DOTE2021

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (ACT) FACT SHEET

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

KEY FINDINGS:

- Disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities within the ACT.

- Seven areas, about 7% of locations, accounted for 34% of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators. This is a three-fold overrepresentation.

- Given the relative affluence of the ACT compared with other states/territories, these disadvantaged communities can get overlooked. The disadvantage, including low income and lack of education, make it challenging to improve life opportunities.

- Many of the disadvantaged areas in the ACT are in the north-west and the south of the ACT. Some of these communities experience disadvantage on multiple fronts.

- low income and unskilled workers were the indicators that most strongly represented disadvantage in the ACT.

ABOUT 7% OF LOCATIONS, ACCOUNTED FOR 34% OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED RANK POSITIONS ACROSS ALL INDICATORS.

LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE IS CONCENTRATED

A limited number of communities account for a disproportionate number of 'top ranked' (ie most disadvantaged) positions across the various indicators:

- Seven areas, about 7% of locations, accounted for 34% of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators. This is close to a five-fold overrepresentation.

- The index identifies many of the more disadvantaged areas in the ACT as being in the north-west and the south. These are the areas of Belconnen and Tuggeranong.

© Jesuit Social Services 2021

For more information and interactive maps visit dote.org.au

...AND OCCURS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

Disadvantage is difficult to shift when it occurs across multiple areas of life, as these challenges combine to create what can seem to be insurmountable hurdles.

- Seven locations ranked as top 5% disadvantage against five or more indicators

- Three locations ranked as top 5% disadvantage against seven or more indicators.

Although the index took a different approach to ranking disadvantage, using weighted domains rather than simple counting of indicator scores, there was notable consistency in the areas identified as disadvantaged by the two approaches.

- Four of the top five areas using the indicator count were also listed in the top ten most disadvantaged areas using the index.

Areas experiencing multilayered disadvantage tended to have lower incomes in their mix of disadvantage, but there was variety in their other areas of significant disadvantage.

Different areas ranked highly on different indicators, highlighting the diversity of disadvantage between communities

and the need to explicitly consider the individual community context when designing programs to address disadvantage and the impacts of disadvantage.

Place-based approaches that recognise the multi-faceted nature of disadvantage, and the particular types of disadvantage prevalent in any community, will have better prospects of success.

There is immense social and economic cost to the entire community as a result of sustained disadvantage, which perpetuates inequality and constrains life opportunities for significant sections of society.

> **THERE IS IMMENSE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COST TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF SUSTAINED DISADVANTAGE.**

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DISADVANTAGE

Environmental indicators were included in DOTE 2021 for the first time, namely measures of heat vulnerability, green canopy, nature parks and air quality (particulate matter). In the ACT, some of these environmental indicators influenced the index (green canopy and nature reserves), but particulate matter did not.

INTERGENERATIONAL DISADVANTAGE

The research also examined indicators of intergenerational disadvantage for the first time. These indicators - teenage pregnancies and families that reported neither parent in employment – frequently coexisted with other forms of disadvantage.

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE INCLUDED ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2021

HEAT VULNERABILITY

AIR POLLUTION

GREEN CANOPY

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING BEYOND THE DATA – UNIVERSITY AREAS AS A CASE STUDY

The ACT provided a good example of the importance of looking beyond the data. Areas that many might think were affluent in fact presented as disadvantaged on the data. These areas have clusters of student accommodation that may have influenced measures such as low income, low post-school qualifications and housing stress. The areas therefore showed as disadvantaged even though these students may be on a pathway to great success and high income.

In other words, data can provide an informative picture of the make-up of a community, but only further analysis and/or conversations with the community can identify what the data means and whether intervention is needed.

PLACE-BASED APPROACHES

Place-based approaches tailored to address particular types of complex and interrelated disadvantage in place will have a better chance of achieving sustained change. The voices from the case study communities in other states illustrate and reinforce the importance of solutions based in local experiences of both community disadvantage and community strengths.

MOST DISADVANTAGED POSTCODES IN ACT

(Bands illustrate the severity of disadvantage experienced by a location with Band 1 being most severe. Locations listed alphabetically within bands.)

List of 10 most disadvantaged locations in the ACT

BAND	SA2 NAME	POPULATION	LOCATION
	MOST DISADVANTAGED LOCATIONS		
1	Belconnen	7,634	ACT
	Charnwood	2,860	ACT
	Florey	4,655	ACT
	Gilmore	2,719	ACT
	Holt	4,863	ACT
	Lyons (ACT)	3,141	ACT
	Macquarie	2,824	ACT
	Moncrieff	4,388	ACT
	Reid	1,721	ACT
	Richardson	3,006	ACT

© Jesuit Social Services 2021

For more information and interactive maps visit dote.org.au

MAP OF INDEX FOR THE ACT

LEGEND

⣿ Inadequate data

Index Value 2021

- 🟥 **Q1** (the most disadvantage)
- 🟧 **Q2**
- 🟨 **Q3**
- 🟦 **Q4**
- 🟦 **Q5** (the least disadvantage)
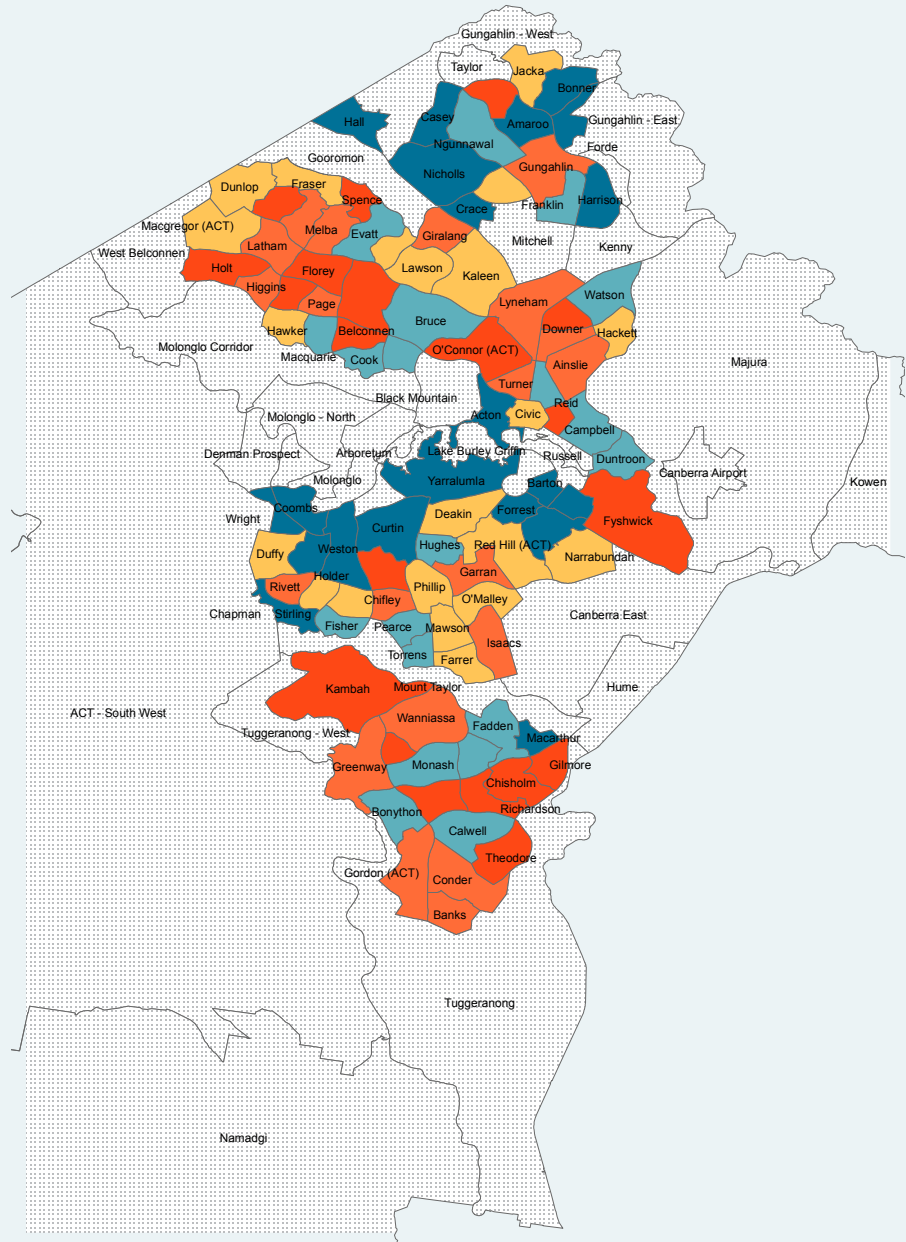
DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

examines 131 locations (SA2s or "statistical areas") in the ACT across 34 different *indicators of disadvantage*. The indicators, based on statistics collected from a number of government agencies, reflect factors that may limit life opportunities in the broad areas of social wellbeing, health, community safety, economic factors and education. In addition, for the first time, the 2021 report also includes environmental indicators and indicators of intergenerational disadvantage.

An index was created using Principle Components Analysis (explained in detail in the Report), providing a good overall view of disadvantage. Areas are listed in bands according to their level of disadvantage. For each area we are able to identify the key drivers of disadvantage.

The report also considers every indicator separately, paying special attention to locations in the ACT with 5 or more single indicators where the area ranked in the top 5% of disadvantage. In the ACT this equates to just seven areas. These areas are grappling with disadvantage on ***multiple fronts.***

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

builds on similar reports released in 2015, 2007, 2004 and 1999.