

Strategic Plan consultation results – Newcastle area

As part of the development of the NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, the Advocate for Children and Young People consulted with over 4,000 children and young people from across NSW in 2015.

This briefing provides a summary of feedback from the 84 children and young people the Advocate consulted in face-to-face consultations from the Newcastle area. These consultations took place in a primary school, high school, and at a sporting event.

The information in this briefing is provided to the Department of Planning and Environment to assist in the development of the Metropolitan Plan for the Greater Newcastle area.

While children and young people in the Newcastle area raised a broad range of issues (as described in the graphs), the commentary predominately focuses on feedback provided on the built environment.

For a description of the methodology see: [NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People – Consultation Results](#)

Demographics of respondents

Sex		Age		Aboriginal	Total
Male	Female	Less than 10 years	11 – 17 years		
39	45	14	70	10	84

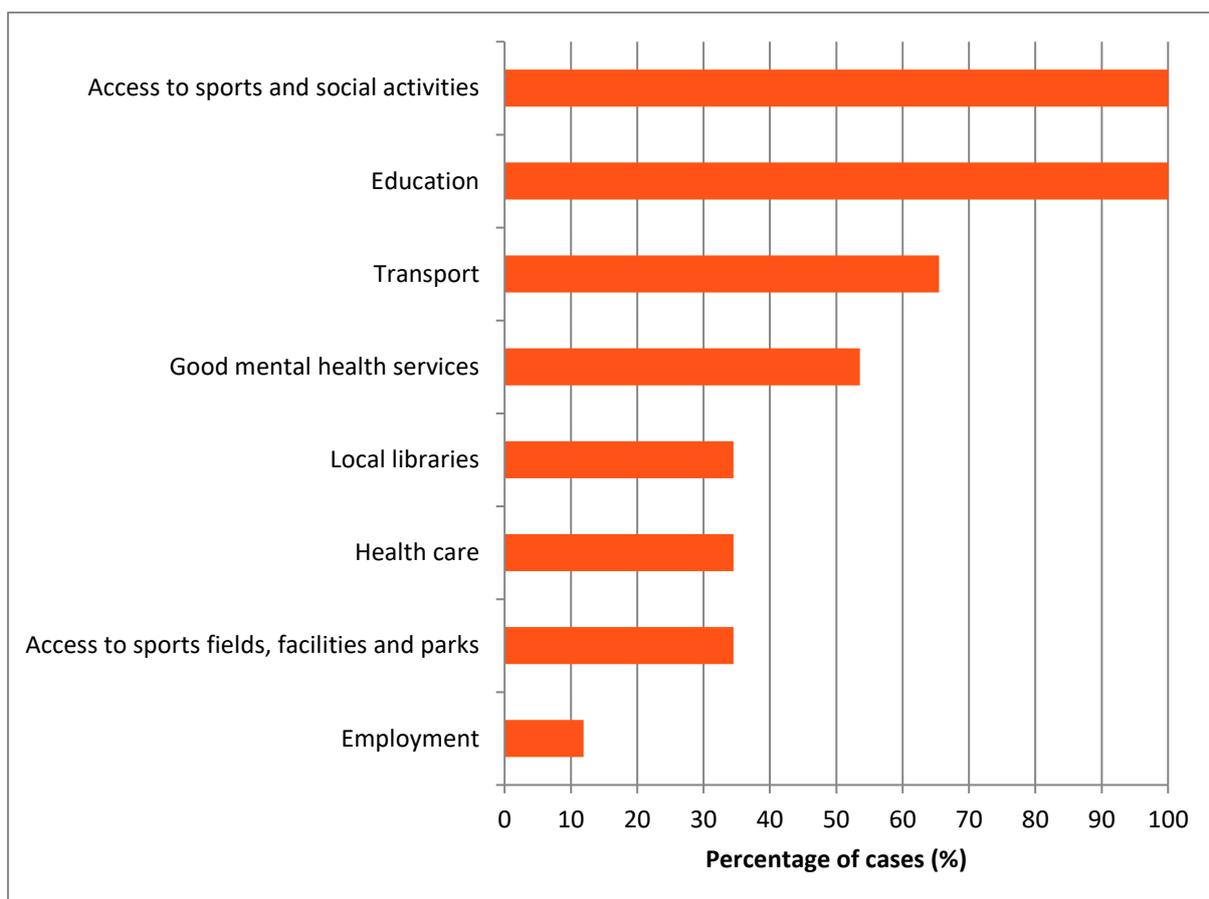
What's working well for children and young people in Newcastle?

Access to sports and social activities was raised in all of the consultations. Examples included sports outside school, good sports clubs and opportunities, and social events such as concerts, carnivals, festivals. Recreational facilities such as playgrounds and parks, pools, beach, entertainment centre, and movies were also identified as working well.

Transport was also consistently raised, including that transport is good, is close to bus stops, and the ability to ride bikes to school.

The public library, and community facilities and services such as local shops and markets (including updating Kotara shopping centre), and access to hospitals and emergency services were viewed positively.

Children and young people described the community as 'good' and 'friendly' and that children feel safe, specifically mentioning making it safer in Lambton Park.

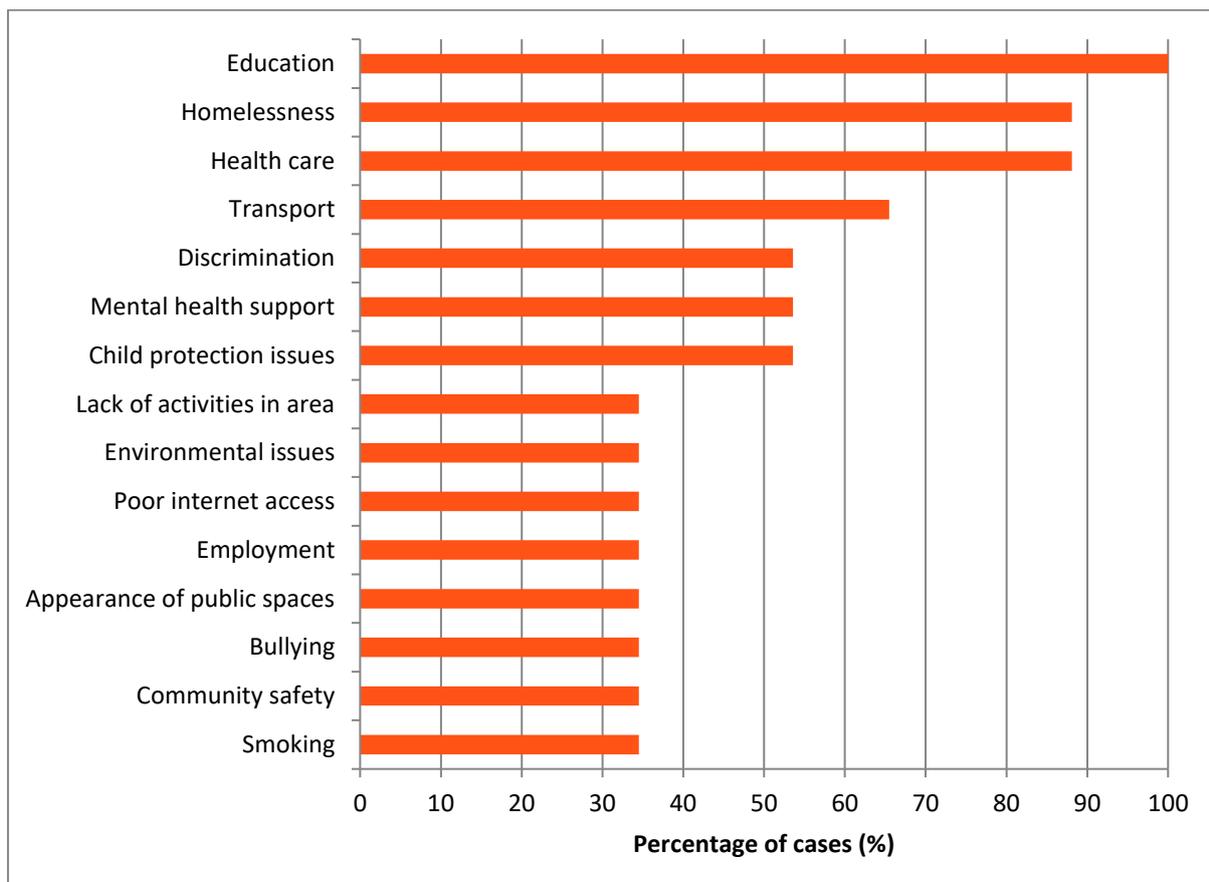


What is not working well for children and young people in Newcastle?

Transport was a key issue raised, including buses being either late or early, the absence of continuous bike lanes and paths, as well as issues with roads, crossings, street lights, traffic, and unsafe driving. Some children and young people wanted free trains all the way to Newcastle.

The appearance of some public spaces was viewed negatively, including public toilets, rubbish, littering, graffiti, and the dirty sandpit in Lambton Park. Environmental issues such as pollution, poor recycling system, and climate change were also identified.

Children and young people raised that there were not enough facilities, describing the need for more tennis courts, more parks, and more bubblers in parks. They also mentioned that there are not enough activities/fun places for children and young people. The library was described as small with limited opening hours and some children and young people stated there were not enough banned smoking areas. Internet connection in some places was not working well. The cost of living was also raised with prices being too high.

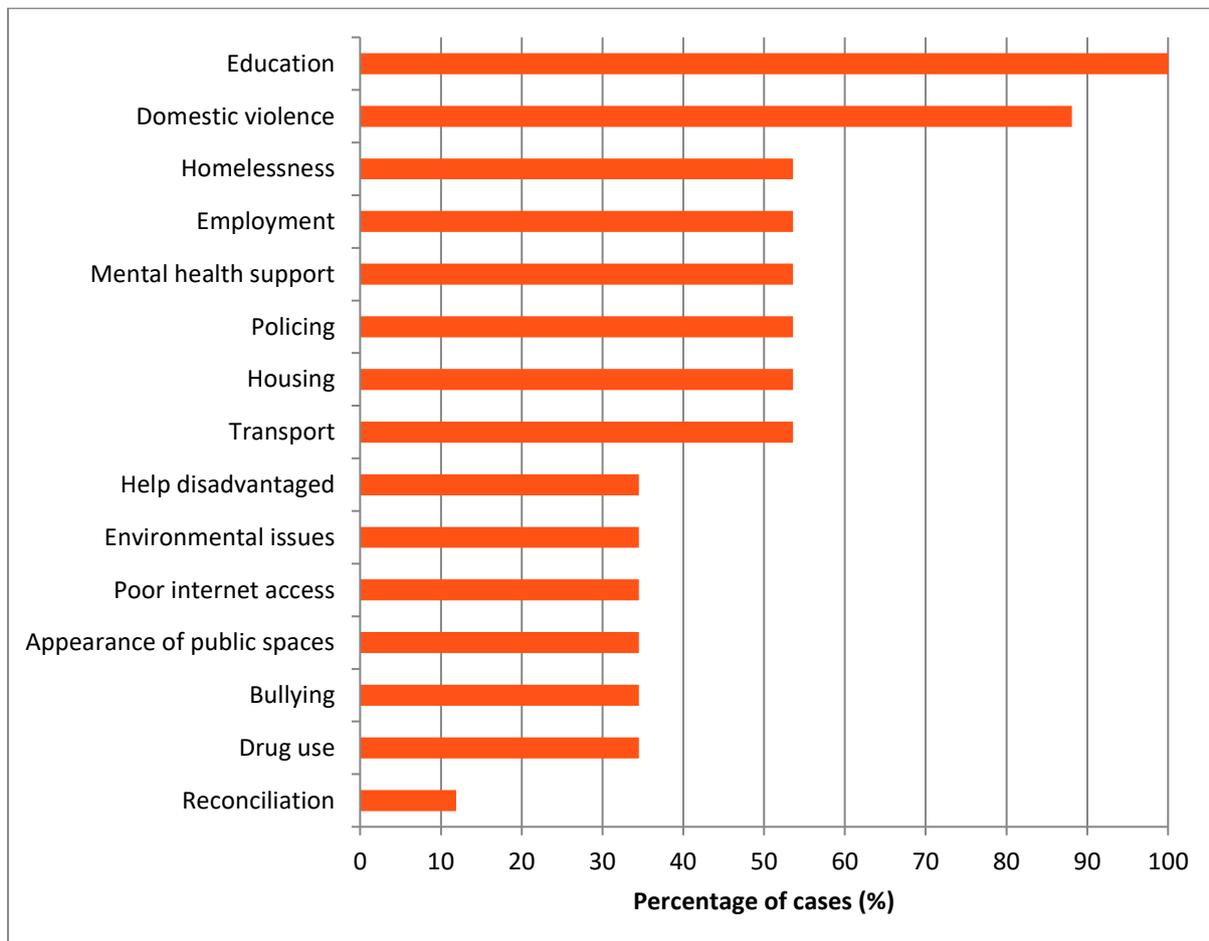


What are the top priorities for the NSW government to focus on for children and young people in Newcastle?

Some of the top priorities raised by children and young people regarding the built environment included the appearance of public spaces, such as cleaner public toilets, less rubbish, and having a better recycling system.

Priorities regarding transport were that there should be more buses and trains, including a train that goes all the way to Newcastle, cheaper parking, more bike paths, and safer crossings.

Other priorities identified included banning smoking in more public places, policing at night to make communities safer, easier access to housing for the disadvantaged, and more youth services and services to help people in need.



What are the qualities of a good society for children and young people in Newcastle?

