

# *Getting behind closed doors....*

SHOALHAVEN ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS NETWORK

# Shoalhaven

*“Located on the south east coast of Australia the area boasts beautiful pristine coastline as well as gorgeous bush landscape and rainforest regions. The Shoalhaven is blessed with perhaps the most scenically beautiful landscapes on the east coast of Australia. The temperate climate is comfortable all year round, with balmy sea breezes to cool in summer and clean crisp air for long country walks in winter”.*

- Shoalhaven LGA covers geographical area = 4531 km<sup>2</sup>
- Nowra - business and administrative 'capital' of the Shoalhaven
- Population = 101 777 (0.22 persons per hectare)

# *Shoalhaven demographics*

- Residents aged 65+ years represent 24.5% of the Shoalhaven population
- *Shoalhaven City had a lower proportion of pre-schoolers and **a higher** proportion of persons at post retirement age than Regional NSW in 2016.*
- By 2031 residents aged over 65 years + is expected to grow 10% (*compared to NSW average of 6%*)

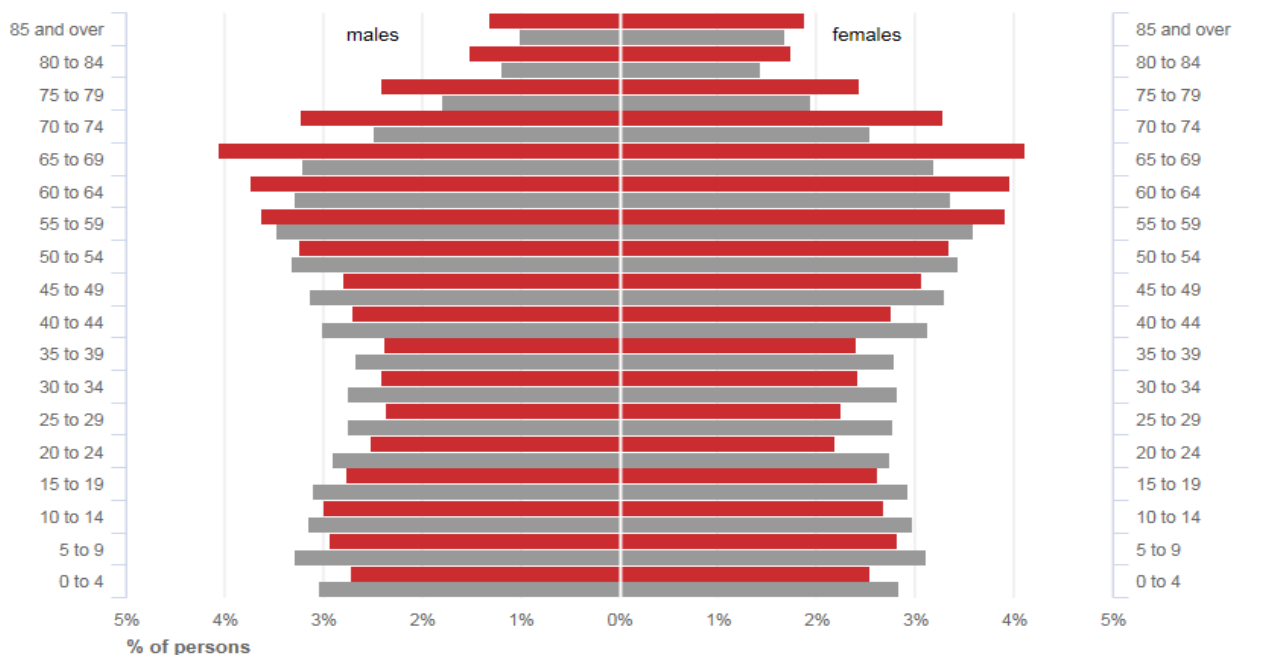
Area:

Shoalhaven City

Benchmark area:

Regional NSW

reset



1991

1996

2001

2006

2011

2016

## *Shoalhaven Elder Abuse Prevention & Awareness Network*

- Formation of network following ISLHD Aged Care Symposium in 2015
- Initial education session facilitated by EAHPRU in early 2016
- Network formed in April 2016
- Current Membership: Seniors Rights, NSW Health, Shoalcoast Legal Centre, EAHPRU, Shoalhaven City Council, Illawarra Primary Health Network, YWCA and Hammond Care.

## *Network achievements to date*

- Regular Network meetings
- Awareness raising via community sessions
- Professionals' training
- Development of brochure and poster

# *Increasing demand*

- Increase in reports from community - Residential Aged Care Facilities
  - ACAT
  - Community Providers (HCP, TACP, CHSP etc)
- Data re referrals to services: 2016 [SRS 184; SCLC 19%]  
2017 [SRS 300; SCLC 17%]
- Resources currently available: Seniors Rights – Regional Worker – 1 full time advocate

Shoalcoast Legal Centre - 4.6 full time solicitors

# *Network sharing*

*August 2017:* Identified lack of face to face support services in Shoalhaven to assist people who are vulnerable and identified as at risk of abuse.

## Contributing factors:

Geography – lack of transport – social isolation

Vulnerability complicated by: immobility

frailty

changing cognitive capacity

hearing and /or visual impairments

## Other factors:

Knowledge of care workers



# *Response to identified need*

Two pronged approach:

Training for care professionals

Provision of home visiting support

# *Learning needs assessment*

Survey distributed via Survey Monkey to Care Workers

- 63% of respondents reported they had suspected older clients at risk of abuse in the past 12 months
- 60% of respondents identified inadequate advice about services & assistance available
- 81% of respondents identified a need for further training

## *Home visiting...*

*Shoalcoast CLC works with Seniors Rights Service in relation to providing legal advice and assistance to older clients experiencing a legal issue, particularly involving abuse.*



*Shoalhaven  
knocking on the  
door....*