ABS 1996 p.50).
- 42% of women who had been in a previous relationship reported violence by a previous partner (ABS 1996, p. 51).
- Half of women experiencing violence by their current partner experienced more than one incident of violence (ABS 1996, p. 54).
- Injuries sustained in the last incident were mainly bruises, cuts, and scratches, but also included stab or gun shot wounds, and other injuries (ABS 1996, p. 55).
- 12% of women who reported violence by their current partner at some stage during the relationship, said they were currently living in fear (ABS 1996, p. 51).
- Women who experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner were significantly more likely to experience emotional abuse (manipulation, isolation or intimidation) than those who had not experienced violence (ABS 1996, p. 51).
- Younger women were more at risk than older women, with 7.3% of women aged 18-24 years having experienced one or more incidents of violence from a current partner in the previous 12 month period as compared to 1.2% of women aged 55 and over (ABS 1996, p. 50).

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse Topic Paper:

Australian Statistics on Domestic Violence

Jane Mulrone

Domestic and sexual violence against women is a relatively significant issue in the Lithgow LGA. It needs to be noted that children are significantly adversely affected by living in situations of family violence even when they do not directly witness incidents of violence. Council and other community and government organisations need to target prevention and response strategies to reduce the factors contributing to violence such as secrecy, stigmatization and other barriers to disclosure.

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group "women" were identified through focus group research with the target group.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of women. These included:

- Services are OK
- Women's health services good
- Social connectedness – Community is "close knit"
- Social/Spiritual needs can be met– There are lots of groups to get involved with (e.g. church)
- Social contact– Friendliness of the community
- Employment – Opportunities for young women to enter non traditional trades.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by women:

- Health – lack of advertising for services eg. support for depression
- Health – problems with drugs
- Economic – Poverty
- Economic/Health – Bad cycle of unemployment, depression, suicide
- Social – Negative undercurrent

- Social/Recreational – Lack of activities
- Lack of choice in shops – need to go out of town for lots of things
- Losing traditional skills of older women
- Educational – TAFE being wound back – offering less opportunities to the community
- Social/Safety – Abuse and violence
- Feeling unsafe to go out at night

What's Needed

- Health/Social – Women's support group
- Health/Services – More advertising of community services
- Social/recreational – Alternative activities to pubs/drinking
- Social/recreational – more activities (e.g. picture theatre)
- Social/recreational more low cost social activities
- Educational – TAFE to be more responsive to our community needs
- Social – Opportunities for younger and older women to get together to share skills, knowledge and support
- Social/safety – safety at home and out.
- Employment – job opportunities
- Housing/financial – low interest housing loans and properties

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group women identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research. It should be noted here that women are not a homogenous group in the Lithgow LGA, and therefore experience diverse needs.

Information and Networking

Women in the focus group identified a need for improvements to information dissemination and networking in the Lithgow LGA. They said that there was a lack of advertising and awareness raising activities for services available to the community including health services for depression, and for community services.

Health Services

Health service needs identified by the group were for a women's support group and for greater advertising of services available. The group did not identify other gaps however other groups have identified a need for enhancements to hospital and maternity services. Women in the Lithgow LGA have access to mid wife services and continue to receive outreach services from Bathurst Women's Health Centre following the area health boundary changes.

Morbidity and Mortality data collected and reported by Sydney West Area Health Services' Centre for Epidemiology, Indicators, Research and Evaluation (2005) indicate that women in the Lithgow LGA have relatively poor health outcomes compared with women in NSW.

Affordable Recreation

This group also identified a number of needs in relation to recreation in the Lithgow LGA. They said that there were a lack of activities and that there was a need for alternative activities to drinking at pubs. They suggested a need for a cinema, as well as more low cost activities. Cost is an important consideration for women in the Lithgow LGA due to their relatively low incomes.

Social

Women who participated in the focus group indicated a perception that there is a high level of social connectedness in the Lithgow LGA, describing the community as "close knit" and friendly.

Women also identified a number of social needs. They expressed a perception about a negative undercurrent (this was not further specified), and linked their recreational needs to a need for social opportunities that were not drinking and pub related. Women identified a need for more social opportunities for younger and older women to get together to share skills, knowledge and support. LINC resources a monthly women's group in Portland and there are a number of other

social groups including Country Women's Association groups in Lithgow, Wallerawang/Lidsdale and Portland.

Affordable Child Care

This issue is addressed in detail in the target group profile for children. Women in the Lithgow LGA did not specify child care as a particular need however planning and service provision of child care is an important consideration in enabling women to access a full range of opportunities such as in education and employment.

Affordable Housing

Women identified that housing affordability is an issue in the Lithgow LGA. They indicated that there is a need for low interest housing loans and properties. The increasing unaffordability of housing in the Lithgow LGA has particular implications for women due to their lower incomes.

Education and Employment

Women identified a number of issues related to the areas of education and employment. They expressed satisfaction with the perception that young women have greater opportunities to non traditional trades (interpreted to mean trades that they have traditionally been excluded from). Women stated concern that TAFE was winding back on courses being offered to the community and that there was a need for TAFE to be more responsive to community needs. Women also stated a need for greater paid employment opportunities.

Safety

As outlined in the demography section of this profile, women in the Lithgow LGA experience high levels of exposure to criminal incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault. Women interviewed in the focus group research also indicated concern with abuse and violence as well as feeling unsafe to go out at night. This translated to a stated community need for safety at home and away.

There is evidently a need to address the issue of violence against women in the community through activities such as prevention activities i.e. respect in relationships training in schools and greater access to Alternatives to Violence training for adults. There is also a need for more coordinated government and community responses to families in crisis as well as greater community education and awareness raising through events and publications.

Women and children experiencing family violence in the Lithgow LGA have access to crisis accommodation and other services such as counselling through Lithgow Community Projects. They also have access to Court assistance and support in seeking Apprehended Violence Orders through the Elisabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre which covers the Lithgow LGA.

Poverty

Women in the Lithgow LGA receive considerably lower incomes than their male counterparts. This issue was outlined in the Demography section of this profile. Women also indicated in the focus group research that poverty is a perceived problem for them.

Actions to Date

Domestic Violence Liaison Committee

The Lithgow Domestic Violence Liaison Committee is a long standing community forum bringing together government and community representatives to address issues relating to domestic violence in the community. Council has a staff representative on the Committee. Recent achievements of the committee include an Alternatives to Violence project resulting in large artworks on fabric, as well as Stop Domestic Violence Day, International Women's Day and White Ribbon Day community activities. Council has committed resources to the development of these activities. Council also made a financial contribution to Elisabeth Evatt Legal Centre toward the development of a domestic

violence information booklet for the Lithgow LGA women. Lithgow Library Learning Centre is also liaising with Elisabeth Evatt Legal Centre in relation to promotion of the Library's Legal Information Access Centre.

Lithgow as a Family Friendly Community

This is a relatively new initiative with Council giving its in principle support and in kind assistance to the project from 2005. The Family Friendly Community initiative provides the platform for an expansion of the success of the Community Fun Days and enables the development of various activities aimed at better linking and supporting families in the community. The Lithgow Family Friendly Community initiative has gained important support from the Lithgow Business Association.

Activities in the Lithgow LGA so far have included the development of an events calendar (including events such as library story times, sporting club registrations and community fun days), a guidelines and promotion for family friendly businesses and events, a logo competition engaging children in local primary schools which has been used to identify association with the initiative and features on the front cover of this year's "community guide", and a continuation and planned expansion of the Community Fun Days into more of the outlying areas in the Lithgow LGA such as Cullen Bullen, Capertee, Rydal and Hartley. Council received grant funding from Joblink plus this year to assist with this expansion.

While this initiative is more directly targeted toward children in the Lithgow LGA, it aims to achieve its purposes by promoting community connection and support, and provides women with opportunities to make contact with one another and with services providers.

Table 3.3.7 Actions relating to women from 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time frame	Partnerships	Progress/Action Taken
MEDIUM	7.1 Opportunities to promote cultural heritage	7.1.1 Work with Lithgow Visitors Information Centre to produce a promotional document which expresses Lithgow's cultural heritage	Jun-01	Council/Community/Lithgow Visitors Information Centre	These objectives are under review within Council's cultural planning activities.
		7.1.2 Lithgow Visitors Information Centre actively promote Lithgow's Cultural heritage as part of it's work.	Ongoing	Lithgow Visitors Information Centre	

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Table 3.3.8 Action Plan 2006 - 2011

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Actions	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Women					
Improve information dissemination and networking.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure inclusion of information & advertising for services such as depression and community services. 				
Improve access for women to quality health services.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure referral of need for improved hospital services including maternity and support services for women. 				
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet women's needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve availability of affordable housing options for women.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Address the need for access to education and employment opportunities	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Address violence against women in the community.	Refer Community Action Plan – Crime Prevention Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that issues of safety for women both within and outside the home are addressed. 				
	Consider ongoing participation and support of the Lithgow Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Ongoing	Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Consideration of participation	\$1 800
	Consider participation in White Ribbon Day to raise community awareness of Domestic Violence in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annually	NSW Department for Women, Council, and Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Consideration of Participation	\$1 000
Raise the profile of Women in Lithgow LGA.	Apply for funding and hold activities for International Women's Day.	Annually	Council, LINC, Lithgow Community Projects, NSW Office for Women, the community	Activities completed	\$1 800

* Costs are only estimated at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process

**Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.

People with Disabilities of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

People with disabilities form one of the seven mandatory target groups for social planning under the Department of Local Government Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

People with disabilities are a significant demographic group in the Lithgow LGA. This group is significant for social planning due to its relative size and specific needs.

People with disabilities are a diverse group with heterogeneous needs. People with disabilities have different needs determined by the nature of their disabilities (the type and degree of disability), as well as other social factors such as their cultural backgrounds, gender, sexuality, geographical location etc.

Factors of disadvantage such as socioeconomic disadvantage, unemployment and poor health can be more likely to be present for people with disabilities making it imperative for Government to consider their needs in over all planning and resource distribution (Disability Council of NSW). It is important that local government work to develop and maintain networks with people with disabilities as well as service providers to enable a better understanding of this groups' diverse needs.

Demography

Note: Tables 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 are based on data from the 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing. The remainder of this target group profile is based on Regional Target Group Profiles produced by the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) using 1998 and 2001 Census data. At the time that the 2006 Social Plan was updated in October 2008, updates of this DADHC data were unavailable so the data was left unchanged from the earlier edition of the Social Plan.

Table 3.4.1 Core Activity Need for Assistance

Age	Need for Assistance Males	% Males	Need for Assistance Females	% Females	Need for Assistance Persons	% Persons	Total All Persons	NSW Persons %
0-4	7	1.3	6	1.1	13	1.2	1 137	1.3
5-14	50	9.4	19	3.5	69	6.4	2 725	5.8
15-19	19	3.6	9	1.6	28	2.6	1 365	2.2
20-24	19	3.6	9	1.6	28	2.6	980	1.7
25-34	21	3.9	22	4.0	43	4.0	2 156	3.8
35-44	59	11.1	29	5.3	88	8.2	2 750	6.1
45-54	65	12.2	51	9.3	116	10.8	2 903	9.4
55-64	94	17.7	65	11.9	159	14.7	2 705	13.1
65-74	87	16.4	58	10.6	145	13.5	1 675	13.3
75-84	67	12.6	149	27.3	216	20.0	1 042	24.1
85+	44	8.3	129	23.6	173	16.0	319	19.2
Total	532	100%	546	100%	1 078	100%	19 757	100%
% of Total Population		5.3%		5.6%		5.5%		4.2%

Source ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.4.1 shows the number of males, females and persons with a profound or severe disability, defined as people needing help or assistance in one or more core activities of self care, mobility and communication because of a long term health condition (lasting 6 months or more) or old age. Percentages are of the totals within males, females and persons. In almost all age groups up to age 74, there was a higher percentage of males than females requiring assistance. Compared to NSW as a whole, there was a higher percentage of Lithgow persons requiring assistance in most age

groups up until age 75. Further, as shown in the bottom row of the table, the overall percentage of people requiring assistance in Lithgow (5.5%) was significantly higher than in NSW as a whole (4.2%).

Table 3.4.2 shows the number of people providing assistance to another person with a disability. As would be expected, most carers (67% of all carers) were in their middle years, aged between 35 - 64 years. Although not shown in Table 3.4.2, 59% of all carers were women and 40% of all carers are women in their middle years aged 35-64 years.

Table 3.4.2 Persons Providing Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability by Age

Age	Provide Unpaid assistance	%	Provide no unpaid assistance and not stated	Total Persons
15-19	65	3.5	1 300	1 365
20-24	91	4.9	890	981
25-34	194	10.3	1 964	2 158
35-44	366	19.5	2 382	2 748
45-54	452	24.1	2 453	2 905
55-64	440	23.5	2 265	2 705
65-74	197	10.5	1 480	1 677
75-84	62	3.3	981	1 043
85+	9	0.5	310	319
Total	1 876	100%	14 025	15 901

Source ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Population

Note: The following data is based on existing Regional Target Group Profiles produced by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care using 1998 and 2001 Census data. At the time that the 2006 Social Plan was updated, updates of this data were unavailable so the data has been left unchanged from the earlier edition of the Social Plan.

According to ABS and Department of Ageing and Disabilities sources there are an estimated 3 609 people with disabilities living in the Lithgow LGA. People with disabilities are a group that have not been particularly well captured in the Census, so estimates rely on more indirect modelling which include surveys, population data, and access to service organisations.

In the Lithgow LGA there are a growing proportion of disabilities in older age brackets. Figure 3.4.3 shows the direct relationship between age and disability. The age groups with the lowest proportion of people with disabilities are 0-4 and 15-19. There is a 50% increase in the number of people classified with a disability in the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups. This may be a result of screening and identification of disabilities in children when they go to primary school.

There is a sharp increase in the numbers and proportionate representation of people with disabilities in the age group 30-34 and this steadily increases to 50-54 where the numbers of people with disabilities remain steady however the proportion of the population continues to climb. The steady increase in the proportion of people with disabilities with age may be because disabilities are acquired across a lifetime through injury and illness.

This shows that while disability is a factor across all age groups, Council needs to consider the interaction of ageing and disability in planning for its ageing population.

There is a relationship between gender and people with disabilities evident in Figure 3.4.3. People with disabilities are more likely to be male in younger age groups and are increasingly likely to be female in older age groups. The trend continues steadily through the age groups, so that the relationship between gender and age is by and large reversed across the lifetime.

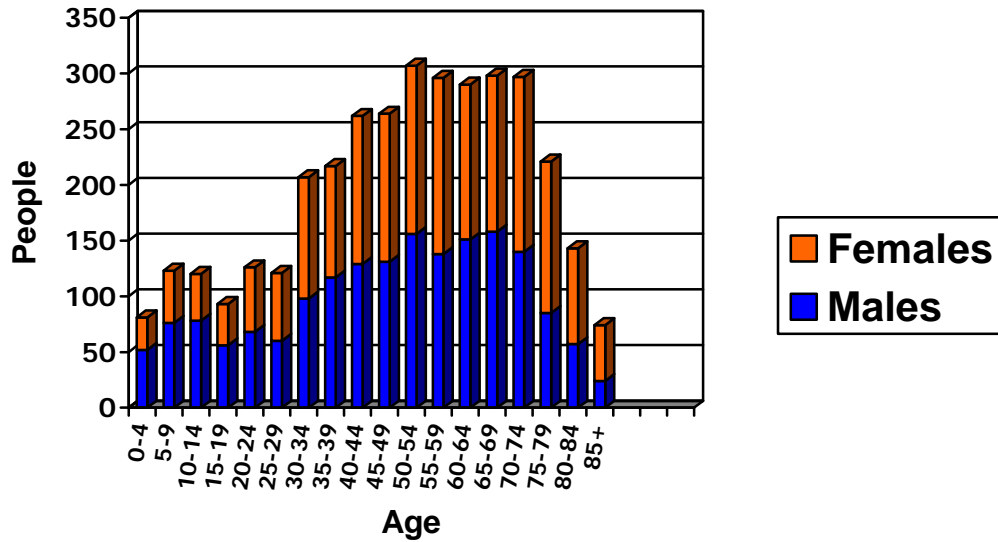
Table 3.4.3 People with Disabilities by Age Group – Lithgow LGA 1998

Age Distribution	Males	Females	Total Persons
0-4	52	29	81
5-9	76	47	123
10-14	78	42	120
15-19	56	37	93
20-24	68	58	126
25-29	60	61	121
30-34	98	109	207
35-39	117	100	217
40-44	129	133	262
45-49	131	133	264
50-54	156	151	307
55-59	138	158	296
60-64	151	139	290
65-69	158	140	298
70-74	140	157	297
75-79	85	136	221
80-84	57	86	143
85 and over	24	50	74
Total	1774	1766	3540

Source: Regional Profiles Population Target Groups 2002

Source: 2001 Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile

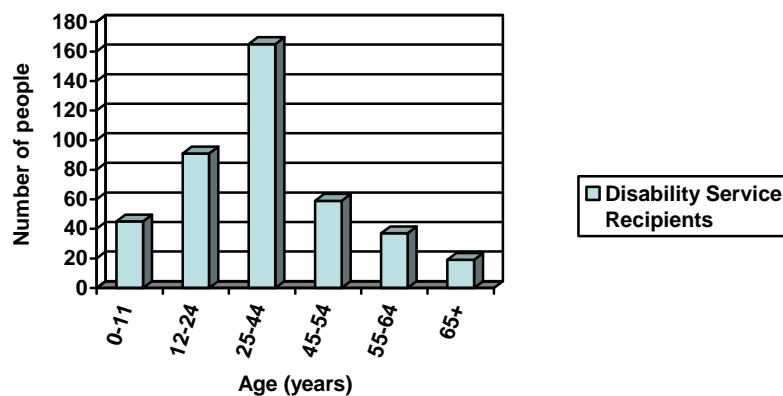
Figure 3.4.1 People with Disabilities by Age Groupings 1998 - Lithgow LGA



Source: Regional Profiles Population Target Groups 2002

Note: Data is calculated by ABS Synthetic predictors, derived from the 1998 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers and the 1996 Census of Population and Housing (people in private dwellings only)

Figure 3.4.2 Disability Service Recipients by age groupings - Central West Planning Area, Year 2000



Source: NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care, 2002 Regional Profiles

Figure 3.4.3 indicates the numbers of recipients in various age groupings in the Central West planning area for the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care, to which the Lithgow LGA belongs. The data indicates numbers of recipients for age groupings of different sizes, and therefore does not lend itself to comparison.

Table 3.4.4 refers to the estimated numbers of people in the Lithgow LGA with a disability and the classification of degree of disability they live with. The estimated population of people with disabilities was 3 609 in 2001 or 18.8%. Of these people the largest group were people with moderate disabilities (5.9% of the Lithgow LGA) followed by people with

severe and profound disabilities (3.6% and 3.1% respectively) and by people with other impairments or mild disabilities.

While Table 3.4.3 shows degree of disability it does not indicate type of disability. The types of disability include: physical disabilities, learning or intellectual disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, visual impairments, hearing impairments, and speech impediments. These different types of disability, each with degrees of severity, contribute to the diversity of needs of people with disabilities.

Table 3.4.4 Category of Disability – Lithgow LGA

Category of Disability	Total	<i>Proportion of Total Population</i>
People with a Profound Disability	589	3.1%
People with a Severe Disability	688	3.6%
People with a Moderate Disability	1,139	5.9%
People with a Mild Disability	315	1.6%
People with Other Impairment	472	2.5%
Estimated Number Moderate/Severe/Profound Disability 2001	2,416	12.6%
Estimated Number of People with Disability 2001	3,609	18.8%

Source: Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care from ABS Census 2001

Table 3.4.5 shows an ABS synthetic prediction of people with disabilities in the Lithgow LGA in 1998 according to both classifications of types of disability and degree of impairment.

Physical disability is by far the most common type of disability in the Lithgow LGA (2 704 people, 76.4% of the total population with disabilities, and approximately 14% of the total population). Of people with physical disabilities in the Lithgow LGA, the most common degree of physical disability is mild (866), then moderate (525), then severe (439).

Sensory disabilities form the next most common type of disability (400 people) after physical disabilities, followed by psychological disabilities (224). 91 people had intellectual disabilities followed by people with acquired brain injury (21).

Local service providers have informed Council that true figures for people with intellectual disabilities is significantly higher than in Table 3.4.5. One estimate of people with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities currently receiving a service in the Lithgow LGA is 180. This does not include people who currently are not receiving a service.

Table 3.4.5 Disability Type by Disability Degree in Lithgow LGA 1998

Disability type		Physical	Sensory	Acquired Brain Injury	Intellectual	Psychological	Total
Disability degree	Profound	289	55	14	12	28	398
	Severe	439	55	20	18	46	578
	Moderate	525	76	23	14	37	675
	Mild	866	135	39	22	55	1 117
Schooling/employment restriction only		233	23	10	13	30	309
No Specific Restriction		352	56	15	12	28	463
Total		2 704	400	21	91	224	3 540

Source: Regional Profiles Population Target Groups 2002

Note: Data is calculated by ABS Synthetic predictors, derived from the 1998 Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers and the 1996 Census of Population and Housing (people in private dwellings only)

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group, people with disabilities were identified through a focus group research with the target group. The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of people with disabilities. These included:

Community Strengths

- Community services e.g. LINC, Uniting Care, Community Visitors Scheme, Beehive
- Lithgow Special Education Units
- Hospitals – Ladies Auxiliary

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by people with disabilities:

- Footpaths – accessibility for wheelchairs and mobility
- Hospitals
- Disability transport – lack of transport, difficulties with accessibility to other towns – LGA
- Lack of funds targeted to the Lithgow LGA
- Shop/business – accessibility, counter heights, height of shelves
- ATM's
- Petrol stations accessibility
- Wheelchair accessible toilets
- Lack of disability friendly sports
- Train accessibility
- Accessibility of hydro-pool – should be a ramp
- Lack of specialist care i.e. physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy
- Lack of recreational activities e.g. movies, bowling, heated indoor pool
- Lack of courses/educational opportunities e.g. pottery etc
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of local networking by schools and other service providers

- Telephones – lack of, also reduce height

What's needed

Council to assist in attracting funding to Lithgow.

- More information access to Lithgow Access Committee
- Greater networking between local service providers and community
- Heated pool, bowling alley & cinema
- Big W, Kmart
- Chemist in Wallerawang
- Ambulance in Portland
- More appropriate utilisation of Portland Hospital
- Lithgow Disability Coordinator

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the people with disabilities target group identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Physical Access

Physical access was identified as a key issue in the focus group research. This is not surprising given that approximately 76% of people with disabilities have a physical disability. A significant number of reported limitations and needs related to physical access across a range of areas. These included: footpaths – accessibility for wheelchairs and mobility; shops and businesses – accessibility, counter heights, height of shelves; ATM's; petrol stations accessibility; wheelchair accessible toilets; accessibility of hydro-pool – should be a ramp; telephones – lack of, also reduce height. Telephones in Eskbank Street were also identified in the Older Peoples group as being hazardous to people with visual impairments.

Health Services

Improved Health services were identified as an area of need in the focus group research. Areas identified included: Hospitals; lack of

specialists care i.e. physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy; Ambulance in Portland; and Chemist services in Wallerawang. It is apparent that there is some need for further exploration and assessment of these issues with the involvement of Sydney West Area Health Service and division of General Practitioners.

Transport

Access to transport was also identified as an issue in the focus group research. The group identified a lack of disability transport and difficulties with accessibility to towns other than Lithgow within the Lithgow LGA and train accessibility.

Transport is a particular issue for people with disabilities in Wallerawang. This is because a number of boarding house facilities are located in Wallerawang where school buses are the main form of public transport.

Education and Employment

People with disabilities identified a lack of courses and educational opportunities in the Lithgow LGA.

Employment opportunities were identified in the focus group research as lacking for people with disabilities in the Lithgow LGA. While employment and unemployment rates for people with disabilities are not available through the ABS, there is some evidence to suggest that this is a major issue.

There are a number of employment services in the Lithgow LGA including one, Gateway Employment, which specialises in working with people with disabilities and mainstream employers to support work placements for people with disabilities. Gateway employment have over time reported that there are major challenges with attracting large sections of employers to place people with disabilities in employment, this despite those employers who do employ people with disabilities reporting high levels of satisfaction.

Recreation

People with disabilities identified a need for recreational activities in the Lithgow LGA, with a particular focus on accessible activities. The focus group research identified that people with disabilities experience a lack of disability friendly sports and experience a need for a heated pool; bowling alley and cinema in the Lithgow LGA.

Uniting Care Disability Services report that sporting clubs in Lithgow invite people with disabilities to train with their teams.

Uniting Care Disability Services have indicated a need for public BBQ's and report that they regularly transport groups of people out of town to use facilities.

Resources, Information and Networks

As with a number of other target groups, people with disabilities identified a need for improved information dissemination and networking in the Lithgow LGA. The group perceived a lack of funds targeted to the Lithgow LGA and expressed a need for Council to provide greater assistance in attracting funding to Lithgow. Particularly, people with disabilities identified that there is a need for a Lithgow Disabilities Coordinator.

The group also identified that there is a lack of local networking by schools and other service providers, and advocated greater networking between local service providers and the community. There is now a transition support teacher located in Lithgow.

Actions to Date

Lithgow Transport Working Group

The Lithgow Transport Working Group reformed during 2005 with considerable assistance from the Ministry of Transport under the Regional Transport Coordinators Program. Council, community groups including disabilities service providers and the major providers of public transport including the Lithgow taxi cooperative, Jones Brothers

Bus Company, City Rail/Rail Corp and Country Link are represented on the Working Group.

Lithgow Taxi Co-operative now co-own a wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT). This needs to be booked ahead of time as the taxi is not continuously on the road.

The purpose of the Group is to identify gaps in public transport and seek solutions through partnership. The Group is currently working toward making an application to become a working group under Council's Committee structure.

Lithgow Community Services Interagency

Council participates in the Lithgow Community Services Interagency. Some work has been undertaken to address concerns relating to coordination between services, resource scarcity and information dissemination through the development of a Steering Committee for Partnerships and Resources which had representation from disabilities service providers and which was facilitated by Council. This Interagency Committee is currently not meeting and there is a need to review its function. Attempts to undertake a service audit were frustrated by a poor return of surveys.

Table 3.4.6 Actions relating to People with Disabilities from 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time frame	Partnerships	Progress/Action Taken
HIGH	1.1 Physical access to buildings and facilities	1.1.1 Refer to Community Safety Audit, Draft Lithgow City Crime Prevention Plan to identify areas where improved lighting is required and develop strategies to address the need	Mar-01	Council, Integral Energy, Mid Western Area Health, Advance Energy	Crime Prevention plan not yet drafted. Improved Street Lighting in Portland, and under awning lighting in Main Street Lithgow - Ongoing analysis
		1.1.2 Undertaken an audit of existing Public Toilets to determine whether they are accessible	Mar-01	Council in consultation with the Access Advisory Committee	Access Advisory Committee has recommended continued review of public toilets to be carried out as part of Council cleaning and maintenance. Investigation was initiated re: locating Exeloo's in Cook Plaza & Eskbank St Carpark (cost was found to be preclusive)- Relocation of Library in late 2004 has provided toilet access available during business hours in Main Street.
		1.1.3 Identify Key locations where toilets need to be upgraded to be accessible.	Mar-01	Council in consultation with the Access Advisory Committee	
		1.1.4 Prepare a full costing on the upgrades required for consideration by Council in the 2001/02 budgeting process	Apr-01	Council, Environmental Services Department.	
		1.1.5 Review accessibility to shops in Main Street, Lithgow and prepare a report to Council on any work required to improve access	Feb-01	Council in consultation with the Access Advisory Committee	All new Development Applications submitted to Council are required to comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia as far as access for disabled persons is concerned. The Access Advisory Committee (AAC) reported on access issues with businesses and also provided Access Commendation Awards to businesses with suitable disabled access improvements.
		1.1.6 Undertaken an inspection of Portland Library to address access issues including: 1. External step too high & 2. Extension of existing hand rails.	Mar-01	Council, Portland Development Committee	Achieved

Table 3.4.6 Actions relating to People with Disabilities from 2000 Social Plan (cont)

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time frame	Partnerships	Progress/Action Taken
HIGH	1.1 Physical access to buildings and facilities	1.1.7 Prepare a full costing on work required to improve access to Portland Library for consideration by Council in the 2001/02 budgeting process.	Apr-01	Access Advisory Committee	Achieved - ramp installed
		1.1.8 Review disabled parking in Portland and make recommendations on the need for additional disabled parking.	Feb-01	Council in consultation with the Access Advisory Committee and Traffic Authority Local Committee	Achieved- additional spaces provided
		1.1.9 Address the issue of physical access to Lithgow City Council chambers and prepare a report including costing to Council on strategies to make the Council Chambers physically accessible to all people	Apr-01	Council in consultation with the Access Advisory Committee	Achieved - Passenger lift installed
MEDIUM	8.1 Increased public awareness and education about people with disabilities	8.1.1 Provide opportunities for Disability Service Providers to contribute to the Council Connections Newsletter.	Quarterly Ongoing	Council/ Disability Service Providers	Inconsistent with current Council Practice
		8.1.2 Encourage Disability Service Providers/People with Disabilities to participate in Council's Access Committee	Ongoing	Council/Lithgow Access Committee	There is no access committee in Council's current structure.
		8.1.3 Assist Disability Service Providers to apply for funds to produce a regular newsletter to the community featuring people with disabilities	Dec-00	Council/ Disability Service Providers/State Government	Not achieved due to resource limitations. Review of need required.

Target Group Profiles – People with Disabilities

Table 3.4.7 Action Plan 2006 - 2011

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
People With Disabilities					
Improve access for people with disabilities in the Lithgow LGA.	Develop a Disability Access Plan	June 2008	Council, Uniting Care, LINC, SWAHS, the community.	Adoption of Policy and Plan	\$50 000
	Audit Council's footpath infrastructure and facilities for accessibility.	June 09 and then ongoing	Council and community	Complete audit	\$50 000
	Improve accessibility to the Lithgow Swimming Centre	June 2011	Council and Community	Completion of works	\$85 000
Improve health services to people with disabilities	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for services with government eg. Discharge planner; ambulance services. 				
Improve access to transport for people with disabilities.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for hospital transport after hours Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral of disability parking at the Union Theatre to Traffic Authority Local Committee (TALC) 				
Improve employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities.	Identify and establish partnerships to improve employment and work experience opportunities for people with disabilities.	Ongoing	Council, community service providers, local business and industry community	Participation in community activities that promote the objective	\$500
Develop resources, information and networks.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council to join with community groups and community service providers to lobby government regarding resources for people with disabilities	Ongoing	Council, community, community service providers	Referral of issues	\$500
	Consider continued annual celebration of International Day of People with a Disability in accordance with the new procedure.	Annual	Council, LINC, Uniting Care, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Arts Out West, community	Annual participation	\$100

** Costs are only estimated at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People of the Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are people who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identify as such and are accepted by the respective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up one of the seven mandatory target groups for local government social planning as determined by the Department of Local Government.

The town of Lithgow is just within the Eastern border of a geographically large Aboriginal nation called Wirajuri. Lithgow LGA lies almost wholly within the Wirajuri nation. Gundungurra lies to the south and Dharuk is to the east of the Lithgow LGA.

The Wirajuri people of the Lithgow LGA have significant heritage in the area. According to Council's 2005 State of the Environment Report there are 372 Aboriginal sites in the Lithgow LGA with a total of 422 features.

The Lithgow LGA has an above average proportion of residents who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people compared with NSW. This proportion has steadily increased over the last three counted Censuses.

Demography

Table 3.5.1 shows that there were 606 Indigenous Australians counted in the Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census. Of these, 363 people, almost 60% lived in the urban centre of Lithgow. 68 lived in Portland, 50 in Wallerawang and 7 in Cullen Bullen.

Lithgow LGA had an above average and growing Indigenous population relative to total population. Table 3.5.1 shows that at the 2006 Census, Indigenous people made up 3.1% of the total Lithgow LGA population, up

from 2.9% in 2001 and 2.1% in 1996. By comparison, the percentage of indigenous people in the Central West region was 4.5% in 2006 and 2.1% in NSW as a whole.

Table 3.5.1 shows that there has been a considerable increase in the number of Indigenous people and their proportion of the total population in the Lithgow LGA over the ten year period from 1996 to 2006. In this period the population rose from 406 in 1996 to 553 in 2001 and again to 606 in 2006. This increase can partly but not wholly be explained by an Australian trend in the past two Censuses whereby Indigenous people have been more likely to identify as such.

The relatively large size and growing nature of the population of Indigenous Australians living in the Lithgow LGA, combined with other factors indicate that this group warrants considerable regard in Council's planning processes.

Table 3.5.1 Indigenous People in Lithgow LGA 1996 – 2006

Status	1996		
	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	215	149	364
Torres Strait Islander	16	20	36
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	3	3	6
Total Indigenous	234	172	406
<i>% of Total Lithgow Population</i>	<i>2.4%</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
<i>Central West %</i>	<i>3.2%</i>	<i>3.0%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>
<i>NSW %</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>	<i>1.7%</i>

Status	2001		
	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	296	216	512
Torres Strait Islander	13	8	21
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	10	10	20
Total Indigenous	319	234	553
<i>% of Total Lithgow Population</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>2.5%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>
<i>Central West %</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>
<i>NSW %</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>

Status	2006		
	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	320	243	563
Torres Strait Islander	17	11	28
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	6	9	15
Total Indigenous	343	263	606
<i>% of Total Lithgow Population</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>
<i>Central West %</i>	<i>1.6%</i>	<i>4.4%</i>	<i>4.5%</i>
<i>NSW %</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>2.1%</i>

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.5.2 shows the age distribution of Indigenous Australian people living in the Lithgow LGA across the last three Censuses. This is depicted graphically in Figure 3.5.1.

The number of 10-19 year olds increased significantly from 91 in 1996 to 134 in 2006 although the percentage increase of this age group in the total population was only small.

In percentage terms, the Indigenous population aged in the period 1996 to 2006. While the numbers of young people aged 0-4 and 5-9 increased, the percentage of children 0-9 years in the total indigenous population fell from 25.7% in 1996 to 20.3% in 2006.

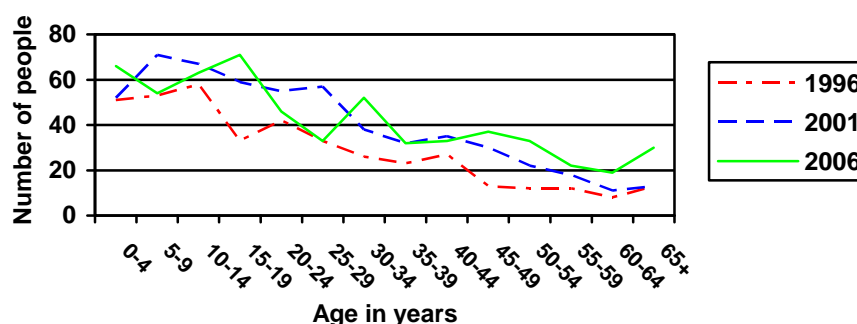
The number of indigenous people aged 45 years and over increased considerably from 58 to 141 people between 1996 and 2006, a percentage increase from 14.4% to 23.9%.

Table 3.5.2 Indigenous People in Lithgow LGA by Age Over Time

Age	1996			2001			2006		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0-4	24	27	51	29	23	52	38	28	66
5-9	27	26	53	37	34	71	34	20	54
10-14	35	23	58	31	36	67	31	32	63
15-19	16	17	33	27	32	59	29	42	71
20-24	26	16	42	41	14	55	30	16	46
25-29	25	8	33	36	21	57	23	10	33
30-34	20	6	26	25	13	38	31	21	52
35-39	18	5	23	19	13	32	18	14	32
40-44	13	14	27	27	8	35	15	18	33
45-49	9	4	13	16	14	30	24	13	37
50-54	5	7	12	11	11	22	16	17	33
55-59	6	6	12	10	8	18	12	10	22
60-64	3	5	8	6	5	11	12	7	19
65+	7	6	13	7	6	13	20	10	30
Total	234	170	404	322	238	560	333	258	591

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

**Figure 3.5.1 Indigenous Persons by Age and Census Year
Lithgow LGA**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

The Department of Local Government defines older Indigenous people as people over 45 year of age. This is due to the significantly lower life expectancy ages for Indigenous populations in NSW and Australia.

Employment

Unemployment is a significant issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Lithgow LGA, as in other parts of NSW.

Table 3.5.3 shows that 28.1% of the Indigenous population of Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census was employed compared to 48.6% of the total Lithgow population. Further, 12.5% of the indigenous population was unemployed compared to 4.5% of the total Lithgow population. 56.5% of the indigenous population was not in the labour force compared to 41.6% of the total Lithgow population.

Table: 3.5.3 Labour Force Status – Indigenous Persons

Status	2006			% Total Indigenous Population Over 15 Years	% Total Lithgow Population Over 15 Years
	Males	Females	Total		
Employed	62	57	119	28.1%	48.6%
Unemployed	27	26	53	12.5%	4.5%
Total Labour Force	89	83	172	40.1%	53.1%
Not in the Labour Force	143	96	239	56.5%	41.6%
Not Stated	6	6	12	2.8%	5.3%
Total	238	185	423		

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Income

Table 3.5.4 shows the weekly incomes of Indigenous households in Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census. It shows that in the Lithgow LGA, 12.7% of indigenous households earned less than \$250 per week compared to 11.8% of non-indigenous households. Further, 39.0% of Indigenous households received an income between \$250 and \$799 per week compared to 35.7% of non-indigenous households. Indigenous households were also less likely to be receiving a higher income with 27.4% earning more than \$1,000 per week compared to 35.8% of non-indigenous households.

Table 3.5.4 Household Weekly Income– Indigenous Households Lithgow LGA

	Number of Indigenous Households	% of Total Indigenous Households	% of Total non-Indigenous Households
Negative or nil	4	1.5	1.1
\$1 - \$149	11	4.1	1.9
\$150 - \$249	19	7.1	8.8
\$250 - \$349	24	8.9	10.2
\$350 - \$499	26	9.7	7.6
\$500 - \$649	39	14.5	11.6
\$650 - \$799	16	5.9	6.3
\$800 - \$999	18	6.7	6.4
\$1,000 - \$1,399	35	13.0	12.6
\$1,400 - \$1,999	21	7.8	12.2
\$2,000 - \$2,499	9	3.3	4.7
\$2,500 and over	9	3.3	6.3
Other and not stated	38	14.1	10.1
Total	269	100%	100%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Health Issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

It is well documented that Indigenous Australians experience significant health disadvantage relative to the population as a whole. While specific data relating to health for the Lithgow LGA's Indigenous population was not available, the health differentials more likely to be experienced by Indigenous people here need to be considered.

The following key points relate to the Indigenous population of NSW as a whole and are taken from the 2005 Report of the NSW Chief Health Officer. Their inclusion is relevant in order to highlight some of the health issues more likely to be experienced by members of the Lithgow LGA's Indigenous population than its non Indigenous population.

- In 1999-2001, newborn Indigenous males in NSW could expect to live 57 years, and newborn Indigenous females could expect to live 64 years. This was about 20 years less than the life expectancy for the general population.
- Indigenous people are more likely to die at younger ages. People aged less than 25 years make up around 10% of deaths of Indigenous people, compared with 2% of deaths among non-Indigenous people. Deaths among people aged 65 years and over comprise around 38% of Indigenous deaths, compared with 80% of non-Indigenous deaths.
- Around 12% of Indigenous babies are born prematurely, and a similar percentage are of low birth weight. These rates are higher than for the general population.
- Indigenous people have higher smoking rates than non-Indigenous people and are more likely to report

drinking alcohol at levels that are risky for health.

- Indigenous people have higher hospitalisation rates than non-Indigenous people for many health conditions. Compared with non-Indigenous people, Indigenous people in NSW:
 - are 1.7 times more likely to be hospitalised for injury and poisoning
 - are twice as likely to be hospitalised for heart disease and stroke
 - are 4 to 5 times more likely to be hospitalised for diabetes
 - are 3 to 5 times more likely to be hospitalised for chronic respiratory diseases
 - are 3 times more likely to be hospitalised for acute respiratory diseases
 - are more likely to be hospitalised as children for middle ear infections.

Reproduced from the Report of the NSW Chief Health Officer 2005 Centre for Epidemiology and Research, Population Health Division, NSW Department of Health.

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People" were identified through focus group research with the target group. *Note that the consultation results and Action Plan refer to GLATSIC however this organisation ceased to exist from 2007/08.*

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. These include:

- Lithgow is a great area, mountains, fresh air, close to the bush – close to the city, great sporting facilities, clubs etc. People are friendly
- That the Council is conducting this forum for Indigenous concerns
- Previous attention and recognition given to the Indigenous community
- Support given to GLATSIC
- The flying of Aboriginal flag at times of importance and bereavement.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

- The lack of entertainment for children and family groups. If people want to go to the pictures or bowling etc we have to go to Bathurst or Penrith.
- The growing number of youth's walking around the streets late at night is a big problem.
- There is no natural or man made barriers to protect our sites, nor are the sites cleaned of rubbish. People can walk right up to them and touch them. Some actually deliberately deface them. We have lost our land, and our language. Now we are witnessing the desecration of our sites.

- The apathy of community/organisations because of the lack of "follow through" on promises made.
- Lack of support for Burramadine who are so important and beneficial to the Indigenous community and local police, and who are still unfunded.
- The lack of communication and consultation between Council and the Indigenous community.

What's Needed

High Priority

- For Council to work with the Mid-Western Area Health Service's Indigenous health worker to identify and address the desperate needs of the community, and to consider the formation of the Indigenous health clinic and dental service.
- Council to employ an Indigenous person to liaise with the Indigenous and broader community, on and with, health, education, employment, housing, transport, Police and Court support and Council issues. Also to assist with educating the non-Indigenous people to become more culturally aware.
- The employment of Indigenous people in all levels of local government – cadetships and training programs.
- Appropriate youth programs (i.e. guidance and mentoring) to help with the youth of Lithgow.
- Emergency transport was also indicated as a high priority need. GLATSIC have indicated they could provide volunteer transport if they had access to a bus (eg 14 seater).
- Short term housing for families and visitors for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people trying to visit inmates/local relatives or families.
- More suitable family entertainment.
- Assistance in protecting and identification of our sacred/Indigenous sites – *Protection, Preservation and Respect.*

Medium Priority

- Funding and support for NAIDOC week and Survival Day (26th January)

- To assist GLATSIC in acquiring larger premises, or building a loft in existing premises, and to support them in all their programs. Council recently relocated GLATSIC to larger and more suitable premises.
- Council should take on the responsibility for out of hours transport to the hospital and to the prisons.

Low Priority

- To encourage culturally aware guided visits to Indigenous sites and other appropriate areas.

Core Identified Issues

Communication and Consultation

There was an expressed need from the Aboriginal community for improved communication and consultation in relation to a number of issues. It was considered that Council could do a lot to improve their communication and consultation with the Indigenous community. It was also pointed out that a lack of follow through on promises made was contributing to apathy in the community and organisations.

It was felt that Council needs to employ an Indigenous liaison person to facilitate better outcomes with the community on issues including health, education, employment, housing, transport, Police, Court support and Council issues.

Health

LGA specific data was not available at the time of the development of this Plan. However, given the significantly poorer health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living in NSW compared with the general population, it is reasonable to assert that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Lithgow LGA are more likely to experience significant health problems compared with the over all population.

Health was identified in focus group research as a significant issue and the group considered it a matter of high priority for Council to liaise with Indigenous Health workers in the area health service (now Sydney West) to identify and address the "desperate needs of the community". The group suggested the consideration of forming an Indigenous Health clinic and dental service. The nearest Aboriginal Health Service Clinic is located in Mt Druitt.

Social Support

A number of issues relating to social support were identified in the focus group. Youth were identified as walking the streets late at night in growing numbers and there was a high priority need for youth programs including guidance and mentoring programs.

The focus group also identified that there is a continued lack of support for the Burrumadine committee of GLATSIC. Burrumadine do a huge amount of unpaid unresourced volunteer work with the Indigenous community in the Lithgow LGA. This work includes providing immediate support to the Police and Indigenous people when they enter custody. This work is significantly preventative and takes place in committee members own time and with their own transport and other resources.

Housing and Accommodation

It was identified that there is a need for short term accommodation for families and visitors visiting inmates in the Correctional Centre, as well as visiting local relatives or families.

Recreation

People in the Indigenous focus group identified that there is a lack of entertainment for children and families in the Lithgow LGA. Suitable family entertainment was identified as a high priority need.

Transport

A high priority need was identified for emergency transport. The need is particularly high for out of hours transport to the hospital and Correctional Centre.

Employment and Education

The Indigenous community also identified a high priority need for Indigenous people to be employed in all levels of government, including in cadetships and traineeships as well as other training programs. The issue of employment was reflected in the unemployment rates at the 2001 Census, where 22.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People were unemployed compared with 9.4% in the Lithgow LGA population.

Cultural Awareness

The Indigenous focus group expressed community satisfaction that Council flies the Aboriginal flag at times of importance and bereavement. They expressed some need for culturally aware visits to appropriate areas.

Protection, Preservation and Respect for Indigenous sites

There was considerable concern by the community that there are no barriers (natural or man made) to protect important sites, and no cleaning of rubbish at the sites. The group stated:

We have lost our land, and our language. Now we are witnessing the desecration of our sites.

It was identified as a high need that Indigenous people receive greater assistance in protecting and identifying sacred and other Indigenous sites.

Actions to Date

GLATSIC Assistance

Council provides assistance to GLATSIC through a rental subsidy for their Council owned premises. Council has also made small

contributions to GLATSIC under its Financial Assistance program.

NAIDOC Week

Council committed \$500 of s356 funds as well as in kind support in 2006 to assist the Aboriginal community celebrate NAIDOC week. This celebration was a great success with over 400 local school children in attendance and was the result of a highly collaborative planning process involving Wirajuri Elders, GLATSIC, and Aboriginal workers from Sydney West Area Health Service, LINC, and a number of other community representatives.

Liaison with Sydney West Area Health Service's Aboriginal Health Unit

Council has recently liaised with the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker based in Lithgow and other Aboriginal Health Officers employed by Sydney West Area Health Service. Actions so far include the provision of contact for local child care providers to facilitate hearing checks (Otitis Media) for Aboriginal children.

Table 3.5.5 Actions relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time Frame	Partnerships	Progress/ Action Taken
HIGH	9.1 Tourist promotion of aboriginal culture	9.1.1 Include Aboriginal representation on the Tourism Advisory Committee	Jul-00	Council/Lithgow Visitors Information Centre/GLATSIC	Declined due to resource limitations of GLATSIC (Greater Lithgow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation).
LOW	9.2 Emergency accommodation for families of prisoners	9.2.1 Undertake an audit of existing accommodation to establish the extent of the need and explore funding options for accommodation.	Jan-01	Council/GLATSIC /Dept of Corrective Services/Dept of Housing/ATSIC/Aboriginal Lands Council	Accommodation available to low income families every quarter through Corrective Services, and with a fast response mechanism in place. This information to be made more widely available in the community.
LOW	9.3 Aboriginal specific Health Services	9.3.1 Undertake further needs assessment to establish services required	Jul-01	Council/GLATSIC /Dept of Corrective Services/Dept of Housing/ATSIC/Aboriginal Lands Council	Not undertaken, funding not available, review of need required.
MEDIUM	9.4 Assisted Education	9.4.1 Encourage Government to proactively promote existing programs which provide financial support to Aboriginal people undertaking study.	Ongoing	Council/Centrelink	Ongoing. Council has an equal opportunity policy relating to employment.

Table 3.5.6 Action Plan 2006 – 2011

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (ATSI)					
Improve Council's communication and consultation processes with the Indigenous Australian community in the Lithgow LGA.	Investigate and prepare a formal agreement with the Indigenous Australian community in the Lithgow LGA.	June 2009	Council, GLATSIC, relevant Land Councils, local indigenous Australian community.	Agreement signed off by parties	\$2 000
Improve support to Indigenous Australian communities in the Lithgow LGA	Consider continued financial and in kind support for NAIDOC Week and other key events in accordance with new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annual	Council, GLATSIC, SWAHS, LINC, ATSI community	Consideration of support	\$500
	Consider financial or other support for the production of a brochure informing the ATSI community of services available in accordance with new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	June 2007	Council	Consideration of support	\$1 000
Assist the ATSI community to gain to emergency transport.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer issue of emergency transport need to the Lithgow Transport Working Group 				
Improve Health outcomes for the indigenous Australian population of the Lithgow LGA.	Develop closer working partnerships with SWAHS Aboriginal Health unit. Refer issues as identified to SWAHS	Ongoing	Council, SWAHS, GLATSIC, local indigenous Australian people	Development of partnerships Referral of issues as identified	\$1 000
Ensure the protection, preservation and respect for Indigenous sites.	Plans of management for Council controlled or owned sites to include ways to interpret, protect and preserve Aboriginal heritage.	June 07 and ongoing	Council, Aboriginal Land Councils, GLATSIC, local Indigenous community.	Plans of Management adopted	\$10 000
Improve cultural awareness within Council.	Provide Councillors and staff with cultural awareness workshops in relation to ATSI culture.	June 2010	Council, Aboriginal Land Councils, GLATSIC, local indigenous community	Workshops held	\$2 000

** Costs are only estimated at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Backgrounds form one of the seven mandatory target groups for social planning under the Department of Local Government Social and Community Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

The Lithgow LGA has a relatively low, but increasing proportion of residents from CALD backgrounds. This presents particular challenges for Council in meeting its responsibilities to understand and plan for the special needs of CALD people.

People from CALD backgrounds are not a homogenous group. The needs of CALD

residents in the Lithgow LGA are highly diverse, relating to factors including, length of time in Australia, fluency in English, employment and transferability of skills and qualifications, presence or absence of experiences of war and trauma (such as for humanitarian refugees), circumstances of immigration, and social connectedness or isolation.

Demography

The Lithgow LGA had a relatively small CALD population by comparison to NSW although this population is increasing and changing. Table 3.6.1 shows that although most overseas born people were from English speaking countries (944), the number of people from a non-English speaking country increased by 113 people to 771, or 17.2% between 2001 and 2006. Approximately two-thirds of the increase in the overseas born population between 2001 and 2006 was from a non-English speaking country.

Table 3.6.1 Population

Summary Indicators	2001	% of Total Lithgow Population	2006	% of Total Lithgow Population	Change 2001 - 2006	% Change 2001-2006
Total Lithgow Population	19 197	100%	19 756	100%	+559	+2.9%
Australian Born	16 552	86.2	16 837	85.2	+285	+1.7%
Overseas born	1 549	8.1	1 718	8.7	+169	+10.9%
Overseas born – English speaking countries	890	4.6	944	4.8	+54	+6.1%
Overseas born – non-English speaking countries	658	3.4	771	3.9	+113	+17.2%
Country of birth not stated	1 072	5.6	1 204	6.1	+0.5%	+132
Language other than English spoken at home	458	2.4	481	2.4	+23	+5.0%
Overseas born arrived 2001 - 2006					94	
Overseas born arrived 2001 -2006 from Non English Speaking Countries					52	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Birthplace

Table 3.6.2 shows that of the non English speaking countries, the largest numbers of people were from Germany (82), Philippines (64), the Netherlands (58) and China (51) followed by Poland (25), Sri Lanka (20), Greece (16) and Fiji (15). There were significant increases between 2001 and 2006 in the numbers of people born in Germany and China.

Note that Tables 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 do not include the Australian born children of parents from CALD backgrounds, even though these children are also part of the CALD community and may have similar needs and face similar issues as their overseas born parents.

Table 3.6.2 Birthplace by Gender 2001 & 2006 Selected Countries

Birthplace	2001				2006				Change 2001 - 2006	% Change 2001 - 2006
	Males	Females	Total Persons	% of All Overseas Born	Males	Females	Total Persons	% of All Overseas Born		
United Kingdom	344	339	683	25.8	330	346	676	23.2	-7	-1.0%
New Zealand	62	74	136	5.1	99	89	188	6.4	+52	+38.2%
Germany	35	31	66	2.5	42	40	82	2.8	+16	+24.2%
Philippines	16	44	60	2.3	18	46	64	2.2	+4	+6.7%
Netherlands	22	31	53	2.0	24	34	58	2.0	+5	+9.4%
Ireland	20	15	35	1.3	22	10	32	1.1	-3	-8.6%
Italy	25	14	39	1.5	21	22	43	1.5	+4	+10.3%
Poland	18	12	30	1.1	16	9	25	0.9	-5	-16.7%
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	17	8	25	0.9	33	18	51	1.7	+26	+104.0%
United States of America	12	10	22	0.8	16	15	31	1.1	+9	+40.9%
Fiji	12	9	21	0.8	11	4	15	0.5	-6	-28.6%
Sri Lanka	10	10	20	0.8	12	8	20	0.7	--	--
Greece	11	6	17	0.6	11	5	16	0.5	-1	-5.9%
Total Overseas Birthplaces All Countries	1 381	1 263	2 644	100%	1 505	1 414	2 919	100%	+275	

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006

Table 3.6.3 Language Spoken at Home Lithgow LGA 2006

Language Spoken at Home	Number of People 2001	Number of People 2006
English only	17 567	18 088
Chinese Languages	54	73
Croatian	20	18
Dutch	20	15
German	39	51
Greek	23	18
Italian	42	51
Tagalog	28	23
Other Languages	231	230
Total Non-English languages	457	479
Not stated	1 172	1 189
Total	19 196	19 756

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006

Community Languages

Table 3.6.3 shows that in the Lithgow LGA, 479 people, 2.4% of the population, spoke a language other than English at home according to the ABS 2006 Census.

Table 3.6.3 shows the number of people who speak each language at home. The most significant change between 2001 and 2006 was the increase in the number of people speaking Chinese at home which rose from 54 to 73.

Table 3.6.4 gives further information about people who speak languages other than English at home. In 2001 there were 40 people who spoke a language other than English and English not very well or not at all, compared with 51 in 2006. This represented a 27.5% increase although the actual number was small.

Table 3.6.4 Language Spoken at Home Lithgow LGA

NESB	2001	2006
Speaks Other Language & Speaks English Very Well or Well	284	282
Speaks Other Language & Speaks English Not Very Well or Not at All	40	51
Speaks English only	1 145	1 260

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2001 and 2006

Results of Community Consultation

There was an attempt to hold a focus group for people from CALD backgrounds. Unfortunately this was not attended by anyone, apparently due to insufficient targeting of the target group in promotion of the event. As an alternative, a questionnaire was sent out to about 70 migrant contacts with a stamped addressed envelope, with 13 returned (18.6% return rate).

It must be borne in mind that some people may not feel comfortable writing down their thoughts while they may be very happy to express them verbally.

This section also contains responses to the questions from the Migrant Support Worker who is based in Bathurst and has coverage of the Lithgow LGA.

Community Strengths

Following are the results of the questionnaire.

Table 3.6.5: Questionnaire results to the question: "What is good about living in Lithgow?"

Lithgow has a sense of history and continuity	1
People take pride in their town	1
Beautiful environment	3
Most people are open to newcomers	1
People are friendly and helpful	6
Town is peaceful and safe	5
People are not class conscious	1
Close to Sydney	2
Good access to everything (schools, medical services, sporting facilities, TAFE courses)	2
Housing more affordable	2

CALD Service Provider responses:

What is good for me as a service provider in Lithgow:

- I have support from LINC
- I have a base at LINC

- I have good contacts in TAFE
- I have been able to get to know a wide range of local service providers that I can refer clients to and that I can consult with.

Community Limitations

Following are the results of the questionnaire.

Table 3.6.6: Questionnaire results to the question: "What is not so good about living in Lithgow?"

There is some prejudice, especially against Asians	2
Outsiders are viewed with suspicion, at first	1
People can be cliquish	1
Limited services (educational, medical)	1
TAFE does not meet the needs of migrants	1
Limited food/cultural diversity	4
Population not diverse enough (probably meaning that CALD population is too small)	1
Limited entertainment	1
Limited recreational activities for families, Youth and children (especially in winter)	2
Lack of jobs and employment opportunities	4

CALD Service Provider responses:

What is not so good:

- My client base is very spread out and difficult to access, in particular as far as community development is concerned.
- Multicultural group is barely surviving, and only with a lot of support. (The multicultural group is currently not very active in the Lithgow LGA)
- The fact that compared to metropolitan areas Lithgow hasn't got many residents from CALD backgrounds. This makes it more difficult to cater for their needs, as it limits exposure of service providers to clients from this target group and tends to make service providers less familiar and less confident in dealing with these clients.

- The danger that the limited size of the CALD target group engenders the attitude that their needs are negligible.

Community Needs

Following are the results of the questionnaire.

Table 3.6.7: Questionnaire results to the question: "What do residents from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds need?"

More work opportunities (employed and self employed)	6
More food variety, eg Asian general store, Indian restaurant	2
A more diverse population	1
More help with language learning	1
More educational opportunities to refresh and Upgrade overseas skills	1
Acceptance by others	1
Programs to get migrants involved in community	1
Social clubs for people from particular cultural backgrounds	1

CALD Service Provider responses:

Needs:

- Importance of service providers (including Council) participating in cultural awareness and competency training. This is just as important for front desk staff as for coordinators. Cultural awareness and competency would include knowledge of the migrant community, of issues affecting its members, skills in dealing with migrants and refugees, use of interpreter services, and understanding of legislation and policies affecting those working with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, etc.
- Need for a Council Community Development Officer.
- Need for encouraging a welcoming attitude in general towards residents from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group "People from CALD Backgrounds" identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Employment

Almost 50% of questionnaire respondents indicated that people from CALD backgrounds need more work opportunities. While statistics on people from CALD backgrounds and unemployment were not available for the Lithgow LGA, these responses indicate that it is a significant issue. Employment opportunities are known to be an issue particularly for new arrivals such as with humanitarian refugee visas. The Bathurst Migrant Support Worker reports being currently unaware of any recent refugees in the Lithgow LGA.

Education

CALD residents in the Lithgow LGA indicated that they have a need for more educational opportunities to refresh and upgrade overseas skills as well as more help with language learning. Lithgow TAFE has a course for people learning English as a Second Language (ESL).

Cultural Awareness

Responses from questionnaire recipients and the Migrant Support Worker indicate that there is a need for greater organisational and community awareness in the Lithgow LGA. Two respondents indicated there is some community prejudice especially against Asians and it was said that people in the Lithgow LGA are cliquish and outsiders tend to be viewed with suspicion at first. One respondent expressed a need for acceptance by others.

The Migrant Support Worker indicated a need for service providers including Council to participate in cultural awareness and competency training to better meet the needs of clients and residents from CALD backgrounds. She also indicated a need for there to be encouraged a welcoming attitude in general towards residents from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Cultural Diversity

While there is significant cultural diversity in the Lithgow LGA groups are relatively small and therefore can suffer the effects of invisibility. There was some indication that people from CALD backgrounds in the Lithgow LGA suffer from a lack of depth in cultural diversity in the community, in terms of population and variety in food choices etc.

Community Development

People in the Lithgow LGA from CALD backgrounds expressed a need for programs to get migrants involved in the community and for social clubs for people from particular cultural backgrounds. The Migrant Support Worker, in 2004 prior to the employment of Council's part time Community Development Officer, said that this was a need also.

Settlement Issues

People from CALD backgrounds have varying settlement issues. To some extent a community's capacity to respond to these issues will determine the number of new arrivals who choose to settle there.

Settlement issues include language (competency in accessing interpreting services comes into this, as does capacity to teach English as a Second Language), access to essential services (limited services were indicated as a concern by one questionnaire respondent), and availability of safe affordable housing, food, and other essential amenities.

Actions to Date

Council has recently undertaken a number of strategies to improve its capacity to meet the needs of CALD residents.

Multicultural Interagency

Council is represented on the Lithgow Multicultural Interagency. Key recent activities have included Harmony Day activities and the development of training opportunities for services in the Lithgow area.

Training

In 2006 twelve key staff from Council undertook one day Cultural Awareness training provided by the Centre for Community Welfare Training, with assistance of the Migrant Support Worker based at Bathurst and the Multicultural Interagency. This training was attended by Council management, front counter staff and other key workers and addressed issues relating to the multicultural population in Lithgow LGA, assisting Council to become more culturally sensitive in its service delivery as well as policy and planning issues.

Bathurst Migrant Support has also provided two sessions of training to front counter staff in using the Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS). This is important training as it improves the capacity of staff to access interpreters when needed.

Celebrate Lithgow

The Lithgow Business Association organises an annual community event called Celebrate Lithgow. In some years Council has made funding available to assist the Multicultural Worker at LINC to provide what has always been a vibrant and popular stall showcasing multicultural diversity in Lithgow.

Culturally diverse materials

Council now displays welcome signs in community languages in its Administration Building and Lithgow Library Learning Centre. The signs have been well received by the public, attracting interest discussion and positive comment.

Council also displays materials relating to the TIS service at the Administration Building.

Australian Citizenship ceremonies

Council hosts civic receptions for new Australian citizens.

Table 3.6.8 Actions to date relating to People from CALD backgrounds from the 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time Frame	Partnerships	Progress/ Action Taken
MEDIUM	10.1 Opportunities for sharing culture including input to community celebrations	10.1.1 Invite representation from People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds to participate in Council's Community Events Committee	Jul-00	Council/Community Settlement Scheme/Residents/Ethno Specific Groups	Community Events Committee not currently in Council's structure. Special Events Officer employed. Council represented on Multicultural Interagency. Establishment of Multicultural Group Lithgow (not currently meeting due to changes in circumstances of participants/ perceived lack of interest).
MEDIUM	10.2 Tolerance at workplace and schools	10.2.1 Promote tolerance in Council's Publications and it's Access and Equity Activities	Ongoing		Literature and interpreter service available through Community Health. TIS and trained staff at Council available for core services. Staff have accessed Cultural Awareness Training in March 2006.

Table 3.6.9 Action Plan 2006-2011

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds					
Improve Council's policy response to people from CALD backgrounds.	Develop a detailed Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement (EAPS) including policy statement.	June 2007	Council, community, Community Relations Commission, LINC Multicultural Worker, Bathurst Migrant Support, Lithgow Multicultural Interagency	Adoption of EAPS	\$6 500
Increase community awareness of cultural diversity and promote community harmony.	Consider support of community activities which promote community awareness, and seek funding opportunities to assist with this objective.	Ongoing	Council, community, Lithgow Multicultural Interagency, Community Relations Commission, Department of Community Services	Completion of events and activities	\$5 000
Provide more opportunities for people from CALD backgrounds to become acquainted with Council and its services and facilities.	Participate in pilot project with TAFE ESL course. The project will aim to introduce CALD students to key community organisations including Council. Council to provide a welcome morning tea and information presentation as well as the availability of visits to locations such as the Visitors Centre, Library, and Eskbank House	June 2007	Council, TAFE, LINC, Multicultural Interagency	Completion of Pilot	\$1 000
Improve access to information in community languages by communities from CALD backgrounds.	Investigate the feasibility of installing and maintaining SBS radio transmitter under grants scheme currently available.	June 2007	Council, SBS radio	Application submitted for assistance to provide transmitter	\$25,00 grant \$125 per year
	Council to consider making a small contribution to the production costs for "Multicultural News" in accordance with new procedure	Annual	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support	Council consideration in Management Plan	\$1 000
	Educate the community about the availability of community language collections at the State Library of NSW and able to be loaned free of cost through the Lithgow Library.	Ongoing	Council, State Library, Multicultural worker	Ongoing	\$300

Target Group Profiles - Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
	Display multilingual posters in Council facilities.	Dec 2007 and ongoing	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support worker	Display of posters	\$50
Improve Council's capacity to meet the needs people from CALD backgrounds.	Consider updating cultural awareness training for staff and councillors.	June 2008	Council, CCWT, Bathurst Migrant Support, LINC Multicultural worker	Training completed	\$2 000
	Conduct ongoing Telephone Interpreter Service training as needed for Council staff.	Ongoing	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support worker	Training updated	\$500
	Continue to participate in the Lithgow Multicultural Interagency – subject to planned reviews in the Community Action Plan	Ongoing	Council, Multicultural Interagency	Participation	\$1 250

* Costs are only estimated at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process

** Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.

Older People of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Older people are one of the seven mandatory target groups for inclusion in social planning under the Department of Local Government guidelines. For this purpose older people are defined as people aged over 55 or over 45 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Lithgow LGA has an ageing population with the size of the older population set to increase dramatically. For this reason, older people are considered an important target group for planning for an ageing population.

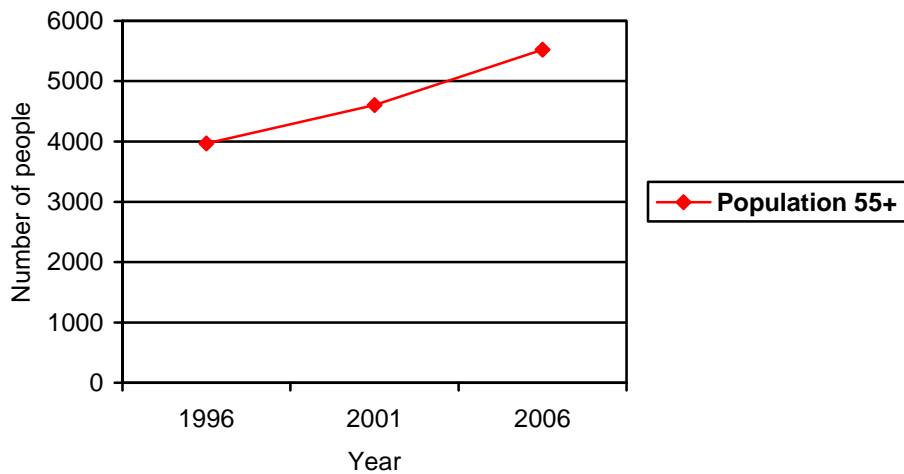
Demography

The ageing of the Lithgow population is a demographic trend experienced across Australia and is a combined result of lower birth rates and longer life expectancies.

Figure 3.7.1 shows a significant increase in the numbers of older people living in the Lithgow LGA in the period 1996 – 2001 and an even greater increase between 2001 and 2006. While the proportion of most other age groups declined between 1996 and 2006, the proportion of people aged 55 – 64 years increased by 56% and the proportion of people aged 65 years and over increased by 27% in the same period.

This trend has significant implications for government and community service providers and in particular for Council planning in relation to housing, transport and services.

Figure 3.7.1 Population over 55 years 1996-2006 Lithgow LGA



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

Table 3.7.1 and Figure 3.7.2 give details on older people in the Lithgow LGA population in 1996, 2001 and 2006.

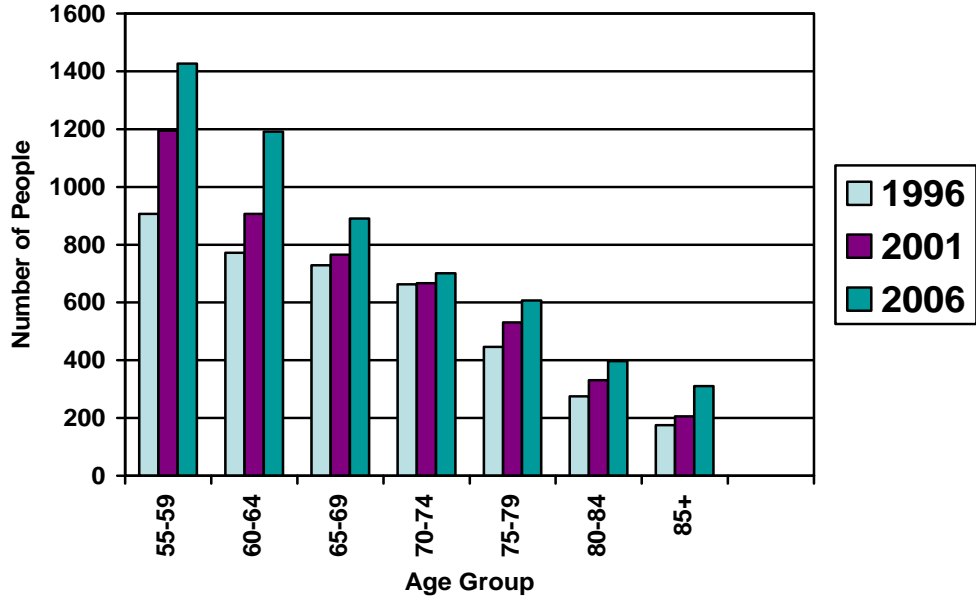
During this period, the numbers of people in all age groupings increased steadily.

Table 3.7.1 Older People Aged 55 years+ 1996 -2006

Age	1996			2001			2006			Change 1996- 2006
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
55-59	462	444	906	633	561	1 194	762	665	1 427	521 57.5%
60-64	406	366	772	463	444	907	631	560	1 191	419 54.3%
65-69	382	347	729	390	375	765	446	444	890	161 22.1%
70-74	286	376	662	328	339	667	343	358	701	39 5.9%
75-79	166	280	446	238	293	531	281	326	607	161 36.1%
80-84	97	178	275	119	212	331	141	256	397	122 44.4%
85+	46	130	176	61	145	206	96	214	310	134 76.1%
Total	1 845	2 121	3 966	2 232	2 369	4 601	2 700	2 823	5 523	1 557 39.3%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Figure 3.7.2 Older People in Lithgow LGA Age Groupings by Year
1996-2006



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.7.2 Older People - Indigenous Population by Age 45 years+

Age	1996			2001				2006				
	M	F	Total	% *	M	F	Total	% *	M	F	Total	% *
45-49 years	9	4	13		16	14	30		24	13	37	
50-54 years	5	7	12		11	11	22		16	17	33	
55-59 years	6	6	12		10	8	18		12	10	22	
60-64 years	3	5	8		6	5	11		12	7	19	
65 years & over	7	6	13		7	6	13		20	10	30	
Total	30	28	58	14.4%	50	44	94	16.8%	84	57	141	23.9%

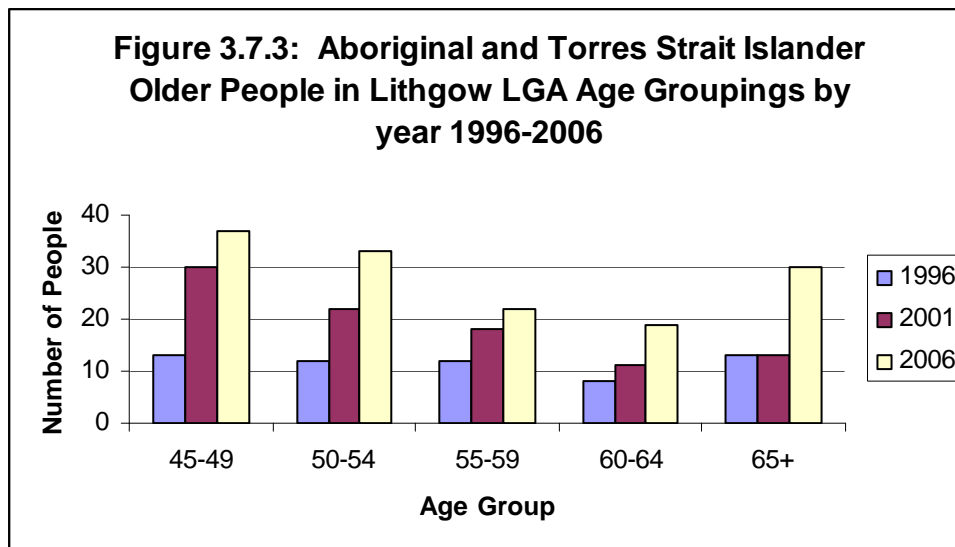
* Percent of Total ATSI Population

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

The Department of Local Government defines older Indigenous people as people over 45 years of age. This is due to the significantly lower life expectancy of Indigenous people.

Figure 3.7.3 shows that the number of older indigenous people in each 5 year age grouping increased consistently between 1996 and 2006.

Table 3.7.2 shows that in the Lithgow LGA 23.9% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were over 45 years of age up from 16.8% in 2001 and 14.4% in 1996.



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006

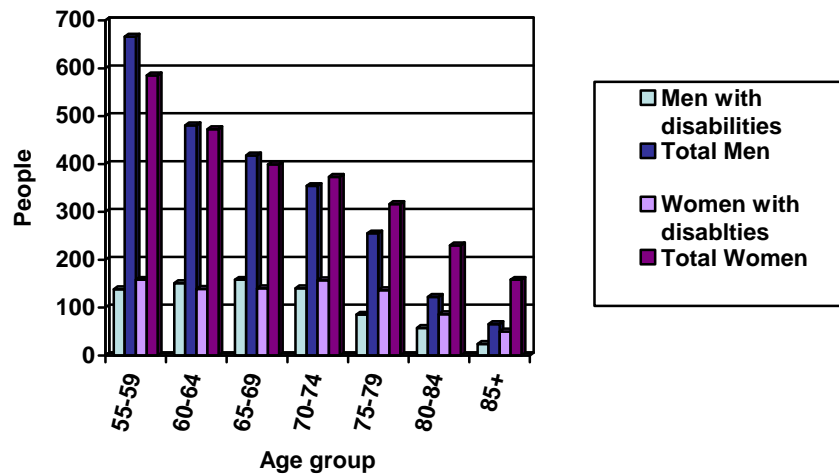
Income

Older people in the Lithgow LGA receive significantly lower incomes than the general population, which as discussed in the community profile already have relatively low incomes. At the 2006 Census, 42.7% of people aged 55 years and over received an individual weekly income less than \$249, compared with 30.4% for the rest of the population over 15 years. 66.0% of people aged 55 years and over received a weekly individual income of less than \$399 compared to 43.6% of the rest of the population.

Age and Disability

People experience disability in increasing proportions of total population with age. This is a similar pattern to other areas. Figure 3.7.4 shows that while the numbers of men and women in each age group decline rapidly with age, the population of men and women with disabilities stays relatively constant, and rises considerably when considered as a proportion of the total population.

Figure 3.7.4: Older People with a disability by age group



Source: ABS Regional Profiles Population Target Groups 2002

Results of Community Consultation

To assess the needs of the target group Council conducted a focus group with people over 55. The group was attended by approximately twenty five residents, mainly from Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of older people. These included:

- Aged Care Facilities
- Garbage Collection
- Transport, Translinc
- Parks
- Portland Murals and Lithgow – Eskbank Street
- Beehive
- 1998 Australian Community of the Year – qualities still present
- Pool
- Gorrie Ban
- Hospital and technology
- Marjorie Jackson sculpture
- Library Learning Centre
- Community Support
- Meals on Wheels
- People
- Wheel Chair access (paths)
- Supermarkets
- Uniting Care Services
- LINC
- Miners Lamp
- Waste 2 Art
- Council Service – Parks and Gardens friendly, the Mayor listens
- Community Nursery
- Clubs
- Union Theatre
- Hydro therapy pool
- Crystal Theatre
- Eskbank House
- Small Arms Factory

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by older people.

Wallerawang

- Wallerawang – Access to school/lake – Crossing at Barton Ave/Footpath (incorporate onto intersection)
- Black Bridge - dangerous
- Speed Limit of 80km in Barton Ave is too fast- Children walk to school
- Trees in existing parking areas
- Footpaths in new areas
- Open space/connect Wallerawang and Lake Wallace.

Lithgow

- The pavers in Main Street are a major slip hazard when they are wet (a number of people strongly concurred with this).
- Main Street Steps – need tactiles
- Telephone Booth in Eskbank Street – Hazard for visually impaired – canes pass under edge of phone box – Suggested planters
- Railway Pde – Safety of crossing to Railway needs to be improved– suggestions: speed limit – wide seal – calm device
- Wheel chair lip on road kerbs: Solid Tyres take a big effort to get up (Lips are not low enough)
- Wheelchair crossing between Coles and the Bowling Club – lips don't match up on each side of the Street
- There is only one disabled parking space at the Union Theatre – this is not enough due to the facility being used for events for people with disabilities- suggest a "kiss and ride" arrangement for functions only so carers/drivers can park nearby
- Crossing Coerwull Road outside the RTA is problematic
- Lack of indoor heated pool
- No transport from Clarence/Hartley/Forty Bends
- Footpath lifted by trees in some places.
- Transport from hospital after 5pm

- Transport from hospital in Sydney to home if transported from Lithgow and then discharged in Sydney is a major problem– a number of people verified that this is occurring. Some times people are discharged without the means to get home or without a change of clothes from home
- Information to community about what to do in emergencies – suggest having a bag packed, information about options such as vita call
- Council Newsletter is currently not delivered to post boxes.
- Lack large Variety/ Department Store such as Big W

Community Needs

High Priority:

- Surveys and Regular community consultation
- Transport: after 4pm and on Weekends to and from hospital, and to and from Clarence/Dargan; Forty bends; and Hartley.
- Wheel chair access
- Crossing at Railway Parade needs to be made safer
- Information about emergency alert besides 000 needs to be investigated and publicise what is available eg. Companion calling, Red Cross Calling, Vitacall etc
- Prevention of Isolation – community visitors scheme/s need to be publicized (currently through Uniting Care) as well as companion calling through LINC
- Fix “Slippery When Wet” Paving in Main Street Lithgow
- Kerb and Guttering needed at John Street.

Medium Priority:

- Welcome Afternoon/Morning Tea Revamp and use the Welcome Kits
- Seats in Parks/playgrounds
- Pictures
- Heated/indoor pool
- Free and home delivered paper
- University of the Third Age.

Lowest Priority

- Cycling at Wallerawang – both within Wallerawang and between Wallerawang and Lithgow
- Arts Space – the Hoskins Building for a visual arts space connected to the performing arts space in the Union Theatre
- Big W
- Bring back the Natural Fibres Exhibition
- Green Waste Bin
- Information dissemination by Council – newsletter, paper, deliver to post boxes.
- Crossing on GWH needed for Hospital
- Shortage of Aged Care spots
- Tourism – transport – strategy to attract bus loads of tourists to Portland – support Café opening weekends.

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group older people identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Adaptable Housing

Central West Community Care Forum have provided adaptable housing design guidelines for Council. These provide a guide for designing functional homes which are relatively easy to adapt to the needs of frail aged people or people with disabilities. While the cost of making housing accessible is minimal when incorporated in to the original design (0.3 - 0.7%), the cost of making them accessible if not built accessible is much higher (9.2 – 21.9%) (NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1999). This is of particular importance given the low incomes of older people in the Lithgow LGA.

Home and Community Care (HACC) and other home based support services

The HACC services in Lithgow provide home based support to people with disabilities and frail aged in their homes. At present there are a number of these services based in the Lithgow LGA including LINC services, Uniting

Care Respite Services and Evans Community Options. All these services are currently at capacity or have a waiting list.

Aged Care Facilities

Almost all of the aged care nursing home and hostel facilities in the Lithgow LGA currently have a waiting list. In light of the ageing demographic in the Lithgow LGA there is likely to be an expanding need for these services. The focus group research identified that the quality of aged care facilities are considered high, however the shortage of aged care places were considered a low (but growing) priority need. Tabulam Cottages in Portland moved to new premises co-located with the new Hospital. There are 12 additional beds in the new facility, however there is currently a waiting list for places in excess of that number.

Community Consultation and Development

The focus group identified as a high priority that Council undertake to conduct more regular consultation with the community, through a variety of mechanisms including surveys and meetings. They also identified a medium priority need for a "resurrection and revamping" of Council's past practice of providing a welcome morning tea for new residents and providing welcome kits.

Information Dissemination

There was considerable need for improved dissemination of information identified in the focus group. This included improving the content of the Council Connections Newsletter and ensuring that it is delivered to Post Office Boxes, providing information on emergency alert systems and procedures (high priority) and an expressed medium priority need for a free home delivered newspaper.

Recreation

The important point was made that 55+ age group is heterogeneous with very diverse needs and that recreational and active transport needs across this age group are

varied. Some older residents require wheelchair access to recreational activities; others enjoy walking and some cycle and are parents of young children.

A number of recreational needs were identified. The need for forums to prevent isolation was expressed, better seating in parks and playgrounds across the Lithgow LGA, as well as the need for a heated indoor pool. Open space planning to connect Wallerawang and Lake Wallace for active transport and recreation was also identified as a need.

Transport

Older people identified that there are transport needs in relation to transport to the hospital after 4pm and on weekends, as well as transport at all times between Lithgow and a number of localities including Clarence and Dargan, Forty Bends and Hartley.

Physical Access

Physical access is a very important consideration in relation to people who are ageing. This is due to the increased proportion of people in this category who have disabilities or experience frailty.

Wheelchair access was identified as needing attention in public spaces in the Lithgow LGA, particularly at road crossings and on footpaths. It was made evident that it is very difficult for solid tyres on wheelchairs to negotiate the pram/wheelchair lip at many of our crossings such as those in Main Street Lithgow. One participant made the suggestion that Councillors could learn about the issue by doing a wheelchair tour of some of the main locations in the Lithgow LGA.

A need was also identified for changes to be considered to the disabled parking arrangements at the Union Theatre. There is one space where many are needed, and it was suggested a drop off zone may better meet the needs of people attending some of the events at the theatre.

Road and Footpath Safety

Older people identified that there were some road and footpath concerns at present in the Lithgow LGA. These were by and large considered to be of high priority as they related to safety. The crossing at Railway Parade near Lithgow Railway Station was identified as dangerous, and that even though it is a 50 km/h residential zone cars drive at speeds well in excess there.

The need for a pedestrian crossing at the Lithgow Hospital on the Great Western Highway was also identified.

Another high priority need identified was for measures to fix the red pavers in Main Street, which people generally agreed look nice but create a severe slip hazard when wet. Many of the focus group participants reported having fallen, nearly fallen or witnessed falls due to this problem. It was suggested the surface of the pavers could be "roughened" at relatively little cost.

Education

When asked what was good about living in the Lithgow LGA for older people, responses included Beehive and the Lithgow Library Learning Centre. Beehive is a community based centre offering education and arts and crafts courses as well as social contact one day per week. The Library Learning Centre moved to a new location in late 2004 and offers facilities including a comprehensive local history collection and Community Technology Centre (often utilised by Beehive, for Seniors courses, and by other community groups.)

Older people expressed a need for other educational opportunities and it was suggested that establishing a University of the Third Age was a medium priority need.

Waste Disposal

Older people expressed a low level need for a green waste disposal bin.

Tourism and Culture

Older people suggested as a low level need for Council to develop a strategy targeting tourism into Portland such as tour buses, and desired a return of the Natural Fibres Exhibition.

Table 3.7.3 Actions relating to Older People from the 2000 Social Plan

Priority	Identified Need	Action	Time Frame	Partnerships	Progress/Action Taken
MEDIUM	6.1 Safe Single Housing	6.1.1 Undertake a needs analysis to determine actual need for safe single housing for older people.	Jan-01	Council / Dept of Housing	Needs analysis has not been undertaken due to resource limitations. Ongoing liaison with Department of Housing. Council's responsibilities in relation to private developers of housing stock also fall in this area, and are implemented in accordance with statutory requirements.
		6.1.2 Encourage the Dept of Housing to revive it's housing stock to increase single housing numbers.	Jun-01	Council / Community Organisations / Dept of Housing	

Table 3.7.4 Action Plan 2006-2011

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Older People					
Respond to the needs of an ageing population.	Develop an Ageing Population Strategy.	June 2009	Council, Community, Community services including Lithgow HACC forum, Aged Care Facilities, SWAHS.	Adoption of Strategy	\$20 000
Develop community capacity to provide housing and accommodation which is responsive to the needs of older people.	Develop and Promote Adaptable Housing Guidelines	June 2008	Council, Central West Community Care Forum	Guidelines finalised and promoted	\$400
	Lobby Government for aged care facilities and services	Ongoing	Council, DADHC	Lobbying activities completed.	\$100 per activity
Improve Council's community consultation and information dissemination for older people.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Provide quality recreation and cultural opportunities which are responsive to the diverse needs of older people.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve access to public transport for older people	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Respond to physical access needs of older people.	Refer to People with Disabilities Action Plan.				
Address the road and footpath safety needs of older people	Refer to People with Disabilities Action Plan - Audit of footpath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to investigate ways to remediate the slipperiness of paving in the Lithgow LGA. 				
	Refer to Community Action Plan - TALC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer safety concerns at Railway Parade near Lithgow Railway Station eg. Pedestrian refuge to Traffic Authority Local Committee. 	Dec 2006	TALC	Referral	\$200

Target Group Profiles – Older People

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Enhance opportunities for older people to access learning opportunities.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council to consider providing support to older people in establishing local education opportunities for older people such as a University of the Third Age.	June 2011	Council and community	Consideration of support	\$5 000

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Men of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Men were nominated as one of four non-mandatory target groups in the development of this Social Plan. The Department of Local Government encourages local councils to include additional target groups in social planning as relevant to the community.

Men were an identified target group within the 2000 Social Plan. The group has again been included as an additional target group at the request of the Social Plan Working Group.

Demography

At the 2006 Census there were 10 017 men aged 15 and over living in the Lithgow LGA. This represented 50.7% of the

population in the LGA. Table 3.8.1 shows a break down of ages of men compared with women in Lithgow LGA.

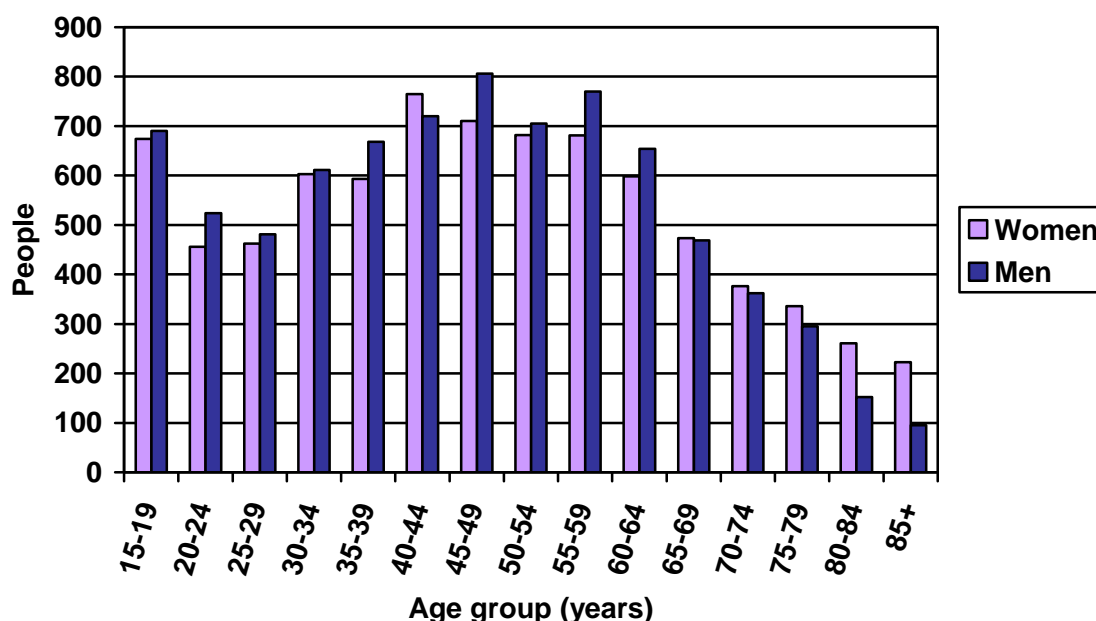
The relationship between population gender and age is depicted further in Figure 3.8.1 which shows that there are more men than women in almost all age categories up until 60-64 years, after which the relationship reverses. The greater number of men than women may be reflective of the traditional industrial base in Lithgow which was dominated by trades and professions traditionally taken up by men. From the age category 70-74 onward there were increasingly more women than men in each category. This is reflective of nationally and internationally recorded higher life expectancies of women and earlier mortality of men.

Table 3.8.1 Men and Women by Age Grouping Lithgow LGA

Age	Men	Women	Total
15-19	690	674	1 364
20-24	524	456	980
25-29	481	462	943
30-34	611	603	1 214
35-39	668	593	1 261
40-44	720	765	1 485
45-49	806	710	1 516
50-54	705	682	1 387
55-59	770	681	1 451
60-64	654	598	1 252
65-69	469	473	942
70-74	362	376	738
75-79	295	336	631
80-84	152	261	413
85 and over	95	223	318
Total	10 017	9 738	19 755

Table 3.8.1 and Figure 3.8.1 Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Figure 3.8.1 Men and Women by Age Group



Men and Work

Table 3.8.2 shows the working patterns of men in the Lithgow LGA compared to women and to NSW.

Men in the Lithgow LGA were considerably more likely to be in paid employment than women (53.3% of men compared with 43.7% of women). Men were also far more likely than women to be employed in full time work in the Lithgow LGA (42.0% compared with 18.6%). This is reflective of gender patterns in NSW however there is a more pronounced gender difference in the Lithgow LGA.

Table 3.8.2 Work patterns of Men and Women in Lithgow LGA and NSW

Work Patterns (15 yrs and over)	Men Lithgow LGA	% Total Men Lithgow	% Total Men NSW	Women Lithgow LGA	% Total Women Lithgow	% Total Women NSW
Working full time	3 360	42.0	46.9	1 466	18.6	25.3
Working part time	641	8.0	10.6	1 763	22.3	21.2
Employed away from work	145	1.8	1.9	142	1.8	2.1
Employed Not Stated	124	1.5	2.0	77	1.0	1.2
Total Employed	4 270	53.3	61.3	3 448	43.7	49.8
Unemployed looking for full-time work	348	4.3	2.9	163	2.1	1.5
Unemployed looking for part-time work	76	0.9	1.0	129	1.6	1.6
Total Unemployed	424	5.3	3.9	292	3.7	3.1
Total Labour Force	4 694	58.6	65.2	3 740	47.4	52.9
Not in labour force	2 875	35.9	27.6	3740	47.4	40.7
Not Stated	436	5.4	7.1	412	5.2	6.5
Total population over 15	8 005			7 892		

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.8.3 Occupations of Men and Women in Lithgow LGA and NSW

Occupation	Men Lithgow	Men Lithgow %	Men NSW %	Women Lithgow	Women Lithgow %	Women NSW %
Managers and Administrators	512	12.0	16.5	304	8.8	10.2
Professional	343	8.0	18.6	544	15.8	24.2
Technicians and Trades	1 179	27.6	21.6	183	5.3	4.3
Community and personal service workers	270	6.3	5.3	587	17.0	12.5
Clerical and administrative Workers	186	4.4	6.7	821	23.8	25.6
Sales Workers	168	3.9	7.1	521	15.1	12.8
Machinery operators and drivers	974	22.8	10.7	46	1.3	1.4
Labourers	553	13.0	11.4	399	11.6	7.3
Not Stated	85	2.0	2.1	45	1.3	1.7
Total	4 270	100%		3 450	100%	100%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Men in the Lithgow LGA were overall less likely to be employed in either full or part time work than men in NSW (50.0% compared with 57.5% in NSW).

Table 3.8.3 details the occupations held by men in the Lithgow LGA.

The major areas of occupation for men in the

Lithgow LGA were technicians and trades (27.6%) and machinery operators and drivers (22.8%). These two areas of occupation accounted for approximately half of all male paid work. In NSW these two areas of occupation accounted for less than one third of all male paid occupations. Men in the Lithgow LGA were significantly less commonly employed in white collar occupations.

Table 3.8.4 Weekly Income for Men by Age in Lithgow LGA

Weekly Income	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65-74 yrs	75-84 yrs	85+ yrs	Total
Negative/Nil	192	23	27	19	52	43	14	5	0	375
\$1-\$149	172	34	24	29	41	56	38	16	8	418
\$150-\$249	70	81	115	123	153	286	313	187	29	1 357
\$250-\$399	85	44	76	111	124	208	202	109	36	995
% \$0-\$399	75.1	34.7	22.2	20.2	24.5	41.6	68.3	71.7	76.0	39.3
\$400-\$599	50	91	108	128	128	158	111	61	6	841
\$600-\$799	16	78	128	136	144	147	45	12	4	710
\$800-\$999	5	31	108	155	132	122	12	6	0	571
% \$400-\$999	10.3	38.2	31.5	30.5	26.7	30.0	20.2	17.9	10.4	26.5
\$1 000-\$1 299	7	32	124	166	181	132	7	0	0	649
\$1 300-\$1 599	0	14	81	135	164	68	7	0	0	469
% \$1 000-\$1 599	1.0	8.8	18.8	21.6	22.8	14.0	1.7	0	0	14.0
\$1 600-\$1 999	0	20	81	112	124	60	0	0	0	397
\$2 000 or more	0	9	26	92	119	36	9	3	0	294
% \$1 600 or more	0	5.5	9.8	14.6	16.1	6.7	1.1	7.0	0	8.6
Not stated	94	67	194	188	151	109	72	43	13	931
Total	691	524	1 092	1 394	1 513	1 425	830	442	96	8 007

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Only 12% were employed as managers or administrators and 8% as professionals compared to 16.5% and 18.6% respectively of men in NSW.

Table 3.8.5 Weekly Income for Women by Age in Lithgow LGA

Weekly Income	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	65-74 yrs	75-84 yrs	85+ yrs	Total
Negative/Nil	218	25	59	112	121	126	19	16	3	699
\$1-\$149	211	60	118	124	78	101	39	23	5	759
\$150-\$249	80	83	159	193	203	397	385	229	56	1 785
\$250-\$399	69	101	207	244	214	234	231	211	107	1 618
% \$0-\$399	85.8	58.9	51.0	49.6	44.3	67.0	79.6	79.8	76.7	61.6
\$400-\$599	27	101	196	258	253	152	74	33	17	1 111
\$600-\$799	5	35	81	124	170	75	16	11	5	522
\$800-\$999	0	25	55	88	75	54	6	4	0	307
% \$400-\$999	4.7	35.2	31.2	34.7	35.8	22.0	11.3	8.0	9.9	24.6
\$1 000-\$1 299	0	3	67	63	95	34	5	0	0	267
\$1 300-\$1 599	0	0	23	40	66	24	4	0	3	160
% \$1 000-\$1 599	0	0.7	8.5	7.6	11.6	4.5	1.1	0	1.3	5.4
\$1 600-\$1 999	0	0	4	13	19	8	0	0	0	44
\$2 000 or more	0	3	3	13	13	5	8	3	0	48
% \$1 600 or more	0	0.7	0.7	1.9	2.3	1.0	0.9	0.5	0	1.2
Not stated	64	21	93	84	85	70	60	70	27	574
Total	674	457	1 065	1 356	1 392	1 280	847	600	223	7 894

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Men and Income

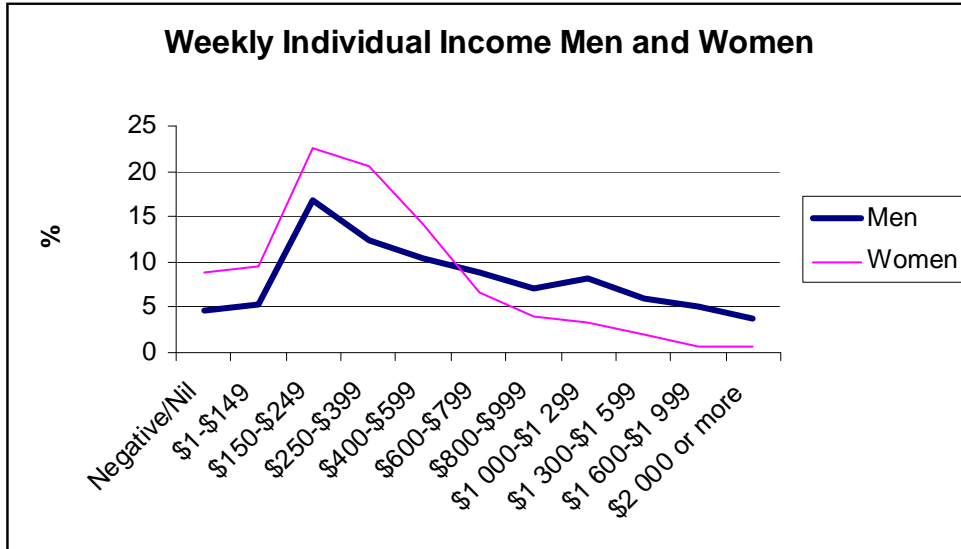
Men were less likely to be receiving low incomes than women and more likely to be receiving higher incomes. Only 39.3% of men received \$399 or less per week compared to 61.6% of women. 14.0% of men received an income between \$1,000 and \$1,599 per week compared to 5.4% of women. 8.6% of men received an income of \$1,600 or higher per week compared 1.2% of women.

Young men in particular were more likely to receive a higher income than women. 85.8%

of women aged 15-19 years received an income of \$399 or less compared to 75.1% of men in the same age group. 58.9% of women aged 20-24 years received a weekly income of \$399 or less compared to 34.7% of men. 51.0% of women aged 25-34 years received a weekly income of \$399 or less compared to 22.2% of men.

Tables 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 also show that even in the younger age groups, men were far more likely to receive higher incomes than women.

Figure 3.8.2



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Men and Education

Table 3.8.6 shows that men in the Lithgow LGA were considerably more likely to have certificate qualifications (55.0%) compared with Lithgow women (30.6%), men in the Central West (51%) and NSW men (39.4%).

in the Central West and NSW to have completed year 12 or equivalent - 19.6% of Lithgow men compared with 25.3% of Lithgow women, 27% of Central West men and 42.3% of NSW men. Lithgow men were also far less likely than Lithgow women as well as Central West and NSW men to have a university qualification.

Table 3.8.6 also shows that Lithgow men were less likely than Lithgow women and men

Table 3.8.6 Education Levels Men and Women								
	Lithgow LGA Women	%	Lithgow LGA Men	%	Lithgow LGA All Persons	Lithgow % All Persons	Men Central West %	Men NSW %
Highest Level of Schooling Completed						Percentage of total responses		
Year 8 or below	752	9.5	754	9.4	1 506	9.5	9.8	6.6
Year 9 or equivalent	1 064	13.5	937	11.7	2 001	12.6	11.5	7.8
Year 10 or equivalent	2 767	35.1	3 101	38.7	5 868	36.9	34.9	25.7
Year 11 or equivalent	534	6.8	506	6.3	1 040	6.5	6.2	6.1
Year 12 or equivalent	1 998	25.3	1 573	19.6	3 571	22.5	27.0	42.3
Did not go to school	22	0.3	46	0.6	68	0.4	0.5	0.9
	7 894		8 007		15 901			
Non School Qualification (level)						Percentage of total responses		
Postgraduate Degree	57	1.8	59	1.3	116	1.5	2.8	6.7
Graduate Degree and Graduate Certificate	89	2.9	43	1.0	132	1.7	1.3	1.6
Bachelor Degree	483	15.5	296	6.6	779	10.3	10.8	19.5
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	430	13.8	312	7.0	742	9.8	8.2	10.7
Sub Total University Qualification	1 059	34.0%	710	16.0%	1 769	23.0%	23.1%	38.5%
Certificate	953	30.6	2 436	55.0	3 389	44.9	51.8	39.4
Not described or stated	1 105	35.5	1 282	29.0	2 387	31.6	25.1	22.6
Total	3 117		4 428		7 545			

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group “men” were identified through focus group research with the target group.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspectives of men. These included:

- Sports, facilities and culture
- Proximity to Sydney and everywhere
- History of the area
- Shopping
- Personality
- Interesting winter land
- Coal mining mentality is going
- Proud community (stand up)
- No class distinction
- Good hotels/clubs (eg golf)
- Insular
- Friendly
- Growing (e.g. houses, government offices, ADI, new people)
- Small town mentality is disappearing
- Social
- Good food
- Attitude from people coming back – no longer a smoke hole
- Boutique town – matter of time until Sydney finds out about it
- Family support
- Becoming more of a regional centre
- No big transient population
- Small town Sydney
- Cultural and demo are not being driven by mining
- Hospital
- Excellent TAFE
- Community
- Close knit community.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by men.

- Lack of accommodation for men suitable reside within living in hotel (short term accommodation) – maybe need of serviced apartments
- Youth truancy
- Handicap access and facilities
- No food places on Saturday and Sunday – traffic not directed through Main Street
- Not many good food – Club takes on life on its own
- Influence Workmen’s Club
- More shops are open in Portland than Lithgow
- Area to identify what’s happening
- Landa Street area dilute Housing Commission area with privately owned
- Shopping – not interested, competitive, - survey good/bad points
- Frontage code – keep up of buildings
- Town clock – owner willing to negotiate access
- Unemployment
 - Can’t support family
 - Focus on industry. Development (Blayney interest free loan)
 - Shortage service industry land
- Social servicing/family entertainment/youth
- Nothing else but sport
- Can’t swim all year round – request for an indoor swimming pool/gymnasium
- Not easy to find artistic
- Trains (last months bus to Mt Victoria) – Services to Sydney and Upper Mountains
- Promotion Lithgow
- Lack of natural gas in Portland – costs heating pension – how to effectively heat homes
- Tourist information centre
- Aged care facilities – no retirement village
- Universities – ADI & Delta.

What’s Needed

- Shopping survey
- Cultural centre (Bathurst & Orange) – Arts
- Tourism – Zig Zag – State Mine – Power Station (Sydney – Lithgow) Open Site
- Employment – Industry
- Cold climate – facilities including cinema
- Cross promotion (community)
 - Cultural coordination

- Service clubs
- More Ironfest type promotion area
- Targeting promotion and maintenance national areas
 - Presentation town
- Restaurants
- Further media
- Encourage higher education facility
- Tourist companies
- Katoomba Jam – Brackets and Jam in the Northern Rivers
- Pop music/venue/support (no alcohol & vegetarian food)
- Coffee club – once fortnight talk – promoting conductivity through the area.

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group Men identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Housing and Accommodation

Men in the Lithgow LGA identified a need for alternative short term accommodation to hotels, and suggested a need for serviced apartments. This is a land use issue which will be addressed in the Strategic Plan. The nearest crisis accommodation for men in the Lithgow LGA is Bathurst.

Recreation

Men identified as a community strength the strong presence of sporting facilities and sporting culture in the Lithgow LGA. Men identified a number of recreation needs other than those which are sport related. These included a need for family and youth appropriate entertainment, a request for an indoor heated pool and gymnasium as well as other cold climate facilities such as a cinema. The group also identified a need for more restaurants, as well as a "Brackets and jam" style music night/venue (Brackets and Jam sessions in other areas involve short sets of music by local performers and an open "jam" session), as well as a no alcohol and vegetarian pop music venue. Men also

suggested a need for a coffee club, suggesting a talk format once a fortnight.

Fathering Support

It was not specified in the focus group, however there is some evidence to suggest there is a broad based need for fathers to have greater access to community supports in their roles as fathers. Research from Newcastle University indicates there is a need for fathers to have more opportunities to connect socially and supportively with one another and access services which specifically target men as clients (this can be within mainstream services). Reports from some local service providers indicate that fathers in the Lithgow LGA identify that these are needs for them.

In 2005 the first Dads and Kids Day took place in the Lithgow LGA, organised through Families First service providers in the Lithgow LGA. This day was found to be very successful in terms of attendance and feedback and there are some plans to hold Dads and Kids events in the Lithgow LGA in the future.

Communication and Information Dissemination

Men in the focus group indicated a need for improvements to communication and information dissemination for men in the Lithgow LGA. They said that they perceive a need for greater community cross promotion such as undertaken by the Ironfest Committee.

Education

Men indicated a need to encourage a higher education facility in the Lithgow LGA, in addition to the Lithgow TAFE campus.

Disability Access

Men indicated that there is a need for economic development activities, targeting employment, retail and other industry. The issue of economic development will be

addressed in the development of Council's forthcoming Strategic Plan.

Culture

Men indicated a need for greater access to a number of community facilities and resources within the Lithgow LGA. These included a cultural arts centre such as at Bathurst and Orange and music venues other than pubs. The cultural needs of people in the Lithgow LGA will be addressed through Council's forthcoming Cultural Plan.

Tourism

Men described a number of perceived needs in relation to tourism. Tourism is being addressed by Council's tourism activities.

Table 3.8.7 Actions relating to Men from 2000 Social Plan

PRIORITY	IDENTIFIED NEED	ACTION	TIME FRAME	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES OR PARTNERSHIPS	PROGRESS/ACTION TAKEN
MEDIUM	11.1 All Levels of Government to address health and social issues for men	11.1.1 Council promote the needs of Men to Government when the opportunity arises	Ongoing	Council/State and Commonwealth Government	Men's Health Program at Community Health centre -- ongoing. Men's Health Magazine at the Library -- ONGOING. Prostate and Bowel Cancer Group. Huge attendance at Dads and Kids Day supported through the Workmen's Club CDSE program .

Table 3.8.8 Action Plan 2006-2011

Action Plan 2005					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Men					
To provide access to affordable housing and crisis accommodation for men	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet men's needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Enhance access for men in the Lithgow LGA to fathering support.	Consider providing support for future Dads and Kids Days in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annual	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$500
	Lobby government and services to further improve the appropriateness of services for fathers. Assist services to seek additional funding and resources to provide fathering support.	Ongoing	Council, government, service providers	Lobbying activities undertaken	\$100 per activity
Improve communication and information dissemination.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve access to higher education.	Refer to Community Action Plan				

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people were nominated as one of four non-mandatory target groups in the development of this Social Plan. The Department of Local Government encourages local councils to include additional target groups in social planning as relevant to the community.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people were first identified as a target group in the 2006 Social Plan. The group has been included as an additional target group at the request of the Social Plan Working Group.

Demography

The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not collect information related to people's sexuality. Information related to the population of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the Lithgow LGA is limited and relies on general population estimates and anecdotal evidence.

While exact numbers are difficult to obtain for this group:

"...current estimates indicate that as many as one in ten Australian citizens may belong to one of the above three groups (gays lesbians and bisexuals). Given the self censorship and "invisibility" strategy practiced by many people to avoid harassment and discrimination, the figure is likely to be a lot higher"

Healy p2 in
Sexuality and Discrimination 2000
volume 162

While it is difficult to approximate the number of people living in the Lithgow LGA, this estimate and anecdotal evidence from the community indicates that there is a significant community of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people living in the Lithgow LGA.

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people were identified through focus group research. This focus group had relatively small attendance and was predominately attended by gay men. The focus group research was supported by information gained through a follow up interview.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from perspectives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

- Small place and can look after one another
- Peaceful
- Enjoyable town to live in – very comfortable lifestyle
- Last couple of years there has been an improvement in acceptance but depends on age i.e. mature age is more accepting
- A lot of support through teachers
- Television is helping with the acceptance of the community.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the Lithgow LGA.

- Gossip.
- Typical of being a small place.
- Negative and nasty element is still here.
- Religious groups.
- Students are horrible.

- Difficult to come out (denying or being made to deny) and not coming out is dangerous down the track
- Vilification received by the youth (offenders not made accountable for their actions)
- The education system may not be as responsive as it could be to harassment.

What's Needed

- Education at school:
 - So that students know where to turn for help
 - Punishment for abusive students (too lenient i.e. for wearing jeans you get sent home and abusive comments a slap on the wrist)
 - Sexual health – a brief overview at best
 - Education is most important
 - Enforcement of school policy relating to discrimination/harassment.
- Crisis assistance
- Parental education and identified contact in the community.
- Contact points/support network identified in the community (there are some)
- Contact with area health service – locals
- Sexual education to all
- Library resources
- Website/links
- Call centre and websites should be noted on pamphlets

Actions already/general comments

- Wagals newsletter MWAHS – information newsletter, social events which you can sign up
- Location of Community Health Centre.

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people identified as a result of community consultation and other current research.

Youth Issues

Issues relating to young people and diverse sexuality have been raised in the context of community consultation with the target group within the Lithgow LGA as well as across the broader body of Australian policy and research. One of the most concerning issues for same sex attracted young people in the Lithgow LGA is violence and harassment from other community members, particularly peers.

A 2004 report called "Writing Themselves in Again" on a study by the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, surveying 1750 same sex attracted young people between the ages 14 and 21 showed that a greater number of young Australian people are identifying as gay, homosexual or lesbian than in 1998, and that they are more likely to be same sex sexually active. The Study also found that 33% had experienced discrimination and unfair treatment on the basis of their sexuality, and 44% reported verbal abuse and 16% physical assault related to their sexuality. (Source: La Trobe University, Media Release: School yards a battleground for same sex attracted young people, 25 May 2005).

Issues for same sex attracted young people were identified as an outstanding area for concern on the focus group and other research within the Lithgow LGA. The group identified that students treated same sex attracted young people "horribly"; that it is difficult to come out through denial or being made to deny same sex attraction, coupled with a realization that not coming out had associated future dangers; that same sex attracted young people were subject to vilification with a failure by authorities to hold offenders accountable; and that the education system may not be as responsive as it could be to harassment.

The group identified a high priority need in the Lithgow LGA for improved education in schools in relation to how to access help, sexual health information, as well as a greater enforcement in schools of rules against abusive behaviour, discrimination and harassment. They also identified a need for

parents to have access to education in relation to sexuality and an identified point of contact for information and support within the community.

Community Awareness and Access to Information

Issues relating to youth and education/awareness also extended into the general community. Community organisations consulted by the Attorney General's Department of NSW in an extensive consultation to develop a work plan for their Policy Officer (gay and Lesbian) Position in 1999 said that there was a need for attention to be given to providing community members in outer suburban, rural and regional areas access to greater information and education. (Source: Lawlink: Crime Prevention Division updated 26th May 2006)

The focus group identified issues related to being in a small place, that they tended to be subjected to gossip and that there was a "negative and nasty element still here". That said, the group also indicated a perceived improvement of community acceptance of diversity in sexuality especially in more mature community members and that television was helping this process. The statement was made that while Lithgow has had a homophobic reputation as a community in the past, it is no longer as pronounced a problem as it was.

The focus group identified a need to improve access for the community to education about issues relating to people with diverse sexualities, and to improve library resources and website links relating to education about issues relating to sexuality and sexual health.

Networks and support systems

There was a need identified in the locally based research to improve access for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to networks and supports. There was a suggestion that a locally based volunteer support group could act as a central referral point. It was also suggested that existing communication systems i.e. websites could be

used to provide resources and contact details for support organisations both locally and more broadly based.

Sexual Health

Broad based research and policy as well as the local community research indicate that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have particular need for access to information, education as well as other services in relation to sexual health. While it was indicated that this was an outstanding need for all young people, it was also emphasised that there are specialist health services available as close as Katoomba and that this needed to be made better known.

Actions to Date

LINC now resources a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the Lithgow LGA. This came about as a result of the need identified in the social planning process.

Information about resources and organisations for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is now included within the Lithgow Community Guide.

A Central West area newsletter called WAGALS is available in the community, and by subscription, which provides information, networking and social contact opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Table 3.9.1 Action Plan 2008- 2011

Action Plan 2008					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Cost
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community					
To assess and address community safety issues for GLBT people.	Refer to the Community Action Plan/ Crime Prevention plan	2009/2010	Council/ other Community stakeholders yet to be identified	More GLBT groups and programs within Lithgow Government area	To be identified
To provide access and equity to information, services and facilities for GLBT people.	Consider assistance in securing funding for the development of a website to provide information on services and facilities for GLBT people and parents.	December 2010	Council, LINC	Funding sources identified and application submitted.	\$500 as suggested in previous Social plan
Improve access for young GLBT people to crisis accommodation.	Refer to Community Action Plan				

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Department of Housing Residents of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Department of Housing residents were nominated as one of four non-mandatory target groups in the development of this Social Plan Review. The Department of Local Government encourages local councils to include additional target groups in social planning as relevant to the community.

The Lithgow LGA has a higher concentration of public housing dwellings compared to the Central West and NSW as a whole, and one relatively large public housing estate in Bowenfels. Residents of public housing tend

to experience high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, and in Lithgow LGA experience social isolation relating to the physical isolation of the Bowenfels housing estate from the rest of Lithgow.

Department of Housing residents were not an identified target group within the 2000 Social Plan. The group was included as an additional target group at the request of the Social Plan Working Group.

Table 3.10.1 Housing Tenure over Time

	1996	2001	2006	Lithgow 2006 %	Central West %	NSW %
Type of dwelling	Occupied Dwellings	Occupied Dwellings	Occupied Dwellings			
Owned	3 499	3 575	3 206	41.4	38.9	33.2
Being purchased	1 646	1 747	2 148	27.7	29.1	30.2
Rented						
Housing Authority	501	443	438	23.3	18.0	15.6
Rented Real Estate Agent	618	640	815	43.3	45.5	56.6
Rented housing Co-op, church etc	26	31	32	1.7	2.6	2.1
Rented Not Stated and Other	607	638	598	31.8	34.0	25.7
Total Rented	1 752	1 752	1 883	24.3	26.1	28.4
Not Stated and Other	277	393	505	6.5	5.9	8.3
Total occupied private dwellings	7 174	7 467	7 742			

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile 2006
 Percentages shown are of Total Occupied Private Dwellings except rental types which are based on the percentage of Total Rented dwellings.

Demography

Table 3.10.1 shows that in 2006 the Lithgow LGA had 438 State Housing Authority rented properties which was 23.3% of the total rented housing stock and 5.7% of all housing stock. By comparison - in NSW as a whole, State Housing Authority rented properties comprised 15.6% of the total rented housing stock and 4.4% of all housing stock. For the Central West region, State Housing Authority rented properties comprised 18.0% of the total rented housing stock and 4.7% of all housing stock.

agents. Conversely, families renting on the private market were far more likely (21.9%) than families living in state housing authority housing (3.8%) to be on higher incomes over \$1 200 per week.

Table 3.10.2 also shows that sole parent families living in state housing authority housing were far more likely to be on very low incomes and far less likely to be on high incomes than all other family types as well as sole parent families who rent on the private market.

Income

Table 3.10.2 shows that families living in state housing authority housing were more likely to be on very low incomes (less than \$350 per week) compared to those renting on the private market from real estate agents. For example, 26.9% of all families in state housing authority housing earned less than \$350 per week compared to 14.6% of families living in housing rented from real estate

Table 3.10.2 Gross Family Income by Landlord Type by Family Composition

Weekly Family Income	Sole Parent families		Couple Families with children		Couple Families without Children		Total Families	
	Real estate Agent %	STHA* %	Real estate Agent %	STHA* %	Real estate Agent %	STHA* %	Real estate Agent %	STHA* %
\$0-\$349	36.6	46.0	1.7	11.9	2.7	7.1	14.6	26.9
\$350-\$799	42.9	32.5	26.4	35.7	39.6	85.7	35.9	41.7
\$800-\$1 199	8.0	6.3	27.5	27.4	19.8	7.1	18.4	15.2
\$1 200-\$1 699	4.6	0	16.9	11.9	17.1	0	12.5	3.8
\$1 700 or more	1.7	0	15.7	0	20.7	0	9.4	0

* State Territory Housing Authority

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group “Department of Housing Residents” were identified through focus group research.

Community Strengths

The research identified a number of strengths of the community in the Lithgow LGA from the perspective of Department of Housing residents:

- Trains
- Very slow/Laid back
- Clean air/Fresh air
- Room to move
- Smell of coal/wood
- New shopping centre
- Approval for Woolworths to come to Lithgow
- Council elections offer opportunity for advancement
- Peaceful
- People
- It is one of the prettiest places
- It is a beautiful town and area
- The bus system in Lithgow.

Community Limitations

The research identified a number of limitations of the community as experienced by Department of Housing residents:

- Excessive speeding on roads
- Speeding all night
- No recreation facilities
- Excessive vandalism in all of Lithgow
- Excessive alcohol consumption – during weekends and long weekends
- Council is not looking after its own kids and voters first
- Council is not using the resources/facilities that are already in Lithgow
- Council is either selling off resources/facilities or making them into heritage buildings – which all takes the resources/facilities from the community.

Council is looking at the little picture not the larger picture for economic development, eco-tourism

- Lack of trains and transport
- Shopping
- Main Street paving tiles get slippery when wet
- Lack of repairs of DOH houses when residents look after their houses
- Maintenance of parks and walkways in Bowenfels and South Bowenfels. Also nature strips, walkways and vacant land
- Lack of footpaths
- Bowenfels receives the “off cuts and rejects” of any Council improvements in Lithgow area
- When parks are trashed in other areas of Lithgow they are fixed, but not in Bowenfels
- Lack of Parks
- Lack of entertainment and recreation in Bowenfels of kids, young people and adults (all ages)
- No accessible amenities in Park in Bowenfels
- No public toilets in Main Street. You have to take your kids into a pub to go to the toilet
- No concrete in front of bus shelters – mud is bad and gets like clay – the bus aisles get slippery with the clay
- Not enough bus shelters. Need more
- Not enough buses
- Lack of speed bumps
- The town is not thriving
- Sand is washing in the River at Hyde Park
- Locals have to pay at Lake Lyell boat ramp
- Lake Lyell is not being looked after – water is down and Blue Green Algae is growing
- Local creeks and waterways aren't flowing properly
- DOH and Council “passing the buck” about which department is responsible and accountable for vacant land, park and reserves.

What's needed?

While all needs are seen as a priority, the focus group members believe it is a priority to meet the needs of the children first.

- Community bus for weekend activities and during the school holidays
- More Jones Bros buses on the weekend
- Earlier buses on weekdays
- Council to liaise with community before making major decisions that effect the community i.e. Newnes prison camp, Marjorie Jackson statue location and Visitors Centre
- Free local paper deliver to the door
- Let people have a greater say in the community
- More Council maintenance in all parks and reserves especially mowing, rubbish removal and Bowenfels area
- Entertainment
- DOH and Council accountability for maintenance in the area
- Council members to come and participate out at Bowenfels
- DOH to come and participate out at Bowenfels
- Recognition and acceptance of Landa Street residents to the broader community including the greater Lithgow area and CBD
- More community services in Bowenfels
- More bus shelters
- Footpaths
- Public amenities including toilets
- More advertising and bigger signs for tourist attractions
- Pool upgraded
- Free access to Lake Lyell for Lithgow Residents
- Hospital upgrade – need maternity unit and additional staffing
- More services and amenities
- Community newspaper – local news/weather/community activating – include Council correspondence – advertisements – calendar etc
- Community website
- Recognition or reward system of DOH residents who look after their homes
- Police need more powers to deal with young offenders

- DOH needs to enforce DOH rules and the rules need to be more appropriate to this housing community
- Need a PCYC at Bowenfels for a positive influence on kids
- Sport and recreation facilities at Bowenfels
- Child community built walkway and bike track

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group Department of Housing residents identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research. The focus group gave priority to community needs which impact on the well being of children.

Health and Community Services

Department of Housing Residents and other residents of community housing have a relatively high demand for community and health services due to factors relating to personal resources and social issues. The focus group research with this population identified a stated need for more community services in Bowenfels, more services and amenities for children, and improvements to maternity services and staffing levels at Lithgow Hospital.

In 2004, the Department of Housing made a House available to the community at Bowenfels, through Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre. The community cottage called "Bowenfels Cottage" is managed by a community based development committee. The committee has experienced difficulty to date in attracting service providers to outreach at the facility, although this appears to be slowly improving.

The need for services is more pronounced due to the relatively high level of concentration of Department of Housing dwellings in the Lithgow LGA, particularly at Bowenfels.

Community Safety

Department of Housing residents in the Lithgow LGA have particular expressed needs in relation to community safety. A number of recently expressed fears have related to criminal activity by a small group of members of the community accompanied by fear tactics used to enforce silence by other members of the community.

The community safety needs identified in the focus groups included excessive vandalism in the whole Lithgow area and excessive alcohol consumption during weekends and at long weekends.

Recreation

A significant number of issues identified by Department of Housing residents through the focus group related directly to recreational needs. These included the comment “there are no recreation facilities”, concerns about lack of maintenance of parks and walkways in Bowenfels and South Bowenfels, concerns that parks in Bowenfels don’t get damage repairs compared with other areas, a lack of parks, and lack of entertainment and recreation in Bowenfels for children, young people and adults of all ages.

The focus group identified and prioritised needs for the pool to be upgraded, a PCYC at Bowenfels, sport and recreation facilities at Bowenfels, and a community built walkway and bike track. They also suggested that the community needed free access to Lake Lyell (currently there is a small fee). A number of community members including youth leaders, Aboriginal community leaders and health providers have identified the need for increased opportunities for children and young people from the Bowenfels community to have access to regular recreational activity which engages them in the community and is goal oriented.

Transport

Department of Housing residents identified a considerable number of issues and needs in relation to transport. Limitations to transport

included a lack of trains and transport and not enough buses. The community expressed needs for a community bus for activities on weekends and in school holidays, more buses on the weekend, earlier buses on weekdays, and more bus shelters. The suggestion seems to be that the community appreciates access to public transport services which are available, and have a need for these to be augmented.

Road and Footpath Safety

Road and footpath safety was another major issue identified by this group. Problems included speeding (this has also been identified through Department of Housing and Police forums in the Bowenfels community), a lack of footpaths and lack of all weather surfaces at the front of bus shelters. The community suggested that Council take steps to address the shortage of footpaths. Like other community groups they identified that the paving in Main Street gets slippery when wet.

Access to amenities

Community members participating in the Department of Housing focus group expressed a need for improvements to their access to amenities. They had concerns about there being no accessible amenities in Emora Park, and a lack of public toilets in Main Street Lithgow. There are currently five public toilets located in close proximity to Main Street, suggesting a need for better publicity and signage.

The focus group indicated prioritised needs for more public amenities, and more services and amenities. A recent community audit of Emora Park was conducted by Council to identify needs for the park in closer detail. This is elaborated further under Actions to Date.

Environment

Participants in the Department of Housing focus group identified environmental concerns, including water quality issues at Lake Lyell, that local creeks and waterways

are not flowing properly. Broad environmental issues will be addressed through strategic planning processes. The community identified there was no clear division and acceptance of responsibility between the Department of Housing and Council. The group expressed need for more Council maintenance in all parks and reserves, especially mowing, rubbish removal and with particular attention to the Bowenfels area.

Community Consultation

The community members interviewed in the focus group research identified a need for improvements to community engagement and consultation practices by Council in relation to Department of Housing residents. They identified Council elections as a key opportunity for advancement, however indicated dissatisfaction with receiving what they perceived as “off cuts and rejects” in relation to improvement works in the Lithgow LGA, as well as perceived “buck passing” between Council and Department of Housing. The group identified a need for Council to liaise with their community before making major decisions which effect them, a need for people to have a greater say in their community, and for Council members to participate in community activities at Bowenfels.

Networking and Communication

Networking and communication were also issues identified by this group. They indicated they needed a free local paper delivered to the door, for greater recognition and acceptance of residents of the Bowenfels Department of Housing community in the broader community, Department of Housing and Council participation at Bowenfels, a community newspaper and community website.

Tourism

Department of Housing residents indicated they perceived a need for Council to pursue opportunities for eco – tourism. This will be addressed in Council's Strategic Plan currently under development.

Economic development

Department of Housing residents also indicated they perceived a need for Council to more actively pursue opportunities in relation to economic development. This is likely to be of importance to this group due to the higher concentration of people in Department of Housing dwellings with fewer economic resources. Department of Housing allocation criteria relate to low income and other factors of disadvantage which means that economic and other needs are likely to be exacerbated in this group. Economic development will be addressed in Council's Strategic Plan currently under development.

Actions to Date

Lithgow Community Action Partnership Group

Council currently participates in a government stake holder's forum called the Lithgow Community Action Group which particularly aims to develop partnerships and actions to address identified issues in relation to the Bowenfels Department of Housing estate. The forum is chaired by the Department of Housing and includes a range of local and state government authorities as well as participation from LINC and community representatives.

Department of Housing and Police forums

The Department of Housing and the NSW Police have recently made attempts to address safety concerns with the local community through a series of forums held in the community. These have paid attention to breaking down barriers to reporting of incidents within the community which include fear of repercussions from offending community members and expressed scepticism and disillusionment about outcomes. These forums are currently seeking to establish a resident's action group to further community development goals of the community. Council staff have attended

these forums by invitation to address issues including companion animal control and community dissatisfaction about parks and footpaths. Council has taken measures to ensure feedback and follow up is communicated to the community.

Active Young Bowenfels Project

Council is was successful in obtaining funding through the Healthy Local Government Program for an 18 month project due to run until November 2007 called the Active Young Bowenfels project. The project aims to improve Council's capacity to plan and implement actions which have positive health outcomes for disadvantaged communities. It involves auditing and improving the facilities at Emora Park in the Bowenfels area and in partnership with LINC and other services will provide a series of school holiday activities targeting child and young people with sustainability goals.

The audit of Emora Park took place in July 2006 and was attended by as the Mayor and staff. This has informed the development of a draft plan of works which is on public exhibition at the time if writing.

Target Group Profiles – Dept of Housing Residents

Table 3.10.3 Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Department of Housing Residents					
Facilitate improved access to Community and Health Services.	Participate in Community Services Interagency and advocate the access needs of this target group.	Bimonthly	Council, Community Services interagency	Participation and referral of issues	\$2 000
Address community safety concerns.	Refer to Community Action Plan – Crime Prevention Plan				
Address road and footpath safety.	Council to liaise with the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Housing to develop a road safety campaign in the Bowenfels community.	June 2007	Council, RTA, Department of Housing	Delivery of program	\$2 000
	Sydney West Area Health Service is currently researching issues relating to access and "walkability" in the Bowenfels area. Council to receive recommendations and consider opportunities for implementation under future Management Plans.	Nov 2007	SWAHS, Council, LGSA, NSW Health and community	Completion of Research	\$6 384
Improve opportunities for recreation.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council, LINC and other community partners to provide school holiday activities for children and young people under the Active Young Bowenfels program.	Nov 07	Council, LINC Department of Housing NSW Health, SWAHS	Delivery of program	\$14 000
Improve opportunities for recreation. (cont)	Council to adopt and implement agreed plan of works for Emora Park in partnership with the Department of Housing. Council to include maintenance needs identified in the audit in ongoing maintenance program.	Dec 06	Council, NSW Health and the Department of Housing	Completion of works and consideration of maintenance program in 07/08 Recurrent Budget	\$14 000

Target Group Profiles – Dept of Housing Residents

Table 3.10.3 Action Plan 2006-2011					
Address transport needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve community consultation.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council attend at the request of community, Residents Group meetings and Department of Housing forums. Ensure feedback is given.	On request	Department of Housing, community and Council	Attendance when requested	\$76 per hour
Facilitate improvements to networking and communication between agencies and with the community.	Work with Department of Housing toward developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which clarifies responsibilities between Council and the Department of Housing including footpath network. Council and Department of Housing to develop clear communication strategy to the community re: rights and which authority to contact for which problems. Work with the Dept of Housing and other government and non government stakeholders in the Lithgow Community Action Partnership Group to develop and implement programs to address identified community concerns.	June 2007 June 2007 and ongoing Ongoing	Council and Department of Housing Council, Dept of Housing Council, Dept of Housing, other stakeholders	Completion of MOU Complete and fulfil strategy Participation	\$3 000 \$830 \$2 600

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*

Sole Parents of Lithgow LGA

Introduction

Sole parents were nominated at the request of the Social Plan Working Group as one of four non-mandatory target groups in the development of this Social Plan. The Department of Local Government encourages local councils to include additional target groups in social planning as relevant to the community.

The Lithgow LGA has a higher proportion of sole parent families with dependent children than in NSW or the Central West.

Demography

Table 3.11.1 shows a break down of family types in Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census. In Lithgow there were 503 sole parent families (comprising 1 451 persons) with children aged under 15 (9.7% of all families).

By comparison there were:

- 1 516 couple families (comprising 6 308 persons) with children under 15 years (29.1% of all families)
- 2 073 Couple families (comprising 4 129 persons) without children which was 39.8% of all families.

Sole parent families with and without children under 15 years made up 17% of all families in the Lithgow LGA compared to 16.1% for NSW as a whole. Further, 24.9% of all families with children aged under 15 years were sole parent families which is a slightly less

Table 3.11.1 Family Type

Family Type	Families	% of all Families	Males	Females	Persons	% of all Families NSW
Sole Parent Families						
with children under 15	503	9.7%	533	918	1 451	8.7%
without children under 15	382	7.3%	386	450	836	7.4%
Total	885	17.0%	919	1 368	2 287	16.1%
Couple Families with Children						
with children under 15	1 516	29.1%	3 207	3 101	6 308	31.4%
without children under 15	650	12.5%	1 175	982	2 157	14.8%
Total	2 166	41.6%	4 382	4 083	8 465	46.2%
Couple Families without children	2 073	39.8%	2 050	2 079	4 129	36.0%
Other Families	82	1.6%	97	70	167	1.7%
Total Families and Persons	5 206	100%	7 448	7 600	15 048	100%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

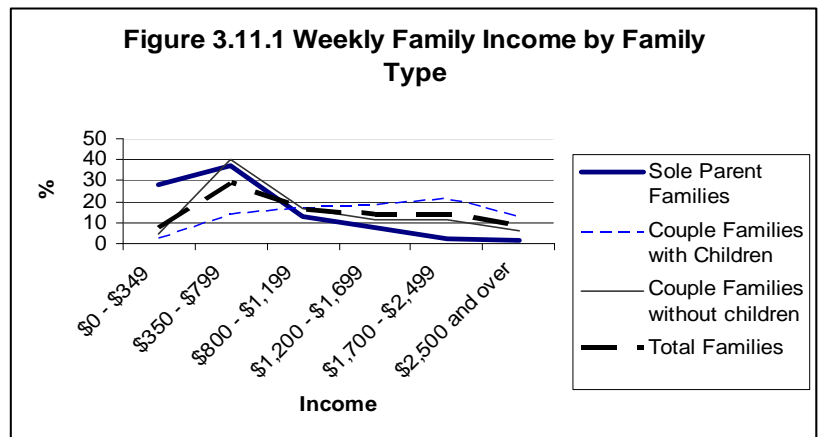
Target Group Profiles – Sole Parents

percentage than at the 2001 Census. The number of couple families with children also fell by approximately 8% between 2001 and 2006 which is in line with the overall decline in the number of children in the population. Of sole parents in the Lithgow LGA at the 2006 Census, 731 of (82.6%) were women and 154 of (17.4%) were men.

Anecdotal reports from maternity and other health care providers in the Lithgow LGA have indicated an observed increase in the number of young sole parent mothers in recent years. This has been linked to stated health care provider concerns about lack of antenatal and other care being sought by many of the young women and about lack of support networks. Concern has led to programs between partner agencies including Community Health, Family Support and Lithgow Community Projects to better address the particular needs of this group.

Sole Parents and Income

Table 3.11.2 and Figure 3.11.1 show that sole parent families in Lithgow had significantly lower weekly family incomes than other family types. 27.7% of sole parent families earned less than \$350 per week and 65.1% earned less than \$800 per week. In both cases this was well above the percentage for all other family types. Similarly, sole parent families were far less likely than other family types to receive incomes in the middle and higher ranges. Only 7.5% received between \$1,200 and \$1,699 compared to 18.3% of couple families with children and 11.7% of couple families without children.



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Table 3.11.2 Weekly Family Income by Family Type

Weekly Family Income	Sole parent family	%	Couple family with children	%	Couple family without children	%	Other family	%	Total	Total %
\$0- \$349	245	27.7	50	2.3	100	4.8	7	8.4	402	7.7
\$350-\$799	331	37.4	292	13.5	833	40.2	32	38.6	1 488	28.6
\$800 - \$1 199	116	13.1	364	16.8	349	16.8	16	19.3	845	16.2
\$1 200 – \$1 699	66	7.5	397	18.3	242	11.7	6	7.2	711	13.7
\$1 700 – \$2 499	18	2.0	463	21.4	238	11.5	6	7.2	725	13.9
\$2 500 and over	11	1.2	284	13.1	127	6.1	3	3.6	425	8.2
Partial income	65	7.5	276	12.7	128	6.2	5	6.0	474	9.1
All incomes not stated	32	3.6	40	1.8	56	2.7	8	9.6	136	2.6
Total	884	100 %	2 166	100%	2 073	100 %	83	100 %	5 206	100%

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Sole Parents and Employment

Table 3.11.3 shows sole parent families by gender, labour force status and age group of children. 88.8% of the 961 sole parents in the Lithgow LGA were women while 40.6% of women heading sole parent families were employed in paid work compared to 42.6% of sole parent families with male heads.

Most sole parent families with female heads were in part-time employment with only 28.3% of those employed being in full-time employment compared to 80.4% of employed sole parent families with male heads although the numbers of families with male heads were small.

Female sole parents were more likely to be in work when they have children in the older age groups. While 27.5% with children aged under 4 years were employed, this rose to 39.2% when the children were aged 10-12 years and 60.5% when the children were aged 15-17 years. In all cases though, female sole parents were more likely to be in part-time rather than full-time work.

Target Group Profiles – Sole Parents

Table 3.11.3 Age of Dependent Children with Sole Parents by Labour Force Status and Gender of Parent Lithgow LGA

	Age of Dependent Children (Years)							Total	% of Total
	0-4	5-9	10-12	13-14	15-17	18-20	21-24		
Male Sole Parent									
Employed working Full Time	0	3	9	10	12	3	0	37	34.3
Employed working Part Time	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	9	8.3
Employed away from work & Not Stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Employed	0	6	12	10	12	6	0	46	42.6
Unemployed Looking for Full Time work	0	4	3	3	4	0	0	14	13.0
Unemployed Looking for Part Time work	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	2.8
Total Unemployed	0	4	6	3	4	0	0	17	15.7
Total Labour Force	0	10	18	13	16	6	0	63	58.3
Not in the Labour Force	7	6	13	8	4	0	4	42	38.9
Not stated	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	2.8
Total	7	16	34	21	20	6	4	108	11.2 %
Female Sole Parent									
Employed working Full Time	9	19	19	18	25	8	0	98	11.5
Employed working Part Time	43	62	43	29	41	5	3	226	26.5
Employed away from work & Not Stated	5	12	5	0	0	0	0	22	2.6
Total Employed	57	93	67	47	66	13	3	346	40.6
Unemployed Looking for Full Time work	0	7	7	5	7	0	0	26	3.0
Unemployed Looking for Part Time work	15	14	7	3	5	0	0	44	5.2
Total Unemployed	15	21	14	8	12	0	0	70	8.2
Total Labour Force	72	114	81	55	78	13	3	416	48.8
Not in the Labour Force	135	121	86	40	28	7	0	417	48.9
Not stated	0	8	4	5	3	0	0	20	2.3
Total	207	243	171	100	109	20	3	853	88.8 %
Total Sole Parents									
Employed working Full Time	9	22	28	28	37	11	0	135	14.0
Employed working Part Time	43	65	46	29	41	8	3	235	24.5
Employed away from work & Not Stated	5	12	5	0	0	0	0	22	2.3
Total Employed	57	99	79	57	78	19	3	392	40.8
Unemployed Looking for Full Time work	0	11	10	8	11	0	0	40	4.2
Unemployed Looking for Part Time work	0	14	10	3	5	0	0	47	4.9
Total Unemployed	15	25	20	11	16	0	0	87	9.1
Total Labour Force	72	124	99	68	94	19	3	479	49.8
Not in the Labour Force	142	127	99	48	32	7	4	459	47.8
Not stated	0	8	7	5	3	0	0	23	2.4
Total	214	259	205	121	129	26	7	961	100 %

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2006

Results of Community Consultation

The needs of the target group “sole parents” were identified through focus group research with the target group.

Community Needs

The research did not delineate strengths and limitations within the community as in the other target groups. The focus group recorded responses only to the question of what is needed by the group.

Transport:

- Better public transport
- More frequent and express services including weekends and after hours
- School bus monitors to increase safety for kids on buses

Community Services:

- Landa Street area upgrade
- Homestart style program for families with children over the age of 5
- Activities in outlying areas
- Regular visiting services (e.g. Health, government etc)
- Mobile service centre
- Mentoring program utilising mature age people in the community with youth and younger children
- Youth drop-in centre
- After school care for older kids
- Quarterly guide of upcoming event in the community
- Free local newspaper
- Domestic Violence contact officer
- Better promotion of services
- More community venues (e.g. Community halls etc for hire)

Recreation:

- Recreation centre
- More facilities in outlying areas (e.g. Tennis courts in Wallerawang)
- Better maintenance of public areas/local lookouts and attractions

- Affordable sporting activities for low-income households
- Sport and recreation events within Lithgow (as opposed to travelling to Bathurst for events)
- Basketball hoops
- Day trips for families (e.g. inexpensive bus trips)
- Bike paths

Employment:

- Job creation/boost in vocational education
- Increase local industry
- Create an industrial area

Environment:

- Clean waterways
- Upgrade footpaths
- Install more bus shelters
- Repair shop awnings
- More public notice boards
- More public toilets along Main Street
- Improved signage (e.g. directional signage to attractions around town)

Education:

- Open a local university or college
- Free education opportunities
- Homework assistance for school children and their parents
- Parenting courses (scheduled within parent-friendly hours)

Health:

- Upgrade maternity services
- Increase the number of available counselling services

Shopping:

- Larger shopping centre
- More variety and competition within town
- More support independent local business, less franchise businesses
- Bring more shops back to Main Street.

Core Identified Issues

Following is a summary of core issues for the target group sole parents identified as a result of demographic factors, community consultation and other current research.

Transport

Sole parents tend to have lower family income and related lower levels of access to resources such as private transport. This combined with the pressures of needing to transport children places greater reliance on systems of public transport for this target group.

Sole parents in the Lithgow LGA indicated a need for improvements to public transport, including more frequent and express public transport services including weekends and after hours, as well as school bus monitors to increase safety for children on buses.

Community Services

Sole parents in the Lithgow LGA suggested a number of community service needs experienced by them. They suggested a need to upgrade the Department of Housing area in Bowenfels, a "Homestart" style program, which trains and matches volunteer home visitors for families with children over the age of 5, regular visiting services such as Health and other Government services and greater servicing of outlying areas such as through a mobile service centre. Galloping Gumnut mobile children's services van provides mobile play and child care sessions, and have also expressed the need for greater servicing of outlying areas by other agencies. They have suggested agencies utilising the existing play sessions to access families.

Other community services which the target group sole parents expressed a need for included a mentoring program utilising mature community members to mentor youth and younger children, after school care for older children (presumably older than primary school age, as after school care is available

for primary school children through the PCYC).

Recreation

A number of expressed needs of the target group sole parents related to recreation. These included affordable sporting activities for low income households, sport and recreation activities located more locally to reduce the need to travel to Bathurst for events, and day trips for families such as inexpensive bus trips. The focus group also expressed the need for a number of upgrades and enhancements to recreation facilities in the Lithgow LGA. These included installing basketball hoops in public parks, a recreation centre, creating more facilities in outlying areas such as tennis courts in Wallerawang, building additional bike paths, and better maintaining public areas as well as local lookouts and other attractions.

Communication and Dissemination of Information

A number of expressed needs from the sole parent target group included a need for a quarterly guide of upcoming events, a free local newspaper and a better promotion of existing services. They also said that there is a need in the Lithgow LGA for more public notice boards and improved directional signage to attractions.

Community Facilities and Amenities

The sole parent target group identified a need for more public toilets in Main Street, as well as for more community facilities such as community halls for hire. As there are currently five public toilets or parent rooms within close access of Main Street, there appears to be a need for improved publicity and signage about these facilities.

Road and Footpath Safety

Sole parents expressed a need for an upgrade of the footpath network in the Lithgow LGA.

Health

Sole parents indicated a need for an upgrading of maternity services in the Lithgow LGA and for an increase in the number of counselling services available.

Education

Sole parents indicated a number of needs relating to education. They said that there was a need for a University or College Campus to open within the Lithgow LGA, for access to free education opportunities, for a boost to vocational education, for homework assistance for school children and their parents and for parenting courses.

Economic Development

A number of needs were expressed which related to a perceived need for economic development activities in the Lithgow LGA. These included job creation, an increase in local industry, and the creation of an industrial area. They also expressed a need for a larger shopping centre, more variety and competition of businesses within the town, more local support for independent local businesses (rather than large franchises) and to bring back more shops to Main Street. These needs relate to Council's strategic planning responsibilities and will be addressed in the preparation of Council's Strategic Plan.

Actions to Date

Transport

The Lithgow Transport Working Group was set up and facilitated by the Ministry of Transport Regional Transport Coordinator to facilitate better transport outcomes for people in the Lithgow LGA. This has been a response to the acknowledgement that the transport needs of rural and regional areas are often not as easily met by providers as in more densely populated areas, and largely seeks to better utilise and coordinate existing resources to improve transport outcomes.

Lithgow Family Support Service and the Lithgow Transport Working Group has been exploring the possibility of developing a system of volunteer adults to monitor behaviour on buses. Jones Bros. adheres to a strict behaviour policy on their buses which is linked to safety, however limited resources mean they can only provide additional staff to supervise bus behaviour periodically.

Communication and Dissemination of Information

The Child Protection Interagency under the banner of the Family Friendly Community initiative have plans to develop a calendar of family friendly events to distribute to families in the Lithgow LGA. At this stage this action is only in planning and as yet resources have not been identified to support the production of the calendar.

Community Facilities and Amenities

In late 2004 Council opened a newly refurbished Library facility in Main Street Lithgow called the Lithgow Library Learning Centre. This has improved public access to facilities including public toilets and baby change facilities during Library hours which are 9am-6pm weekdays and 9am-12pm on Saturdays, as well as a meeting room available both during and after hours.

Education

Council initiated and supports the Lithgow LGA as a Learning City. The Learning City project has focused on developing the capacity of the Lithgow LGA to meet the learning needs of its residents.

Homework assistance is available two days per week through the Home Work Zone at the Lithgow Library Learning Centre and community partners have enabled a weekly Homework Centre in the Bowenfels Community utilizing TAFE volunteer tutors and supervisors from partner agencies.

Table 3.11.4 Actions relating to Sole Parents from 2000 Social Plan

PRIORITY	IDENTIFIED NEED	ACTION	TIME FRAME	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES OR PARTNERSHIPS	PROGRESS/ACTION TAKEN
MEDIUM	5.1 Accessible and affordable Childcare	5.1.1 Undertake an audit of existing services and potential demand for future services	Jun-01	Council/Children's Services Providers/DOCS/Community Organisations	Not achieved due to resource limitations.
		5.1.2 Subject to the outcome of 5.1.1, work with existing Children's service providers to lobby Government for funding for additional places	June 2001 Ongoing	Council/Children's Services Providers/DOCS	Ongoing
		5.1.3 Encourage educational providers to provide child care for participants.	Ongoing	Council/Education Service Providers/Children's Services providers.	Ongoing

Table 3.11.5 Action Plan 2006 - 2011

Identified Need	Action Plan 2005					Estimated Cost
	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators		
Sole Parents						
Improve access to public transport options across the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure continued consideration of issue of safe transportation of children by Lithgow Transport Working Group 					
Improve access to community service which meet the needs of sole parents.	Refer to Children's Action Plan - affordable child care. Lobby government and other organisations for provision of community services.	Ongoing	Council, government, service providers, community	Referral of issues as needed	\$100	
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet the needs of sole parent families.	Refer to Community Action Plan.					
Improve communication and dissemination of information.	Refer to Community Action Plan. Refer to Children's Action Plan provision for Family Friendly Community Initiative.					
Improve road and footpath safety.	Refer to Community Action Plan					
Improve access to health service for sole parent families.	Refer to Community Action Plan. Refer to Women's Action Plan.					
Improve access to education facilities.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure referral of need for low cost higher education, vocational education, homework assistance, parenting courses. 					

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*



Community Action Plan

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Community Action Plan					
To achieve the action plans contained within this Social Plan.	Council to consider it's financial and other support of community groups and organisations in accordance with the needs, objectives and actions identified in the Social Plan, Strategic Plan and Management Plan.	June 2007 and ongoing	Council and community groups and organisations	Management Plan adopted and Annual Report prepared	As adopted by Council annually
	Council to integrate the needs, objectives and actions in the Social Plan within Management Plans and report on actions in the Annual Reports during the life of this plan.	Annual	Council	Consideration of actions in the management planning process and reporting of actions in the Annual Report	\$2 600
	Review Council's participation in community forums and activities to align involvement with Council's objectives as defined in it's corporate planning documents including the Social Plan, Strategic Plan, and Management Plan as they relate to social justice principles.	June 2007	Council and community forums	Completion of the review	\$5 000
	Continued participation in the Lithgow Community Services Interagency in line with planned review (see above action)	Ongoing	Council, Community Services Interagency	Participation	\$1 650
To foster community engagement with Council through the development and practice of participatory processes.	Review best practice principles and processes, and develop a Community Engagement Procedure.	June 2008	Council	Adoption of Procedure	\$4 000
To have high quality Council practices for the dissemination of Council and Community Information.	Review best practice principles and processes for the dissemination of information to the community and develop a Procedure on the Provision of Community Information.	June 2008	Council	Adoption of Procedure	\$4 000
	Continue to produce and enhance the quarterly Council Connections Newsletters.	Quarterly	Council	Production and distribution of quarterly newsletters	\$16 000
	Review the effectiveness of Council Connections.	June 2008	Council	Review completed	\$1 000
	Enhance Council's website including a useable version of the Lithgow Community Guide.	Ongoing	Council and community	Ongoing maintenance of Council's website	\$20 000

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
	Review Council's advertising activities to ensure effectiveness.	June 2008	Council	Review completed	\$1 000
	Continue to provide weekly information through the media.	Weekly	Council	Production of weekly column	\$30 000
To have transparent and equitable processes in place based on social justice principles for determining Council's support of community groups and organisations.	Develop a procedure for determining Council's financial support of community groups and organisations through an annual grants program, which links support given with issues, objectives and actions identified within Council's corporate planning documents including the Social Plan, Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and State of the Environment Report. Outcomes of support to be reported in Council's Annual Report.	November 2006	Council	Procedure adopted	\$1 600
Ensure the currency, accuracy and consistency of this Social Plan throughout the course of it's life.	Review all profiles within this Social Plan in light of 2006 ABS Census data.	June 2007	Council and the ABS	Supplementary Social Plan adopted	\$7 800
To improve health outcomes across the Lithgow LGA.	Council to establish a Health Committee	Quarterly	Council, SWAHS, local medical practitioners	Establishment of Committee	\$2 000
	Annual scholarship in partnership with SWAHS for a physiotherapist at Lithgow Hospital.	Ongoing	Council, SWAHS	Provision of scholarship	\$4 000
	Assess the issue of water fluoridation and conduct a survey of the community regarding fluoridation of the water supply in the Lithgow LGA.	June 2007	Council, Northern NSW Oral Health Network	Report results of assessment and survey to Council for consideration	\$5 000
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet community needs.	Prepare an Open Space Study and recommended Open Space Action Plan	June 2007	Council and community	Completed Study reported to Council	\$20 000
	Consider actions from the Open Space Study in Council's Management Plans.	June 2008 and ongoing	Council	Actions considered	To be nominated in Study
	Prepare a Cultural Plan	June 2008	Council, the community, the Lithgow Arts Council, Arts Outwest.	Plan adopted	\$20 000
	Consider Actions from the Cultural Plan in Council's Management Plans.	June 2009 and ongoing	Council	Actions considered	To be nominated in Plan

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
	Develop a Feasibility Study for the Hoskins Building.	June 2007	Council, the community, the Lithgow Musical Society, the Lithgow Arts Council, Arts OutWest, the Hoskins family.	Completed Study reported to Council	\$15 000
	Prepare and Investigation Study for the Hermitage Oval.	June 2007	Council and the Community	Completed study reported to Council	\$20 000
	Consider continued support for the Family Fun Days in accordance with new procedure.	Annual	Council and the Lithgow Child Protection Interagency	Consideration of support	\$5 900
	Administer Healthy Local Government Grants Projects in relation to Lake Pillans and the Bowenfels Community.	Nov 2007	Council, SWAHS, LGSA, NSW Health, Department of Housing, LINC and the community	Acquittal of grant	\$80 000
	Further investigate the feasibility of an Indoor Heated Swimming Pool.	Dec 2006	Council and the community	Reported to Council for consideration	\$5 000
To enhance opportunities for life long learning for residents of the Lithgow LGA by developing the Lithgow LGA as a Learning City	Review the Learning City Action Plan and identify opportunities to further develop Lithgow as a Learning City.	Dec 2007	Council, education providers, community services and local businesses	Adoption of Reviewed Action Plan	To be nominated in Action Plan.
	Continue to resource the Library Learning Centre and Branch Libraries, the Learning Shop and the Community Technology Centre.	Annual	Council and State Library	Operation, circulation, people counter, internet usage, use of learning shop.	\$1 600 000
	Lobby for education and training services and facilities in this area.	Ongoing	Council, education providers and government	Lobbying activities completed	\$100 per activity
To assess and address community safety issues.	Develop a Crime Prevention Plan.	June 2008	Attorney General's Department, Police, the community, relevant service providers and government agencies	Adoption of Plan	\$20 000
	Apply for Safer Community Compact Grants in accordance with the Crime Prevention Plan.	Following adoption of the Plan	Council and the Attorney General's Department	Successful securing of grants	\$1 600
	Participate in the Police Action Community Team (PACT) Forum.	Quarterly	Council, Police	Participation	\$5 000
To improve road	Council to refer to TALC, the	Ongoing	Council, TALC and	Referral of issues	\$5 000

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
and footpath safety in the Lithgow LGA.	RTA and other relevant agencies regarding issues affecting road and footpath safety in the Lithgow LGA.	Annual	RTA	and lobbying activities completed	\$500 000
	Council to continue its maintenance program of Council's footpath and road network.		Council	Maintenance program completed	
Improve access to public transport across the Lithgow LGA.	Participate in the Lithgow Transport Working Group.	Ongoing	Council, the Ministry of Transport, local transport providers, community and service provider representatives	Participation	\$4 500 per year
	Lobby relevant agencies on issues as needed	Ongoing	Council, government and transport providers	Lobbying and referral of issues as needed	\$100 per activity
To provide access to affordable housing and crisis accommodation.	Council to take a lobbying role with government with regard to affordable housing and crisis accommodation	Ongoing	Council, government and community service providers	Referral of issue	\$100 per activity
	Refer issue of affordable housing for further exploration in the Strategic Plan and Local Environment Plan	April 2007 and April 2009	Council	Consideration of issue	\$4 000

** Costs are only estimates at this stage and will require recalculation prior to consideration in any Council management planning process.*

***Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.*



Service Inventory

This service inventory has been compiled by Council from the Lithgow Community Guide and other community sources. It may not be exhaustive. The inventory was updated in 2008 using available information on new services and services that no longer existed.

Children (0 – 11)

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Blinky Bill Child Care Centre	Cnr. Vale & Lett Streets, Portland NSW 2847 Ph: 6355 5833	Offers a high quality balance of care and education in long day care, preschool and occasional care in a beautiful setting. Families enjoy quality programming and experienced staff in a safe, loving and nurturing accredited environment.
Galloping Gumnut Mobile Children's Services Van	131 Mort Street, PO Box 412, Lithgow NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 3798 Mobile: 0427 070 871	Offers play sessions, preschool in Lithgow and Hartley and playgroup to outlying areas. Toy and Parent library. Aims to provide social and educational experiences for children who live far enough from a centre so as to make it difficult for them to attend a service.
Gumnut House Child Care Centre	Proto Avenue, Lithgow NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 1700	High quality, flexible and affordable preschool, long day care and occasional care for children from birth to six years in a safe and interesting environment. Delicious and nutritious cooked meals. Accredited by the National Child Care Association Council.
Uniting Care Family Day Care	26 Read Avenue, Lithgow NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4887	Small groups of children aged 0 – 12 years cared for in registered carer's homes in Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland. Quality programming, fortnightly playgroup, development assessments conducted by trained staff from the coordination unit. Government licensed and funded. Child Care Benefit approved.
Smith Family Learning for Life Program	C/- Lithgow Primary School, Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790	The Smith Family works to unlock opportunities for financially disadvantaged children and their families. We promote education as a means of increasing participation through lifelong learning and to do this through the provision of reading, computer and financial literacy support.
Early Intervention Program	163 Mort Street, Lithgow NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1616	An educational program for children from birth to school age who may have any type of developmental delay or disability.
Kidz Biz	Bible Church, 1 Col Drewe Drive, Lithgow NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2464	Playgroups held Thursdays from 10 am to noon for all children from birth to five years. All welcome.
Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC) – Central West Families First Playgroups	1 Padley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Bowenfels Playgroup, Bowenfels Cottage, Art in the Park at Queen Elizabeth Park. Both playgroups are free and open to all families.
Lithgow Child Care Centre	Corner Bridge and short street, Lithgow	Lithgow Child Care Centre is a privately owned, long day care centre. The centre is licensed for 80 children aged between six weeks and six years with one room catering for 0-2 years another for 2-3 years and the other catering for children aged 3 years to school age. The Centre is open 52 weeks a year, closing only on public holidays and weekends and operating from 7.00am to 6.00pm
Paddys Possums Playgroup	Fatima Hall, Great Western Highway LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3092	Every Wednesday in school term from 10 am to noon Playgroup for under fives.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
St Stephen's Church Playgroup	Church Hall, Williwa Street PORTLAND NSW 2847	Play days held in church hall every Wednesday from 10am during school terms. All welcome.
Uniting Church Playgroup	43 Bridge Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3134	Every Thursday from 10 am to noon. All welcome.
Little Possums Wallerawang Playgroup	Cnr. Commens & Simpkins Streets, WALLERAWANG NSW 2845	Every Wednesday 10 am to noon. All welcome.
Jack and Jill Preschool	Bren Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4347	A two-unit preschool offering high quality educational programs focussing on transitioning children to school. Catering for children aged 3 years to 5 years. Full day and sessional preschool available.
Pied Piper Pre School	18 Pindari Place, WALLERAWANG NSW 2845 Ph: (02) 6355 7440	Flexible quality child care and education for children 2 to 6 years. Subsidised fees available. Individual needs addressed in a safe, creative and fun filled environment.
Australian Breastfeeding Association	12 Whitton Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 1961	Breastfeeding support and education for mothers. Group meeting and counselling for breastfeeding.
Blue Mountains Multiple Birth Association	16 Marmion Road, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: (02) 6352 2740	Non profit self help organisation whose purpose is to support families who are expecting or raising twins, triplets or more in the Blue Mountains and Lithgow areas. Coffee mornings held in various places.
Home-Start	Bathurst Information and Neighbourhood Centre, 96 Russell Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 4866	A volunteer home visiting service that provides practical support and friendship to families with children less than five years of age.
Portland/Wallerawang Parents as Teachers Program	Portland Central School, PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6355 5256	Resources, support and information for families with children 0 - 5 years; offering home visits, parent's group, child development information and parenting strategies, ideas for play.
Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)	Hoskins Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3104 Ph: (02) 6351 2510	Provides out of school hours care and vacation care for children 5 – 12 years.
Lithgow Family Support Services	19 Hassan Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4055	Provides support to families to assist them to develop coping skills and competency in the rearing of children.
School Counselling Services	Available through all schools	School based assessment. counselling and referral services.
Child Sexual Assault Service	Lithgow Community Health Centre, Col Drewe Drive, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 2750	Provides counselling to victims of child sexual assault and their families.
Child and Parents Stress Centre (CAPS)	24 Hour Free Call 1800 688 009	Counselling & Playgroup.
Tresillian Family Care Centre	1b Barber Avenue, KINGSWOOD NSW 2747 Ph: (02) 4734 2124 24 Hour Help Line 1800 637 357	Assistance with settling babies and infants.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Guides and Brownies	Young Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2188	For girls aged between 7 & 15 years. Helping girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.
PANOC Service	Lithgow Community Health Centre Col Drewe Drive, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 2750	Provides specialist child protection assessment and intervention with children, young people and families. Referral through Department of Community Services.
Centacare	107 William Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6331 8944 1800 231 118	The services provides child, adolescent and family counselling; education and mediation courses including parenting programs; harnessing wisdom (self-esteem for women), Dads "R" us, grief and loss, relationship programs.
Benevolent Society	Located with Lithgow Information & Neighborhood Centre (LINC) 1 Padley St PO Box 410 Lithgow NSW 2790	The Benevolent Society provides parenting programs, home visits, access to quality child care and access to support services.

Young People (12-24)

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
School Counselling Services	Through all schools	School based assessment, counselling and referral.
Child Sexual Assault Service	Lithgow Community Health Centre Col Drewe Drive LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 2750	Provides counselling to victims of child sexual assault and their families.
Child and Parents Stress Centre (CAPS)	24 Hour Free Call 1800 688 009	Counselling & Playgroup.
Smith Family Learning for Life Program	C/- Lithgow Primary School, Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790	The Smith Family works to unlock opportunities for financially disadvantaged children and their families. We promote education as a means of increasing participation through lifelong learning and to do this through the provision of reading, computer and financial literacy support.
Lithgow Youth Housing Program	Lithgow Community Projects, PO Box 438 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2132 1800 664 996	Provides information, referral, advocacy and support for young people aged 16-24 who are homeless. Medium term accommodation also available.
Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)	Hoskins Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3104 Ph: (02) 6351 2510	Provides a variety of programs for youth.
Centrelink	178 Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 3008	Referral to job networks, income support, and information on work/study options, social worker, disability officer.
LINC Adolescent and Family Counselling Service	1 Padley Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides free counselling service to adolescents and families who are experiencing difficulties. After school creative therapeutic groups for adolescents.
Australian Air League, City of Lithgow Squadron	PO Box 745 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 2591	Committed to developing a spirit of aviation in the youth of Australia; to promote good leadership, ingenuity and resourcefulness; developing the physical and mental well-being of its members.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Alcohol and Drug Information Service	1800 422 599 or 9361 8000	24 hour service for advice and information on alcohol and other drug issues. Assessment, referral, counselling and crisis counselling.
Centacare	107 William Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6331 8944 1800 231 118	The services provides child adolescent and family counselling; education and mediation courses including parenting programs; harnessing wisdom (self-esteem for women), Dads "R" us, grief and loss, relationship programs.
Guides and Brownies	Young Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2188	For girls aged between 7 & 15 years. Helping girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.
The Drift Youth Centre	28C Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2132 1800 664 996	Outreach social and recreational activities for young people aged 12 to 18 in the Lithgow Local Government Area. Current activities include The Drift Youth Committee.
Young People's Refuge	PO Box 248, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: (02) 4782 3646	For youths from 14 and 9 months to 19. Support, living skills and advocacy for young people in crisis. Priority given to youth from Blue Mountains and Lithgow areas.
Youth Service Network	PO Box 438, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2132	Look at projects that are of benefit to the young people of Lithgow LGA. Interested community members are invited.
Youth Worx	28C Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2132 1800 664 996	Information referral, advocacy and support and living skills for young people aged 16 – 24 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Women

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Lithgow Community Tenancy Scheme	42 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1184	Housing for low income earners, medium and long term rentals for families and singles.
Lithgow Women's and Children's Crisis Centre	PO Box 438 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1277	Provides crisis accommodation (up to 6 weeks) for Women (over 18) and children escaping domestic violence or some other crisis situation, also offers information, support advocacy & referral.
St Vincent De Paul	165B Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3774	Providing financial assistance in the form of food parcels, travel vouchers, electricity vouchers etc. Appointments necessary.
Lithgow Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme	Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre, 4 Station Street, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: (02) 4782 4155	Lithgow Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme provides support, information and referral to women and their children experiencing domestic violence. We provide a Women's Safe Room at Lithgow Local Court each Thursday and assist clients through the court process for AVO's and domestic violence related offences.
Central West Women's Health Centre	20 William St BATHURST NSW 2795 (02) 6331 4133	Community Health Nurse, Women's Groups, Child Sexual Abuse Counsellor. Provides outreach services to Lithgow.
Lifeline Central West	PO Box 789, BATHURST NSW 2975 Ph: (02) 6331 7344	24 hour confidential telephone counselling and referral service available to anyone for any problem.
Country Women's Association, Lithgow	CWA Hall, 20 John Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4721	Meeting held on third Monday of each month at 10.30am in the CWA Hall.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Country Women's Association, Portland	CWA Rooms Wolgan Street, PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6355 5277	Meets every second Monday of the month at 4pm at the CWA Rooms
Country Women's Association, Wallerawang/Lidsdale	CWA Hall, Tweedie Street, WALLERAWANG NSW 2845 Ph: (02) 6355 1271	Meets second Monday at 10.30am each month. Guest speakers, friendship and special events. Craft mornings 10am last Monday of the month.
Vale Ladies Club	Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 2845	Hall for hire. Bingo held every alternate Monday night.

Older People

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Senior Citizens Club	152 Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4687	All welcome. Members and associates at 50 years and over for social afternoons. Thursday from 1.15pm. Indoor bowls. Friday 1pm afternoon tea supplied for both. You do not need to be a member to participate in the games.
Commonwealth Care Link Centre – Central West	66 Hill Street, ORANGE NSW 2800 Ph: 1800 052 222	Provides information about services for older people, people with disabilities and their carers in the Central Western region.
Gorrie Ban (Caring for the Elderly)	Fatima Hall, Great Western Hwy, LITHGOW NSW 2790 PH: (020) 6352 1466	Provides entertainment, social interaction, monthly outings, respite for carers and advice on education to the elderly.
Lithgow Community Day Care	South Bowenfels, Presbyterian Church Mudgee Street, BOWENFELS NSW 2790	Day care for the frail, aged and disabled.
LINC Home and Community Care Services	1 Padley Street, PO Box 289, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	<i>Aged Day Centre</i> ; Recreation and social activities for people who have high needs through being frail or having dementia, and offers a break for their carers. <i>Home Modifications and Maintenance</i> ; Modifications and maintenance to assist safety in the home. Assistance includes handrails, ramps, bathroom alterations, hand-held showers. <i>Community Lunches</i> - Outing for eligible people who might have limited opportunities to socialise. Transport provided to local restaurants and cafes. <i>Food Service</i> -; Hot and frozen meals delivered five days per week to eligible people in the Lithgow Local Government Area. <i>Social Support</i> - Practical and social support such as shopping assistance, garden weeding, companionship. <i>Telephone companion</i> - Weekly phone call for people who are isolated or lonely. <i>Respite care</i> ; Overnight care for people who are frail aged or have dementia, offering a break for their carers.
Evans Community Options	26 Read Avenue, PO Box 555, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1555	Evans Community Options is a HACC funded organisation that assists frail aged people, people with disabilities and their carers to remain living in their own homes. Provides assistance to coordinate or case-manage services that people will need. These can include assistance with housework, respite, personal care, shopping and doctors' appointments.
Central West Carer Respite Centre	Free call 1800 059 059.	Information and referral service for people caring for a person with a disability, a chronic illness or is frail aged. Additional assistance to obtain services available if eligible.
Aged Care Assessment Team	C/- Lithgow Health Service, PO Box 10 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 2506	Provides assessment for high/low level residential care and community services in the home. Also provides carer/client support, advocacy and education information about respite available and dementia counselling for carers.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Tanderra Nursing Home	Short Street, PO Box 402, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2788	40 bed facility owned by the people of Lithgow. Caters for elderly people with all types of disabilities.
Cooinda Aged People Home	Maple Crescent, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4071	Cooinda is an aged care facility which provides quality holistic care for 47 residents in a home like environment.
Tabulam Cottages	20 Ilford Street, PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6355 5401	Aged care hospital providing respite and permanent low care for aged people.
Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association	36 Hayley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2045	Pensioners' support and social group. Meetings held at 11am on the first Tuesday of the month at LINC, 1 Padley Street, Lithgow. All pensioners welcome.

People with Disabilities

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Commonwealth Care Link Centre – Central West	66 Hill Street, ORANGE NSW 2800 Ph: 1800 052 222	Provides information about services for older people, people with disabilities and their carers in the Central Western region.
Uniting Care – Centre Based for School-aged Children with a disability	26 Read Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4887	The program is targeted for school aged children with a disability. Cost is \$2 per hour or \$6 for the afternoon. Meals, drinks personal aids or transport are not provided.
Uniting Care – Centre Based for Vacation Centre	26 Read Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4887	The program is targeted for school age children with a disability. Cost \$2 per hour or \$10 for the day. Meals, drinks, personal aids or transport are not provided.
Leisure Link Program	26 Read Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 PH: (02) 6351 4887	Offers community based respite care for people with a disability who have a primary carer, sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.
LINC Disability Services Active Linking Initiative	1 Padley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides living and social skills, training and support for residents of care facilities to access the local community. Working with individuals to achieve their maximum levels of independence and quality of life.
Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre	66 Hill Street, ORANGE NSW 2800	A Commonwealth funded initiative which provides a telephone information and referral service to assist carers of people who have a disability, a chronic illness or are frail aged to access respite options including emergency respite and a residential booking service. Service covering Central West HACC region.
Uniting Care Respite Care program	26 Read Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4887	Offers temporary flexible respite care for carers of people who have a disability and/or are frail aged. Offered in home, centre-based or in community settings. Funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.
Alzheimer's Australia	PO Box 6042, NORTH RYDE NSW 1670 Ph: 1800 639 331	Counselling by appointment. Information and support for people with dementia and their carers.
Carers NSW	Roden Cutler House, Level 18, 24 Campbell Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000 Ph: (02) 9280 4744	Telephone support and counselling service for carers. Looking after someone who is frail aged, has a disability or a chronic illness can be stressful, Carers NSW can help.
Lithgow Community Day Care	South Bowenfels, Presbyterian Church Mudgee Street, BOWENFELS NSW 2790	Day care for the frail, aged and disabled.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Disability Information Advocacy Service Inc	Room 10 - 96 Russell Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 2100	Provides an information and independent advocacy service for people with disabilities, their carers and families.
Evans Community Options	26 Read Avenue, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1555	Evans Community Options is a HACC funded organisation that assists frail aged people, people with disabilities and their carers to remain living in their own homes. Provides assistance to coordinate or case-manage services that people will need. These can include: assistance with housework, respite, personal care and doctors appointments.
Home Care Service of NSW	1 Padley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 1844	Care for the frail aged and disabled. General housework, personal care, respite care and shopping are also available.
LINC HACC Services	1 Padley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	HACC services are available to people who are frail aged, people with disabilities and their carers. Food Service: Hot and frozen meals delivered five days per week to eligible people in the Lithgow Local Government Area. Community Lunches: Outings for eligible people who might have limited opportunities to socialise. Transport provided to local restaurants and cafes. Home Modifications and Maintenance: Modifications and maintenance to assist safety in the home. Assistance includes handrails, ramps, bathroom alterations, hand-held showers. Social Support: Practical and social support such as shopping assistance, garden weeding and companionship. Aged Day Centre: Recreation and social activities for people who have high needs through being frail or having dementia, and offers a break call for people who are isolated or lonely. Overnight Respite Care: Overnight care for people which are frail aged or having dementia, offering a break for their carers.
Uniting Care	26 Read Avenue, PO Box 555, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4887	Community Access and Day Program - Community recreational activities for people with a disability aged 18 to 65 years. Funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care. Community Participation Program - Offers living skills training to adults with a disability who have left school and are over the age of 18 who have been assessed by the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care, and the Department of Education. Post School Options - Offers living skills training to adults with a disability who have left school and are over the age of 18 who have been assessed by the Department of Education. Transition to Work Program - Offers living skills training to adults with a disability who have left school and are over the age of 18 who have been assessed by the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care, and the Department of Education. Community Visitors Scheme - Provides volunteer visitors to residents of aged care homes who are socially isolated and whose quality of life would be improved by friendship and companionship.
LINC Supported Accommodation Service	1 Padley Street, PO Box 289, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Supported accommodation service for people with developmental disabilities. Working with individuals to achieve their maximum levels of independence and quality of life.
Local Support Coordinator	140 William Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6339 5811	Local Support Coordinator (LSC) is a personal, flexible service that aims to increase the links between people with disabilities, their families and their local community. LSC is available to people who have an intellectual, physical, neurological, psychiatric or sensory disability and require significant personal help and support. The LSC can be contacted for information as well as ongoing support and assistance. Covers the local government areas of Bathurst, Lithgow and Oberon.
Central West Carer Respite Centre	Free call 1800 059 059.	Information and referral service for people caring for a person with a disability a chronic illness or is frail aged. Additional assistance to obtain services available if eligible.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Home Care Service of NSW - LINC	1 Padley Street, PO Box 289, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides care for people with disabilities including general housework, personal care, respite care and shopping.
Lithgow Special Education Unit	163 Mort Street, PO Box 366, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1039	Provides an educational service for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual and multiple disabilities from school age onwards.
Gateway Employment Services	185 Main Street, PO Box 85, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2855	A specialist employment agency catering for the disabled and disadvantaged members for the community. This is a full support service, both before and after employment placement. A free service to employers.
Centrelink	178 Mort Street, PO Box 111, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 3008	Specialist Disability Services Officer.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Lithgow Community Tenancy Scheme	42 Main Street, PO Box 451, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1184	Provides affordable accommodation for low income earners.
Indigenous Women's Program	PO Box 206, LIDCOMBE NSW 1825 Ph: 1800 639 784	Offers Aboriginal women legal information, advice, referral and access for Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.
Indigenous Education Unit	95 Byng Street, ORANGE NSW 2800 Ph: (02) 6392 6700	Department of Education, Science and Training. Programs include whole school intervention strategy involving parent/school participation initiative and homework centre. ITAS (Individual Tuition Assistance Scheme) for students of Years 10, 11 and 12.

People from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Citizenship Ceremonies	Lithgow City Council 180 Mort Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6354 9999	
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	Ph: 131 881	Translating, Interpreting: 131 350 Citizenship inquiries: 131 880 Website: www.immi.gov.au
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS) – Women's Legal Services NSW	PO Box 206, LIDCOMBE NSW 1825 Ph: (02) 9749 7700 Fee Call 1800 810 784	A NSW state wide legal service providing advice, information and referral for women experiencing domestic violence. Ability to represent women applying for Apprehended Violence Orders; to refer women to a sympathetic private solicitor; to advocate on behalf of women to relevant services, e.g. police, courts, government departments etc. Migrant women can contact the interpreter service 131 450 to seek assistance from DVAS.
English Language Classes	TAFE NSW Hill Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 04444	English classes and home tutoring for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.
Filipino Australian Support	27 Sunny Corner Road, PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6355 5394	Offers support to new arrivals in the local district.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
LawAccess NSW	1300 888 529	Free government service that provides legal information referrals and in some cases legal advice. The service assists customers to find the information and services that are best able to assist with legal problems and questions. The service assists people in regional and rural areas and people who are traditionally disadvantaged in accessing free legal services. For a free interpreter service, contact TIS on 131 450 and ask to speak to Law Access NSW.
Lithgow Library Learning Centre	157 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 9100	Provides books and other library resources in other languages.
Migrant Support Service	96 Russell Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph:(02) 6332 4866	Provides information, referral and casework services to migrants and humanitarian entrants. Supports service providers in working with clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Men

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Lithgow Community Tenancy Scheme	42 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1184	Housing for low income earners, medium and long term rentals for families and singles.
Bathurst Emergency Accommodation Place	4/23 Perrier Place, (Kelso) PO Box 1291, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 2154	Emergency accommodation for the homeless i.e. men, women, persons with children etc. Short-term accommodation mainly for families and also for single people who are homeless (over 18 years).
Veterans' Affairs Network	Shop 3, 99 Phillip Street, PO Box 3245, PARRAMATTA NSW 2150 Ph: 1800 555 254	To assist veterans, war widows and their families in gaining the most from the benefits and entitlements available through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and to provide information and advice on health and community services available in their area.
Vietnam Veteran's Counselling Service	24 Hour freecall 1800 011 046	Face-to-face counselling and referral service. After hours telephone counselling and referral service 24 hours, seven days.
Alcohol and Drug Information Service	24 Hour 1800 422 599	24 Hour service for advice and information on alcohol and drug issues. Assessment and referral, counselling, crisis counselling.
Child Abuse Prevention Centre	24 Hour 1800 688 009	Telephone counselling and referral service. Trained counsellors answer all calls. Service available to all in the community.
Centacare	107 William Street, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6331 8944 1800 231 118	The service provides child, adolescent and family counselling; education and mediation courses including parenting programs; harnessing wisdom (self-esteem for women) , Dads "R" us, grief and loss and relationship programs.
Mensline	1300 789 978	Telephone support and counselling service for men dealing with family and relationship problems, separation or family break-up.

Gay & Lesbian, Transgendered & Bisexual People

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service	PO Box 823, NEWTOWN NSW 2042 Ph: (02) 8594 9596 1800 184 527	Information and counselling service for lesbians and gays and their families and friends.
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Peoples Support Group	LINC 1 Padley Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Peoples Support Group provides opportunities for social contact.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Queer Space	Upper Mountains Youth Centre 31 Waratah Street, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: 0421 852 734 or Ph: 0415 154 555	A social support group for gay, bisexual or same sex attracted people aged 16 to 25 including opportunities for excursions and activities.
Twenty-Ten	1800 652 010	Services for gays and lesbians.
Sexual Health Service	Blue Mountains Sexual Health Service Clinic, Blue Mountains Hospital Great Western HWY, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: (02) 4784 6560	Appointments preferred. Services free and confidential. No Medicare card needed. Services available; sexually transmitted infections checkup and treatments (including appropriate vaccinations), HIV antibody testing and counselling, specific HIV treatment and health management, Hepatitis C testing, monitoring and referrals, contraception information and emergency contraception, PAP smears and referral for colposcopy, sexuality counselling, community based nursing support for PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) and resources and information.

Single Parents

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Solo-Single Parent Group	Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides social opportunities, information and support for single parents. Meets regularly for social outings.
Centacare	107 William Street, PO Box 1215, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6331 8944 1800 231 118	The service provides child, adolescent and family counselling; education and mediation courses including parenting programs; harnessing wisdom (self-esteem for women), Dads "R" us, grief and loss and relationship programs.
Child Abuse Prevention Centre	24 Hour 1800 688 009	Telephone counselling and referral service. Trained counsellors answer all calls. Service available to all in the community.
Child Support Agency	121-125 Henry Street, Penrith GPO Box 9815, SYDNEY NSW 2001 Ph: (02) 131 272	Established to administer the Child Support Scheme and help separated parents take responsibility for the financial support of their children.
Family Support Service, Lithgow	19 Hassan Street, PO Box 761, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4055	Provides a range of support to families with dependent children whose capacity to function is limited by internal or external stresses of life. Services to families are preventative, with the aim of promoting environments that nurture and protect children through referral, self-help and educative programs.
Home-Start	Bathurst information and Neighbourhood Centre, 96 Russell Street, PO Box 1469, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 4866	A volunteer home visiting service that provides practical support and friendship to families with children less than five years of age.
Parentline	Ph: 132 055	Phone counselling for parents and families. Helps parents understand their children up to 21 years under some circumstances.
Portland/Wallerawang Parents as Teachers Program	Portland Central School, PO Box 1, PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6355 4268	Resources, support and information for parents with children 0 to 5 years; offering home visits, parents' groups, child development information and parenting strategies, ideas for play.

Welfare/Income Support

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Legacy	90 Main Street LITHGOW NSW 2790	Legacy support for Veteran's widows. Assists in welfare of wives, widows and children of ex-servicemen.
National Servicemen's Association, Midstate Branch	PO Box 129 MUDGEES NSW 2850 Ph: (02) 6351 3377	Welfare and support for all servicemen and women. Meetings held bi-monthly at Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Mudgee. All servicing and ex-service personnel, members of CMF units and reservists are welcome to attend.
RSL Sub-branch Lithgow	267 Main Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2115	Veteran's community welfare. Meetings held first Sunday of the month at 10am.
Veterans' Affairs Network	Shop 3, 99 Phillip Street, PO Box 3245, PARRAMATTA NSW 2150 Ph: 1800 555 254	To assist veterans, war widows and their families in gaining the most from the benefits and entitlements available through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and to provide information and advice on health and community services available in their area.
Centrelink	178 Mort Street, PO Box 111, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 3008	Centrelink is a government agency delivering a range of Commonwealth services to the Australian community. Centrelink is set up so people can get more of the help they need in one place.

General Community

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Lions Club of Lithgow	PO Box 129 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3488	
Quota International of Lithgow Inc.	PO Box 317 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 5224	Business and executive women's service club, meeting first and third Tuesday of each month at Hoskins Memorial Uniting Church Parish Centre.
SIDS & Kids NSW	Free Call 1800 651 186	Provides support for parents and families who experienced the loss of a baby during pregnancy, birth or infancy. 24 hour bereavement support, community education and advocacy.
Child and Parents Stress Centre (CAPS)	24 Hour Free Call 1800 688 009	Counselling & Playgroup.
Adolescent and Family Counsellor Service	1 Padley Street, PO Box 289, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides a free counselling service to adolescents and families who are experiencing difficulties. After school creative therapeutic groups for adolescents.
Red Cross, Lithgow Branch	225 Main Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 2754	Meets first Thursday of each month at 2pm except January at Red Cross House, Main Street. All welcome to attend meeting.
Rotary Club of Lithgow Inc	PO Box 117 LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3124	Organisation of business and professional persons meeting weekly for fellowship and interesting and informative programs. Meets at 7.30pm Tuesdays at Lithgow Workmen's Club. Visitors are welcome to join us for dinner at 6.30pm.
View Club	Ph: (02) 6351 3712	Meets every second Wednesday of the month at Lithgow Workmen's Club at 11.30am. Sponsored by the Smith Family.

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Bowenfels Cottage	174 Landa Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Community cottage operated by Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre. Activities include supported playgroups, women's group, youth group and other educational and recreational activities for the community.
Lithgow Community Technology Centre	C/- Lithgow Library Learning Centre, 157 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 9100	Provides community access to information technology including internet, word, processing, scanners, printers and meeting room.
Creditline Financial Counselling Service	104 Keppel Street, PO Box 775, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 3456	Free and confidential specialist, counselling service. For anyone with financial problems, such as debt, meeting financial commitments or loss of employment etc. Weekly visits to Lithgow at LINC, Padley Street.
Lithgow Library Learning Centre	157 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 9100	Provides books and other library resources in many languages.
TAFE NSW – Lithgow Campus	Hill Street, PO Box 297, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 0444	Focuses on training in electrical and engineering trades. Provides certificate level courses in access and foundation education, aged care work, business services, hospitality and information technology. Specialises in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering courses, with some at diploma level.
Central West Community College	201 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 9000	Training for work or lifestyle by non-profit community organisation.
Lithgow Community Projects	23c Main Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 2230	Operates several social welfare projects including the Women and Children's Crisis Centre and Lithgow Youth Worx (supported Youth Accommodation) and the Drift Youth Services. Has partnerships with local health, welfare and education services and also publishes Youth Magazine and Women's Stories.
Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC) Inc.	1 Padley Street LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Working with the community, LINC is a non-profit community organisation that provides a wide range of quality services to residents of Lithgow Local Government Area.
Beehive Re-creative Centre, Lithgow	43 Bridge Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3134	Education, social , art and craft activities. Childcare provided.
Portland Neighbourhood Centre	35 Wolgan Street PORTLAND NSW 2847 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Portland Neighbourhood centre is open every Thursday between 11am and 1pm. Inquiries outside of these times can be directed to LINC Community Development Worker.
Valley Social Club	Ph: (02) 6337 5822	Outings and fellowship for all in the Community. Meets every third Friday at the Lithgow Workmen's Club. Bus outings held once every month.
Family Support Service, Lithgow	19 Hassan Street, PO Box 761, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 4055	Provides a range of support to families with dependent children whose capacity to function is limited by internal or external stresses of life. Services to families are preventative, with the aim of promoting environments that nurture and protect children through referral, self-help and educative programs.
Centrelink	178 Mort Street, PO Box 111, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 3008	Centrelink is a government agency delivering a range of Commonwealth services to the Australian community. Centrelink is set up so people can get more of the help they need in one place.
Bathurst Emergency Accommodation Place	4/23 Perrier Place, (Kelso) PO Box 1291, BATHURST NSW 2795 Ph: (02) 6332 2154	Provides emergency accommodation for homeless people i.e. men, women, persons with children etc. Short term accommodation mainly for families and also for single people who are homeless (over 18 years).

Appendices – Service Inventory

Name of Service	Contact Details	Description of Service
Central West Carer Respite Centre	Free call 1800 059 059.	Information and referral service for people caring for a person with a disability a chronic illness or is frail aged. Additional assistance to obtain services available if eligible.
Evans Community Options Project.	26 Read Avenue, PO Box 555, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6353 1555	Evans Community Options is a HACC funded organisation that assists frail aged people, people with disabilities and their carers to remain living in their own homes. Provides assistance to coordinate or case-manage services that people will need. These include: assistance with housework, respite, personal care, shopping and doctors' appointments.
Josephite Foundation No Interest Loan Scheme	1 Padley Street, PO Box 289, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 2077	Provides no interest loans for the purchase of essential household goods such as washing machines, furniture and some services. People who have lived in their present address in the local area for six months and hold a Health Care or Pensioner Card may be eligible for these loans.
Lithgow Community Health Centre	Col Drewe Drive, PO Box 10, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6350 2750	Alcohol and drug counselling, Methadone Clinic, child and family health nurses, women's health, sexual assault counselling, domestic violence counselling, psychology, social work, immunisation, dental services, adult and children groups.
Lithgow Court House	Corner Mort and Bridge Streets, PO Box 18, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 3265	Provides legal direction and preparation of private (non Police) apprehended violence order applications.
Probation and Parole Service	100 Main Street, PO Box 349, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6352 1555	Appointments necessary. Provide Court assessments on offenders appearing before Courts. Supervise, guide and refer offenders under supervision of performing Community Service Orders. Assistance and support to families.
Department of Housing	172 Main Street, LITHGOW NSW 2790 Ph: (02) 6351 2294	Provides public housing services for the community.
Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre	4 Station Street, KATOOMBA NSW 2780 Ph: (02) 4782 4155	Free legal information, advice and community legal education. Phone for advice from 10 am to noon Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Children

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Children					
Enhance protective factors in the community and address child protection concerns.	Consider continued participation and support for Child Protection Interagency.	Ongoing	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$1 800
	Considered continued participation and support for Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Ongoing	Council, Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Participation	\$1 800
	Create procedures for staff in relation to child protection. Council to make procedure work available to organisations in the Lithgow LGA to assist in their procedure development.	December 2007 then ongoing	Council	Review and update completed.	\$5 000
	Training for relevant staff (eg. Library and Swimming Pool staff) in Child Protection recognition and mandatory reporting procedures. Consider inclusion of training in staff induction. Refer to Community Action Plan - Develop a Crime Prevention Plan including provision for addressing domestic violence and sexual assaults.	June 2008	Council and Department of Community Services	Training program delivered	\$1 500
Ensure optimum access to affordable quality child care.	Council to lobby relevant government agencies for access to affordable quality child care, such as through CENTROC and other relevant bodies.	Ongoing	Council, Children's Services network, government and CENTROC	Referral of issues as needed	\$100 per activity
Develop Lithgow LGA as a Family Friendly Community Initiative	Consider providing financial and in kind resources as a partner of the Family Friendly Community initiative in Lithgow LGA in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Ongoing	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$3 000
Improve access for children to affordable and appropriate recreational activities across the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve health outcomes for children in the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan				

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Improve information dissemination	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a directory of children's services.	June 2010	Council and education/service providers	Completion of directory	\$1 000

Women

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Actions	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Women					
Improve information dissemination and networking.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure inclusion of information and advertising for services such as depression and community services. 				
Improve access for women to quality health services.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure referral of need for improved hospital services including maternity and support services for women. 				
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet women's needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve availability of affordable housing options for women.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Address the need for access to education and employment opportunities	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Address violence against women in the community.	Refer Community Action Plan – Crime Prevention Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that issues of safety for women both within and outside the home are addressed. Consider ongoing participation and support of the Lithgow Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Ongoing	Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Consideration of participation	\$1 800
	Consider participation in White Ribbon Day to raise community awareness of Domestic Violence in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annually	NSW Department for Women, Council, and Domestic Violence Liaison Committee	Consideration of Participation	\$1 000
Raise the profile of Women in Lithgow LGA.	Apply for funding and hold activities for International Women's Day.	Annually	Council, LINC, Lithgow Community Projects, NSW Office for Women, the community	Activities completed	\$1 800

Young People

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Young People					
To provide quality support, recreational and cultural opportunities which meet the needs of young people.	Refer to actions under Community Action Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open spaces study to include audit of skate park facilities. 				
	Council to participate in local informal or formal youth services networks.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services	Participation	\$76 per hour
	Council to lobby government for youth drop in services.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services	Lobbying activities completed	\$100 per activity
	Council to continue to seek and administer Youth Week funding.	Annual	Council, Dept Community Services, Lithgow Youth Council	Successful completion of activities	\$1 500
To enable young people to have a voice to Council.	Consider status of Lithgow Youth Council in Council's structure.	Ongoing	Council, Youth Services,	Lithgow Youth Council functioning.	\$9 000
	Continue to support and develop Lithgow Youth Council to achieve their objectives.	Ongoing	Young People, High Schools		
To improve access and promote opportunities for learning for young people in the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan.				
Improve Community Safety for young people	Refer to Community Action Plan.				
Improve youth service networking.	Investigate need and feasibility for a Youth Services Network.	Dec 2007	Council, Youth Council and service providers	Need and feasibility determined	\$1 600

Older People

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Older People					
Respond to the needs of an ageing population.	Develop an Ageing Population Strategy.	June 2009	Council, Community, Community services including Lithgow HACC forum, Aged Care Facilities, SWAHS.	Adoption of Strategy	\$20 000
Develop community capacity to provide housing and accommodation which is responsive to the needs of older people.	Develop and Promote Adaptable Housing Guidelines	June 2008	Council, Central West Community Care Forum	Guidelines finalised and promoted	\$400
	Lobby Government for aged care facilities and services	Ongoing	Council, DADHC	Lobbying activities completed.	\$100 per activity
Improve Council's community consultation and information dissemination for older people.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Provide quality recreation and cultural opportunities which are responsive to the diverse needs of older people.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve access to public transport for older people	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Respond to physical access needs of older people.	Refer to People with Disabilities Action Plan.				
Address the road and footpath safety needs of older people	Refer to People with Disabilities Action Plan - Audit of footpath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to investigate ways to remediate the slipperiness of paving in the Lithgow LGA. 				

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
	Refer to Community Action Plan - TALC Refer safety concerns at Railway Parade near Lithgow Railway Station eg. Pedestrian refuge to Traffic Authority Local Committee.	Dec 2006	TALC	Referral	\$200
Enhance opportunities for older people to access learning opportunities.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council to consider providing support to older people in establishing local education opportunities for older people such as a University of the Third Age.	June 2011	Council and community	Consideration of support	\$5 000

People with Disabilities

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
People With Disabilities					
Improve access for people with disabilities in the Lithgow LGA.	Develop a Disability Access Plan	June 2008	Council, Uniting Care, LINC, SWAHS, the community.	Adoption of Policy and Plan	\$50 000
	Audit Council's footpath infrastructure and facilities for accessibility.	June 09 and then ongoing	Council and community	Complete audit	\$50 000
	Improve accessibility to the Lithgow Swimming Centre	June 2011	Council and Community	Completion of works	\$85 000
Improve health services to people with disabilities	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for services with government eg. Discharge planner; ambulance services. 				
Improve access to transport for people with disabilities.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for hospital transport after hours. Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral of disability parking at the Union Theatre to Traffic Authority Local Committee (TALC) 				
Improve employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities.	Identify and establish partnerships to improve employment and work experience opportunities for people with disabilities.	Ongoing	Council, community service providers, local business and industry community	Participation in community activities that promote the objective	\$500
Develop resources, information and networks.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council to join with community groups and community service providers to lobby government regarding resources for people with disabilities.	Ongoing	Council, community, community service providers	Referral of issues	\$500
	Consider continued annual celebration of International Day of People with a Disability in accordance with the new procedure.	Annual	Council, LINC, Uniting Care, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Arts Out West, community	Annual participation	\$100

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost *
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (ATSI)					
Improve Council's communication and consultation processes with the Indigenous Australian community in the Lithgow LGA.	Investigate and prepare a formal agreement with the Indigenous Australian community in the Lithgow LGA.	June 2009	Council, GLATSIC, relevant Land Councils, local indigenous Australian community.	Agreement signed off by parties	\$2 000
Improve support to Indigenous Australian communities in the Lithgow LGA	Consider continued financial and in kind support for NAIDOC Week and other key events in accordance with new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annual	Council, GLATSIC, SWAHS, LINC, ATSI community	Consideration of support	\$500
	Consider financial or other support for the production of a brochure informing the ATSI community of services available in accordance with new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	June 2007	Council	Consideration of support	\$1 000
Assist the ATSI community to gain to emergency transport.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer issue of emergency transport need to the Lithgow Transport Working Group 				
Improve Health outcomes for the indigenous Australian population of the Lithgow LGA.	Develop closer working partnerships with SWAHS Aboriginal Health unit. Refer issues as identified to SWAHS	Ongoing	Council, SWAHS, GLATSIC, local indigenous Australian people	Development of partnerships Referral of issues as identified	\$1 000
Ensure the protection, preservation and respect for Indigenous sites.	Plans of management for Council controlled or owned sites to include ways to interpret, protect and preserve Aboriginal heritage.	June 07 and ongoing	Council, Aboriginal Land Councils, GLATSIC, local indigenous community.	Plans of Management adopted	\$10 000
Improve cultural awareness within Council.	Provide Councillors and staff with cultural awareness workshops in relation to ATSI culture.	June 2010	Council, Aboriginal Land Councils, GLATSIC, local indigenous community	Workshops held	\$2 000

People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds					
Improve Council's policy response to people from CALD backgrounds.	Develop a detailed Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement (EAPS) including policy statement.	June 2007	Council, community, Community Relations Commission, LINC Multicultural Worker, Bathurst Migrant Support, Lithgow Multicultural Interagency	Adoption of EAPS	\$6 500
Increase community awareness of cultural diversity and promote community harmony.	Consider support of community activities which promote community awareness, and seek funding opportunities to assist with this objective.	Ongoing	Council, community, Lithgow Multicultural Interagency, Community Relations Commission, Department of Community Services	Completion of events and activities	\$5 000
Provide more opportunities for people from CALD backgrounds to become acquainted with Council and its services and facilities.	Participate in pilot project with TAFE ESL course. The project will aim to introduce CALD students to key community organisations including Council. Council to provide a welcome morning tea and information presentation as well as the availability of visits to locations such as the Visitors Centre, Library, and Eskbank House	June 2007	Council, TAFE, LINC, Multicultural Interagency	Completion of Pilot	\$1 000
Improve access to information in community languages by communities from CALD backgrounds.	Investigate the feasibility of installing and maintaining SBS radio transmitter under grants scheme currently available.	June 2007	Council, SBS radio	Application submitted for assistance to provide transmitter	\$25,00 grant \$125 per year
	Council to consider making a small contribution to the production costs for "Multicultural News" in accordance with new procedure	Annual	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support	Council consideration in Management Plan	\$1 000
	Educate the community about the availability of community language collections at the State Library of NSW and able to be loaned free of cost through the Lithgow Library.	Ongoing	Council, State Library, Multicultural worker	Ongoing	\$300

Action Plan 2006 - 2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
	Display multilingual posters in Council facilities.	Dec 2007 and ongoing	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support worker	Display of posters	\$50
Improve Council's capacity to meet the needs people from CALD backgrounds.	Consider updating cultural awareness training for staff and councilors.	June 2008	Council, CCWT, Bathurst Migrant Support, LINC Multicultural worker	Training completed	\$2 000
	Conduct ongoing Telephone Interpreter Service training as needed for Council staff.	Ongoing	Council, Bathurst Migrant Support worker	Training updated	\$500
	Continue to participate in the Lithgow Multicultural Interagency – subject to planned reviews in the Community Action Plan	Ongoing	Council, Multicultural Interagency	Participation	\$1 250

Men

Action Plan 2005					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Men					
To provide access to affordable housing and crisis accommodation for men	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet men's needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Enhance access for men in the Lithgow LGA to fathering support.	Consider providing support for future Dads and Kids Days in accordance with the new procedure (refer to Community Action Plan).	Annual	Council, Child Protection Interagency	Participation	\$500
	Lobby government and services to further improve the appropriateness of services for fathers. Assist services to seek additional funding and resources to provide fathering support.	Ongoing	Council, government, service providers	Lobbying activities undertaken	\$100 per activity
Improve communication and information dissemination.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve access to higher education.	Refer to Community Action Plan				

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community

Action Plan 2005					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Cost
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Community					
To assess and address community safety issues for GLBT people.	Refer to the Community Action Plan				
To provide access and equity to information, services and facilities for GLBT people.	Consider assistance in securing funding for the development of a website to provide information on services and facilities for GLBT people and parents.	December 2007	Council, LINC	Funding sources identified and application submitted.	\$500
Improve access for young GLBT people to crisis accommodation.	Refer to Community Action Plan				

Department of Housing Residents

Action Plan 2006-2011					
Objective	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Department of Housing Residents					
Facilitate improved access to Community and Health Services.	Participate in Community Services Interagency and advocate the access needs of this target group.	Bimonthly	Council, Community Services interagency	Participation and referral of issues	\$2 000
Address community safety concerns.	Refer to Community Action Plan – Crime Prevention Plan Encourage Department of Housing to partner other government and non government agencies through the Lithgow Community Action Partnership Group to develop and implement programs which address community safety concerns.	Ongoing	Council, Lithgow Community action Partnership Group	Participation, development and implementation of programs	\$100
Address road and footpath safety.	Council to liaise with the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Department of Housing to develop a road safety campaign in the Bowenfels community. Sydney West Area Health Service is currently researching issues relating to access and "walkability" in the Bowenfels area. Council to receive recommendations and consider opportunities for implementation under future Management Plans.	June 2007 Nov 2007	Council, RTA, Department of Housing SWAHS, Council, LGSA, NSW Health and community	Delivery of program Completion of Research	\$2 000 \$6 384
Improve opportunities for recreation.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council, LINC and other community partners to provide school holiday activities for children and young people under the Active Young Bowenfels program.	Nov 07	Council, LINC Department of Housing NSW Health, SWAHS	Delivery of program	\$14 000
	Council to adopt and implement agreed plan of works for Emora Park in partnership with the	Dec 06	Council, NSW Health and the Department of Housing	Completion of works and consideration of	\$14 000

	Department of Housing. Council to include maintenance needs identified in the audit in ongoing maintenance program.			maintenance program in 07/08 Recurrent Budget	
Address transport needs.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve community consultation.	Refer to Community Action Plan Council attend at the request of community, Residents Group meetings and Department of Housing forums. Ensure feedback is given.	On request	Department of Housing, community and Council	Attendance when requested	\$76 per hour
Facilitate improvements to networking and communication between agencies and with the community.	Work with Department of Housing toward developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which clarifies responsibilities between Council and the Department of Housing including footpath network.	June 2007	Council and Department of Housing	Completion of MOU	\$3 000
	Council and Department of Housing to develop clear communication strategy to the community re: rights and which authority to contact for which problems.	June 2007 and ongoing	Council, Dept of Housing	Complete and fulfill strategy	\$830
	Work with the Dept of Housing and other government and non government stakeholders in the Lithgow Community Action Partnership Group to develop and implement programs to address identified community concerns.	Ongoing	Council, Dept of Housing, other stakeholders	Participation	\$2 600

Sole Parents

Action Plan 2005					
Identified Need	Action	Time Frame	Key Partnerships	Key Performance Indicators	Estimated Cost
Sole Parents					
Improve access to public transport options across the Lithgow LGA.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure continued consideration of issue of safe transportation of children by Lithgow Transport Working Group 				
Improve access to community service which meet the needs of sole parents.	Refer to Children's Action Plan - affordable child care. Lobby government and other organizations for provision of community services.	Ongoing	Council, government, service providers, community	Referral of issues as needed	\$100
Council to provide quality cultural and recreational opportunities which meet the needs of sole parent families.	Refer to Community Action Plan.				
Improve communication and dissemination of information.	Refer to Community Action Plan. Refer to Children's Action Plan provision for Family Friendly Community Initiative.				
Improve road and footpath safety.	Refer to Community Action Plan				
Improve access to health service for sole parent families.	Refer to Community Action Plan. Refer to Women's Action Plan.				
Improve access to education facilities.	Refer to Community Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure referral of need for low cost higher education, vocational education, homework assistance, parenting courses. 				

* Estimated costs will need to be recalculated prior to consideration in any Management Planning process.

**Estimated Costs are annual costs unless otherwise stated.

Community Service Providers Focus Group

Community Service Providers' views on community strength, limitations and needs were canvassed through a focus group. The following results were recorded as a result of the focus group and have been incorporated as appropriate into the Social Plan.

Community Strengths

- Lithgow has a positive community spirit.
- Community Health Centre offers a range of services for women.
- Lithgow has reasonable access to health and welfare services.
- Number of volunteers is increasing.
- Community Services Interagency is growing and is a good base for network development.
- Local businesses are supportive of community services.
- Local inter-sectorial partnerships.
- Community awareness is increasing in regards to Domestic Violence, People with Disabilities etc.

Community Limitations

- Lack of funding for crisis accommodation across the board e.g. families, youth, men, people with a disability, people with mental health problems etc.
- Local facilities not adequate for parents with young children e.g. public toilets and parent rooms.
- Insufficient pram and wheelchair access.
- Limited mental health services available.
- Difficulty experienced by local service providers in being able to provide services to outlying areas of the LGA, e.g. lack of funding for staff etc.
- Nominal services provided for other areas.
- Lack of social development agenda provided by Council.
- Lack of Community Development Officer.
- Lack of Council awareness of issues re ATSI, CALD etc.

- Lack of Council awareness of community services existence and roles.
- Lack of employment and narrow agenda re the development of employment (Industry).
- Lithgow being a fringe development affects funding opportunities.
- Limited public transport options.
- Lack of Aboriginal and Youth workers employed by Council.
- Limited social and recreational activities other than sport for young people.
- Council in-fighting.

What is Needed?

- Enhanced TAFE services and access to on campus childcare.
- Increased affordable child care services including occasional care and out-of-hours care.
- Domestic Violence Liaison Officer located in Lithgow.
- Enhanced access to translation services and multicultural services.
- Safe and clean public amenities including parents rooms in close proximity to Main Street.
- Council to employ and Community Development Officer with accountability requirements to the social agenda.
- Respite Care options for people with disabilities mental health illness and for children identified as being at risk.
- Emergency accommodation options across the board, e.g. PWD, youth, ATSI, mental health, men, families.
- Performance agreements for services outreaching to Lithgow.
- More employment opportunities via sustainable growth.
- Another high school.
- Enhance existing local services with increases in funding to provide services in outlying areas.
- ATSI worker employed by Council.
- A Youth Development Officer.

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Amanda Muir	Kathy Woolley

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Andy LeRoy	Erica Want
Amanda Muir	Michael Wilson

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Amanda Muir	Overseeing the Plan

List of Tables

Community Profile

Table 2.1	Population clusters by ABS Urban Centres/Localities 2006	Pg 7
Table 2.2	Age by sex – Men & Women	9
Table 2.3	Population by Age over time in the Lithgow LGA	10
Table 2.4	Selected Characteristics Lithgow LGA compared with the Central West Region and with NSW	13
Table 2.5	Work patterns for people over 15 in the Lithgow LGA and NSW	15
Table 2.6	Occupations of people over 15 years in the Lithgow LGA and NSW	15
Table 2.7	Housing and accommodation over Time	16
Table 2.8	Selected educational characteristics for the Lithgow LGA	17
Table 2.9	Selected Population characteristics of Lithgow (township), Wallerawang, Portland and Cullen Bullen	20
Table 2.10	Employment and Housing Characteristics of Lithgow (township), Wallerawang, Portland and Cullen Bullen	21
Table 2.11	Motor vehicle ownership and methods of travel to work of Lithgow Townships.	22
Table 2.12	Education Levels and Median Income Levels of Lithgow Townships.	23

Target Groups

Table 3.1.1	Age of children in Lithgow LGA in 2001 and 2006	27
Table 3.1.2	Preschool Attendance Lithgow LGA in 2001 and 2006	28
Table 3.1.3	School Attendance and school type in 2001 and 2006	28
Table 3.1.4	Government Primary & Infants Schools Enrolments Lithgow LGA	29
Table 3.1.5	Non-Government Primary & Infants Schools Enrolments Lithgow LGA	29
Table 3.1.6	Families and persons in families in occupied dwellings	30
Table 3.1.7	Relationships in household by age and sex	31
Table 3.1.8	Weekly family income by family type	32
Table 3.1.9	Age by sex Indigenous children	33
Table 3.1.10	Actions relating to Children from 2000 Social Plan	40
Table 3.1.11	Action Plan 2006-2011	41
Table 3.2.1	Young people aged 12-24 2001 and 2006	43
Table 3.2.2	Relationship in Household – Young People (15-24 Years)	44
Table 3.2.3	Enrolments for full time Students at Secondary Schools, Lithgow LGA	45
Table 3.2.4	School Enrolments in Secondary Schools - Government	46
Table 3.2.5	School Enrolments in Secondary Schools – Non Government	46
Table 3.2.6	Age by Labour Force Status By Sex	47
Table 3.2.7	Industry by age and sex	48
Table 3.2.8	Occupation by age by sex	48
Table 3.2.9	Income Young People	49
Table 3.2.10	Actions relating to Young People from 2000 Social Plan	54
Table 3.2.11	Action Plan 2006-2011	55
Table 3.3.1	Age by sex – Men & Women	56
Table 3.3.2	Work patterns for Women and Men in NSW and Lithgow LGA	58
Table 3.3.3	Occupations of Women and Men in NSW and Lithgow LGA	58
Table 3.3.4	Weekly Income – Women	59
Table 3.3.5	Weekly Income – Men	60
Table 3.3.6	Education levels women and men	61

Table 3.3.7	Actions relating to women from 2000 Social Plan	66
Table 3.3.8	Action Plan 2006 - 2011	67
Table 3.4.1	Core Activity Need for Assistance	68
Table 3.4.2	Persons Providing Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability by Age	69
Table 3.4.3	People with disabilities by age groupings – Lithgow LGA 1998	70
Table 3.4.4	Category of Disability – Lithgow LGA	72
Table 3.4.5	Disability Type by Disability Degree in Lithgow LGA 1998	73
Table 3.4.6	Actions relating to People with Disabilities from 2000 Social Plan	77
Table 3.4.7	Action Plan 2006 – 2011	79
Table 3.5.1	Indigenous People Lithgow LGA, Central West and NSW 1996-2006	81
Table 3.5.2	Indigenous People by Age Lithgow LGA, Central West & NSW 1996-2006 Labour Force Status – Indigenous Persons	82
Table 3.5.3	Household Weekly Income– Indigenous Persons Lithgow LGA	83
Table 3.5.4	Actions relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from 2000 Social Plan	84
Table 3.5.5	Action Plan 2006-2011	89
Table 3.5.6	Action Plan 2006-2011	90
Table 3.6.1	Selected Population Characteristics	91
Table 3.6.2	Birthplace by Gender 2001 & 2006 Selected countries	92
Table 3.6.3	Language group spoken at home Lithgow LGA	93
Table 3.6.4	Language group spoken at home Lithgow LGA	93
Table 3.6.5	Questionnaire results to the question: " <i>What is good about living in Lithgow?</i> "	94
Table 3.6.6	Questionnaire results to the question: " <i>What is not so good about living in Lithgow?</i> "	94
Table 3.6.7	Questionnaire results to the question: " <i>What do residents from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds need?</i> "	95
Table 3.6.8	Actions to date relating to People from CALD backgrounds from the 2000 Social Plan	98
Table 3.6.9	Action Plan 2006-2011	99
Table 3.7.1	Older people aged 55 years + 1996-2006	102
Table 3.7.2	Older People - Indigenous Population by age 45 years+	104
Table 3.7.3	Actions relating to Older People from the 2000 Social Plan	110
Table 3.7.4	Action Plan 2006-2011	111
Table 3.8.1	Men and women by age grouping in Lithgow LGA	113
Table 3.8.2	Work patterns for Men and women in NSW and Lithgow LGA	114
Table 3.8.3	Occupations of Men and women in NSW and Lithgow LGA	115
Table 3.8.4	Weekly Income for Men by Age in Lithgow LGA	115
Table 3.8.5	Weekly Income for women by Age in Lithgow LGA	116
Table 3.8.6	Education levels men and women	118
Table 3.8.7	Actions relating to Men from 2000 Social Plan	122
Table 3.8.8	Action Plan 2006 - 2011	123
Table 3.9.1	Action Plan 2006 - 2011	127
Table 3.10.1	Housing tenure Lithgow LGA, Central West and NSW 1996-2006	128
Table 3.10.2	Gross Family Income by Landlord Type by Family Composition	129
Table 3.10.3	Recommended Action Plan 2006 -2011	135
Table 3.11.1	Family type	137
Table 3.11.2	Weekly family income by family type	138
Table 3.11.3	Age of dependant children with sole parents by labour force status and gender of parent Lithgow LGA.	140
Table 3.11.4	Actions relating to Sole Parents from 2000 Social Plan	144
Table 3.11.5	Action Plan 2006 - 2011	145

List of Figures

Community Profile

Figure 2.1	Map of Lithgow LGA	Pg 8
Figure 2.2	Age Distribution of Population Lithgow LGA and NSW	9
Figure 2.3	Age groupings as percentage of total population over time	10
Figure 2.4	2004 Population Age Structure Lithgow LGA	12
Figure 2.5	Projected 2022 Population Age Structure Lithgow LGA	12
Figure 2.6	Weekly Individual Income Lithgow LGA and NSW	14
Figure 2.7	NSW Map showing areas of relative advantage and disadvantage from the Community Adversity and Resilience Report.	25

Target Groups

Figure 3.1.1	Weekly Family Income by Family Types with Children	32
Figure 3.2.1	Age distribution Lithgow LGA and NSW	44
Figure 3.2.2	Full Time Secondary School Enrolments 1996-2006	45
Figure 3.2.3	Weekly Income and Young People Lithgow LGA 2001	49
Figure 3.3.1	Women and men by age group	57
Figure 3.3.2	Weekly Income Comparisons for Women and Men	60
Figure 3.4.1	People with Disabilities by Age Groupings 1998 -Lithgow LGA	71
Figure 3.4.2	Disability Service Recipients by age groupings – Central West planning area Year 2000	71
Figure 3.5.1	Indigenous Persons by Age and Census Year Lithgow LGA	82
Figure 3.7.1	Population over 55 years 1996-2006 Lithgow LGA	101
Figure 3.7.2	Older People in Lithgow LGA Age Groupings by year 1996-2006	103
Figure 3.7.3	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Older People in Lithgow LGA Age Groupings by year 1996-2006	104
Figure 3.7.4	Older People with a disability by age group	105
Figure 3.8.1	Men and Women by Age Groups	114
Figure 3.8.2	Weekly Income in Lithgow LGA Men and Women	117
Figure 3.11.1	Weekly Family Income by Family types with Children	138

Abbreviations

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
 BOCSAR Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
 CBD Central Business District
 CALD Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
 DADHC Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care
 DOH Department of Housing
 DIPNR Department Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
 ESL English as a Second Language
 GLATSIC Greater Lithgow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
 GLBT Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender
 HSC Higher School Certificate
 HSNet Human Services Intranet
 LGA Local Government Area
 LGSA Local Government and Shires Associations
 LINC Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre
 MWAHS Mid West Area Health Service
 NAIDOC National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration
 NSW New South Wales
 PCYC Police Citizens Youth Club
 SEIFA Socio Economic Indices For Areas
 SWAHS Sydney West Area Health Service
 TAFE Technical and Further Education
 TIS Telephone Interpreter Service
 WAT Wheelchair Accessible Taxi

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