



DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

KEY FINDINGS:

- Disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities within Queensland, with 9% of locations accounting for 41% of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators.
- These communities experience a complex web of disadvantage that make it challenging to improve life opportunities.
- Most disadvantage was found outside Brisbane (30 of the 40 most disadvantaged areas on the index ranking, particularly in the west and far north of the state). Eight of the 10 areas experiencing the most extreme disadvantage were located outside the capital.
- The most disadvantaged communities have remained disadvantaged for long periods. Eight of the top 10 most disadvantaged areas were also ranked highly disadvantaged in 2015. Many of these communities were experiencing disadvantage on multiple fronts.
- There were some positive signs, with a handful of areas improving their results for long-term unemployment and education.
- The most common forms of severe disadvantage in locations ranking highly on at least eight indicators were jobless parents; young people not in employment, education or training; and low income.

EIGHT OF THE 10 AREAS EXPERIENCING THE MOST EXTREME DISADVANTAGE WERE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL.

LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE IS CONCENTRATED

ABOUT 1% OF LOCATIONS, ACCOUNTED FOR 11% OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED RANK POSITIONS ACROSS ALL INDICATORS.

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

- Five areas, about 1% of locations, accounted for 11% of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators. This is an eleven-fold overrepresentation, and similar to the 2015 result.
- 45 SA2s (9% of total) yielded 41% of the most disadvantaged rank positions. This is more than a four-fold overrepresentation.

The disproportionate distribution of disadvantage within the state is seen most clearly when the incidence of particular factors among those living in the 3% most disadvantaged areas (15 communities in Queensland) is compared with the rest of the state. Those living in the 3% most disadvantaged SA2s in the state are:

- 3 times more likely to be exposed to family violence or be living in public housing
- Close to 3 times more likely to be experiencing long-term unemployment (2.9 times) or have spent time in prison (2.7 times)
- 2.1 times more likely to have a juvenile conviction

LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE IS PERSISTENT...

The persistent nature of locational disadvantage is demonstrated when we compare findings of this 2021 study with previous studies undertaken in 2007 and 2015.

Of those in the top 10 in 2021, eight of them were also in the 2015 list of 40 most disadvantaged locations. (see table below)

...AND DISADVANTAGE 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.

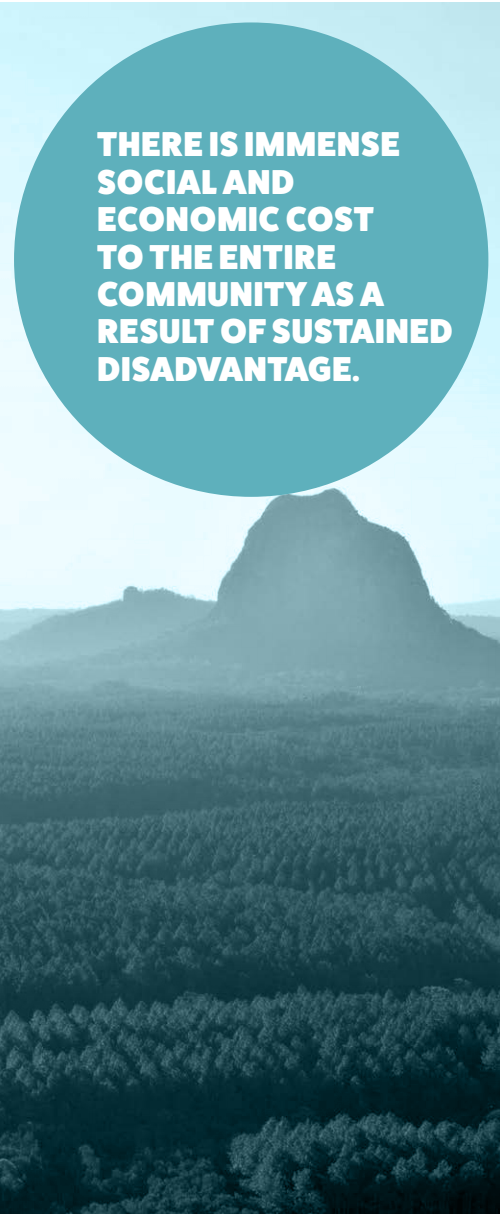
In Queensland, 29 areas (5% of the total SA2s examined) had at least eight indicators in the top 5% most disadvantaged. These 29 areas accounted for 30% of all possible indicator positions.

This was a marginal lessening from the level of concentration in 2015 but continues to highlight the disproportionate burden borne by some areas.

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.



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 and air quality (particulate matter). There was a strong relationship between poor air quality and the existence of other forms of disadvantage in Queensland. This likely reflects the closeness of disadvantaged areas to industrial and mining areas, as well as remote sandy areas where dust storms are common.

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

CASE STUDY LOCATION: BEENLEIGH

Beenleigh is a suburb within Logan City Council catchment and features in the highest quintile of disadvantage on the 2021 DOTE Index. The area ranks as highly disadvantaged multiple indicators including housing stress, financial stress and receiving rent assistance. There is also a high number of people with a disability, high rates of suicide and high levels of school absenteeism, with a high proportion of Beenleigh students not attending school 90% of the time or more. The location has a high Indigenous population.

“ There’s no one today in Beenleigh standing up. There’s no leadership at all. Someone needs to take the leadership, have a direction of where you’re going. Until someone decides that’s where we’re going [changes won’t be made].”

“ There are many new 2 bedroom housing commission units being built but [these] are poorly finished and not disability friendly.”

But participants also expressed pride in local school programs, noting that the local high school principal was voted best Principal in Queensland.

“ [School attendance] used to be under 50% of ... indigenous students going to school. Now they’re looking at up to 80% of attending school.”

Case study communities noted the need for good leadership as well as the effective provision of services.

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 community illustrate and reinforce the importance of solutions based in local experiences of both community disadvantage and community strengths.



MOST DISADVANTAGED POSTCODES IN QUEENSLAND

- COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

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

List of 40 most disadvantaged locations in Queensland

BAND	SA2 NAME	POPULATION	LOCATION	IN LIST IN 2007	IN LIST IN 2015
MOST DISADVANTAGED LOCATIONS					
1	Aurukun	1,370	Rest of Qld		Y
	Carpentaria	5,124	Rest of Qld	Y	Y
	Kingaroy Region - North ¹	9,700	Rest of Qld		Y
	Kowanyama - Pormpuraaw	1,859	Rest of Qld		Y
	Logan Central ²	6,278	Greater Brisbane	Y	Y
	Mount Morgan ³	2,957	Rest of Qld	Y	Y
	Palm Island	2,684	Rest of Qld		Y
	Riverview ⁴	3,002	Greater Brisbane		
	Rockhampton City	3,093	Rest of Qld		
	Yarrabah	2,933	Rest of Qld		Y
2	Bundaberg	6,123	Rest of Qld		Y
	Cape York ⁵	8,489	Rest of Qld		Y
	Far South West ⁶	2,647	Rest of Qld		
	Heatley	4,105	Rest of Qld		
	Inala - Richlands	20,094	Greater Brisbane	Y	Y
	Kingston (Qld.)	10,544	Greater Brisbane	Y	
	Northern Peninsula	3,224	Rest of Qld		
	Tara	4,031	Rest of Qld		
3	Torres Strait Islands	5,178	Rest of Qld		
	Charleville ⁷	4,220	Rest of Qld		
	Cooloola	6,622	Rest of Qld	Y	
	Eagleby	14,593	Greater Brisbane	Y	Y
	Gin Gin ⁸	5,127	Rest of Qld		Y
	Granville	3,197	Rest of Qld		
	Leichhardt - One Mile	8,885	Greater Brisbane		
	Manoora ⁹	6,442	Rest of Qld		Y
	Maryborough (Qld)	18,377	Rest of Qld	Y	Y
	Nanango	9,861	Rest of Qld		Y
4	Redland Islands ¹⁰	10,202	Greater Brisbane	Y	Y
	Berserker	6,699	Rest of Qld		
	Far Central West ¹¹	2,105	Rest of Qld		
	Goodna	11,453	Greater Brisbane		
	Gympie - North ¹²	14,778	Rest of Qld	Y	
	Herberton	5,608	Rest of Qld		
	Ingham	4,211	Rest of Qld		
	Ipswich - East	18,900	Greater Brisbane		
	Manunda ¹³	5,539	Rest of Qld		Y
	Mount Isa	18,334	Rest of Qld		
Westcourt - Bungalow ¹⁴	6,452	Rest of Qld		Y	

¹ Kingaroy Region – North SA2 was the Cherbourg SLA in the 2015 report

² Most of the Logan Central SA2 was the Woodridge SLA in the 2015 report

³ This was the Rockhampton – Mount Morgan SLA in the 2015 report

⁴ Riverview SA2 was the Ipswich Central SLA in the 2015 report

⁵ Cape York SA2 was the Cook SLA

⁶ Far South West SA2 was the Bulloo SLA in the 2015 report

⁷ Charleville SA2 was Murweh SLA in the 2015 report

⁸ Gin Gin SA2 was Bundaberg - Kolan SLA in the 2015 report

⁹ Most of Manoora SA2 was part of Cairns – Central Suburbs SLA in the 2015 report

¹⁰ Redland Islands SA2 was part of the Redland – Balance SLA in the 2015 report

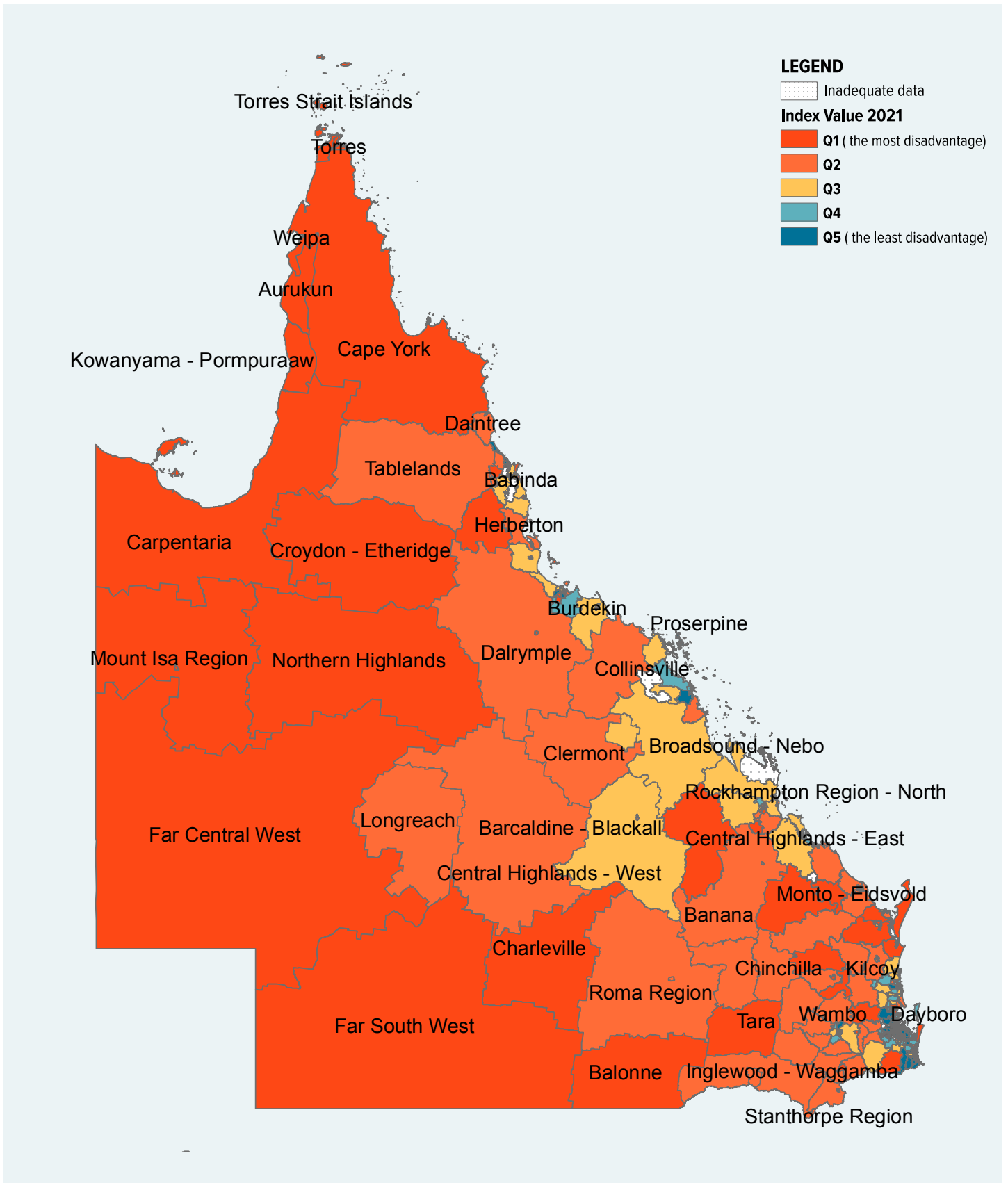
¹¹ Far Central West SA2 was the Barcoo, Boulia, Diamantina and Winton SLA's in the 2015 report

¹² Gympie – North SA2 is mainly the Gympie – Gympie SLA. The Gympie – Kilkivan SLA is now the Kilkivan SA2

¹³ Manunda SA2 is part of the Cairns – Central Suburbs SLA in the 2015 report


¹⁴ Westcourt-Bungalow SA2 was part of the Cairns – Central Suburbs SLA in the 2015 report

MAP OF INDEX FOR QUEENSLAND








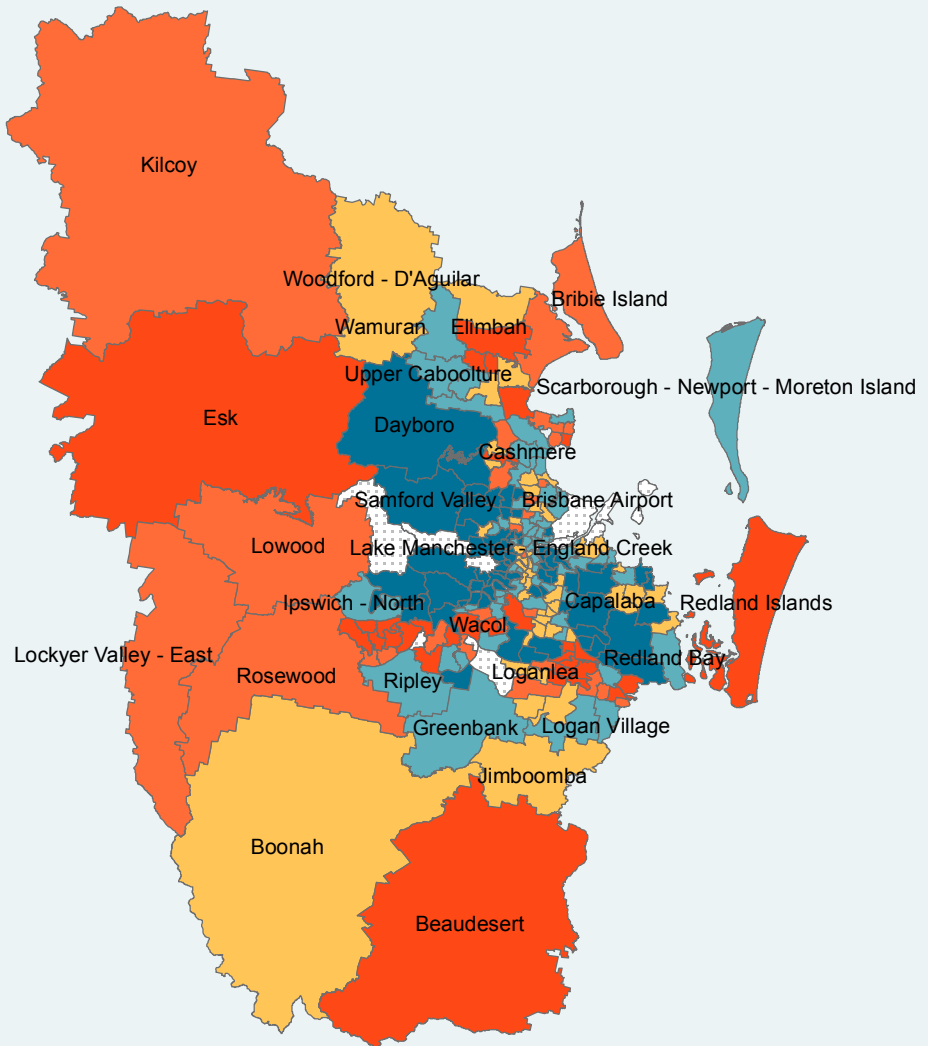
MAP OF INDEX FOR BRISBANE

LEGEND

 Inadequate data

Index Value 2021

-  Q1 (the most disadvantage)
-  Q2
-  Q3
-  Q4
-  Q5 (the least disadvantage)



DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

examines 530 locations (SA2s or “statistical areas”) in Queensland across 37 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 that lists areas 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 in Queensland to locations with eight or more single indicators where the area ranked in the top 5% of disadvantage. These areas are grappling with disadvantage on **multiple fronts**, and we can identify what those fronts are.

Comparing the index ranking over the years of the report series, as well as performance against a particular indicator over time, provided insights into where and what type of disadvantage was **persistent**.

Qualitative analysis of disadvantaged communities – Beenleigh in Queensland – has been incorporated in the latest report to add to the quantitative analysis.

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

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