COMMUNITY PULSE

2018



















Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect

NEW SOUTH WALES



About this publication

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CEDA's objective in publishing this collection is to encourage constructive debate and discussion on matters of national economic importance. Persons who rely upon the material published do so at their own risk.

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About CEDA

CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia – is a national, independent, member-based organisation providing thought leadership and policy perspectives on the economic and social issues affecting Australia.

We achieve this through a rigorous and evidence-based research agenda, and forums and events that deliver lively debate and critical perspectives.

CEDA's membership includes more than 750 of Australia's leading businesses and organisations, and leaders from a wide cross-section of industries and academia. It allows us to reach major decision makers across the private and public sectors.

CEDA is an independent not-for-profit organisation, founded in 1960 by leading Australian economist Sir Douglas Copland. Our funding comes from membership fees, events and sponsorship.

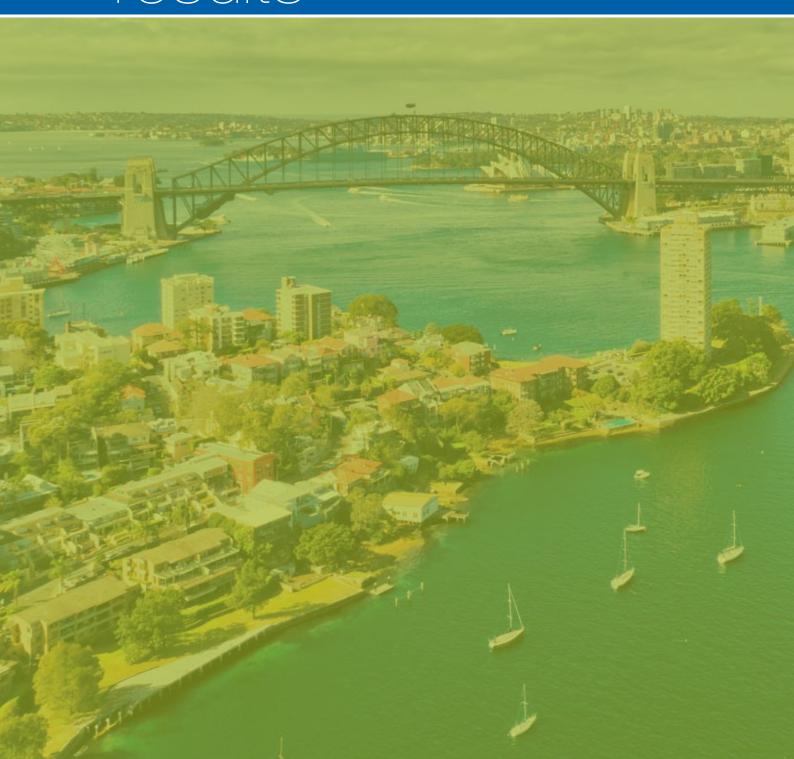
CEDA - the Committee for Economic Development of Australia

Level 13, 440 Collins Street Melbourne 3000 Australia Telephone: +61 3 9662 3544 Fax: +61 3 9663 7271

Fax: +61 3 9663 7271 Email: info@ceda.com.au Web: ceda.com.au



New South Wales results



Introduction

This brief paper summarises New South Wales results of nation-wide polling exploring Australians' attitudes to work, education, health, community and the economy.

The full results are contained in the report *Community* pulse 2018: the economic disconnect. This New South Wales summary is a companion paper to the main report.

Additional state-specific papers have been produced to summarise results from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect* and companion reports are available from www.ceda.com.au.

State profile - New South Wales

Gross State Product (2016–17)	\$557.9 billion		
Percentage of national economy	33 per cent		
Average weekly earnings (November 2017)	\$1585.90		
Unemployment rate (May)	4.9 per cent		
Population (September 2017)	7.896 million		
Population in greater capital city (2016)	5.03 million		
Population growth (2012–17)	0.564 million		
Population over 65 years old	1.25 million		
Annual Government Expenditure (2018–19)	\$79.7 billion		
Largest industries	Financial and insurance services, Professional, scientific and technical services, construction, healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing		

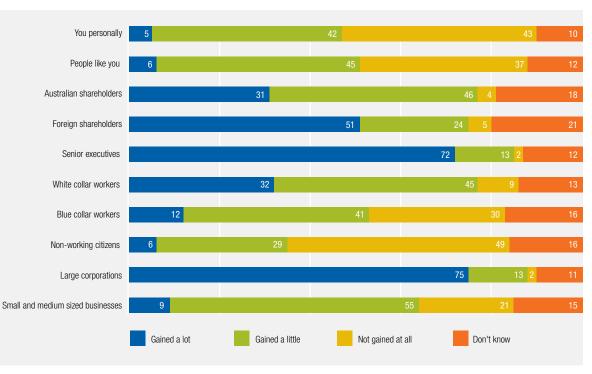
Source: ABS, State Budget papers

Attitudes to recent economic growth and development

Who has benefited from 26 years of economic growth?

- Compared to the national results, NSW respondents are more likely to believe that they have personally gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth – 47 per cent vs 45 per cent nationally.
- Around 54 per cent of NSW respondents believe that blue collar workers have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth, which is slightly less than the national average (56 per cent).
- Slightly more NSW respondents believe that the gap between rich and poor in Australia is an acceptable consequence of economic growth – 23 per cent vs 21 per cent nationally.

FIGURE 1
WHO HAS GAINED FROM 26 YEARS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH? (% OF RESPONDENTS)*



*Please note numbers have been rounded and may not equal 100 per cent

Personal issues of greatest importance to New South Wales

Issues of greatest importance

 In addition to the top six personal issues nationally (basic health services, essential services, affordable housing, chronic disease services, job security and reduced violence), NSW residents place increased importance on mental health services.

Issues that are most contested

- NSW residents are most divided over the importance of access to affordable private health insurance and a higher minimum wage.
- At the national level people were also most divided over access to affordable private health insurance.

National issues of greatest importance to New South Wales

Issues of greatest importance

- In addition to the top national issues across the population (public hospitals, limiting foreign ownership, aged care and increased pensions) NSW residents place increased importance on protection of national parks, oceans and wildlife.
- Compared to the whole population, NSW residents place less relative importance on tough criminal laws and sentences.

Issues that are most contested

 NSW residents are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas.

Least important Most important -- Net 40 20 Reliable, low cost essential services -5 Reliable, low cost basic health services Access to stable and affordable housing Affordable, high quality chronic disease services Reduced violence in homes and communities Job security Clear employment opportunities for young adults —1 Affordable, high quality mental health services Strong govt support for regional development -18 Enhanced primary school outcomes in reading, writing and maths -16 Strong protection of human rights Strong protection of consumer rights -19 Work/life balance A robust social safety net Access to new skills and training throughout working life -2 -50 Access to career opportunities and advancement Higher minimum wage Regular pay rises Accesss to high quality information and communications technologies Strong regulation to stop welfare fraud Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Strong regulation to stop tax avoidance Affordable, high quality private health insurance High quality and accessible childcare and preschool Improved sustainability Reduced commuting times Strong regulation of new technologies to protect people Increased competition from new entrants in key consumer sectors -40 Access to exercise and recreation facilities Ability to move between jobs/sectors with ease INDIFFERENT / CONTESTED WIDELY UNIMPORTANT WIDELY IMPORTANT

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND LEAST IMPORTANT TO YOU PERSONALLY? (RESPONSE RATE)

New South Wales National Reliable, low cost basic health services Affordable, high quality mental health services Strong govt support for regional development Enhanced primary school outcomes in reading, writing and maths Affordable, high quality private health insurance Strong regulation to stop welfare fraud Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Strong protection of consumer rights Strong regulation to stop tax avoidance Access to high quality information and communication technologies Access to new skills/training throughout working life Strong regulation of new technologies to protect people Increased competition from new entrants in key consumer sectors Ability to move between jobs/sectors with ease Access to exercise and recreation facilities Reliable, low cost essential services Affordable, high quality chronic disease services Reduced violence in homes and communities Clear employment opportunities for young adults finishing school/TAE Work/life balance A robust social security safety net Strong protection of human rights Higher minimum wage Regular pay rises High quality and accessible childcare and preschool education Reduced commuting times Access to stable and affordable housing Access to career opportunities and advancement Improved sustainability AVERAGE IMPORTANCE HIGH IMPORTANCE LOW IMPORTANCE

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR PERSONAL ISSUES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Least crucial Most crucial -- Net 40 20 High quality and accessible public hospitals -3 High quality and choice of aged care services -8 High quality and accessible public schools -9 Protection of workers' rights High quality and choice of university / TAFE | -12 Strong protection for national parks, oceans, wildlife etc. --High quality and accessible public transport services -12 Strong links between education and the workplace -13 Increased pension payments -14 Strong regulation to limit foreign ownership of Australian land/assets -14 High quality and extensive road networks -1 Strong regulation for energy security Business investment in new technologies and training —16 A strong NDIS -16 Strong govt support for renewable energy Lower personal taxes Strong security to combat terrorism Tough criminal laws and criminal sentences Lower taxation of superannuation —18 Low cost access to university / TAFE Protection of penalty rates -1 -20 Strong limitations on foreign worker visas -25 Strong govt support for new industry investing in Australia Less business regulation -34 Less restrictions on using our natural resources A strong private hospital system Lower immigration Increased humanitarian intake of refugees -4 40 Lower company taxes —4 A strong private school system —51 INDIFFERENT / CONTESTED WIDELY UNIMPORTANT WIDELY IMPORTANT

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST CRITICAL AND LEAST CRITICAL PATHS FOR THE NATION? (RESPONSE RATE)

New South Wales National \sim A strong private school system High quality and choice of university / TAFE Less business regulation High quality and accessible public hospitals Strong regulation to limit foreign ownership of Australian land / assets High quality and choice of aged care services Increased pension payments Strong protection for national parks, oceans, wildlife etc High quality and accessible public schools Protection of workers' rights Strong govt support for renewable energy Low cost access to university / TAFE Strong links between education and the workplace Strong security to combat terrorism High quality and accessible public transport services Lower taxation of superannuation Business investment in new technologies and training A strong NDIS Strong limitations on foreign working visas High quality and extensive road networks Protection of penalty rates Strong govt support for new industry investing in Australia Increased humanitarian intake of refugees A strong private hospital system Less restrictions on using our natural resources Lower company taxes Tough criminal laws and criminal sentences Lower personal taxes Strong regulation for energy security Lower immigration AVERAGE IMPORTANCE HIGH IMPORTANCE LOW IMPORTANCE

FIGURE 5 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR NATIONAL ISSUES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW attitudes to work

Work satisfaction

• NSW residents were more satisfied than the national population with every aspect of their work (Figure 6).

Work/life balance

NSW workers' satisfaction with work/life balance was generally in line with the
national population, although NSW workers are slightly more satisfied with flexibility to work from home and less satisfied with travel time to and from work
(Figure 7).

Commuting

 76 per cent of NSW workers enjoy a commute to work of less than an hour, compared to 81 per cent nationally.

FIGURE 6
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK (%, VERY + SOMEWHAT SATISFIED)

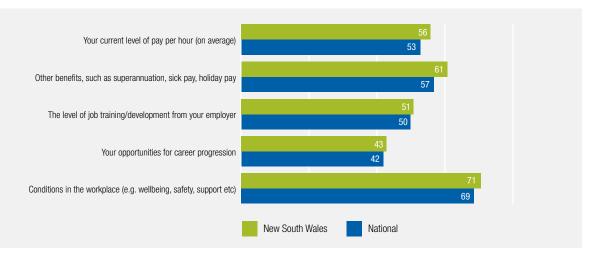
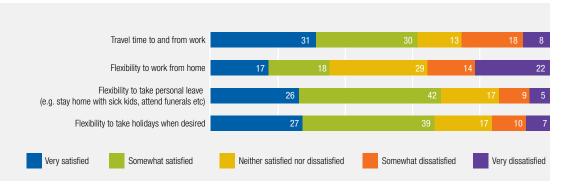


FIGURE 7
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK/LIFE BALANCE (%)



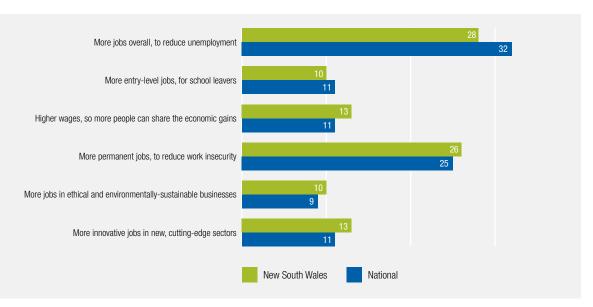
Technology

- NSW respondents are slightly less optimistic than the general population about the impact of technology on their job.
- 69 per cent would welcome new technology in their job (71 per cent nationally) and 16 per cent are worried it would replace them (12 per cent nationally).

Future jobs

- Like most Australians, NSW residents place greatest priority on more jobs overall
 and more permanent jobs for future job creation. NSW respondents placed
 slightly greater importance on more innovative jobs than the national population.
- When looking for a job, consistent with national trends conditions in the workplace are the most important factor. However, NSW respondents placed greater importance on above average pay per hour, perhaps reflecting the stronger labour market in NSW at present.

FIGURE 8
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS MOST CRITICAL FOR FUTURE JOB CREATION?



Notes on methodology and sample

- Total sample; Weight: NSW Weight; base n = 600; total n = 3000.
- For New South Wales, the margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is +/-4.0 per cent.
- This New South Wales results profile is supplementary to *Community pulse* 2018: the economic disconnect. A full description of the methodology and sample is available in this report at pp. 47 to 55.

Acknowledgements

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National

Level 13, 440 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000 GPO Box 2117 Melbourne VIC 3001 Telephone 03 9662 3544

New South Wales and the ACT

Level 14
The John Hunter Building
9 Hunter Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 2100
Sydney NSW 2001
Telephone 02 9299 7022
Email info@ceda.com.au

Queensland

Level 17, 300 Adelaide Stree Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 2900 Brisbane QLD 4001 Telephone 07 3229 9955

South Australia and the Northern Territory

Level 5 2 Ebenezer Place Adelaide SA 5000 Telephone 08 8211 7222 Email info@ceda.com.au

Victoria and Tasmania

Level 13
440 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
GPO Box 2117
Melbourne VIC 3001
Telephone 03 9662 3544
Email info@ceda.com.au

Western Australia

Level 5 105 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000 PO Box 5631 St Georges Tce Perth WA 6831 Telephone 08 9226 4799 Email info@ceda.com.au

