

DROPPING OFF THE EDGE 2015

Dropping off the Edge 2015 examines 125 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in South Australia across 20 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.

SLAs were ranked on each indicator, with high rankings indicating the SLA was significantly affected by the particular limiting factor (eg unemployment or disability). These simple rankings were then used in a more comprehensive analysis (incorporating performance on all indicators, whether positive or negative), to produce an overall ranking of disadvantage.

Dropping off the Edge 2015 builds on similar reports released in 2007, 2004 and 1999, although South Australian data did not feature in the earlier two reports.

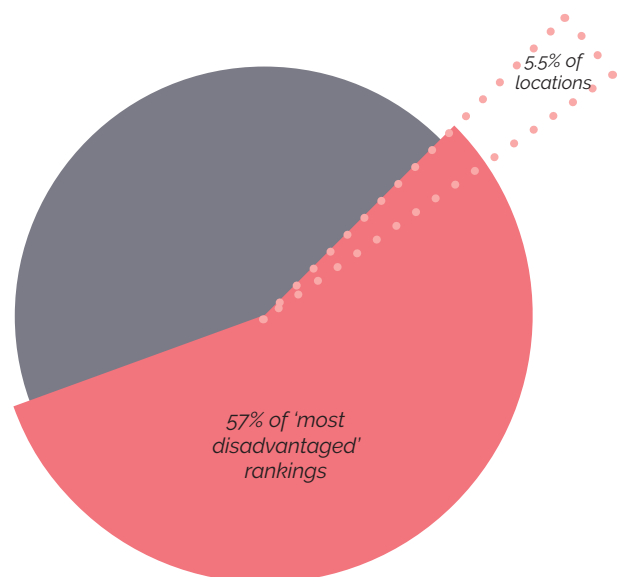
Key findings

- Disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities within South Australia.
- These communities experience a complex web of disadvantage and bear a disproportionately high level of disadvantage within the state.
- Disadvantage seems particularly entrenched, with 2015 rankings showing marked similarity to the 2007 results.
- The inclusion of new data for remote communities highlights the severity of disadvantage experienced in those localities.

Locational disadvantage is concentrated

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

- **5.5% of SLAs account for 57% of the 'top rankings' across the range of indicators.**



The disproportionate distribution of disadvantage within the state is highlighted when the incidence of particular factors such as unemployment and contact with the justice system among those living in the 3% most disadvantaged SLAs is compared with the rest of the state. Those living in the 3% most disadvantaged SLAs in the state are:

- 10 times as likely to have spent time in prison
- more than 5 times as likely to be unemployed or have a low level of education
- more than 5 times as likely to be disengaged from education or employment as young adults
- more than twice as likely to have a disability and 3.5 times as likely to be dealing with mental health problems.

A complex web of disadvantage

The study examined SLAs which ranked in the 'most disadvantaged' group on more than five indicators, and found that these multiply-disadvantaged SLAs had a number of dominant features. Indeed, every one of these areas had high levels of:

- **Unemployment and long-term unemployment** - experienced in 81% and 69% of the multiply-disadvantaged localities respectively
- **Poor education levels** - in nearly 70% of these multiply-disadvantaged areas
- **Criminal convictions and youth disengagement** - an issue in 63% of the multiply-disadvantaged localities.

There were also distinct locational differences. In the remote regions, internet access was an issue, while the more urbanised regions experienced greater housing stress.

The data highlights the interconnectedness of experiences of disadvantage and their cumulative impact. There is strong correlation, for example, between internet access, low family income, overall education, young adults not engaged in work or study, receipt of disability support, long-term unemployment and criminal convictions.

Dominant characteristics of South Australia's multiply-disadvantaged locations

Unemployment

Poor education levels

Long-term unemployment

Criminal convictions
Young adults disengaged

Locational disadvantage is entrenched

Disadvantage is entrenched in a number of the state's most challenging communities. The persistent nature of the disadvantage is demonstrated when we compare findings of this 2015 study with the previous studies undertaken in 2007. Very similar groups of SLAs are identified by the data as disadvantaged in both 2007 and 2015.

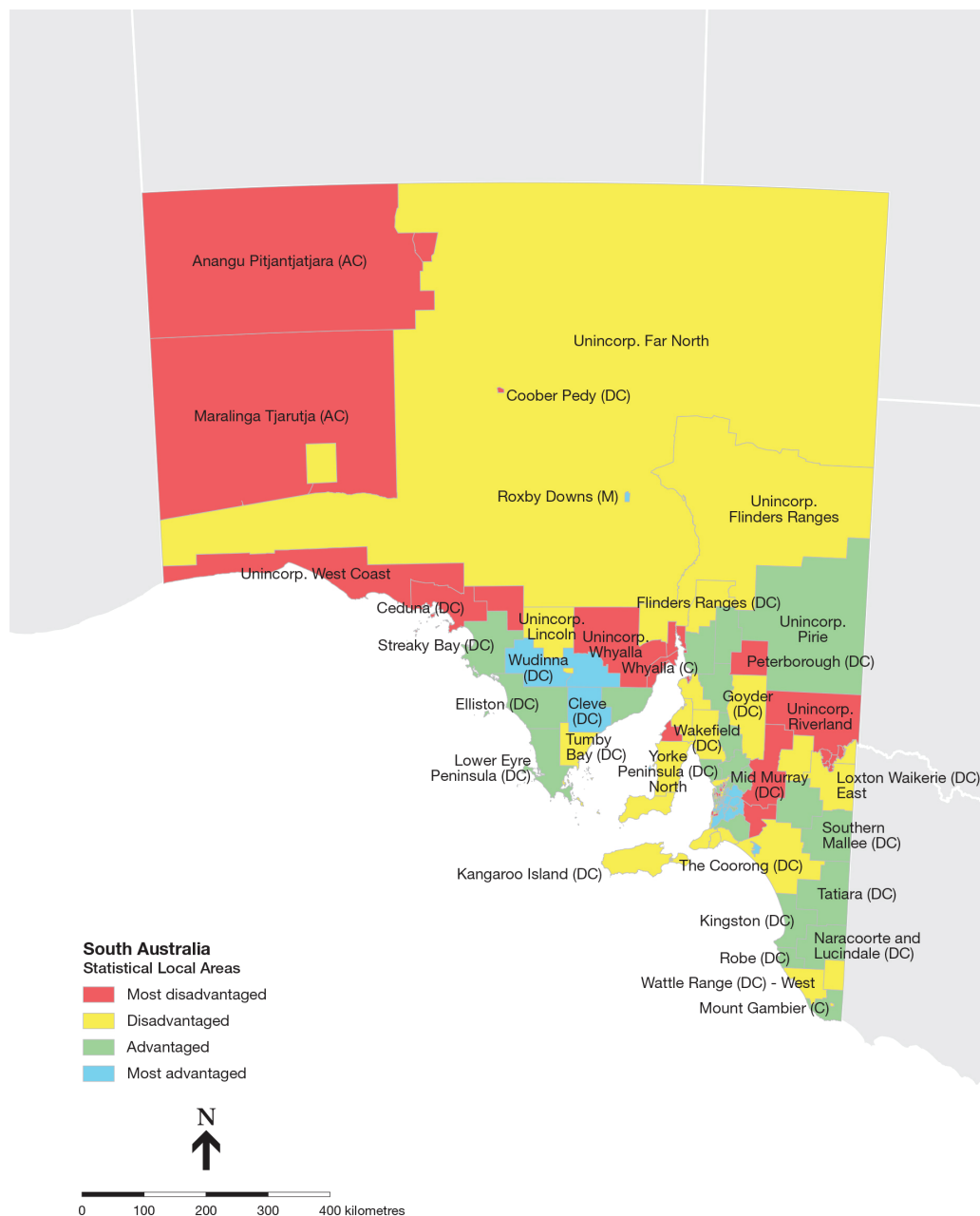
Of the state's 40 most disadvantaged SLAs in **Dropping off the Edge 2015**, 31 were also found to be in the top six bands of disadvantage in the 2007 study (see table opposite). It can also be seen that disadvantage is prominent in many remote communities.

Most disadvantaged SLAs in South Australia – comparison with previous years

(Bands illustrate the severity of disadvantage experienced by a location with Band 1 being most severe. Locations listed alphabetically within bands.)

Band	Statistical Local Areas Arranged alphabetically	Estimated Population (2011)	Band in 2007 ¹
BAND 1	Anangu Pitjantjatjara	2,440	
	Cooper Pedy	1,695	✓ (B1)
	Maralinga Tjarutja	73	
	Peterborough	1,731	✓ (B1)
	Playford – Elizabeth	25,243	✓ (B1)
	Unincorporated Whyalla	211	
BAND 2	Ceduna	2,642	✓ (B3)
	Playford – West Central	16,294	✓ (B2)
	Port Adelaide – Enfield – Park	382	✓ (B2)
	Port Augusta	13,985	✓ (B2)
	Port Pirie City Districts – City	17,333	✓ (B2)
	Unincorporated West Coast	635	
BAND 3	Berri & Barmera – Berri	4,103	✓ (B4)
	Copper Coast	12,949	✓ (B2)
	Murray Bridge (RC)	13,892	✓ (B1)
	Onkaparinga – North Coast	2,534	✓ (B1)
	Renmark Paringa – Renmark	7,491	✓ (B3)
	Salisbury – Central	28,485	✓ (B3)
BAND 4	Berri & Barmera – Barmera	4,103	✓ (B2)
	Port Adelaide Enfield Inner	539	✓ (B3)
	Port Adelaide Enfield (C) – Port	355	✓ (B2)
	Salisbury – Inner North	9,277	✓ (B4)
	Whyalla	3,733	✓ (B3)
	Yorke Peninsula (DC) – North	7,049	✓ (B5)
BAND 5	The Coorong	5,525	✓ (B5)
	Goyder	4,162	✓ (B4)
	Loxton Waikerie West	4,332	✓ (B6)
	Mid Murray	8,136	✓ (B2)
	Onkaparinga Hackham	14,093	✓ (B4)
	Yorke Peninsula South	7,049	✓ (B4)
BAND 6	Barunga West	2,457	✓ (B6)
	East Murray Karoonda	1,032	
	Mount Gambier	25,247	✓ (B6)
	Port Lincoln	14,088	✓ (B5)
	Port Pirie City Districts – Balance	3,511	✓ (B6)
	Wakefield	6,662	✓ (B5)

¹No comparative data available if left blank



Source data used provided by ABS and relevant
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Persistent communal disadvantage in Australia

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