



Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee

2/80 Park Road
Nowra NSW 2541

SHOALHAVEN ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE 2026-2028 ACTION PLAN

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The Shoalhaven Antipoverty Committee is committed to working with all community members to address the issues that cause poverty and to foster a healthy, thriving, inclusive and sustainable community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to all the organisations, individuals and community members who have worked with us to contribute to creating a healthy, thriving, inclusive and sustainable community.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution that members of the Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee have made to create this action plan.

Acknowledgement of Country

Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands and waters of Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the contribution they make to this region and our country.

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WHO WE ARE

The Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee (SAPC) is a coalition of interested Non-Government Organisations, Government Agencies and local residents committed to working with community members to address the issues that cause poverty within the Shoalhaven for individuals and communities; and to foster a healthy, thriving, inclusive and sustainable community.

We have worked together since 2007 to raise community awareness about local issues of poverty and identify, develop and implement or support local solutions which can be easily implemented and measured.

SAPC's objectives are to:

- Identify, advocate for and implement strategies and solutions to address poverty.
- Mitigate the impacts of poverty by raising awareness through strength-based initiatives.
- Facilitate opportunities for people to actively participate in a healthy community to feel connected, safe and included; and
- Support place making initiatives that strengthen our local community.

SAPC define poverty as being both deprivation ('missing out') and social exclusion ('left out'). This definition of poverty has provided the Committee with a framework for identifying poverty within the local community, understanding the nature and impact of poverty on individuals, families and communities and guiding us in developing our action plans.

Strength-based initiatives are programs or activities that focus on people's abilities, knowledge and capabilities. These initiatives build on what individuals and communities already do well to support positive and sustainable outcomes.

Place making initiatives aim to strengthen the connection between people and the places they share which enhance community connection and belonging.



"... we believe that there is no other way society will achieve large-scale progress against the urgent and complex problems of our time, unless a collective impact approach becomes the accepted way of doing business."

John Kania & Mark Kramer

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee are proud to have been working with the local community to effect positive changes by raising community awareness about poverty and supporting local projects. Some highlights of the committees' work from 2022-2025 include:

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FUND

The Fund was established by SACP in 2024 to provide opportunities for individuals, families and communities to participate in new community projects to support them to be connected and to belong. In 2024 and 2025, more than 70 Shoalhaven residents took part in wellbeing workshops and social connection events thanks to \$4,000 in funding. The projects were run by YWCA Australia, ROCC for Women, Interchange Shoalhaven and Basin Shores Community Association. These projects consisted of four wellbeing workshops and five social events and were made possible through the generous donation of \$4,713 received by SACP from the Nowra Makers Markets Committee between 2022 and 2025.



SHOALHAVEN NOURISH AND NUTURE DRIVE

As part of Anti-Poverty Week 2025, the Committee ran a donation drive, collecting forty-eight boxes of hygiene and non-perishable food items to support individuals and families experiencing hardship across the Shoalhaven region.

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, the donations were distributed to Nowra Community Food Store, Shoalhaven Homeless Hub, Safe Waters Community Care and the Ulladulla Community Resource Centre. Each organisation plays a vital role in assisting people facing poverty, homelessness and financial stress.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Three community events were delivered in partnership with Southern Cross Housing with over 500 people attending. The events provided an opportunity for the community from East Nowra and the surrounding suburbs to come together and celebrate. The events featured a variety of children's activities, a free BBQ, tea and coffee, face painting and live performances with Community Organisations on site to provide people with information and resources about the services and supports they offer.

RESOURCES

The *Managing Your Money Well* website was updated, providing a resource to assist our community to better understand how to manage their money and make smart financial decisions.

Website: <https://managingyourmoneywell.org.au/>

Our Community News, a quarterly community newsletter, continued to be produced by volunteers to inform the community about available services and support, share information to help community members understand their rights and highlight health and wellbeing resources.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

To guide the work of the SAPC the committee establishes an action plan on a regular basis. The action plan sets out what we aim to achieve by working collectively at a local level over the long term.

The *2026-2028 Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Action Plan* (Action Plan) and Operational Plan have been created through consultation with members of the committee, and it continues to hold at its heart a desire to see the eradication of poverty in our region.

The guiding documents that will inform the work undertaken during 2026–2028 include two components:

1. Action Plan
2. Operational plan.

The structure of the Action Plan includes:

- *A Mission statement* which identifies the four key themes incorporated into the plan,
- *4 Indicators* to measure ourselves against during the 2026-2028 Action plan period and
- *Strategies* which show what we want to do to make a difference.

The structure of the Operational Plan includes:

- *Actions* we will take to achieve our strategy,
- Who will be the *lead organisation/s* of the action, and
- *Key performance indicators* (KPI) which are a measure used to evaluate how effective we have been at achieving our actions.

The SAPC operates in accordance with its Terms of Reference which have been established by the Committee and are reviewed on a regular basis.

2026-2028 ACTION PLAN

Mission

To work collaboratively to empower communities through **Community Connections, Health, Safety and Lifelong learning** opportunities.

1. Individuals, families and communities have access to opportunities to be connected and belong.

- **Strategies**
- Provide opportunities for residents to participate in community projects and events.

2. Access to opportunities that promote healthy lifestyle choices.

- **Strategies**
- Promote healthy lifestyle programs/projects.
- Encourage healthier community behaviours around alcohol, other drugs and gambling.
- Support Food Security initiatives.

3. Promote community lead solutions that enhance safety, wellbeing and trust.

- **Strategies**
- Support programs that promote safety in the community.
- Advocate for enough suitable, safe housing options for everyone.

4. Increasing opportunities to participate in lifelong learning.

- **Strategies**
- Encourage carers to be actively engaged in their child's learning.
- Identify and promote lifelong learning opportunities to the community.
- Community members are financially competent and stable.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

INDICATOR ONE

Individuals, families and communities have access to opportunities to be connected and belong.

What SAPC will do in 2026- 2028.

1.1 Provide opportunities for residents to participate in community projects and events.			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
1.1.1	Offer funding, by utilising donations received from Nowra Makers Markets, for new initiatives by establishing a SAPC small grants round and deliver a 'How to apply grant clinic' to support local projects.	Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services (SNS) & Subcommittee	2 grants of up to \$1,500 allocated Deliver 1 'How to apply grant clinic'
1.1.2	Support and promote community and service provider led projects.	Headspace & SNS	10 projects are promoted per year
1.1.3	Create opportunities for social participation (e.g Prosperity in the Park, Family fun days etc).	All members	Host 1 event
1.1.4	Continue to support Nowra Makers Markets (NMM) and provide Public Liability insurance coverage for their markets.	SNS	Maintain Public liability Insurance Contact NMM committee biannually
1.1.5	Paint Shoalhaven REad Black and Yellow: Embed the project into community-based activities to improve childhood literacy.	Cullunghutti	1 event per year
1.1.6	Promote awareness of SAPC and member organisations program initiatives and activities to school wellbeing hubs in the Shoalhaven.	All members	1 program promoted per year

INDICATOR TWO

Access to opportunities that promote healthy lifestyle choices.

What SAPC will do in 2026- 2028.

2.1 Promote healthy lifestyle programs/projects			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
2.1.1	Promote health initiatives and health-based training through newsletters, social media and community education sessions.	SNS, Headspace & Health Promotion Service, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (HP)	Promote 1 health initiative per quarter
2.1.2	Promote Mental Health referral pathways with a focus on early intervention programs.	SNS & Headspace	1 Newsletter dedicated to Mental health (SNS) Promote referral pathways in regular newsletters

2.2 Encourage healthier community behaviours around alcohol, other drugs and gambling			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
2.2.1	Provide gamble aware resources and Alcohol and other Drug (AOD) service information to community members.	All members	Resources available at community events

2.3 Support Food Security initiatives			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
2.3.1	Form a subcommittee to organise and run the Nourish and Nurture donation drive.	South Coast & Country Community Law (SC&CCL)	Subcommittee formed and annual donation drive held
2.3.2	Promote food security initiatives through newsletters, social media and community education sessions.	SNS, Headspace & HP	Promote 1 food security initiative per quarter
2.3.3	Promote community gardens. (E.g. Nowra East Public School (NEPS) Community garden & Jim DaSilva farm).	SNS & Headspace	Promote 1 community garden per quarter
2.3.4	Share information from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Food Futures Taskforce (ISFFT) working towards ensuring that every individual in our region has access to healthy, sustainable, and culturally appropriate food.	HP	Update from ISFFT per quarter. Relevant initiatives tabled at SAPC meetings for consideration
2.3.5	Keep informed about the establishment of a Regional Food Hub in Wollongong.	HP	Provide updates every quarter
2.3.6	Produce a printable one-two pager publication listing Free meals and low-cost meals for the following areas in the Shoalhaven region: Nowra, Bay & Basin and Southern Shoalhaven. Liaise with Food Fairness Illawarra to update their resources to include the whole of the Shoalhaven.	HP	Publications produced and circulated during Anti-Poverty week 2026 Publications available online

INDICATOR THREE

Promote community lead solutions that enhance safety, wellbeing and trust.

What SAPC will do in 2026- 2028.

3.1 Support programs that promote safety in the community			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
3.1.1	Consult with CALD communities to find out how the SAPC can support the development of strategies to improve direct service provision for clients.	SC&CCL	1 consultation session held
3.1.2	Safety initiatives/articles promoted through newsletters, social media and community education sessions.	SNS & SC&CCL	1 initiative promoted/held per year
3.1.3	Share program information from services working to reduce violence in the community	SC&CCL	Update from SDAFVC per meeting.

3.2 Advocate for enough suitable, safe housing options for everyone			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
3.2.1	Advocate for additional transitional housing in the Shoalhaven Region.	Southern Cross Housing (SCH)	Write letter and meet with local and federal members of parliament.

INDICATOR FOUR

Increasing opportunities to participate in lifelong learning

What SAPC will do in 2026- 2028.

4.1 Encourage carers to be actively engaged in their child's learning			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
4.1.1	Identify and support programs working with children that encourage parental engagement.	SNS	3 programs supported per year
4.1.2	Promote programs in 'Our Community News' Newsletter. SAPC member organisations promote engagement in programs.	SNS	Each edition of 'Our Community News' Newsletter features information on programs. Member Orgs promote activities
4.2 Identify and promote lifelong learning opportunities to the community			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
4.2.1	Promote fee free or fee reduced training initiatives e.g Jobtrainer, U3A.	TAFE	3 initiatives promoted per year
4.2.2	Provide Volunteering opportunities that enhance skill development.	SNS	1 volunteer opportunity provided per year
4.2.3	Support Student placements.	SNS & Headspace	1 student placement per year per organisation.
4.3 Community members are financially competent and stable			
Item #	Action to be taken	Lead Organisation	KPI
4.3.1	Maintain, update and promote the 'Managing your money well' website.	SC&CCL	Website is updated as needed
4.3.2	Promote sustainable financial options for community members to access i.e Rent start bond loan, Service NSW's savings finder.	SCH & SNS	6 initiatives promoted per year
4.3.3	Advocate for continuation of funded financial advice, support and training services (i.e Financial Counselling).	All members	Write letter and meet with local and federal members of parliament, FCAN and Department of Fair Trading.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following list describes the abbreviations and acronyms used throughout this document.

Abbreviation	Meaning
AOD	Alcohol and other drugs
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
Cullunghutti	Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child and Family Centre
FCAN	Financial Counsellors' Association of NSW Inc
Headspace	headspace Nowra
ISFFT	Illawarra Shoalhaven Food Futures Taskforce
HP	Health Promotion Service, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NEPS	Nowra East Public School
NMM	Nowra Makers Markets
SAPC	Shoalhaven Anti-Poverty Committee
SC&CCL	South Coast & Country Community Law
SCH	Southern Cross Housing
SDAFVC	Shoalhaven Domestic and Family Violence Committee
SNS	Shoalhaven Neighbourhood Services
TAFE	TAFE NSW Nowra