

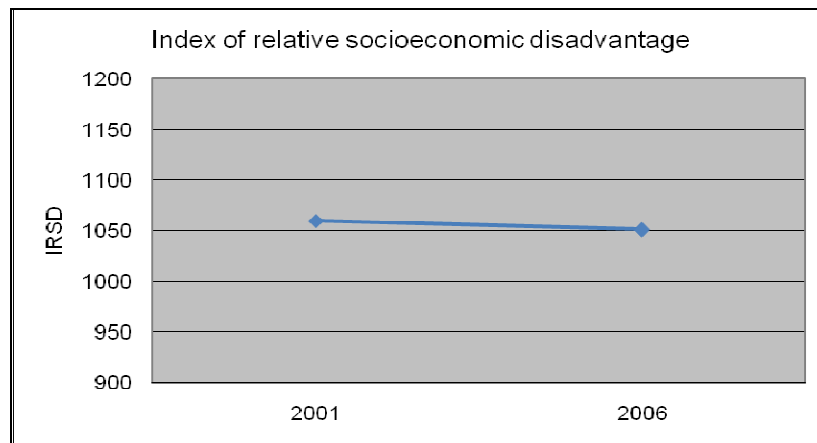
Population - socio economic status

What are we monitoring?

The proportion of residents who are disadvantaged socio economically

What is the trend?

The proportion of disadvantaged residents in the Blue Mountains LGA has increased slightly between 2001 and 2006 as measured by the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD). The IRSD provides an indication of the proportion of disadvantaged people within a population. It is derived from Census variables like low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles. Relative socioeconomic disadvantage in an LGA is measured over time and ranked against all LGA's in NSW. It is important to note that a high score on this index indicates a lack of disadvantage rather than a high level of advantage. The Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD) for the Blue Mountains Local Government Area fell between the 2001 census and the 2006 census (that is, the proportion of disadvantaged residents has increased slightly). The rank of Blue Mountains LGA in NSW was 130 in 2006. This ranking of 130 out of 152 LGAs is relatively high. Brewarrina in Western NSW is ranked 1 (highest level of disadvantage) with Mosman in Sydney ranked 152 (lowest level of disadvantage).



Year	2001	2006
Blue Mountains IRSD	1060	1051

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Monitoring the index of relative socioeconomic disadvantage of the Blue Mountains LGA allows comparisons to be made between this LGA and others in the wider Sydney region and Australia. It is possible to see, that compared to most other LGAs, Blue Mountains LGA has a relatively low level of disadvantage. IRSD can also be used for other applications such as research into the relationship between socio-economic status and various health and educational outcomes, determining areas that require funding and services, and identifying new business opportunities.

Source: Australian Census Products – Socio-Economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA) – 2001, 2006