



KEY FINDINGS:

- Disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities within Western Australia, with 10% of locations accounting for more than half (56%) of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators measured.
- These communities experience a complex web of disadvantage that make it challenging to improve life opportunities.

- Most of the disadvantaged areas in Western Australia are in the remote areas in the north and east of the state. Of the 40 most disadvantaged areas, 26 were outside Perth.
- The most common forms of disadvantage in multiply-disadvantaged locations in Western Australia were low income; youth not in employment, education or training; and jobless parents.

ABOUT 10% OF LOCATIONS ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN HALF (56%) 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:

- Five areas, about 2% of locations, accounted for 22% of the most disadvantaged rank positions across all indicators. This is an eleven-fold

overrepresentation. The figures are a stark indication of the heavy burden of disadvantage born by a limited section of the community.

- 24 SA2s (10% of total) yielded 56% of the most disadvantaged rank positions. This is a more than five-fold overrepresentation

A SMALL NUMBER OF AREAS ARE EXPERIENCING PERSISTENT, MULTILAYERED DISADVANTAGE

Twenty-four locations ranked as severely disadvantaged (top 5%) across five or more indicators.

The report found a small number of communities showed significant disadvantage on a number of indicators in both 2015 and 2021. Three remote communities registered in the “most disadvantaged” 5% on five or more indicators in both 2015 and 2021, with year 3 NAPLAN reading and numeracy being two of the indicators in each of the three locations.

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, are likely to 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

Environment indicators were included in DOTE 2021 for the first time, namely measures of heat vulnerability, green canopy and air quality (particulate matter). Particulate matter was much higher in disadvantaged areas of Western Australia, likely due to dust in remote desert areas and pollution in areas with heavy industry and mining activity.

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 ENVIRONMENT INDICATORS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2021



HEAT VULNERABILITY



AIR POLLUTION



GREEN CANOPY

CASE STUDY LOCATION: NARROGIN

Narrogin is a rural shire located 200km south-east of Perth with a high indigenous population. Ranked in the top 40 most disadvantaged areas in the state, Narrogin made an interesting case study as there has been some movement in its ranking on various indicators. Between 2015 and 2021 two indicators moved out of the top 20% disadvantaged (no internet and left school before Year 10) and four moved into the top 20% disadvantaged (NAPLAN and post-school qualifications).

Narrogin ranked highly on the psychiatric admissions indicator, and there was strong feeling in the focus groups that access to mental health services in the area is problematic, with limited availability, long wait lists, and a lack of consistency in delivery. Other key themes that emerged included the need for good leadership across the community as well as an effective youth strategy.

“ The research that’s been done says we need a [youth] strategy, but then nothing happens. And I think there’s no focus at all [on youth] at the state level.”

“ Psychology, or counsellors is something that we need a lot of. [We] do have what we call DIDOs, drive in drive out, [where] they have the psychologist ...come here one day, maybe two days a week. But they only see four or five cases per day so there’s a waiting list.”

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 WA

- 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 Western Australia






BAND	SA2 NAME	POPULATION	LOCATION	IN LIST IN 2007	IN LIST IN 2015
MOST DISADVANTAGED LOCATIONS					
1	Carnarvon	4,758	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Derby - West Kimberley	8,233	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	East Pilbara	6,537	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Halls Creek	3,537	Rest of WA		Y
	Kununurra	7,303	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Leinster – Leonora	5,056	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Mandurah	8,832	Greater Perth		Y
	Meekatharra	2,833	Rest of WA		Y
	Roebuck	2,578	Rest of WA		Y
	Withers – Usher	4,976	Rest of WA		Y
2	Armadale - Wungong - Brookdale	22,390	Greater Perth		
	Balga – Mirrabooka	20,887	Greater Perth		
	Boulder	6,965	Rest of WA		Y
	Calista	7,565	Greater Perth		Y
	College Grove - Carey Park	6,843	Rest of WA		Y
	Geraldton	10,682	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Geraldton – East	7,961	Rest of WA		Y
	Katanning	4,476	Rest of WA		Y
	South Hedland	10,298	Rest of WA		Y
	York – Beverley	5,391	Rest of WA		Y
3	Collie	8,601	Rest of WA	Y	Y
	Cooloongup	8,689	Greater Perth	Y	Y
	Cunderdin	3,974	Rest of WA		Y
	Girrawheen	8,572	Greater Perth		Y
	Gosnells	20,742	Greater Perth		Y
	Irwin	3,594	Rest of WA		
	Mandurah – South	10,600	Greater Perth		Y
	Northam	11,013	Rest of WA		Y
	Parmelia – Orelia	11,394	Greater Perth		Y
	Willagee	5,146	Greater Perth		
4	Brookton	3,665	Rest of WA		Y
	Broome	14,403	Rest of WA		
	Greenfields	9,860	Greater Perth		Y
	Hamilton Hill	11,343	Greater Perth	Y	Y
	Kambalda - Coolgardie - Norseman	4,203	Rest of WA		Y
	Midland - Guildford	10,765	Greater Perth		
	Narrogin	4,457	Rest of WA		
	Nollamara - Westminster	19,393	Greater Perth	Y	Y
	Plantagenet	5,262	Rest of WA		
	Roebourne	5,737	Rest of WA		

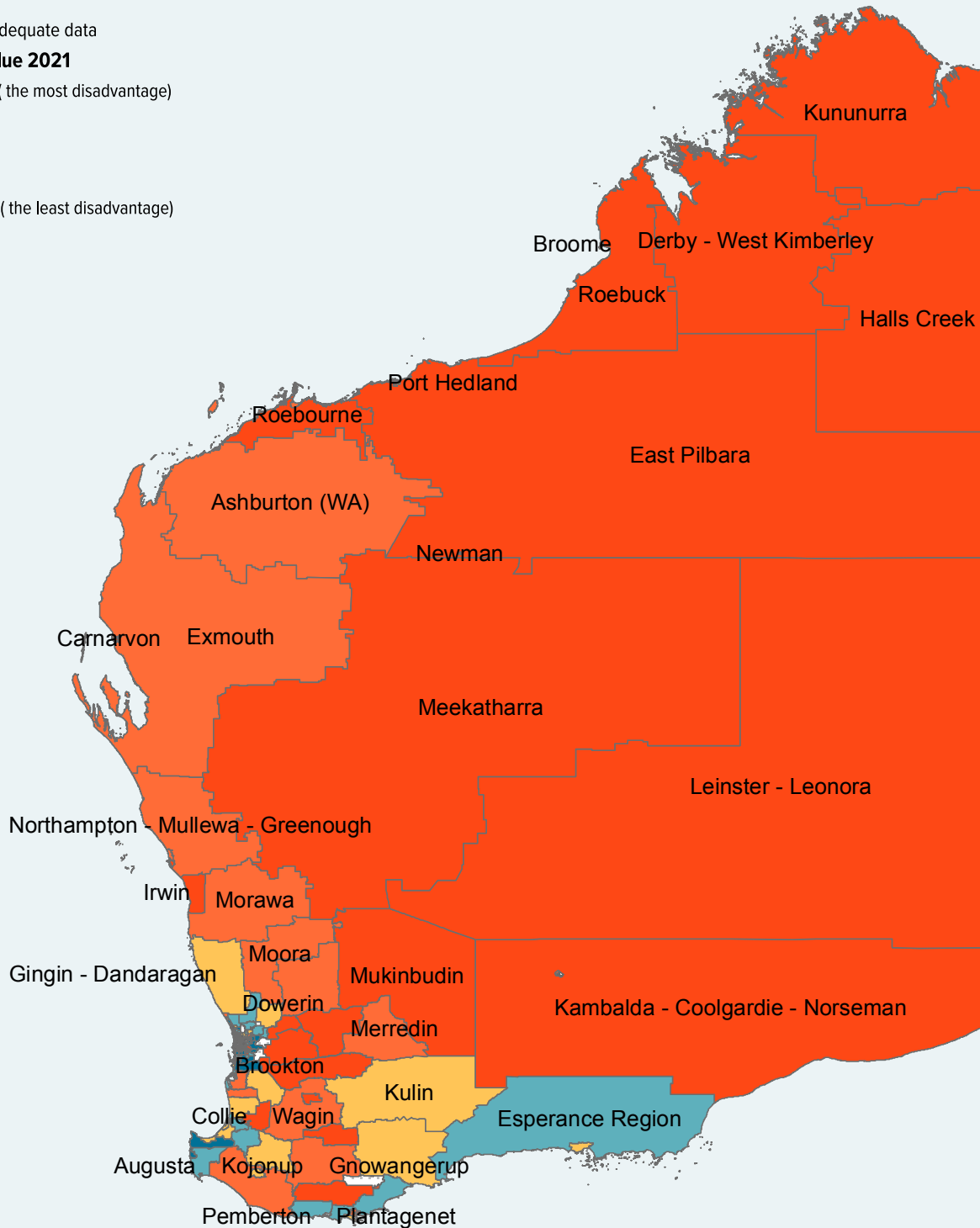
MAP OF INDEX FOR WA

LEGEND

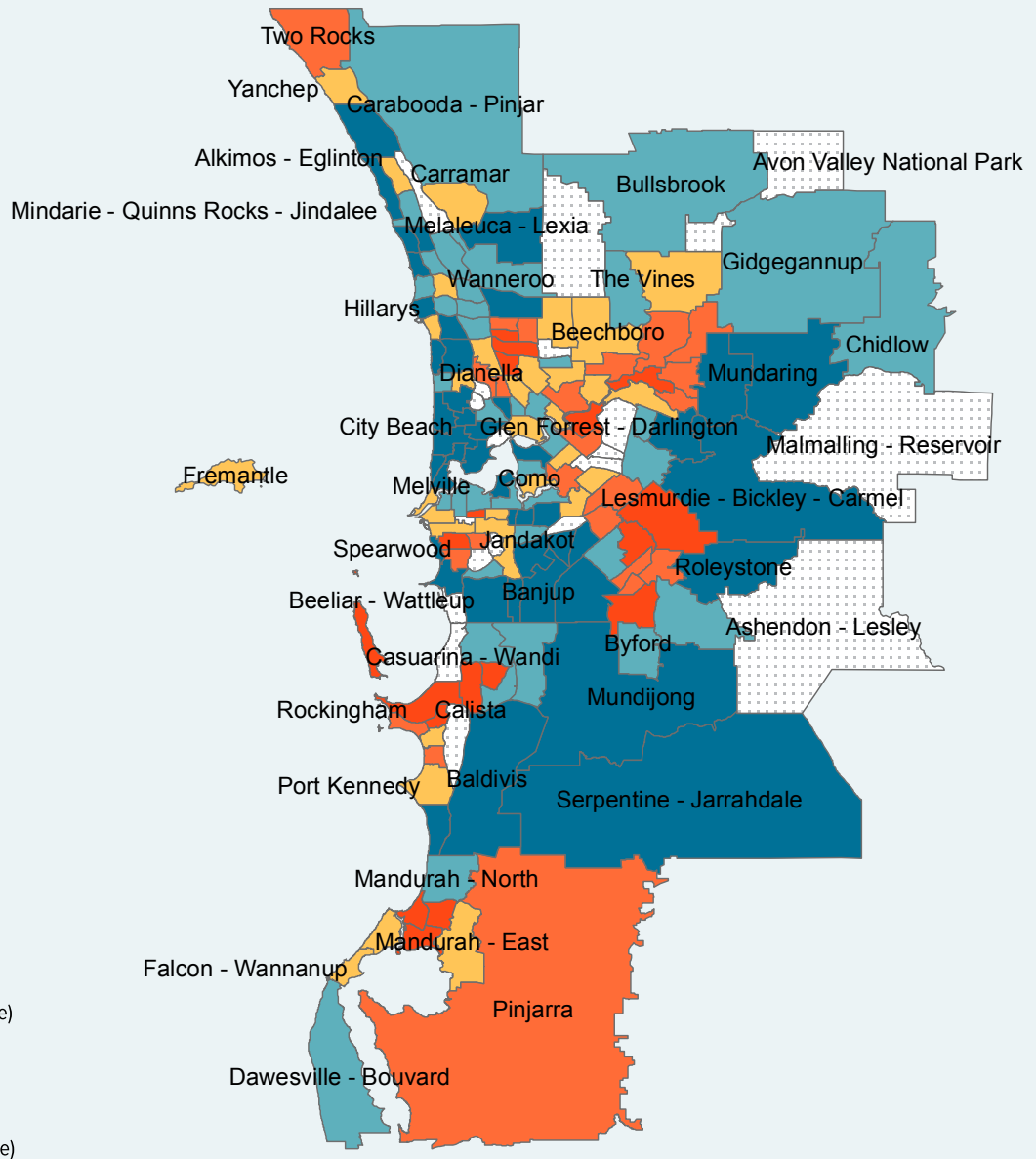
 Inadequate data

Index Value 2021

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



MAP OF INDEX FOR PERTH



DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2021

examines 252 locations (SA2s or “statistical areas”) in Western Australia 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 environment 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 Western Australia to locations with five 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 performance against particular indicators over time provided insights into where and what type of disadvantage was *persistent*.

Qualitative analysis of disadvantaged communities – Narrogin in WA – 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.