

Meeting the Cost of Living in NSW

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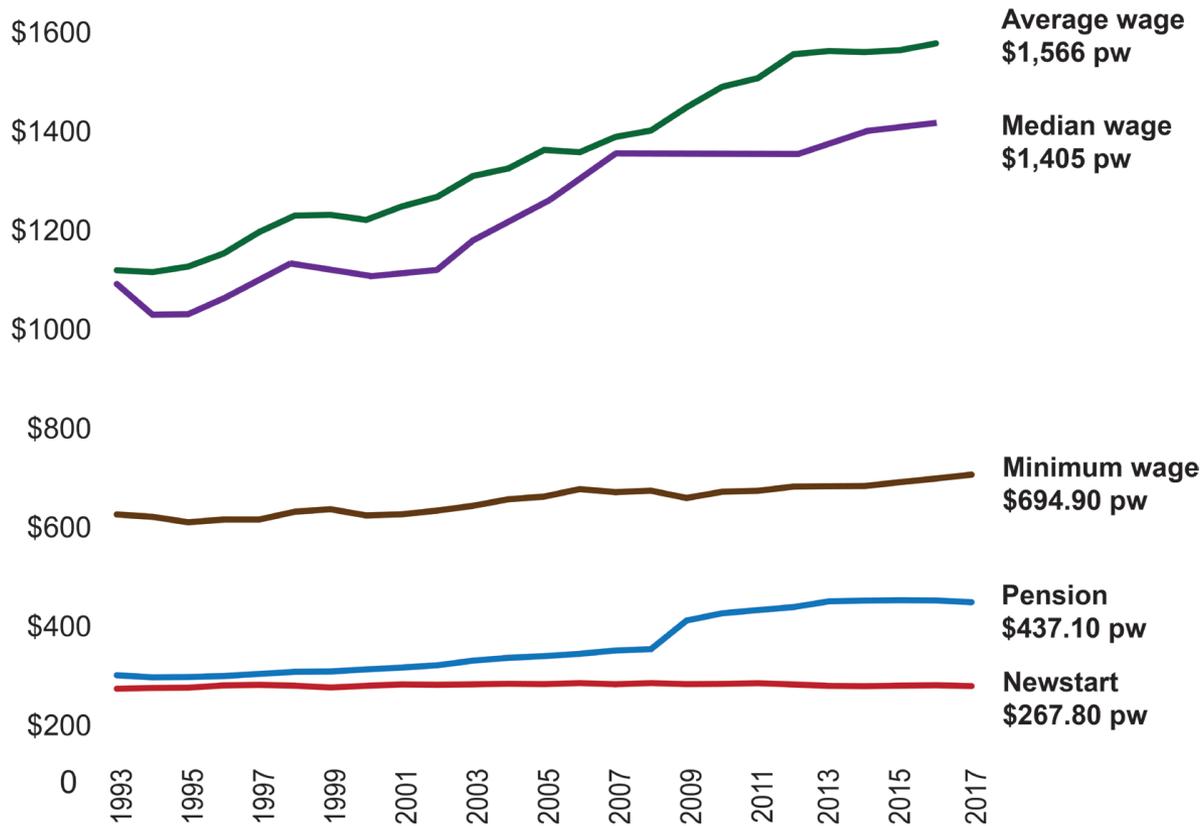
07 August 2019

Poverty rates in NSW

Demographic	NSW Percent	Sydney Percent	Rest of NSW Percent
Employed full-time	4.96	5.39	3.95
Employed part-time	6.97	6.98	6.95
Unemployed	33.76	31.27	38.59
Aged 15-64 not in labour force	29.30	26.71	34.23
Aged 65+ and not in labour force	11.93	10.66	13.47

Newstart is inadequate

Newstart versus pensions and wages (\$2017)



“There is no room for error”

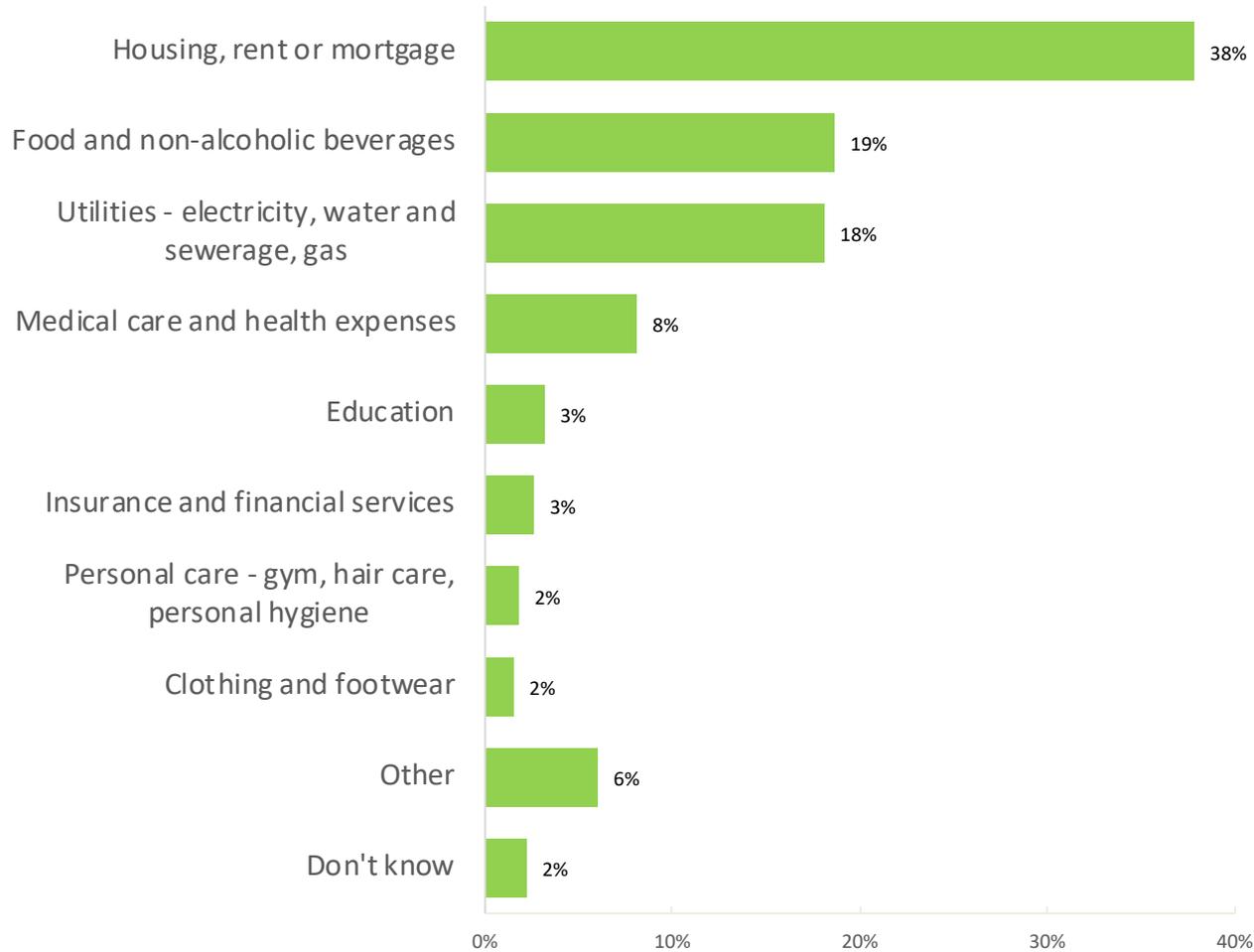
Rent = \$456.45



Newstart = \$555.70



Prioritizing household expenses



Struggling to pay the bills

“I am no longer purchasing food that requires refrigeration, so that I can turn the fridge off.”

“I only shower about once a week to save on water and electricity costs.”

“I sell personal items to pay the gas bill”.

“Turn the electric hot water off every 2nd night”.

- ACOSS (2019) Survey of People on Newstart and Youth Allowance



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Social Connection

In the last month:

- 32% of respondents visited or were visited by friends or family only once or not at all
- 44% went out with friends and family only once or not at all

Social Connection

“Don't go to visit friends or family or join them for meals or activities. Don't go to parties of friends or family as I can't afford to provide food or drink or presents”.

“I hardly ever leave the house as it's too expensive”.

-ACOSS (2019) Survey of People on Newstart and Youth Allowance

Accessing Credit

In the last year:

- 48% sought financial assistance from friends
- 40% pawned or sold something because they needed the money
- 24% have taken out a payday loan; and
- 24% have accessed a no interest loan

- NCOSS Cost of Living Survey Data, 2019

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THE RATE

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Action required

Invest in social housing as an economic enabler

Make affordable, long term renting more viable

Recognise the value of services that build social capital

Educate re energy assistance available, and energy efficiency measures

Legislate to improve energy performance of private rentals; and upgrade social housing performance

Action required

Join NCOSS to lend your voice to ensure we are influential, effective and truly representative.

Visit our membership page at:

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