

Woolgoolga Community Profile

healthy towns
NORTH COAST

Current Population¹

Coffs Harbour
72,944

NSW
7,480,228

Woolgoolga
5,290^a

Demographics

Woolgoolga is a coastal town on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. The main employment industries are blueberry farming, retail and tourism. Woolgoolga is known for its beautiful natural environment, whale watching and views of the Solitary Islands. Woolgoolga has a large Sikh population, with 10% of the community being of Indian descent. The traditional custodians of the Woolgoolga area are the people of the Gumbayngirr nation.

	Woolgoolga	Coffs Harbour	NSW
Median Age	47	44	38
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as % of population	4.3	5.0%	2.9%
Population 0 – 14 years	15.6%	18.3%	18.5%
Population 65 years and older	24.8%	21.0%	16.2%
Median gross weekly household income	\$949	\$1,107	\$1,486
Population 15 & over - Year 12 highest education level attained	13.2%	11.6%	15.3%
Working population in full time employment	49.6%	51.0%	49.2%
Total households in rental housing stress*	14.3%	14.0%	12.9%

* Rental stress: Households paying 30% or more of household income on rent

Community assets

- Woolgoolga Beach
- Bowling Club
- Community Gardens
- Sikh Temples
- Churches
- Sports fields and clubs
- Library
- Neighbourhood Centre
- Woolgoolga Art
- Gallery
- Woolgoolga Headland Lookout
- Skate Park
- Woolgoolga Surf Life Saving Club
- Marine Rescue
- CWA Hall
- Scout Hall
- Tennis Courts
- Swimming Pool
- Men's Shed
- Community associations
- Sports and activity groups

Top 5 best things about living in Woolgoolga²

1	Lifestyle	79.1%
2	Natural environment	75.3%
3	Friendly people	72.0%
4	Shops and cafes	36.6%
5	History and heritage	17.6%

Community events

- Curryfest
- Blues & Berries
- Taste the Plate
- Carols by the Sea
- Woopi Tri Festival
- Fluro Fridays
- Community Gardens Open Day
- Lillipilli Art Exhibit
- Markets

The Healthy Towns program is delivered by North Coast Primary Health Network in partnership with Mid North Coast Local Health District. The program is supported by funding from the Australian Government.

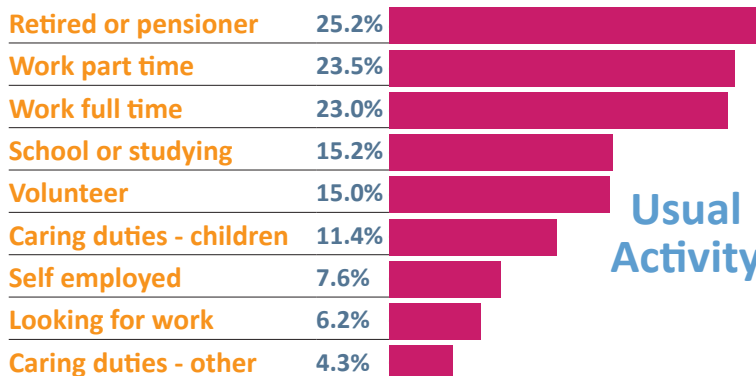
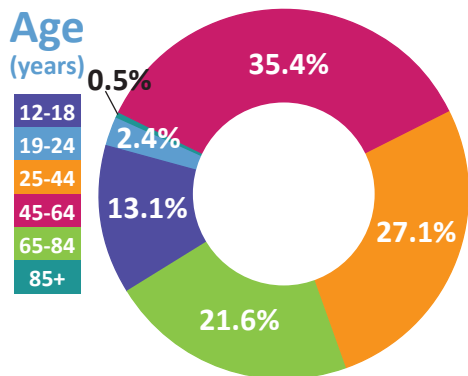


Health
Mid North Coast
Local Health District



Healthy Towns Woolgoolga Community Survey

Who were our respondents?^{2,b}



421
people participated in the Woolgoolga Community Survey

4.5%
of survey respondents were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

75.3% female
23.3% male
1.4% other identification

Health and wellbeing in Woolgoolga

Top 10 Issues (survey respondents)

1	Cost of living	52.4%
2	Ageing issues	51.5%
3	Housing affordability	48.7%
4	Drug and alcohol misuse	47.9%
5	Transport	46.8%

6	Mental health issues	45.4%
7	Diet and exercise	35.5%
8	Social isolation	22.3%
9	Poor access to healthcare	21.4%
10	Cancer	19.4%

On a scale of
1 to 10

80.1%

survey respondents rated their overall life satisfaction above **7**

75.3%

survey respondents rated their health above **7**

What people say about living in Woolgoolga

Survey respondents

84.4%	Really feel like they're part of this community
68.6%	Often participate in community activities
91.2%	Can get help from their friends, family and neighbours when needed
73.2%	Can access community and support groups that meet their needs
73.8%	Can get involved in local decision-making processes if they want to
75.3%	Haven't experienced racism or discrimination in this town

What people think about the community of Woolgoolga

Survey respondents

94.2%	Feel proud to live in this community
86.7%	Think the community copes pretty well when faced with challenges
78.1%	Agree the town has good facilities like shops, childcare, schools and libraries
76.1%	Agree there is easy access to sports, recreational and leisure facilities
85.4%	Agree people here get involved in local issues and activities
94.5%	Agree this community is a safe place to live
76.3%	Agree all groups in this community are treated with respect
67.7%	Disagree that racism is a problem in our community
47.2%	Agree living costs are affordable here, e.g. food, petrol, housing

Community ideas to improve health and wellbeing ^{2,3}

- Encourage outdoor activity by improving paths, sports equipment and playgrounds
- Affordable and reliable transport to Coffs Harbour
- More bulk-billing GPs including after-hours services
- More activities and support for young people
- Access to mental health and alcohol and other drugs services
- Increase awareness of existing programs and services
- More in-home support services for older people and people with a disability
- Nutrition education and cooking classes
- More affordable housing and homeless accommodation
- Improve support for migrants and refugees
- Increase access to allied health and specialist services



Access to services²

found it easy...

76.8%	To access a GP
56.0%	To access aged care services
55.3%	To access education and training
69.3%	To access childcare

found it difficult...

65.3%	To access a specialist doctor
67.3%	To access allied health (e.g. psychologist, speech therapist)
64.3%	To access alcohol and other drugs services
56.4%	To access mental health services

Services in Woolgoolga

Service	Number
Ambulance	1
Centrelink agent	1
Chiropractors	1
Community Health Centre*	1
Dental	3
Fire/Rescue	1
General Practice	4
Optometrists	1
Pharmacy	2
Physiotherapy	3

Service	Number
Podiatry	2
Police Station	1
Psychology	4
Residential Aged Care	1
Speech Pathology	2

*A range of specialist, allied health and outreach services

Educational institutions
Woolgoolga Public School
Woolgoolga High School
St Francis Xavier School
Billabong Kids Central Pre-school

Transport	Frequency/Availability
Bus	9 services daily to Coffs Harbour on weekdays (2 bus services on weekends)



What else is happening in Woolgoolga?

- Woolgoolga Master Plan (2018) will upgrade foreshore and town centre facilities improving links between the town centre and beach access. The plan includes footpaths, cycle paths, parking facilities, toilet blocks, picnic areas and allow for more recreation while preserving the natural green environment of Woolgoolga. (<http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/Building-and-Planning/Place-Strategies/Pages/Woolgoolga-Town-Centre-Masterplan.aspx>)

References:

- 1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016. Census of Population and Housing: QuickStats, [Online] Available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/Census?OpenDocument&ref=topBar>
- 2 Healthy Towns Woolgoolga Community Survey April 2018
- 3 Community Consultation interviews November 2017 - May 2018

Notes:

- a Population of the State Suburb (SSC) of Woolgoolga, not including other areas that may also be serviced by Woolgoolga.
- b Workshop participants and consultations strongly identified Woolgoolga and the Northern Beaches as one community. Survey responses from other Northern Beaches suburbs are therefore included in the survey results.