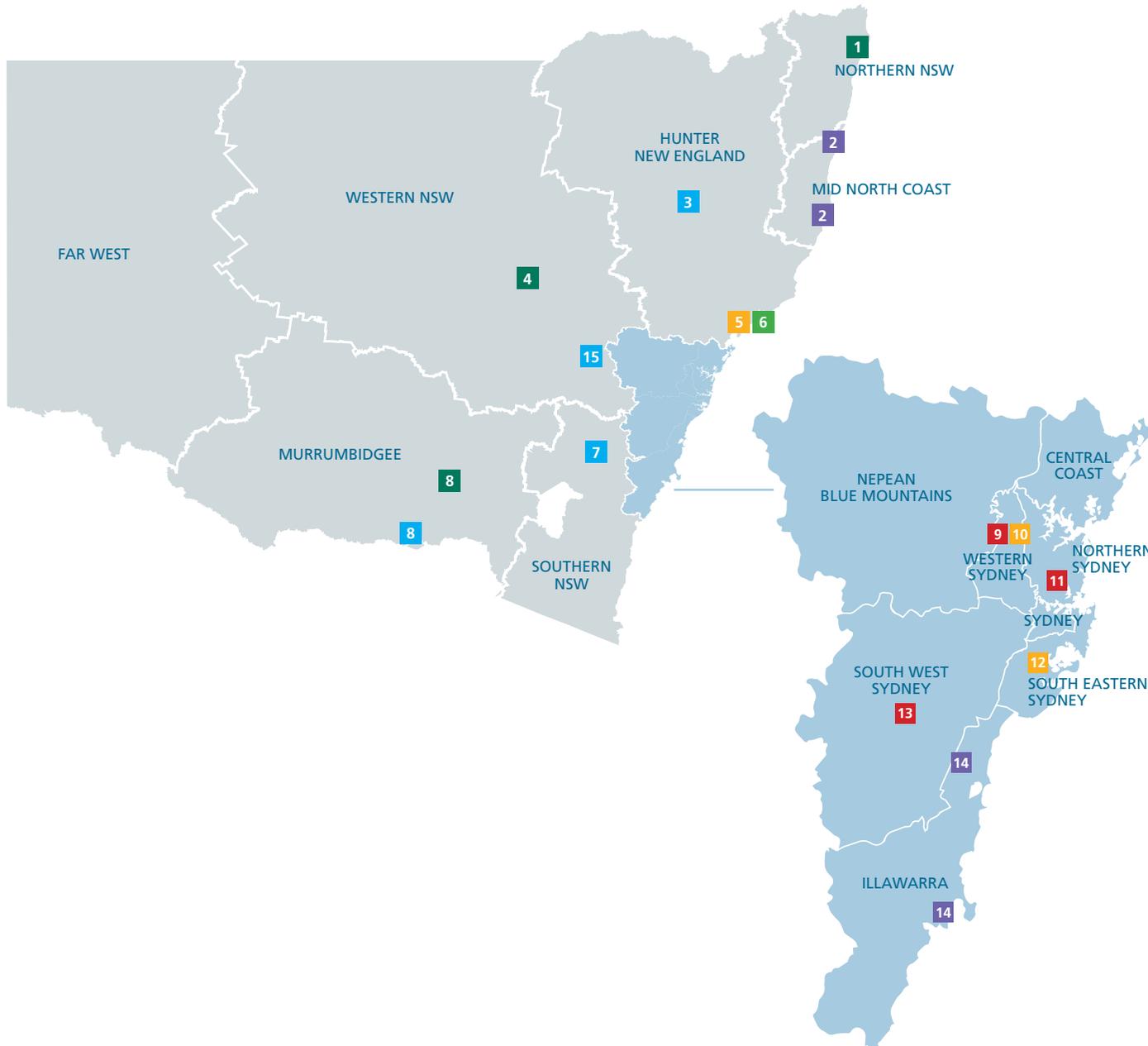


The NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP)



KEY

- Paediatric BIRP (incl. acute/sub-acute in-reach and community)
- Adult BIRP (incl. inpatient, TLP and community)
- Adult BIRP (incl. TLP and community)
- Rural BIRP: Adult and paediatric staff (incl. TLP and community)
- Rural BIRP: Adult and paediatric staff (community only)
- Rural BIRP: Adult staff (community only)

Specialised Brain Injury Rehabilitation Services in NSW

- 1 Northern, Ballina
- 2 Mid North Coast, Coffs Harbour
- 2 Mid North Coast, Port Macquarie
- 3 New England, Tamworth
- 4 Dubbo, Lourdes Hospital
- 5 Kaleidoscope, Newcastle
- 6 Hunter, Newcastle
- 7 Southern Area, Goulburn
- 8 South West, Albury
- 8 South West, Wagga Wagga
- 9 Westmead
- 10 Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Westmead
- 11 Royal Rehab, Ryde
- 12 Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Randwick
- 13 Liverpool
- 14 Illawarra, Port Kembla
- 14 Illawarra, Nowra
- 15 Mid Western, Bathurst

The NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program (BIRP)

The NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program provides a continuum of specialist clinical services for children, young people and adults of working age with a hospital admission for a significant traumatic acquired brain injury (TBI).

Specialised TBI rehabilitation is characterised by early intervention aimed to maximise recovery following trauma and effectively manage the distinctly different challenges that often confront people with TBI and their families during the short and longer term stages of recovery, rehabilitation and social integration. Research shows that people with TBI who receive care in specialist services achieve more positive outcomes over the short and long-term, with correspondingly lower levels of morbidity.

A number of factors necessitate this specialised approach.

- The disability associated with brain injury is profound, multi-faceted and unique to each individual.
- The consequences of brain injury extend beyond the purely physical, which themselves can be very serious, to affect thinking and social skills needed for relationships, independent living, playing, learning, working and overall quality of life.
- People 15-34 years of age incur most TBI and will generally live as long as the general population. For those with severe long-term disability there will be lifelong care and support needs and social participation consequences.
- The mechanism of the injury itself is a key factor in what makes rehabilitation different for people with TBI from other neurological brain injury. Depending on the type and velocity of the forces affecting the brain, different areas throughout the whole brain are affected. This adds to the complexity of maximising recovery and need to implement rehabilitation programs that expand the physical/functional rehabilitation focus to include the cognitive, behaviour and psychosocial aspects of the person, their family and community.

- Clients and families benefit from working collaboratively with BIRP staff to negotiate unfamiliar service systems to achieve their rehabilitation goals for everyday living. BIRP teams are able to assist in engaging with government and non-government agencies to access needed services, meet reporting requirements for insurers or employers, submit requests for funds, rehabilitation and service approvals.

15 BIRPs are located in NSW Local Health Districts (LHDs) for the population of NSW and ACT. Seven are located in Sydney and Newcastle metropolitan areas with eight BIRPs in key regional centres (see map). They provide an integrated client driven approach to service delivery that is responsive to the needs and wishes of the client and family. All BIRPs include case management services.

Referral to BIRP teams

Metropolitan BIRPs are usually the first point of contact for Trauma Hospitals as a continuum of recovery and client centred planning following hospital admission. Decisions are made collaboratively to determine the need for inpatient, transitional or community based rehabilitation. At this point, most will be admitted to a metropolitan BIRP, however, depending on the types of programs being delivered and client/family rehabilitation and care needs, some will be referred directly to their local rural BIRP or later transition to a BIRP closer to where they live.

To manage changing needs and goals over time, the client and/or their family can be referred to their local BIRP community team for review at any time post severe TBI. Some paediatric clients will transition to adult BIRP services.

See Table for contact details.



More information on the Network and the types of programs delivered are available at www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/networks/brain-injury-rehabilitation

Seven BIRPs are located in metropolitan Sydney and Newcastle. Eight are located in regional NSW.

BIRP contact numbers	
Dubbo	6841 8500
Hunter	4924 5600
Illawarra and Shoalhaven	4223 8470
Kaleidoscope Newcastle	4925 7963
Kids Rehab Children's Hospital Westmead	9845 2132
Liverpool	8738 5495
Mid North Coast	
– Coffs Harbour	6659 2300
– Port Macquarie	6584 3300
Mid Western	6330 5114
New England	6767 8350
Northern	6620 6361
Rehab2Kids Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick	9382 0178
Royal Rehab, Ryde	9807 1144
Southern Area	4823 7911
South West	6041 9902
Westmead	9845 7941

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