

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2015

Dropping off the Edge 2015 examines 26 postcode areas in the Australian Capital Territory across 13 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, access to housing, education and employment.

Postcodes were ranked on each indicator, with high rankings indicating the postcode was significantly affected by the particular limiting factor (eg unemployment or disability). These results were then used to produce a 'rank average' taking into account aspects of disadvantage to which the locality is particularly vulnerable, and those aspects to which is it less vulnerable, and combining them into a single score.

Dropping off the Edge 2015 builds on similar reports released in 2007, 2004 and 1999, although ACT data was not included in the earlier two reports.

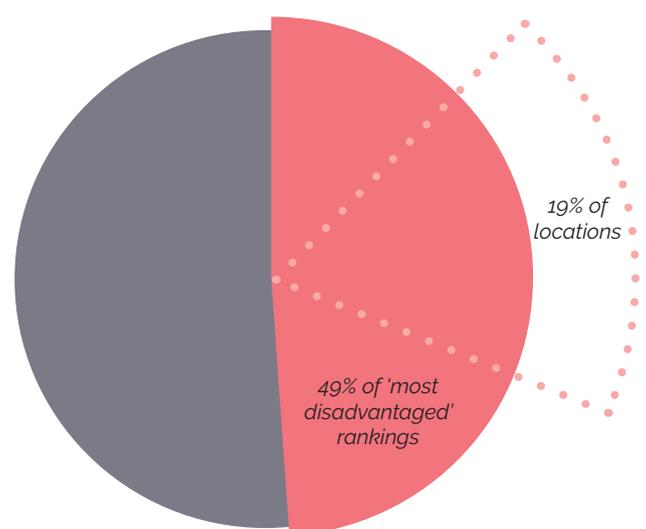
Key findings

- Disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities within the ACT.
- These communities experience a complex web of disadvantage and bear a disproportionately high level of disadvantage within the state.
- A number of postcodes have remained depressed for long periods demonstrating the persistent, entrenched nature of the disadvantage experienced by these communities.

Locational disadvantage is concentrated

A limited number of postcodes account for a disproportionate number of 'top ranked' (ie most disadvantaged) positions:

- Just two postcodes (or 7.7% of the total number of localities) account for a quarter of 'most disadvantaged' ranks.
- Five postcodes (19%) account for 49% of the 'most disadvantaged' ranks.



Disadvantage also appears entrenched. The same two postcodes that recorded the greatest disadvantage in 2015 also occupied these positions in 2007, while the concentration of disadvantage was similar. (In 2007 they accounted for 26% of the highest rankings, compared with 25% in 2015).

A complex web of disadvantage

The study examined postcodes which ranked in the 'most disadvantaged' group on more than five indicators, and found that these multiply-disadvantaged postcodes had a number of dominant features:

- **Rental stress** – rental stress was at very high levels in 63% of multiply-disadvantaged localities. This characteristic was also prominent in 2007 findings.
- **Limited qualifications and long-term unemployment** – these work-related indicators were at very high levels in 63% of multiply-disadvantaged postcodes. These characteristics were also prominent in 2007 findings.
- **Low family income, Internet access, limited work skills, disability, unemployment** – half the multiply-disadvantaged postcodes registered strong disadvantage on these indicators.

Dominant characteristics of ACT's multiply-disadvantaged locations

Rental assistance

Poor education levels,
long-term unemployment

Low family income, internet access,
limited work skills, disability,
unemployment

(Note: unlike other regions, no data was available in the ACT regarding criminal convictions and domestic violence. These were conspicuous elements of the 'most disadvantaged' postcodes as recorded in 2007).

ACT postcodes with the most disadvantaged rank average scores in 2015 and risk factor scores in 2007

2015 disadvantage rank average	2007 disadvantage factor rankings
Most disadvantaged 2609 Fyshwick, Pialligo, Symonston (*) 2615 Charnwood, Dunlop, Florey, Flynn, Fraser 2620 Oaks Estate, Majura, Tuggeranong (Bal), Hume (*) 2905 Bonython, Chisholm	Most disadvantaged 2602 Ainslie, Dickson, Downer (*) 2604 Kingston, Narrabundah 2609 Fyshwick, Pialligo, Symonston (*) 2620 Oaks Estate, Tuggeranong (Bal), Majura, Hume (*)
Next most disadvantaged 2602 Ainslie, Dickson, Downer (*) 2606 Lyons, Chifley, Phillip (*) 2612 Braddon, Campbell, Reid, Turner (*) 2902 Kambah	Next most disadvantaged 2603 Griffith, Forrest 2606 Lyons, Chifley, Phillip (*) 2612 Braddon, Campbell, Reid, Turner (*) 2614 Cook, Page, Scullin

(*) denotes postcodes which appeared in both 2015 and 2007 as either 'most disadvantaged' or 'next most disadvantaged'

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Persistent communal disadvantage in Australia

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