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Allied health workforce 2012

NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SERIES No. 5

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Authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing

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NUMBER 5

Allied health workforce

2012

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The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency which provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's mission is *authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing*.

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Contents

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council
AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGC RA	Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area
ATSIHPBA	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia
CBA	Chiropractic Board of Australia
CMBA	Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
CT	computed tomography
FTE	full-time equivalent
HWA	Health Workforce Australia
MRPBA	Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
NHWDS	National Health Workforce Data Set
NRAS	National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
OBA	Optometry Board of Australia
OPBA	Osteopathy Board of Australia
OTBA	Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
PBA	Pharmacy Board of Australia
PDBA	Podiatry Board of Australia
PTBA	Physiotherapy Board of Australia
PYBA	Psychology Board of Australia
RA	remoteness area
VET	vocational education and training

Symbols

+	and over
–	nil or rounded to zero
. .	not applicable (category/data item does not apply)
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality or other concerns about the quality of the data

Notes

1. Numbers in tables may not sum to the totals shown due to the estimation procedure to adjust for non-response (see Appendix B). As a result, the estimated numbers of allied health practitioners may be fractions, but are rounded to whole numbers for publication.
2. Percentages in tables may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
3. Italic type within a table denotes a subtotal.

Summary

Registered allied health practitioners

This report presents information on the allied health workforce, based on estimates derived from the National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners 2012. Data for 2011 are presented in Appendix A. This is the first report on the 11 allied health practitioners following the introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2010. The professions included are: psychologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, medical radiation practitioners, optometrists, chiropractors, Chinese medicine practitioners, podiatrists, osteopaths, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

In 2012, the total number of allied health practitioners registered in Australia was 126,788, of whom 29,387 (23.2%) were psychologists. There were 27,025 (21.3%) pharmacists, 23,934 (18.9%) physiotherapists, 14,307 (11.3%) occupational therapists, 13,376 (10.5%) medical radiation practitioners, 4,564 (3.6%) optometrists, 4,533 (3.6%) chiropractors, 3,885 (3.1%) Chinese medicine practitioners, 3,783 (3.1%) podiatrists, 1,729 (1.4%) osteopaths and 265 (0.2%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners registered.

The proportion of registered practitioners actively employed in their profession ranged from 76.2% for psychologists to 92.3% for podiatrists.

The number of registered practitioners increased between 2011 and 2012 for all professions, where there were data for both years. The full-time equivalent (FTE) rate of practitioners employed also increased slightly for all professions, with the exception of optometrists, where the FTE rate was steady.

Employed registered allied health practitioners

Most allied health professions had more women employed than men. The exceptions were chiropractors and optometrists (34.8% and 48.2% women respectively). The professions with the highest proportion of women were occupational therapists (91.5%), psychologists (76.7%) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (71.9%).

For all professions, the average age of those employed was between 37 and 47. The practitioners with the youngest average age were occupational therapists (36.8), while Chinese medicine practitioners had the oldest (47.0).

The average working week of all employed allied health practitioners ranged from 31.8 hours for Chinese medicine practitioners to 40.5 hours for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. Chinese medicine practitioners had the largest proportion working part time (less than 35 hours a week) at 51.5%, followed by chiropractors at 48.8%.

Nearly all employed chiropractors were working in private practice (97.0% of clinicians and 95.3% of all employed chiropractors). This was also the case for osteopaths, with 97.0% of clinicians and 94.9% of all employed osteopaths working in private practice.

All but one of the allied health professions had the highest rate of FTE practitioners working in *Major cities*. The exception was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, where the highest FTE rate was in *Remote/Very remote* areas.

The summary table below shows selected characteristics across the range of practitioners employed in their registered profession.

Summary table: Employed registered allied health practitioners[(a)], by practitioner type, selected characteristics, 2012

Practitioner type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Major cities[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]	Part time (<35 hours) (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(d)]
Psychologist	22,404	45.6	26.9	76.7	82.1	45.0	32.6	84.7
Pharmacist[(e)]	21,331	39.7	16.7	58.2	76.1	32.8	35.9	88.7
Physiotherapist[(f)]	20,081	38.6	12.4	68.8	80.3	37.0	34.2	79.7
Occupational therapist[(g)]	7,231	36.8	8.0	91.5	76.6	40.1	33.1	44.9
Medical radiation practitioner[(h)(i)]	7,806	39.1	14.7	66.7	82.9	30.1	34.4	46.5
Optometrist[(f)]	4,066	41.2	15.4	48.2	78.1	30.9	36.1	17.0
Chiropractor	4,029	41.2	15.2	34.8	75.3	48.8	33.3	15.5
Chinese medicine practitioner	3,580	47.0	28.5	52.3	87.8	51.5	31.8	13.2
Podiatrist[(j)]	3,491	37.6	8.2	n.p.	75.6	32.7	36.4	14.7
Osteopath[(j)]	1,543	38.8	13.2	n.p.	82.3	39.8	35.7	6.4
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[(k)]	233	44.4	18.8	71.9	2.9	10.5	40.5	1.1

(a) Excludes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC *Major cities* region (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(e) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a small proportion of pharmacists from Victoria were missing information about their sex. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(f) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of physiotherapists and optometrists from South Australia were missing information about their sex.

(g) Due to transitional arrangements, many occupational therapists in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia were not required to renew their registrations and, as a result did not complete a workforce survey. As a consequence, data for Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia are excluded.

(h) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners from the Australian Capital Territory were missing information about their sex.

(i) Due to transitional arrangements, many medical radiation practitioners in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania were not required to renew their registrations and, as a result did not complete a workforce survey. As a consequence, data for Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania are excluded.

(j) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of podiatrists and osteopaths were missing information about their sex. As a result, national data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(k) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

1 Introduction

Access to reliable, comprehensive, timely and nationally consistent trend data are required to understand the current health labour force and for workforce planning. The size, distribution and expertise of the health workforce are of keen interest to governments, educators, health-care providers and the community. There is particular interest in changes to the size and composition of the various health professions, and the potential impacts of these changes on health-care delivery.

Recognising this, in 1990 the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to develop national health labour force statistics on the registrable health professions. Since then AIHW has produced a number of reports on these professions largely based on data collected from separate registration bodies in each state and territory and survey data.

In 2009, Health Workforce Australia (HWA) was established by the Council of Australian Governments to tackle the challenges of providing a skilled, flexible and innovative health workforce that meets the needs of the community. In 2010 AHMAC established the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). AHPRA is responsible for the implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) which acts as a central regulatory and registrations body.

This report provides data on the allied health workforce in 2011 and 2012. The body of the report focuses on 2012 while 2011 data are included in Appendix A. This is the first report on the 11 allied health practitioners in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) to use information from the new National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS): allied health workforce (see Box 1.1).

Box 1.1: National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health workforce

The NHWDS combines data from the NRAS with data collected via an optional survey conducted at the time of annual registration or renewal of registration. The mandatory registration process is administered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The information in this report focuses on allied health practitioners who make up the workforce; thus, most of the data exclude those not actively working in the various allied health professions. For this reason, figures in this report are not directly comparable with those on the number of registered allied health practitioners released by the AHPRA (see Appendix C).

An allied health practitioner is a trained professional who works in the health-care team to support a person's medical care. This report uses the term 'allied health practitioners' to mean the groups of professionals listed below although it is recognised that other groups of allied health practitioners exist, for example, paramedics and dental practitioners. Under the national legislation the professions are defined as being those people who are registered by the national boards in conjunction with the AHPRA to practice in those professions. The boards set out standards and eligibility criteria for each profession that need to be met for people to be registered and practice in Australia.

Box 1.1 (continued)

Box 1.1 (continued): National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health workforce

In the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) describes the activities of these professions as follows:

- **Psychologists** investigate, assess and provide treatment and counselling to foster optimal personal, social, educational and occupational adjustment and development.
- **Pharmacists** ensure safe and quality use of medicines, and optimise health outcomes by contributing to selecting, prescribing, monitoring and evaluating medicine therapy, and researching, testing and developing pharmaceuticals and medical products.
- **Physiotherapists** assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease.
- **Occupational therapists** assess functional limitations of people resulting from illnesses and disabilities, and provide therapy to enable people to perform their daily activities and occupations.
- **Medical radiation practitioners** operate high energy X-ray and other radiation and electron generating and monitoring equipment to administer treatment for medical purposes in conjunction with radiologists or other specialist medical practitioners.
- **Optometrists** perform eye examinations and vision tests to determine the presence of visual, ocular and other abnormalities and ocular diseases, and prescribe lenses, other optical aids, therapy and medication to correct and manage vision problems and eye diseases.
- **Chiropractors** diagnose and treat physiological and mechanical disorders of the human body, particularly the neuromuscular skeletal disorders, and provide advice on preventing these disorders.
- **Chinese medicine practitioners** treat imbalances of energy flows through the body by assessing the whole person and using techniques and methods such as acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, massage, diet, exercise and breathing therapy.
- **Podiatrists** prevent, diagnose and treat disorders of the feet.
- **Osteopaths** diagnose and treat tissue strains, stresses and dysfunctions which impede normal neutral, vascular and biochemical mechanisms, and provide advice on preventing these disorders.
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners** assist with the coordination and provision of health-care delivery in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health clinics.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

1.1 Registration of allied health practitioners

Almost all allied health practitioners must be registered with the AHPRA to practise in Australia. This applies to both those who trained in Australia and overseas. The exception is those Aboriginal health workers who are not required by their employer to use a defined list of job titles (for more information see Chapter 13).

The AHPRA manages the NRAS, which replaced state and territory-based registration with a single national registration and accreditation system for health professionals in July 2010. As part of this scheme, the AHPRA supports the National Health Practitioner Boards that are responsible for regulating registered health professions under nationally consistent legislation

(see Box 1.2). Registration for each profession is granted by the relevant boards, subject to applicants meeting the standards and policies set by each. The outcome of an application is either 'registration', 'registration with conditions' or 'rejection'.

Box 1.2: National Health Practitioner Boards

The various Allied Health Boards of Australia (the National Boards) are the national allied health regulators in Australia. These boards are established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) (AHPRA 2012a).

The functions of each allied health profession board include:

- registering practitioners and students
- developing standards, codes and guidelines for the profession
- handling notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings
- assessing overseas-trained practitioners who wish to practice in Australia
- approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study.

State and territory boards were established to support the work of the National Boards. The National Boards set policy and professional standards, and the state and territory boards make notification and registration decisions affecting individual allied health practitioners, based on the national policies and standards (AHPRA 2012b).

At its introduction, the NRAS covered registration for 10 health professions:

- chiropractors
- dental practitioners (including dentists, dental hygienists, dental prosthetists, oral health therapists and dental therapists)
- medical practitioners
- nurses and midwives
- optometrists
- osteopaths
- pharmacists
- physiotherapists
- podiatrists
- psychologists.

On 1 July 2012, the following four health professions were included in the scheme:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners (including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, Chinese herbal dispensers and oriental medicine practitioners)
- medical radiation practitioners (including diagnostic radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists and radiation therapists)
- occupational therapists (AHPRA 2012a).

Due to transitional arrangements between state and territory-based registration and the establishment of the NRAS in 2010 not all practitioners were required to renew their

registration during the normal registration cycle. As a result, very few survey records were received from medical radiation practitioners in Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania, or occupational therapists in Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia.

The type of registration held by allied health practitioners determines (or limits) the work they are licensed to perform. People with limited or provisional registration are excluded from many tables in this report.

1.2 Allied health workforce surveys

When the NRAS was introduced, surveys administered by the AHPRA and developed by HWA, were included as part of the registration renewal process. The surveys are used to provide nationally consistent estimates of the characteristics of each workforce. They provide data not readily available from other sources, such as: the type of work done by, and job setting of, allied health practitioners; the number of hours worked in clinical or non-clinical roles; and the numbers of years worked in, and intending to remain in, the allied health workforce. The surveys also provide information on those registered allied health practitioners who are not undertaking clinical work or who are not employed. Copies of the surveys are available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

Most registered allied health practitioners had general registration. In some professions (psychologists, pharmacists, occupational therapists and medical radiation practitioners) provisional registration is possible. With provisional registration graduates are required to undertake a period of supervised practice and are required to renew registration only after completing their first year. As a result, these registrants are less likely to have completed the workforce survey and are excluded from tables of employed practitioners. For psychologists and pharmacists, sufficient survey records were received to include provisional registrants in weighted survey data; however, there were an insufficient number of survey records for occupational therapists and medical radiation practitioners for the AIHW to be able to generate meaningful survey weighted data.

1.3 Workforce supply

Data on the size and characteristics of the allied health workforce present a valuable profile of each profession, but do not give a complete picture of the overall level of service provided. Some practitioners work part time and others full time; therefore, their relative contributions to the level of service need to be taken into account to measure the overall supply effectively.

To measure overall supply, information on the number hours worked, has been used to calculate a full time equivalent (FTE) number of practitioners, based on a standard full-time working week of 38 hours. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population figures have been used to convert the FTE number to an FTE rate (FTE number per 100,000 population) (see Appendix D).

There are three sources of recruits to the allied health workforce:

- New graduates. This is the main source of new recruits, however the time required for students to complete training and enter the workforce is such that any acute change in the demand for practitioners cannot readily be met quickly by this group.

- The pool of allied health practitioners who have maintained their registration or enrolment, but who are not employed in their relevant field.
- Overseas-trained people who have migrated to Australia.

This report discusses data relevant to the first two sources. Data on migrant, overseas-trained allied health practitioners will become available as the NRAS matures, and details of new entrants are included at each registration renewal.

1.4 Geographic distribution of the workforce

Information on the work location of allied health practitioners is collected in the relevant survey. It is used, in combination with data on hours and population, to examine variability in the supply of allied health practitioners across Australia.

The Remoteness Areas (RA) categories from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (ABS 2011) have been used in this report to show data by geographic region. Using the postcode of their main work location (where available), an allied health practitioner is allocated to one of the following in the ASGC RA: *Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote, Very remote* and *Migratory*. Otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy; if remoteness area of principal practice is unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated' location. In this report, the *Remote, Very remote* and *Migratory* categories have been combined due to small numbers. This applies to all professions except medical radiation practitioners and occupational therapists, where RAs were allocated based on area of principal practice.

1.5 Structure of this report

This report has an introductory chapter summarising the characteristics of those registered across the allied health professions. There is a chapter on each allied health professions, in order of the size of each group. Each chapter covers workforce status and a range of characteristics of those employed in the profession, including demographic characteristics, work setting, working hours and geographic spread. Finally there is a section providing information on sources of new entrants to the profession.

1.6 Additional information

Before the introduction of the NRAS in 2010, allied health practitioner registration numbers were published in annual reports of state and territory boards or councils, for professions that required registration. These figures are now published by the AHPRA (see Appendix C) and are available from the AHPRA website <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>.

An electronic version of this report is available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

2 Composition of the allied health workforce

The professions with the highest number of practitioners in 2012 were psychologists (29,387) and pharmacists (27,025) (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)], by practitioner type (number), 2011 and 2012[(b)]

Practitioner type	2011	2012
Psychologist	28,440	29,387
Pharmacist	26,196	27,025
Physiotherapist	22,874	23,934
Occupational therapist	. .	14,307
Medical radiation practitioner	. .	13,376
Optometrist	4,505	4,564
Chiropractor	4,358	4,533
Chinese medicine practitioner	. .	3,885
Podiatrist	3,579	3,783
Osteopath	1,635	1,729
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[(c)]	. .	265

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) In 2012, four professions joined the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, medical radiation practitioners and occupational therapists.

(c) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Sources: NHWDS: allied health practitioners, 2011 and 2012.

The age profiles of allied health practitioners varied, with occupational therapists having the lowest average age (36.3) and the lowest proportion of practitioners over the age of 55 (7.8%). Chinese medicine practitioners had the highest average age (46.9) and highest proportion of practitioners over the age of 55 (28.2%) (Table 2.2 and figures 2.1 and 2.2).

Table 2.2: Registered allied health practitioners[a], selected characteristics, 2012

Practitioner type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
Psychologist	29,387	43.6	23.5	78.4
Pharmacist[b]	27,025	38.9	16.4	59.5
Physiotherapist[c]	23,934	38.5	12.4	70.2
Occupational therapist	14,307	36.3	7.8	91.9
Medical radiation practitioner	13,376	38.3	13.7	67.6
Optometrist	4,564	41.3	15.7	49.0
Chiropractor	4,533	41.1	15.6	36.1
Chinese medicine practitioner	3,885	46.9	28.2	52.9
Podiatrist[d]	3,783	37.5	7.9	n.p.
Osteopath[d]	1,729	38.5	13.1	n.p.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[e]	265	44.6	17.7	74.3

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

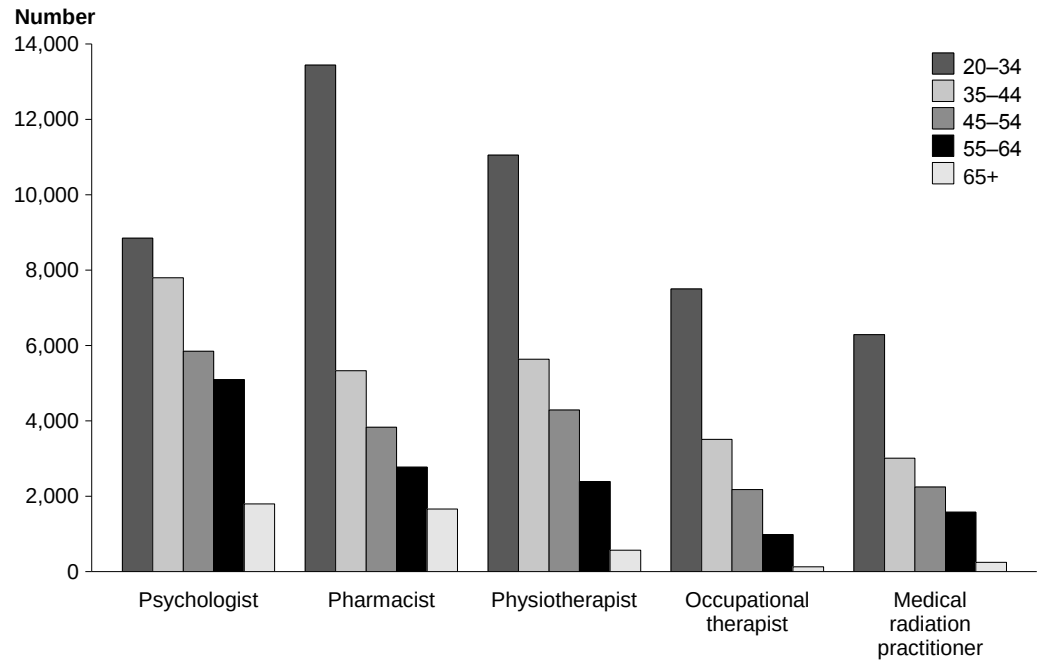
(b) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a small proportion of pharmacists were missing information about their sex. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(c) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of physiotherapists were missing information about their sex.

(d) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of practitioners were missing information about their sex. As a result, national data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(e) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

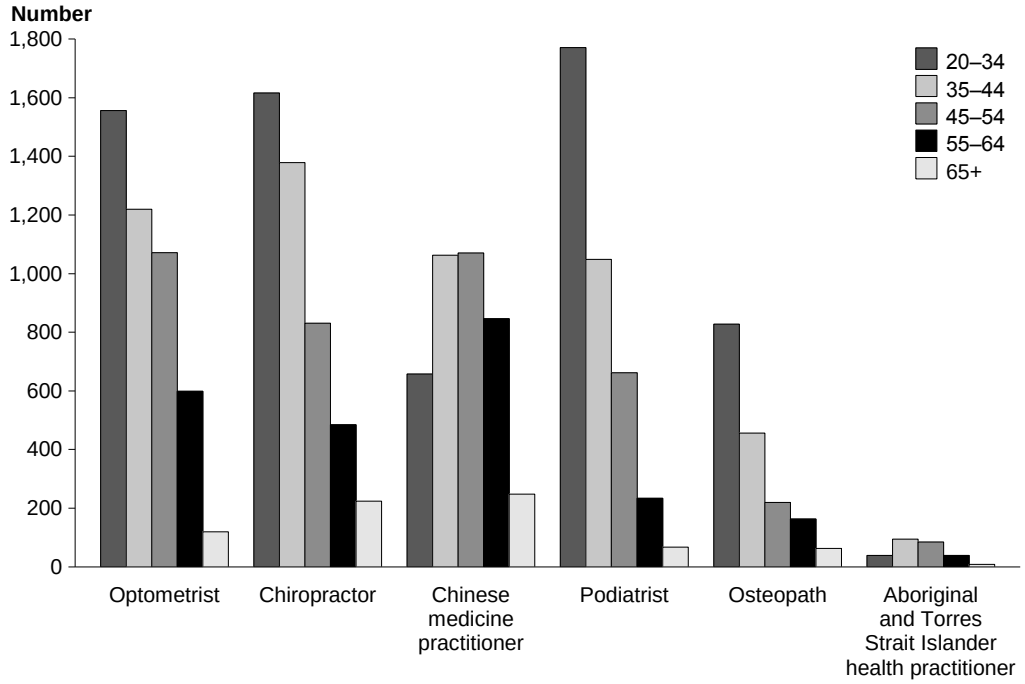
Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.



Note: Data includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 2.1: Registered allied health practitioners, by selected practitioner type and age group, number, 2012



Notes

1. Data includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.
2. Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 2.2: Registered allied health practitioners, by selected practitioner type and age group, number, 2012

For all professions except Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, the number of registered practitioners per 100,000 population was highest in *Major cities*. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners were most prevalent in *Remote/Very remote* areas—a rate 26 times the national average for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (Table 2.3).

For professions other than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, the largest proportional difference between *Remote/Very remote* areas and the national average was for osteopaths, where number of registered practitioners per 100,000 population was only 5% of the national rate.

Table 2.3: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)] per 100,000 population, by practitioner type and remoteness area[(b)], 2012

Practitioner type	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Psychologist	150.5	83.2	62.9	47.8	**129.4**
Pharmacist	128.9	91.9	86.4	60.1	**119.0**
Physiotherapist	117.1	72.6	60.2	50.7	**105.4**
Occupational therapist	68.2	48.3	48.4	23.1	**63.0**
Medical radiation practitioner	65.8	45.8	34.8	19.5	**58.9**
Optometrist	21.7	16.3	11.3	7.0	**20.1**
Chiropractor	20.9	18.9	12.8	7.8	**20.0**
Chinese medicine practitioner	21.2	8.5	5.1	2.5	**17.1**
Podiatrist	17.9	15.8	10.6	5.9	**16.7**
Osteopath	8.6	6.6	2.2	0.4	**7.6**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[(e)]	0.1	0.1	4.1	31.6	**1.2**

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes allied health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their location and those who were overseas.

(e) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

The number of registered practitioners per 100,000 population ranged from 205.4 psychologists in the Australian Capital Territory to extremely low numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (all 0.1). In Victoria there was around double the national rate (per 100,00 population) for osteopaths and in the Northern Territory there was around 78 times the national rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. There were low rates of osteopaths in the Northern Territory (about one twentieth of the national rate (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)] per 100,000 population, by practitioner type, state and territories[(b)], 2012

Practitioner type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Psychologist	135.8	141.2	113.2	127.8	87.3	99.9	205.4	97.8	**129.4**
Pharmacist	114.6	119.2	115.9	120.7	117.9	126.1	121.6	85.9	**119.0**
Physiotherapist	93.8	106.1	98.7	122.1	118.5	78.1	126.2	68.5	**105.4**
Occupational therapist[(d)]	53.1	60.5	65.4	89.5	71.3	45.7	54.7	54.0	**63.0**
Medical radiation practitioner[(e)]	58.1	60.9	60.1	51.0	60.0	50.4	60.5	48.5	**58.9**
Optometrist	21.2	20.7	19.5	15.7	15.2	17.8	20.3	14.0	**20.1**
Chiropractor	20.5	22.0	15.4	21.5	21.7	9.4	15.5	9.8	**20.0**
Chinese medicine practitioner	21.5	19.4	16.4	7.6	9.4	6.1	16.5	6.4	**17.1**
Podiatrist	13.2	21.7	14.2	16.3	22.8	18.0	12.8	6.0	**16.7**
Osteopath	6.9	15.9	3.2	2.2	2.0	8.0	8.3	0.4	**7.6**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[(f)]	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.8	93.1	**1.2**

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes allied health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory and those who were overseas.

(d) Due to transitional arrangements, many occupational therapists in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia were not required to renew their registrations and, as a result did not complete a workforce survey. As a consequence, state/territory of main job was not available, hence numbers of registered occupational therapists in these states should be treated with caution.

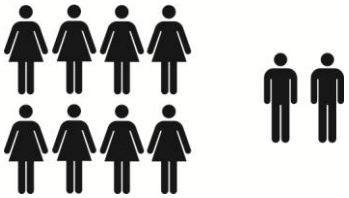
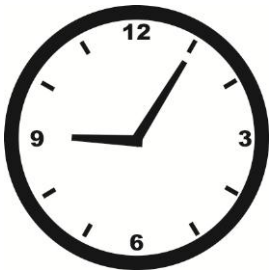
(e) Due to transitional arrangements, many medical radiation practitioners in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania were not required to renew their registrations and, as a result did not complete a workforce survey. As a consequence, state/territory of main job was not available, hence numbers of registered medical radiation therapists in these states should be treated with caution.

(f) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

3 Psychology workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 29,387 registered psychologists, 8,777 of whom were employed in counselling.
	Almost 8 in 10 registered psychologists were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed psychologists was 45.6; 26.9% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed psychologists worked 32.6 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the psychology workforce in Australia. For information about what psychologists do, see Box 3.1

Box 3.1: Services provided by psychologists

Psychologists investigate, assess and provide treatment and counselling to foster optimal personal, social, educational and occupational adjustment and development.

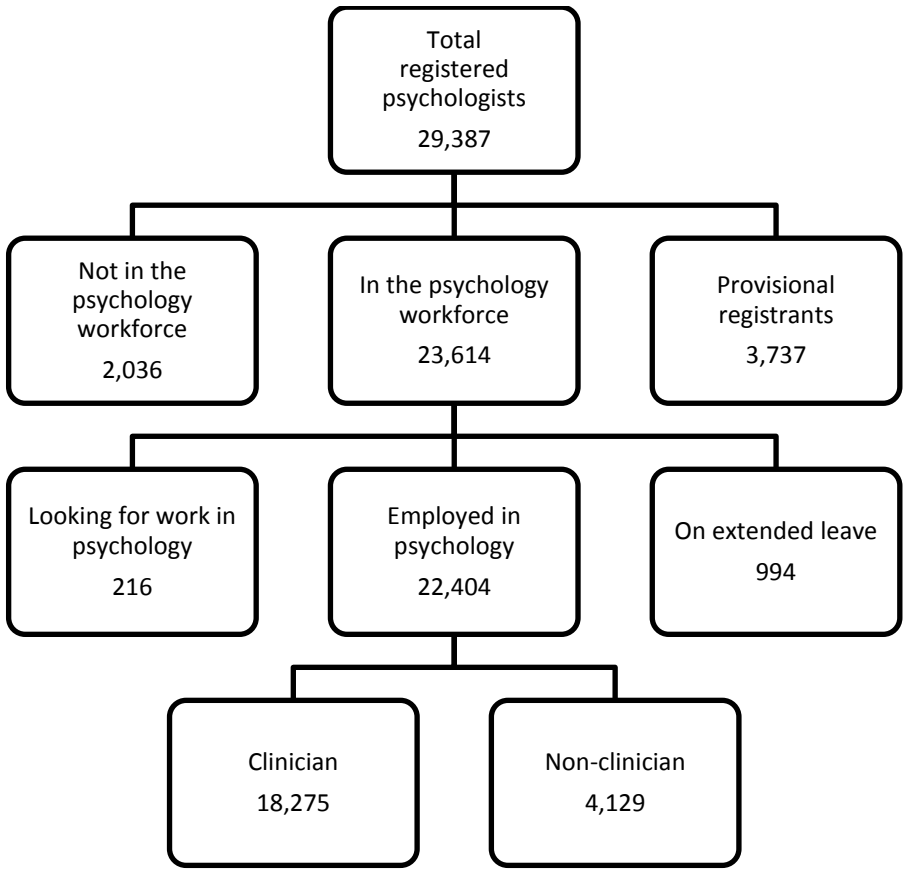
Tasks performed by psychologists include:

- collecting data about clients and assessing their cognitive, behavioural and emotional disorders
- conducting research studies of motivation in learning, group performance and individual differences in mental abilities and educational performance
- administering and interpreting diagnostic tests and formulating plans for treatment.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

3.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 29,387 registered psychologists in Australia. The majority of these were in the psychology workforce (23,614). Of these, 216 were looking for work in psychology and 994 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.9% and 4.2%, respectively, of total registered psychologists currently in the psychology workforce (Figure 3.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 3.1: Registered psychologists: workforce status, 2012

Most registered psychologists held a general registration (24,489), and 3,737 people had provisional registration, where graduates are required to perform for a period of time under supervision (Table 3.1). These registrants are required to renew only after completing their first year, as a result they are less likely to have completed the workforce survey. Although sufficient survey records were received to include provisional registrants in weighted survey data, due to their provisional status, it was decided to exclude them from counts of employed practitioners and from Table 3.2 unless specified.

Table 3.1: Registered psychologists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	24,489	45.3	26.3	77.3
Non-practising	1,161	45.8	31.0	83.2
Provisional	3,737	31.8	2.5	83.6
Total	**29,387**	**43.6**	**23.5**	**78.4**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Of all registered psychologists, the average age of those who held a provisional registration was much lower than for those who held a general registration (31.8 compared with 45.3) (Table 3.1).

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of psychologists in the psychology workforce increased slightly, from 22,807 to 23,614 (3.5%). Of total registered psychologists, the greatest increase (per cent) was for psychologists not in the psychology workforce who were not looking for work in psychology and were employed elsewhere (20.5%). The greatest decrease was for those psychologists looking for work in psychology who were employed elsewhere (11.9%) (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Registered psychologists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the psychology workforce	*22,807*	*23,614*	*3.5*
Employed in psychology	21,537	22,404	4.0
Looking for work in psychology	*210*	*216*	*3.2*
Employed elsewhere	86	76	–11.9
Not employed	123	140	13.8
On extended leave	1,060	994	–6.3
Not in psychology workforce	*1,772*	*2,036*	*14.9*
Overseas	455	480	5.4
Not looking for work in psychology	*1,076*	*1,271*	*18.2*
Employed elsewhere	494	596	20.5
Not employed	582	676	16.2
Retired from regular work	241	285	18.0
Total registered psychologists	**24,579**	**25,650**	**4.4**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health practitioners, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered psychologists in the psychology workforce ranged from 91.2% in New South Wales to 94.7% in the Northern Territory. The number of psychologists looking for work in psychology was highest in New South Wales (83), while it was lowest in the Northern Territory where no psychologists were looking for work (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Registered psychologists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the psychology workforce	*8,152*	*6,285*	*4,212*	*2,523*	*1,193*	*420*	*621*	*198*	*23,614*
Employed in psychology	*7,700*	*5,964*	*4,001*	*2,404*	*1,145*	*404*	*592*	*195*	*22,404*
Clinician[(c)]	6,378	4,851	3,152	1,974	962	339	464	153	18,275
Non-clinician	1,322	1,113	848	430	182	65	128	41	4,129
Looking for work in psychology	*83*	*52*	*47*	*15*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	*216*
Employed elsewhere	34	18	13	6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	76
Not employed	49	35	34	10	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	140
On extended leave	369	268	164	103	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3	994
Not in psychology workforce	*784*	*390*	*244*	*145*	*103*	*31*	*50*	*11*	*2,036*
Overseas	114	61	29	16	16	4	9	2	480
Not looking for work in psychology	*521*	*284*	*184*	*118*	*62*	*17*	*33*	*9*	*1,271*
Employed elsewhere	281	109	100	42	25	5	13	6	596
Not employed	240	175	84	76	37	11	20	3	676
Retired from regular work	150	45	31	11	25	10	7	—	285
Total registered psychologists	**8,937**	**6,675**	**4,456**	**2,668**	**1,296**	**451**	**670**	**209**	**25,650**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the psychology workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to psychologists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

3.2 Psychologists employed in psychology

A person who reported working in psychology in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed psychologist' (see Glossary).

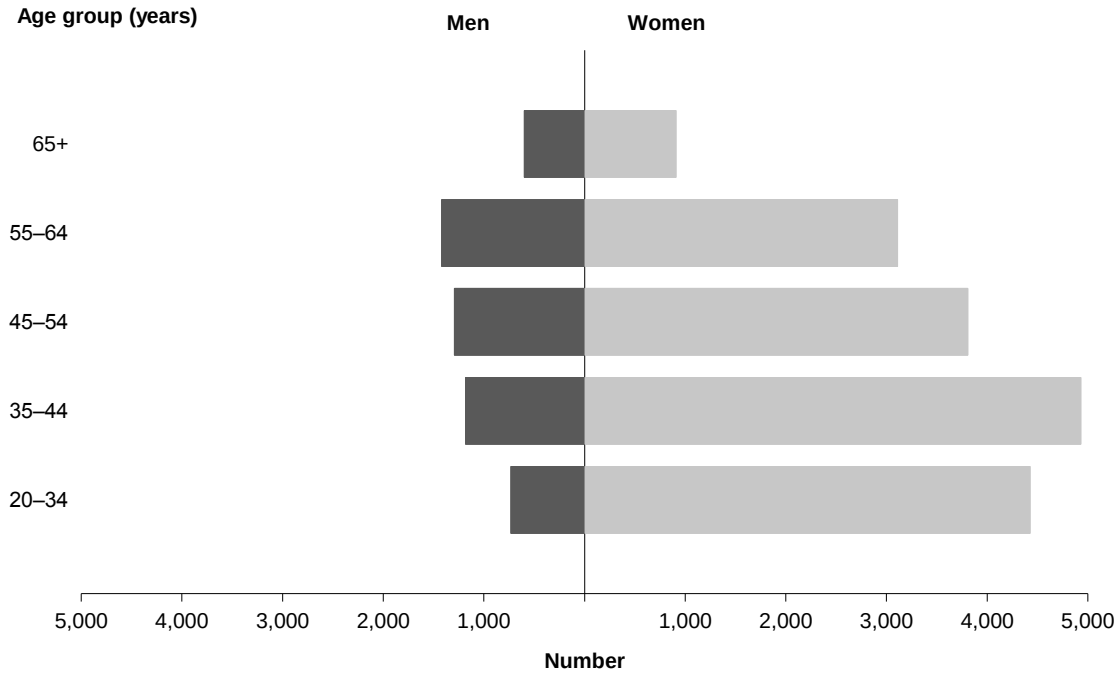
The characteristics and supply of psychologists (not provisionally registered) employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of psychologists increased between 2011 and 2012, from 84.2 FTE per 100,000 population to 84.7 (tables 3.4 and A.6).

Age and sex

In 2012, the average age of employed psychologists was 45.6. Just over three quarters of employed psychologists (76.7%) were women (Table 3.4).

There were more women than men across all age groups, with the most women in the 35–44 age group (4,929), followed by the 20–34 age group (4,426). For male psychologists, the 55–64 age group was the largest (1,420) (Figure 3.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012

Figure 3.2: Number of employed psychologists, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists

There were 103 employed psychologists who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.5% of employed psychologists who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed psychologists, 19,959 received their initial psychology qualification in Australia (89.1%). Those employed psychologists who received their initial qualification in New Zealand or another country reported a higher average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (46.8, 49.6 and 45.4 respectively) (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: Employed psychologists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Australia	19,959	45.4	26.7	77.1	32.6	75.3
New Zealand	224	46.8	29.5	66.1	35.6	0.9
Other country	1,385	49.6	34.5	69.0	32.7	5.2
Not stated/inadequately described	836	41.9	18.4	83.1	33.5	3.2
Total	**22,404**	**45.6**	**26.9**	**76.7**	**32.6**	**84.7**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Fields of psychology

Role in psychology

The principal role in psychology describes the types of work undertaken by employed psychologists. The 2012 survey categorised roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 81.6% of employed psychologists. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 4.2% of employed psychologists (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Employed psychologists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinician[(b)]	18,275	45.4	26.8	78.0	32.3	68.4
Non-clinician	*4,129*	*46.1*	*27.5*	*71.0*	*34.1*	*16.3*
Administrator	1,134	46.6	26.6	69.4	35.1	4.6
Teacher/educator	966	49.6	37.4	67.2	33.9	3.8
Researcher	948	44.3	24.0	71.8	35.4	3.9
Other	1,081	44.2	22.7	75.4	32.3	4.0
Total	**22,404**	**45.6**	**26.9**	**76.7**	**32.6**	**84.7**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Area of psychology

Survey respondents were asked to report the principal area of their main job in psychology in the week before the survey. Seventeen response categories were provided, with only one response allowed. Table 3.6 provides these responses disaggregated by selected characteristics of the respondent, with smaller categories aggregated with 'Other' for confidentiality purposes. Counselling was the most common area of practice, with 39.2% of all employed psychologists working in this area. 'Psychological/mental health intervention' was the next largest category (23.9%) (Table 3.6).

Table 3.6: Employed psychologists: principal area of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal area of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Psychological/mental health intervention	5,355	43.6	22.1	76.3	34.0	21.1
Community engagement/psychology	91	43.1	n.p.	n.p.	32.4	0.3
Psychology management/administration	868	47.0	29.2	73.6	37.0	3.7
Behavioural assessment	778	41.9	17.5	81.1	32.2	2.9
Teaching/supervision	652	49.8	39.2	71.0	34.3	2.6
Consulting/advising for work purposes	786	44.1	21.7	69.4	33.2	3.0
Counselling	8,777	47.4	32.1	78.8	30.6	31.1
Health promotion	66	44.3	n.p.	n.p.	33.5	0.3
Medico-legal assessment	193	48.7	33.1	57.8	36.2	0.8
Neuropsychological/cognitive assessment	973	44.2	23.8	83.1	32.4	3.7
Organisation practices	671	43.3	20.0	67.8	35.4	2.7
Personal development/coaching	237	47.6	29.7	63.1	30.3	0.8
Physical health/rehabilitation	337	41.7	14.7	79.3	34.0	1.3
Recruitment	108	43.6	24.4	67.2	33.9	0.4
Research and projects	705	43.9	22.6	72.9	35.3	2.9
Training for work purposes	158	45.3	27.2	70.4	31.7	0.6
Other	792	44.0	23.1	81.8	33.5	3.1
Not stated/inadequately described	857	45.4	27.2	75.1	33.8	3.4
Total	**22,404**	**45.6**	**26.9**	**76.7**	**32.6**	**84.7**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Endorsements of psychologists

The most common endorsement held by employed psychologists was clinical psychology (5,084), followed by counselling psychology (802). Of psychologists with one endorsement, those who had organisational psychology were least likely to be women (60.7%). Employed psychologists with a clinical neuropsychology endorsement had the youngest average age (42.5) and the lowest proportion over the age of 55 (16.6%). Employed psychologists with a community psychology endorsement had the oldest average age (56.2) and those with a counselling psychology endorsement had highest proportion over the age of 55 (57.0%) (Table 3.7).

All of the top five multiple endorsement combinations included a clinical psychology endorsement.

Table 3.7: Employed psychologists: endorsements, selected characteristics, 2012

Endorsement subtype	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinical psychology	5,084	45.9	26.2	75.9	33.9	20.0
Counselling psychology	802	55.9	57.0	74.5	32.1	3.0
Forensic psychology	414	46.4	31.7	66.3	37.3	1.8
Clinical neuropsychology	446	42.5	16.6	79.4	34.4	1.8
Organisational psychology	339	51.2	39.6	60.7	35.3	1.4
Sport and exercise psychology	77	47.5	n.p.	n.p.	36.3	0.3
Educational and developmental psychology	450	50.8	46.3	82.1	34.6	1.8
Health psychology	225	49.2	36.4	80.0	34.5	0.9
Community psychology	44	56.2	n.p.	n.p.	34.2	0.2
Clinical psychology and forensic psychology	178	50.1	40.2	58.5	38.6	0.8
Clinical psychology and counselling psychology	152	55.2	50.4	70.2	35.4	0.6
Clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology	103	44.8	26.2	82.5	36.5	0.4
Clinical psychology and health psychology	92	49.0	n.p.	n.p.	36.3	0.4
Clinical psychology and educational and developmental psychology	79	51.6	n.p.	n.p.	37.9	0.3
Psychologists with at least one endorsement	7,089	46.8	29.5	75.7	33.8	27.8
All psychologists	**22,404**	**45.6**	**26.9**	**76.7**	**32.6**	**84.7**

Note: Psychologists appear in each line where they have an endorsement and so may be included in more than one endorsement subtype.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Psychologists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in psychology in the week before completing the survey. Private practice (43.5% of clinicians and 37.3% of all employed psychologists) was the most commonly reported work setting. Psychologists working in private practice as their main job worked the fewest hours on average—about 32 hours per week for clinicians and all psychologists (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8: Employed psychologists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

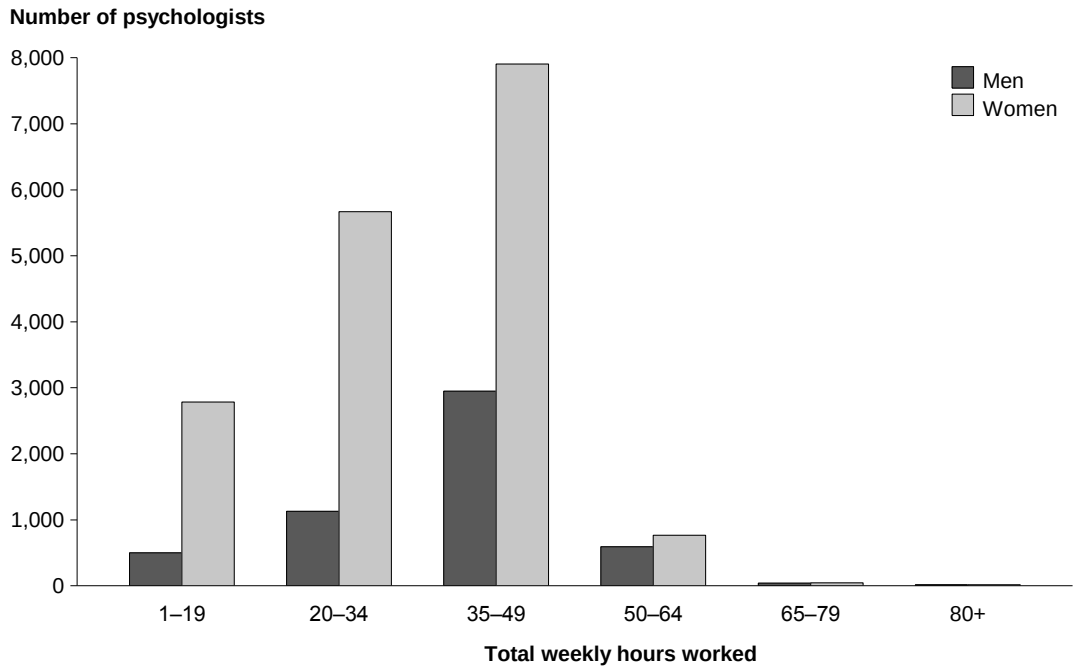
	Clinician[(a)]		Total psychologists	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	7,942	30.4	8,353	30.2
Aboriginal health service	52	33.3	57	33.6
Community health-care services	2,955	34.4	3,307	34.4
Hospital	1,218	34.3	1,427	34.2
Residential health-care services	235	33.1	278	32.9
Commercial/business services	459	34.4	927	34.4
Educational facility	2,739	32.6	4,176	33.8
Correctional services	405	35.6	492	35.2
Defence forces	130	38.3	193	37.7
Other government department or agency	989	33.6	1,500	33.6
Other	590	33.6	967	33.7
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	562	33.4	727	33.6
Total	**18,275**	**32.3**	**22,404**	**32.6**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

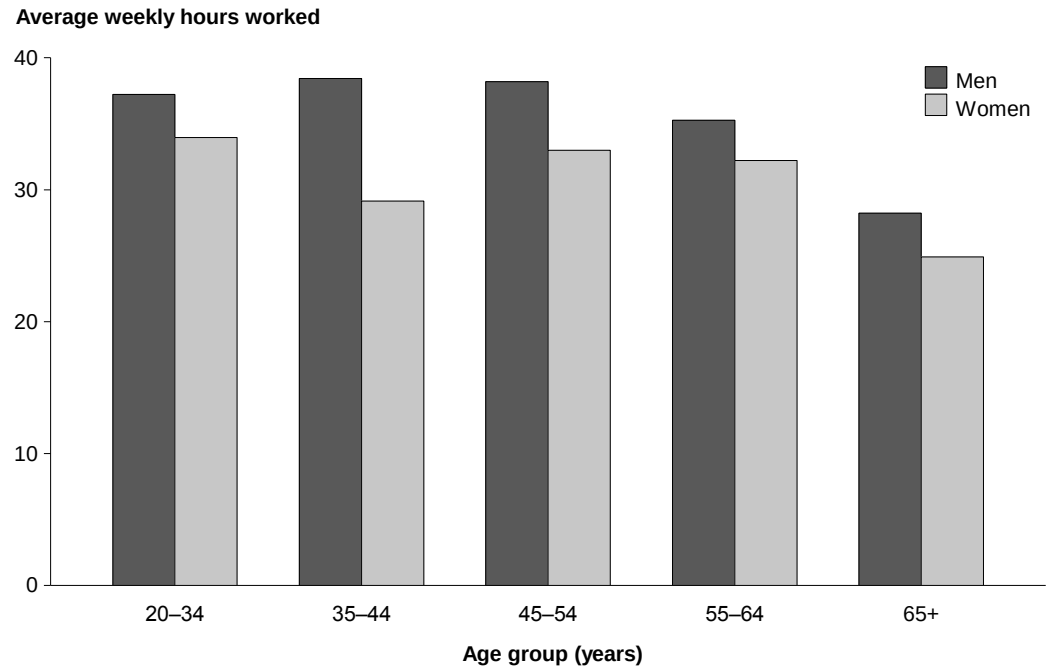
On average, employed psychologists worked 32.6 hours a week in 2012, down slightly from 33.2 in 2011 (tables 3.8 and A.8). Over 2 in 5 (45.0%) psychologists worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 3.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 3.3: Employed psychologists: total hours worked per week and sex, 2012

Male psychologists worked 36.2 hours per week on average, while female psychologists worked 31.6 hours on average (Table 3.9). This gap remained relatively constant across age groups (Figure 3.4).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 3.4: Employed psychologists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed psychologists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (36.2) while those in Victoria worked the least (31.8). Male psychologists in the Australian Capital Territory reported working fewer hours (35.0) than their interstate counterparts (Table 3.9).

Table 3.9: Employed psychologists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Men	35.9	35.9	36.6	37.3	36.0	36.0	35.0	37.5	36.2
Women	31.4	30.6	33.0	31.4	31.2	31.9	32.8	35.8	31.6
Persons	**32.4**	**31.8**	**33.8**	**32.8**	**32.6**	**32.9**	**33.3**	**36.2**	**32.6**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness areas

On average, psychologists working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the most weekly hours (34.6) in 2012 while those in *Major cities* worked the least (32.5) (Table 3.10).

Table 3.10: Employed psychologists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Men	36.4	34.8	37.1	37.3	36.2
Women	31.4	31.9	33.0	33.9	31.6
Persons	**32.5**	**32.7**	**34.0**	**34.6**	**32.6**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more psychologists in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and FTE clinicians (7,352 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 5,427 in the public sector). Psychologists in the private sector worked slightly fewer hours per week than their public sector counterparts (18.1 hours compared with 19.3 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 3.11).

Table 3.11: Employed psychologists: employment sector, selected characteristics, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	15,408	10,659
Average age	46.3	44.3
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	28.6	23.5
Women (per cent)	75.9	77.5
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	18.1	19.3
Clinical FTE number[(a)]	7,352	5,427

Note: Psychologists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

3.3 Geographic profile of employed psychologists

Remoteness areas

The supply of psychologists in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (98.6 FTE per 100,000 population) and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (34.0 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 3.12).

Table 3.12: Employed psychologists: selected characteristics, remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	18,385	2,766	1,022	198	22,404
Average age	45.2	48.0	46.4	44.1	45.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	25.7	34.5	29.3	22.9	26.9
Women (per cent)	77.1	73.5	76.6	81.3	76.7
Average weekly hours worked	32.5	32.7	34.0	34.6	32.6
FTE rate[(d)]	98.6	57.4	44.6	34.0	84.7

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed psychologists was in New South Wales (7,700), followed by Victoria (5,964). The FTE rate was highest in the Australian Capital Territory, with 138.4 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in South Australia, with 59.2 (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13: Employed psychologists: selected characteristics by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Number	7,700	5,964	4,001	2,404	1,145	404	592	195	22,404
Average age	45.5	46.1	44.3	45.8	46.2	46.6	46.3	46.4	45.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	27.5	27.9	22.3	27.9	29.5	28.7	30.2	30.3	26.9
Women (per cent)	76.9	77.5	76.9	76.5	71.4	76.9	77.1	72.7	76.7
Average weekly hours worked	32.4	31.8	33.8	32.8	32.6	32.9	33.3	36.2	32.6
FTE rate[(c)]	90.1	88.7	78.0	85.3	59.2	68.2	138.4	78.9	84.7

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

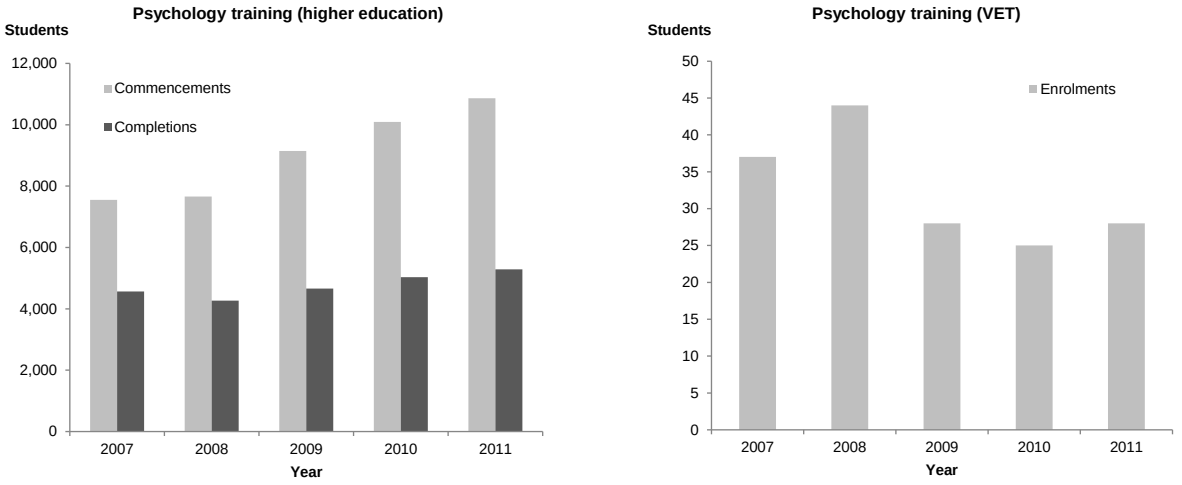
3.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the psychology workforce

Psychology training

Information on psychology student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as a psychologist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering psychology courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training.

The number of domestic student commencements of Australian university courses that lead to psychologist qualifications has increased by 43.9%, from 7,550 in 2007 to 10,862 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 15.9%, from 4,564 to 5,289. Enrolments in vocational education and training courses leading to qualifications in psychology have decreased by 24.3%, from 37 in 2007 to 28 in 2011, and there were no completions during this period (Figure 3.5).



Notes

1. Higher education and vocational education and training data includes all psychology students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Psychology Board. The majority of these courses do not lead to registration.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is psychology.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Sources: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection; NCVER 2012.

Figure 3.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing psychology courses, 2007–2011

Psychologists not employed in psychology

The survey collects some basic information on those psychologists who are registered but not actively employed, in psychology in Australia; that is, psychologists on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Psychologists who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among psychologists, the youngest group not actively employed in psychology are those looking for work in psychology and employed elsewhere (average age 38.0). The average age of psychologists retired from regular work was 64.9 (Table 3.14).

Table 3.14: Psychologists not actively employed in psychology in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(a)] (per cent)[(b)]
On extended leave	994	39.6	13.5	92.8	92.7
Looking for work in psychology	*216*	*40.6*	*18.0*	*80.5*	*90.3*
Employed elsewhere	76	38.0	n.p.	n.p.	89.7
Not employed	140	42.1	20.2	78.0	90.6
Overseas	480	42.2	16.5	74.7	46.0
Not looking for work in psychology	*1,271*	*42.8*	*19.5*	*85.4*	*91.7*
Employed elsewhere	596	44.7	22.7	76.8	92.4
Not employed	676	41.2	16.7	93.0	91.1
Retired from regular work	285	64.9	93.7	63.8	94.8
Total psychologists not actively employed in psychology in Australia	**3,246**	**43.5**	**23.6**	**83.8**	**85.4**
Total employed psychologists	**22,404**	**45.6**	**26.9**	**76.7**	**94.4**

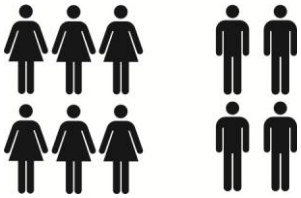
(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

4 Pharmacy workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 27,025 registered pharmacists, 14,309 of whom were employed in commercial or business services.
	About 6 out of 10 registered pharmacists were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed pharmacists was 39.7; 16.7% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed pharmacists worked 35.9 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the pharmacy workforce in Australia. For information about what pharmacists do, see Box 4.1.

Box 4.1: Services provided by pharmacists

Pharmacists ensure safe and quality use of medicines, and optimise health outcomes by contributing to selecting, prescribing, monitoring and evaluating medicine therapy. Pharmacists also research, test and develop pharmaceuticals and medical products.

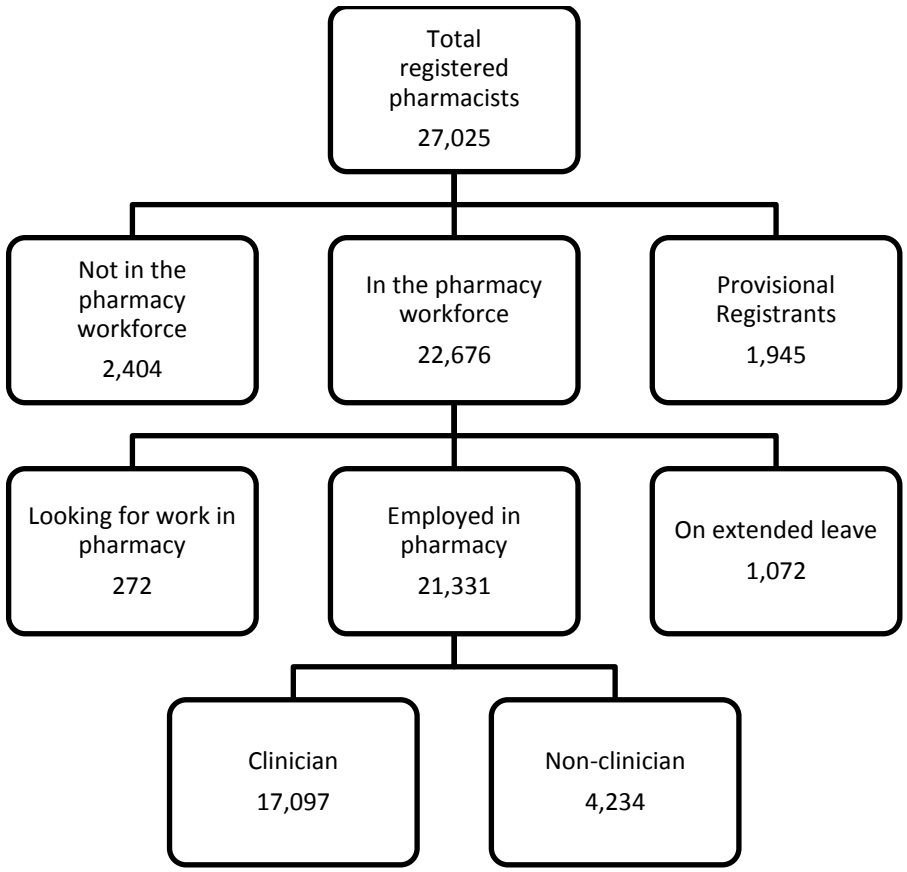
Tasks include:

- receiving prescriptions, checking patients' medicine histories, and ensuring optimal dosage and methods of administration and drug compatibility before dispensing
- preparing or supervising the preparation and labelling of liquid medicines, ointments, powders, tablets and other medications to fill prescriptions
- reviewing and monitoring the medicine therapy of individual patients, and assessing the effectiveness of the total medicine therapy.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

4.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 27,025 registered pharmacists in Australia. The majority of these were in the pharmacy workforce (22,676). Of these, 272 were looking for work in pharmacy and 1,072 were on extended leave. This accounts for 1.2% and 4.7%, respectively, of total registered pharmacists currently in the pharmacy workforce (Figure 4.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 4.1: Registered pharmacists: workforce status, 2012

In 2012, the average age of registered pharmacists was 38.9. Nearly 6 out of 10 pharmacists (59.5%) were women. Of all registered pharmacists, the average age of those who held a non-practising registration was higher than for those who held a general registration (50.4 compared with 39.6). Non-practising pharmacists were also more likely to be aged 55 and over (38.0% compared with 17.0%) (Table 4.1).

Box 4.2: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, information about sex were missing for a small proportion of pharmacists from Victoria (8.9% of registered pharmacists). Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

Table 4.1: Registered pharmacists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	24,241	39.6	17.0	59.1
Limited (postgraduate training)	7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Limited (teaching and research)	1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	831	50.4	38.0	61.3
Provisional	1,945	25.2	0.1	63.5
Total	**27,025**	**38.9**	**16.4**	**59.5**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of pharmacists in the pharmacy workforce increased slightly, from 21,867 to 22,676 (3.7%). Of the total registered pharmacists, the greatest increase was for pharmacists who were looking for work in pharmacy and employed elsewhere (25.5%) while the greatest decrease was for those retired from regular work (6.3%) (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Registered pharmacists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the pharmacy workforce	*21,867*	*22,676*	*3.7*
Employed in pharmacy	20,580	21,331	3.6
Looking for work in pharmacy	*264*	*272*	*3.0*
Employed elsewhere	77	96	25.5
Not employed	188	176	–6.2
On extended leave	1,023	1,072	4.9
Not in pharmacy workforce	*2,368*	*2,404*	*1.5*
Overseas	744	742	–0.2
Not looking for work in pharmacy	*1,154*	*1,221*	*5.8*
Employed elsewhere	682	711	4.2
Not employed	471	510	8.2
Retired from regular work	471	441	–6.3
Total registered pharmacists	**24,235**	**25,080**	**3.5**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health practitioners, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered pharmacists in the pharmacy workforce ranged from 90.4% in New South Wales to 97.1% in Tasmania. The number of pharmacists looking for work in pharmacy was highest in New South Wales (98) (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Registered pharmacists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the pharmacy workforce	*7,021*	*5,787*	*4,458*	*2,541*	*1,717*	*577*	*400*	*171*	*22,676*
Employed in pharmacy	*6,584*	*5,465*	*4,197*	*2,376*	*1,625*	*554*	*373*	*157*	*21,331*
Clinician[(c)]	5,206	4,551	3,444	1,885	1,218	428	251	114	17,097
Non-clinician	1,378	914	753	491	407	126	122	43	4,234
Looking for work in pharmacy	*98*	*60*	*51*	*33*	*23*	*3*	*4*	—	*272*
Employed elsewhere	38	18	16	11	n.p.	n.p.	4	—	96
Not employed	60	41	35	22	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	176
On extended leave	339	262	209	132	70	20	22	15	1,072
Not in pharmacy workforce	*746*	*540*	*322*	*173*	*105*	*16*	*32*	*8*	*2,404*
Overseas	125	94	59	40	24	3	5	2	742
Not looking for work in pharmacy	*466*	*317*	*192*	*91*	*54*	*11*	*17*	*5*	*1,221*
Employed elsewhere	288	205	100	38	27	7	6	—	711
Not employed	178	111	91	54	27	4	11	5	510
Retired from regular work	155	128	71	42	27	2	9	1	441
Total registered pharmacists	**7,767**	**6,326**	**4,780**	**2,714**	**1,822**	**594**	**431**	**180**	**25,080**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the pharmacy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to pharmacists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

4.2 Pharmacists employed in pharmacy

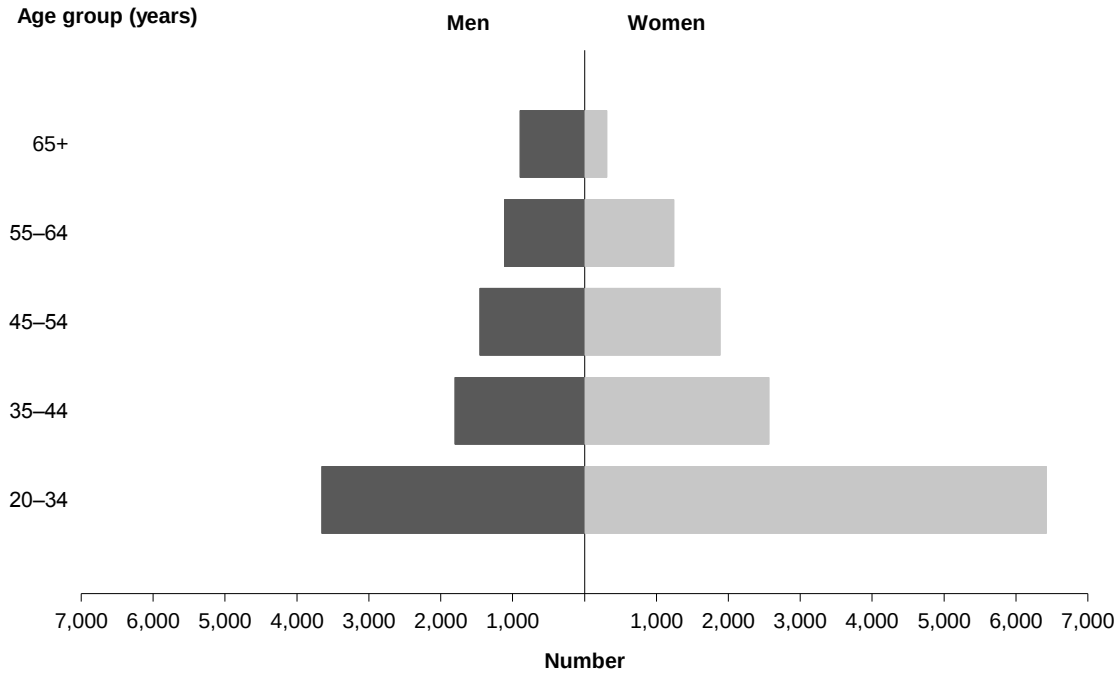
A person who reported working in pharmacy in the week before the survey is considered to be an 'employed pharmacist' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of pharmacists (not provisionally registered) employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of pharmacists increased between 2011 and 2012, from 87.1 FTE per 100,000 population in 2011 to 88.7 in 2012 (tables 4.4 and A.18).

Age and sex

There were more women than men across all age groups, with the exceptions of those 65+. The group with the highest number of women was the 20–34 age group (6,421). For male pharmacists, the 20–34 age group was also the largest (3,652) (Figure 4.2).



Note: For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health workforce 2012.

Figure 4.2: Number of employed pharmacists, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacists

There were 36 employed pharmacists who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.2% of employed pharmacists who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed pharmacists, 17,779 received their initial pharmacy qualification in Australia (83.3%). Those employed pharmacists who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a slightly higher average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (40.8 and 39.4 respectively) (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Employed pharmacists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	17,779	39.4	16.9	59.2	35.7	73.6
New Zealand	579	40.8	18.7	51.2	35.9	2.4
Other country	2,081	43.1	17.8	49.5	36.9	8.9
Not stated/inadequately described	892	35.3	8.6	62.5	36.7	3.8
Total	**21,331**	**39.7**	**16.7**	**58.2**	**35.9**	**88.7**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in pharmacy

The principal role in pharmacy describes the types of work undertaken by employed pharmacists. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 80.2% of employed pharmacists. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 1.0% of employed pharmacists (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5: Employed pharmacists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	17,097	38.9	15.5	59.0	35.8	70.9
Non-clinician	*4,234*	*42.9*	*21.3*	*54.9*	*36.3*	*17.8*
Administrator	1,909	44.8	24.3	43.9	37.3	8.3
Teacher/educator	342	45.4	22.2	68.7	34.2	1.4
Researcher	212	38.7	10.4	67.1	37.0	0.9
Independent consultant	251	46.7	30.3	61.6	30.4	0.9
Other	1,521	39.8	17.3	62.8	36.2	6.4
Total	**21,331**	**39.7**	**16.7**	**58.2**	**35.9**	**88.7**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Pharmacists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in pharmacy health in the week before completing the survey. Working in commercial/business services (68.8% of clinicians and 65.8% of all employed pharmacists) was the most commonly reported work setting (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Employed pharmacists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

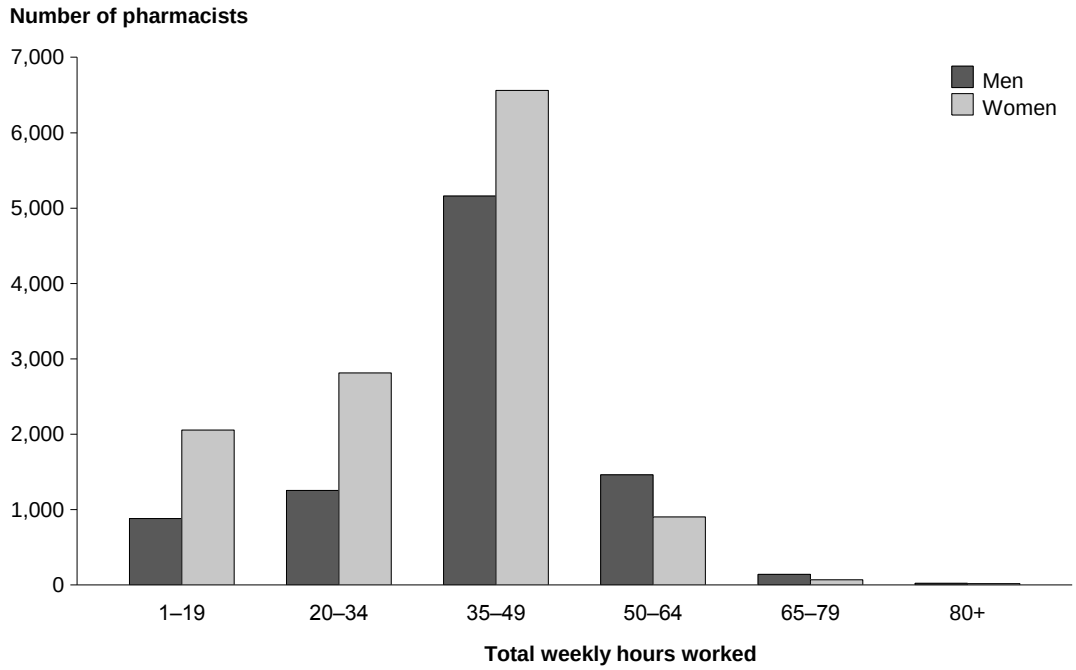
	Clinician[(a)]		Total pharmacists	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	653	34.1	842	33.5
Aboriginal health service	11	38.1	15	39.2
Community health-care services	479	37.7	574	37.8
Hospital	3,208	35.5	3,762	35.7
Residential health-care services	121	33.1	159	33.1
Commercial/business services	11,770	35.9	14,039	36.0
Educational facility	7	23.5	358	36.6
Correctional services	24	37.3	27	36.4
Defence forces	46	30.8	73	33.3
Other government department or agency	27	30.0	288	35.7
Other	110	30.7	365	33.1
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	641	36.9	828	37.3
Total	**17,097**	**35.8**	**21,331**	**35.9**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

On average, employed pharmacists worked 35.9 hours a week in 2012 (Table 4.7). Nearly 1 in 3 (32.8%) pharmacists worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 4.3).

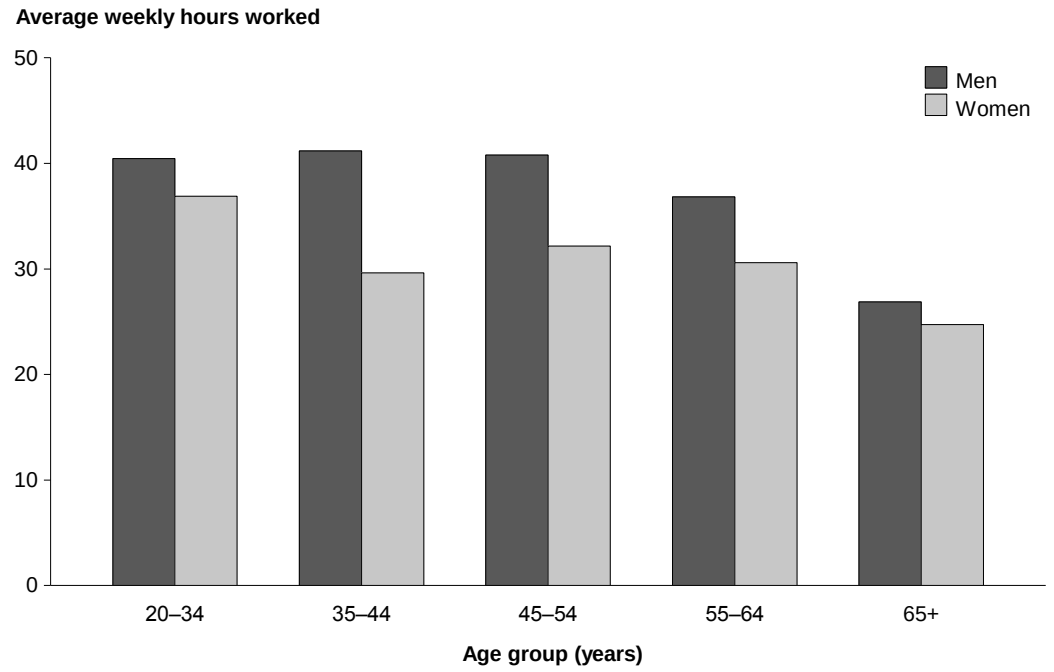


Note: For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 4.3: Employed pharmacists: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male pharmacists worked 38.8 hours per week on average, while female pharmacists worked 33.7 hours on average (Table 4.7). This gap remained relatively constant across age groups (Figure 4.4).



Note: For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 4.4: Employed pharmacists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed pharmacists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (40.0) while those in Tasmania worked the least (34.6) (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7: Employed pharmacists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Men	39.3	38.0	38.9	40.0	38.0	38.3	39.7	41.5	38.8
Women	33.6	33.5	34.0	33.9	34.1	31.7	35.1	38.9	33.7
Persons	**36.0**	**35.4**	**36.0**	**36.3**	**35.7**	**34.6**	**36.8**	**40.0**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health workforce 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, pharmacists working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the most weekly hours (40.6) in 2012 while those working in *Major cities* worked the least (35.7) (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Employed pharmacists: average total weekly hours worked by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Sex[(b)]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Men	38.7	38.4	39.9	43.0	38.8
Women	33.6	33.6	35.1	38.3	33.7
Persons	**35.7**	**35.9**	**37.3**	**40.6**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more pharmacists in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (12,071 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 4,254 in the public sector). Pharmacists in the private sector worked slightly more clinical hours per week on average than their public sector counterparts (30.6 hours and 29.1 hours respectively) (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9: Employed pharmacists: employment sector, selected characteristics, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	15,006	5,554
Average age	39.7	37.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	16.4	14.6
Women[(a)] (per cent)	54.8	67.2
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	30.6	29.1
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	12,071	4,254

Note: Pharmacists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

4.3 Geographic profile of employed pharmacists

Remoteness area

The supply of pharmacists in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (95.4 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (56.3 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10: Employed pharmacists: selected characteristics by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	16,225	3,301	1,506	279	21,331
Average age	39.3	41.3	39.6	40.0	39.7
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	15.7	20.5	18.9	17.8	16.7
Women[(d)] (per cent)	59.9	52.6	53.8	51.6	58.2
Average weekly hours worked	35.7	35.9	37.3	40.6	35.9
FTE rate[(e)]	95.4	75.2	72.3	56.3	88.7

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed pharmacists was in New South Wales (6,584), followed by Victoria (5,465). The FTE rate was highest in Tasmania, with 98.6 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in the Northern Territory, with 70.1 (Table 4.11).

Table 4.11: Employed pharmacists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	6,584	5,465	4,197	2,376	1,625	554	373	157	21,331
Average age	41.1	39.9	38.8	37.5	38.4	40.6	40.1	34.9	39.7
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	20.2	16.8	14.6	11.9	14.7	19.3	16.7	6.4	16.7
Women (per cent)	57.9	57.8	58.2	59.8	58.3	55.3	62.1	60.3	58.2
Average weekly hours worked	36.0	35.4	36.0	36.3	35.7	34.6	36.8	40.0	35.9
FTE rate[(d)]	85.5	90.4	87.2	93.4	92.2	98.6	96.5	70.1	88.7

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

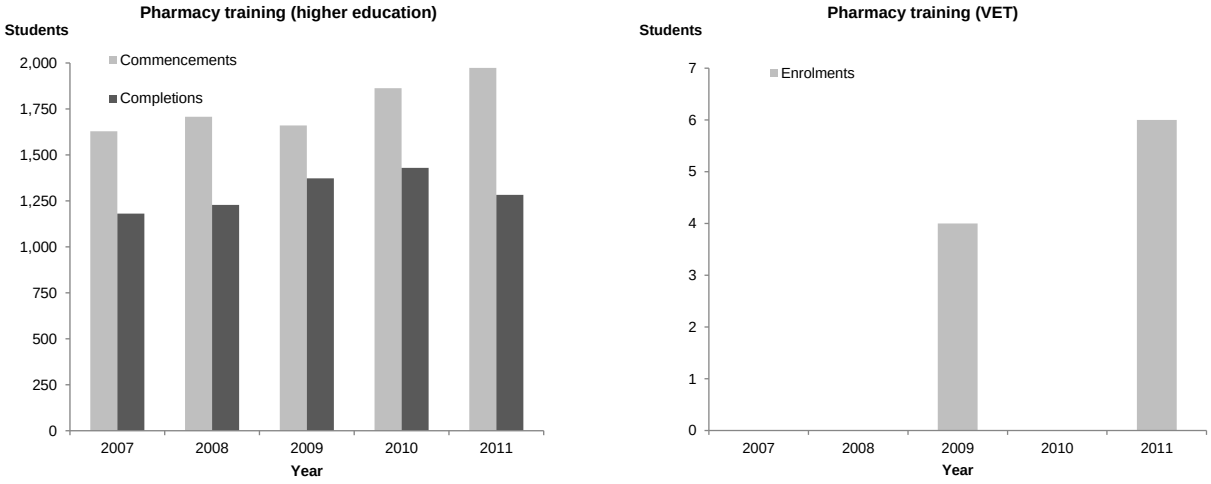
Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

4.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the pharmacy workforce

Pharmacy training

Information on pharmacy student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as a pharmacist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering pharmacy courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training. If pharmacists wish to specialise, they must complete extra study after completing a period of clinical experience.



Notes

1. Higher education and vocational education and training data includes all pharmacy students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Pharmacy Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is pharmacy.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Sources: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection; NCVER 2012.

Figure 4.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing pharmacy courses, 2007–2011

Commencements in university courses leading to qualification as a pharmacist by domestic students in Australia have increased by 21.1%, from 1,629 in 2007 to 1,973 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 8.6%, from 1,181 to 1,283. Enrolments in vocational education and training courses leading to qualifications in pharmacy have increased by a half, from 4 in 2009 to 6 in 2011, and there were no completions during this period (Figure 4.5).

Pharmacists not employed in pharmacy

The Pharmacy Workforce Survey collects some basic information on those pharmacists who are registered but not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia; that is, pharmacists on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Pharmacists who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among pharmacists, the youngest group not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia are those employed overseas (average age 37.4). The average age of pharmacists retired from regular work was 65.8 (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12: Pharmacists not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	1,072	37.5	13.6	75.8	91.6
Looking for work in pharmacy	*272*	*40.2*	*16.8*	*62.6*	*94.9*
Employed elsewhere	96	39.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	176	40.5	17.6	67.5	95.1
Overseas	742	37.4	7.7	61.3	40.3
Not looking for work in pharmacy	*1,221*	*42.5*	*19.6*	*67.1*	*89.8*
Employed elsewhere	711	44.4	22.0	59.9	90.8
Not employed	510	39.8	16.2	77.1	88.5
Retired from regular work	441	65.8	87.5	39.0	91.6
Total pharmacists not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia	**3,749**	**42.6**	**23.3**	**64.8**	**81.1**
Total employed pharmacists	**21,331**	**39.7**	**16.7**	**58.2**	**91.5**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

5 Physiotherapy workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 23,934 registered physiotherapists, 17,980 of whom were employed as clinicians.
	About 7 in 10 registered physiotherapists were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed physiotherapists was 38.6; 12.4% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed physiotherapists worked 34.2 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the physiotherapy workforce in Australia. For more information about what physiotherapists do, see Box 5.1.

Box 5.1: Services provided by physiotherapists

Physiotherapists assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease.

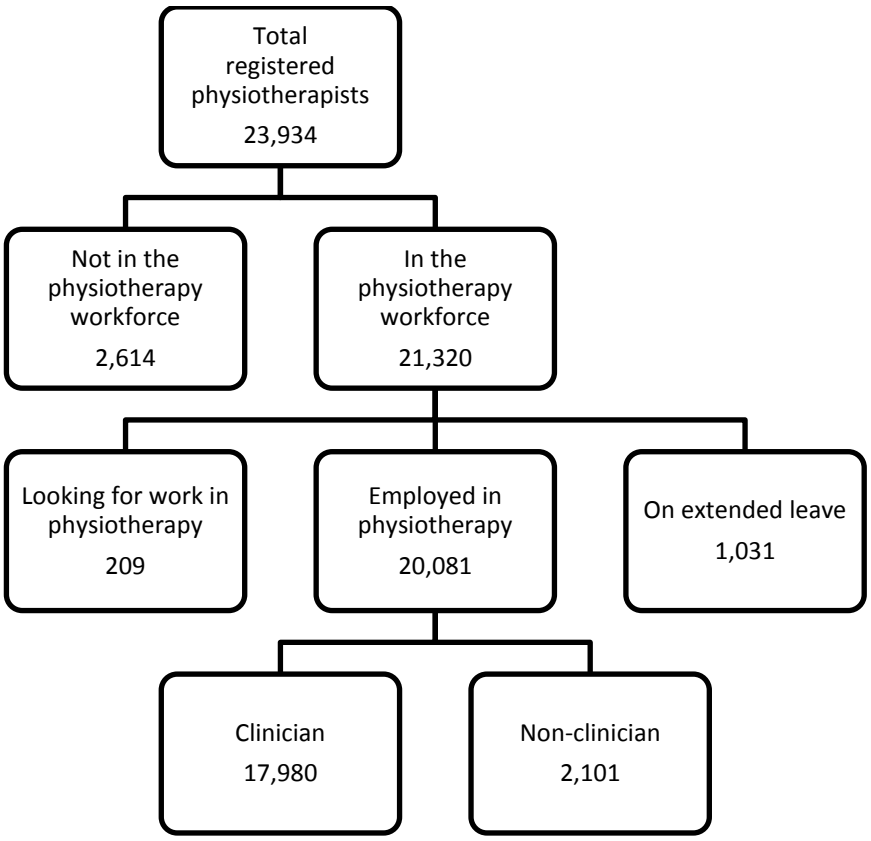
Tasks include:

- administering muscle, nerve, joint and functional ability tests to identify and assess physical problems of patients
- designing treatment programs to address patients' problems
- treating patients to reduce pain, improve circulation, strengthen muscles, improve cardiothoracic, cardiovascular and respiratory functions, restore joint mobility, and improve balance and coordination.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

5.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 23,934 registered physiotherapists in Australia. The majority of these were in the physiotherapy workforce (21,320). Of these, 209 were looking for work in physiotherapy and 1,031 were on extended leave. This accounts for 1.0% and 4.8%, respectively, of total registered physiotherapists currently in the physiotherapy workforce (Figure 5.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 5.1: Registered physiotherapists: workforce status, 2012

Of all registered physiotherapists, the average age of those who held a limited (postgraduate training) registration was lower than for those who held a general registration (30.3 compared with 38.4). Non-practising physiotherapists were more likely to be aged 55 and over (21.9%) than those who were practicing (Table 5.1).

Box 5.2: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state-based systems, information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of physiotherapists from South Australia (61.6% of registered physiotherapists). Although this has a minimal impact on the national figures, data for South Australia pertaining to sex has been suppressed, but has not been omitted from the national totals. Where the proportion of women has been presented in tables, it excludes those with unknown sex. Where data has been presented by sex—those with unknown sex are included in the total, but are not separately reported.

Table 5.1: Registered physiotherapists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	23,050	38.4	12.2	70.0
Limited (postgraduate training)	179	30.3	—	68.5
Limited (public interest)	43	31.3	—	69.8
Limited (teaching and research)	13	43.8	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	649	44.1	21.9	78.6
Total	**23,934**	**38.5**	**12.4**	**70.2**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of physiotherapists in the physiotherapy workforce increased slightly, from 20,491 to 21,320. Of the total registered physiotherapists, the greatest increase (per cent) was for physiotherapists who were looking for work in physiotherapy and were not employed (17.2%). The greatest decrease (per cent) was for those looking for work in physiotherapy and employed elsewhere (3.2%) (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Registered physiotherapists: workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the physiotherapy workforce	*20,491*	*21,320*	*4.0*
Employed in physiotherapy	19,269	20,081	4.2
Looking for work in physiotherapy	*186*	*209*	*11.8*
Employed elsewhere	49	48	–3.2
Not employed	137	161	17.2
On extended leave	1,036	1,031	–0.5
Not in physiotherapy workforce	*2,383*	*2,614*	*9.7*
Overseas	1,073	1,168	8.8
Not looking for work in physiotherapy	*1,102*	*1,232*	*11.8*
Employed elsewhere	559	623	11.3
Not employed	543	609	12.2
Retired from regular work	207	214	3.5
Total registered physiotherapists	**22,874**	**23,934**	**4.6**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health practitioners, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered physiotherapists in the physiotherapy workforce ranged from 90.5% in New South Wales to 94.6% in South Australia. The number of physiotherapists looking for work in physiotherapy was highest in New South Wales (61), whereas there were no physiotherapists looking for work in physiotherapy in Tasmania (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3: Registered physiotherapists: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the physiotherapy workforce	*6,200*	*5,458*	*4,145*	*2,700*	*1,855*	*374*	*433*	*148*	*21,320*
Employed in physiotherapy	*5,859*	*5,133*	*3,907*	*2,501*	*1,774*	*361*	*402*	*141*	*20,081*
Clinician[(c)]	5,275	4,627	3,492	2,191	1,588	337	338	131	17,980
Non-clinician	584	506	416	310	186	24	64	10	2,101
Looking for work in physiotherapy	*61*	*55*	*37*	*41*	*7*	—	*3*	*2*	*209*
Employed elsewhere	12	14	11	7	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	48
Not employed	49	40	26	34	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	161
On extended leave	280	270	201	158	74	13	28	5	1,031
Not in physiotherapy workforce	*651*	*513*	*360*	*269*	*106*	*27*	*41*	*14*	*2,614*
Overseas	170	156	113	73	39	n.p	n.p	5	1,168
Not looking for work in physiotherapy	392	298	212	178	62	15	29	9	1,232
Employed elsewhere	215	164	97	88	18	3	21	4	623
Not employed	177	133	115	91	44	12	8	5	609
Retired from regular work	88	60	34	18	5	n.p	n.p	—	214
Total registered physiotherapists	**6,851**	**5,972**	**4,505**	**2,969**	**1,961**	**401**	**474**	**162**	**23,934**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the physiotherapy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to physiotherapists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

5.2 Physiotherapists employed in physiotherapy

A person who reported working in physiotherapy in the week before the survey was considered to have been employed in physiotherapy, or to be an 'employed physiotherapist' (see Glossary).

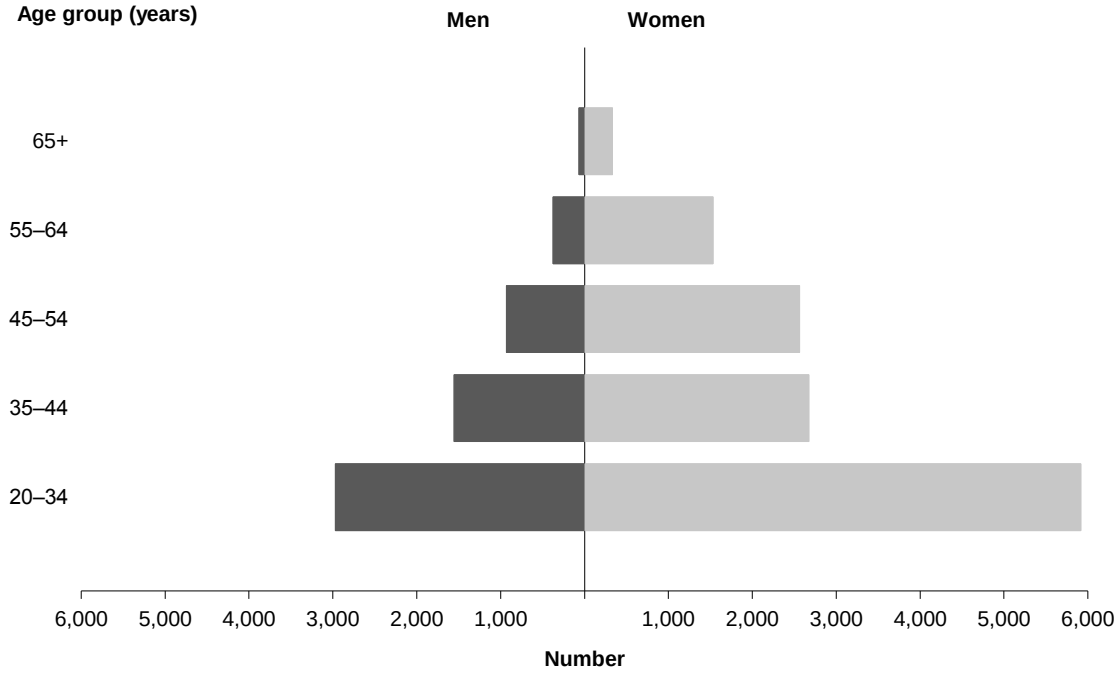
The characteristics and supply of physiotherapists employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of physiotherapists increased between 2011 and 2012, from 78.3 FTE per 100,000 population to 79.7 (tables 5.4 and A.28).

Age and sex

In 2012, the average age of employed physiotherapists was 38.6. Nearly 7 in 10 employed physiotherapists (68.8%) were women (Table 5.4).

There were more women than men across all age groups, with the most women in the 20–34 age group (5,915), followed by the 35–44 age group (2,672). For male physiotherapists, the 20–34 age group was also the largest (2,972) (Figure 5.2).



Note: For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 5.2: Number of employed physiotherapists, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander physiotherapists

There were 84 employed physiotherapists who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.4% of employed physiotherapists who responded to the question. Over half (56.0%) of these physiotherapists were aged under 35.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed physiotherapists, 16,318 received their initial physiotherapy qualification in Australia (81.3%). Those employed physiotherapists who received their initial qualification in another country reported an older average age than those with Australian or New Zealand initial qualifications (43.1, 38.4 and 34.0 respectively) (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Employed physiotherapists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	16,318	38.4	12.1	67.7	34.2	64.7
New Zealand	728	34.0	7.3	68.6	37.0	3.1
Other country	2,109	43.1	18.9	76.7	32.8	8.0
Not stated/inadequately described	925	34.7	6.7	70.1	35.6	3.8
Total	**20,081**	**38.6**	**12.4**	**68.8**	**34.2**	**79.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Fields of physiotherapy

Role in physiotherapy

The principal role in physiotherapy describes the types of work undertaken by employed physiotherapists. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 89.5% of employed physiotherapists. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 1.5% of employed physiotherapists (Table 5.5).

Table 5.5: Employed physiotherapists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	17,980	38.0	11.9	68.0	34.3	71.5
Non-clinician	*2,101*	*43.2*	*16.6*	*75.5*	*33.8*	*8.2*
Administrator	839	43.5	16.2	71.2	35.4	3.4
Teacher/educator	572	43.5	16.6	75.1	30.7	2.0
Researcher	299	42.3	15.3	81.2	35.3	1.2
Other	391	42.6	18.4	80.7	33.6	1.5
Total	**20,081**	**38.6**	**12.4**	**68.8**	**34.2**	**79.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Clinical stream of main job in physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy Workforce Survey asks employed physiotherapists to describe the stream of clinical practice of their main job in the profession.

Of all employed physiotherapists, most were engaged in rehabilitation as the clinical stream of their main job (6,895), followed by acute care (4,267). Physiotherapists within palliative care had the highest average age (46.2). Physiotherapists in acute care had the lowest average age (36.6), and were the least likely to be aged 55 and over (9.3%). Community–based care had the highest proportion of physiotherapists who were women(72.8%) (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Employed physiotherapists: clinical stream of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Clinical stream of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Acute care	4,267	36.6	9.3	62.9	35.1	17.3
Aged care	1,808	41.7	22.9	72.1	30.6	6.4
Cancer care	92	41.2	n.p.	n.p.	33.9	0.4
Chronic disease management	571	42.6	17.6	69.4	32.0	2.1
Community-based care	2,326	39.3	13.4	72.8	32.2	8.7
Mental health	38	44.8	n.p.	n.p.	27.9	0.1
Palliative care	48	46.2	n.p.	n.p.	29.2	0.2
Rehabilitation	6,895	37.4	10.0	61.0	35.2	28.1
Other	3,142	40.1	12.8	63.9	34.9	12.7
Not stated/inadequately described	893	40.0	15.2	63.6	35.3	3.7
Total	**20,081**	**38.6**	**12.4**	**68.8**	**34.2**	**79.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Primary scope of practice of main job in physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy Workforce Survey asks employed physiotherapists to describe the primary scope of practice of their main job in the profession.

Most physiotherapists were involved in musculoskeletal (10,131), followed by aged care (2,678). Physiotherapists working in women's health had the highest average age (41.8) whilst those in cardiorespiratory were the youngest (average 33.6). The highest proportion of physiotherapists who were women was for those working in women's health (92.3%) (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Employed physiotherapists: primary scope of practice of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Scope of practice of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Aged care	2,678	40.4	19.2	74.8	31.4	9.7
Cardiorespiratory	1,301	33.6	6.8	75.5	33.4	5.0
Musculoskeletal	10,131	38.4	11.4	55.5	35.5	41.7
Neurological	1,403	36.6	8.2	77.3	33.8	5.5
Paediatrics	1,112	40.0	15.8	88.5	31.4	4.0
Sports	645	36.2	4.7	38.7	40.4	3.0
Women's health	475	41.8	17.1	92.3	25.3	1.4
Other	1,620	41.2	14.9	74.3	33.6	6.3
Not stated/inadequately described	716	38.6	12.7	62.2	35.4	2.9
Total	**20,081**	**38.6**	**12.4**	**68.8**	**34.2**	**79.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Physiotherapists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in the week before completing the survey. Most physiotherapists reported working in private practice (42.4% of clinicians and 39.0% of all employed physiotherapists). Physiotherapists working in residential health-care services as their main job worked the least hours on average—about 30 hours per week for clinicians and all physiotherapists (Table 5.8).

Table 5.8: Employed physiotherapists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

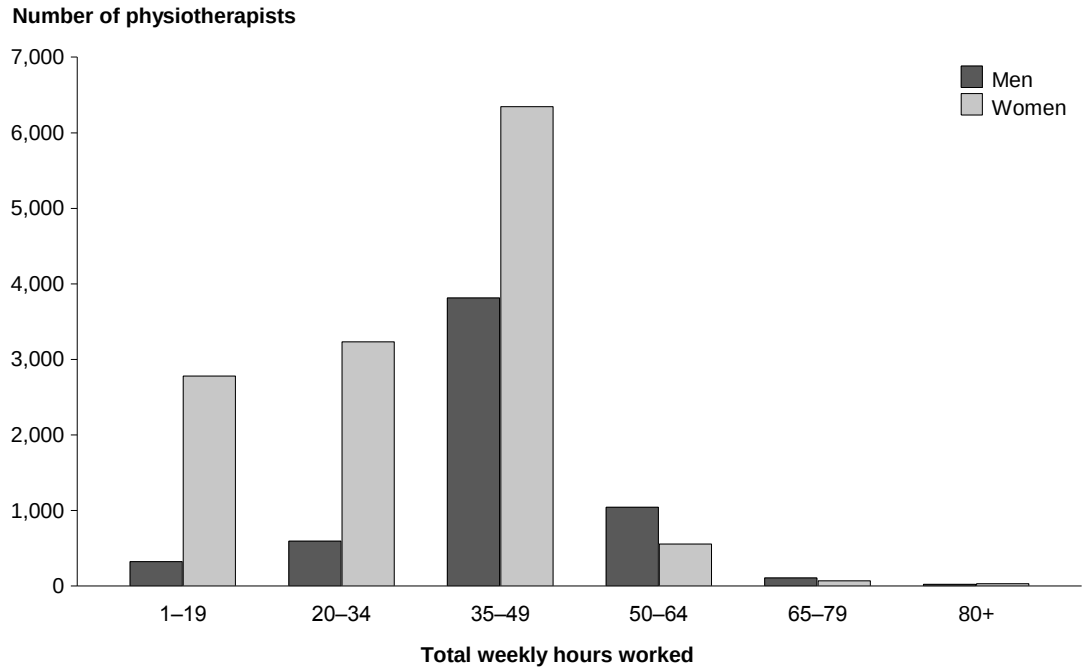
	Clinician[(a)]		Total physiotherapists	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	7,617	36.1	7,825	35.9
Aboriginal health service	13	34.5	15	35.0
Community health-care services	2,254	31.5	2,521	31.8
Hospital	5,320	33.4	5,787	33.4
Residential health-care services	1,049	30.0	1,084	30.1
Commercial/business services	572	38.4	794	37.2
Educational facility	159	30.8	610	34.4
Correctional services	3	35.8	3	35.8
Defence forces	112	35.1	118	34.9
Other government department or agency	134	31.0	316	32.8
Other	250	31.3	434	32.5
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	498	36.3	572	35.7
Total	**17,980**	**34.3**	**20,081**	**34.2**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

On average, employed physiotherapists worked 34.2 hours a week in 2012 (Table 5.9). Nearly 2 in 5 (37.0%) worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 5.3).

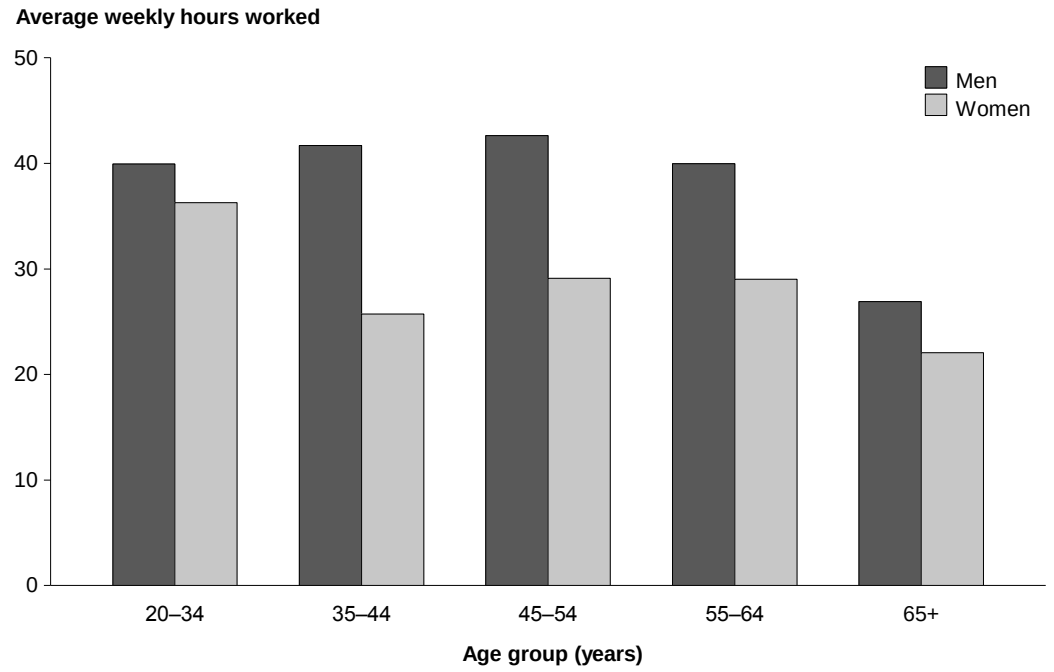


Note: For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 5.3: Employed physiotherapists: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male physiotherapists worked 40.7 hours per week on average, while female physiotherapists worked 31.5 hours (Table 5.10). This gap remained relatively constant across age groups (Figure 5.4).



Note: For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 5.4: Employed physiotherapists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed physiotherapists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (36.9), while those in Tasmania worked the least (31.6) (Table 5.9).

Table 5.9: Employed physiotherapists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Men	41.4	41.0	41.0	39.6	n.p.	38.4	37.8	39.3	40.7
Women	30.9	31.9	32.2	30.9	n.p.	29.4	31.0	35.9	31.5
Persons	**34.1**	**34.8**	**35.0**	**33.4**	**33.1**	**31.6**	**33.0**	**36.9**	**34.2**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, physiotherapists working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the most weekly hours (36.7) in 2012 while those working in *Inner regional* areas worked the least (33.6) (Table 5.10).

Table 5.10: Employed physiotherapists: average total weekly hours worked, by remoteness area[a], 2012

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	40.7	40.7	40.1	39.9	40.7
Women	31.5	30.7	32.6	36.0	31.5
Persons	**34.3**	**33.6**	**34.6**	**36.7**	**34.2**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more physiotherapists in the private sector than in the public sector. This was both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (9,665 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 5,171 in the public sector). Physiotherapists in the private sector worked more hours per week on average, than their public sector counterparts (28.5 hours and 26.5 hours respectively) (Table 5.11).

Table 5.11: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	12,909	7,422
Average age	38.7	37.7
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	12.5	11.4
Women[a] (per cent)	62.8	78.2
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	28.5	26.5
Clinical FTE number[b]	9,665	5,171

Note: physiotherapists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

5.3 Geographic profile of employed physiotherapists

Remoteness area

The supply of physiotherapists in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (91.2 FTE per 100,000 population) and *Inner regional* areas (55.8 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (43.8 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	16,129	2,621	1,069	240	20,081
Average age	38.2	40.8	38.7	36.7	38.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	11.8	16.3	12.7	9.5	12.4
Women[(d)] (per cent)	68.0	71.6	72.9	70.6	68.8
Average weekly hours worked	34.3	33.6	34.6	36.7	34.2
FTE rate[(e)]	91.2	55.8	47.5	43.8	79.7

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed physiotherapists was in New South Wales (5,859), followed by Victoria (5,133). The FTE rate was highest in the Australian Capital Territory, with 93.3 FTE per 100,000 population while the lowest was in the Northern Territory with 58.2 (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	5,859	5,133	3,907	2,501	1,774	361	402	141	20,081
Average age	39.9	37.4	38.3	37.5	39.3	42.2	38.9	35.8	38.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.6	10.9	10.7	10.9	14.2	19.0	13.5	7.8	12.4
Women (per cent)	69.0	68.0	68.1	70.7	n.p.	75.1	69.9	70.0	68.8
Average weekly hours worked	34.1	34.8	35.0	33.4	33.1	31.6	33.0	36.9	34.2
FTE rate[(d)]	72.1	83.5	78.9	90.4	93.2	58.7	93.3	58.2	79.7

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

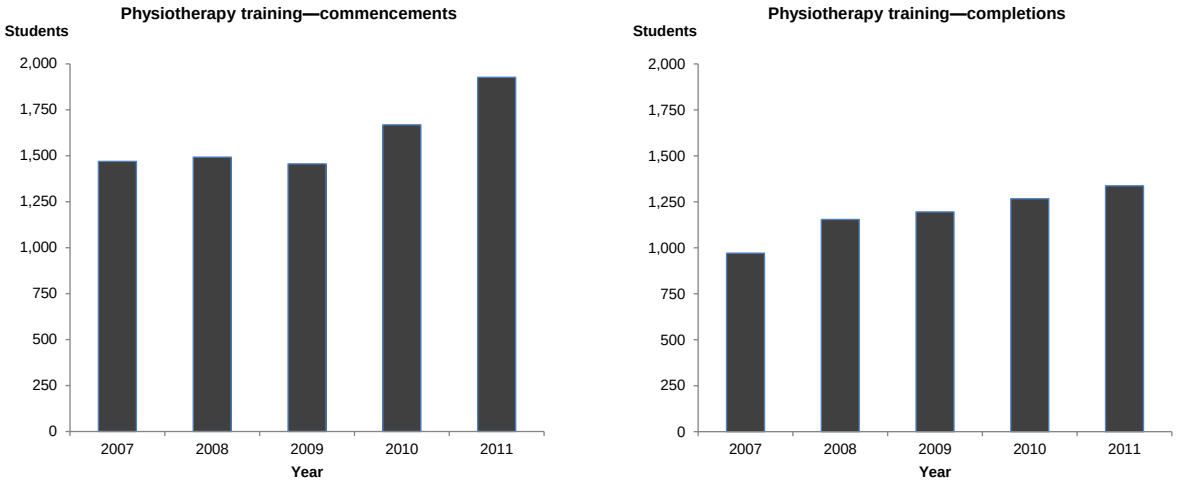
5.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the physiotherapy workforce

Physiotherapy training

Information on physiotherapy student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as a physiotherapist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering physiotherapy courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training.

The number of domestic student commencements of Australian university courses that lead to physiotherapist qualifications has increased by 31.2%, from 1,469 in 2007 to 1,927 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 37.7%, from 971 to 1,337 (Figure 5.5).



Notes

1. Higher education data includes all physiotherapy students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Physiotherapy Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is physiotherapy.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 5.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing physiotherapy courses (higher education), 2007–2011

Physiotherapists not employed in physiotherapy

The Physiotherapy Workforce Survey collects basic information on those physiotherapists who are registered but not actively employed in physiotherapy in Australia; that is, physiotherapists on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Physiotherapists who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among physiotherapists, the youngest group not actively employed in physiotherapy are those looking for work in physiotherapy and not employed (average age 34.8). The average age of those physiotherapists retired from regular work was 61.5 (Table 5.14).

Table 5.14: Physiotherapists not actively employed in physiotherapy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	1,031	35.8	7.4	87.1	92.7
Looking for work in physiotherapy	*209*	*35.1*	*6.6*	*76.6*	*92.7*
Employed elsewhere	48	35.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	161	34.8	8.6	79.5	94.5
Overseas	1,168	37.9	7.0	66.6	41.7
Not looking for work in physiotherapy	*1,232*	*39.2*	*9.6*	*78.5*	*91.1*
Employed elsewhere	623	40.6	10.4	69.9	93.7
Not employed	609	37.7	8.8	87.6	88.5
Retired from regular work	214	61.5	85.4	89.2	92.6
Total physiotherapists not actively employed in physiotherapy in Australia	**3,853**	**38.9**	**12.3**	**77.6**	**76.7**
Total employed physiotherapists	**20,081**	**38.6**	**12.4**	**68.8**	**93.4**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

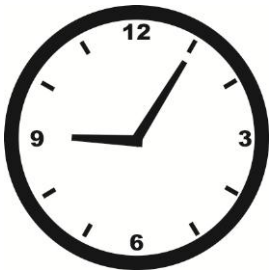
(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

6 Occupational therapy workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 14,307 registered occupational therapists.
	About 9 in 10 registered occupational therapists were women.
	In 2012, the average age of registered occupational therapists was 36.3; 7.8% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed occupational therapists in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory worked 33.1 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the occupational therapist workforce in Australia. For information about what occupational therapists do, see Box 6.1.

Box 6.1: Services provided by occupational therapists

Occupational therapists assess functional limitations of people resulting from illnesses and disabilities, and provide therapy to enable people to perform their daily activities and occupations.

An occupational therapist can provide the following treatment:

- assess clients' emotional, psychological, developmental and physical capabilities using clinical observations and standardised tests
- assess clients' functional potential in their home, leisure, work and school environments, and recommend environmental adaptations to maximise their performance
- plan and direct programs through the use of vocational, recreational, remedial, social and educational activities on an individual and group basis.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

6.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 14,307 registered occupational therapists in Australia. The average age of registered occupational therapists was 36.3. More than 9 in 10 registered occupational therapists (91.9%) were women. Selected characteristics of all registered occupational therapists are shown in tables 6.1 and 6.2. Due to transitional arrangements, data are incomplete for some states (see Box 6.2), and are excluded from Table 6.3 onwards.

Box 6.2: Treatment of occupational therapists in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia

2012 was the first year that occupational therapists were registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). Most of the registration details were migrated from individual state-based systems and updated at the time of registration renewal (where necessary).

Due to transitional arrangements, many occupational therapists in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia were not required to renew their registrations and, as a result did not complete workforce surveys. Data for these states, data where state or territory was unknown and for overseas occupational therapists, have been excluded from Table 6.3 onwards.

Because the state or territory of a person's main job was not collected for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia this was not able to be used for cross-border occupational therapist flows. As a result, the state and territory of principal practice was used for the tables in this chapter. If principal practice details were not available, state and territory of residence of the person was used as a proxy. Based on the data from other professions it is likely the numbers of occupational therapists working in the Northern Territory will be understated by the order of 10%.

Table 6.1: Registered occupational therapists (including provisional registrants): states and territories[(a)], selected characteristics, 2012

State/territory	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
New South Wales	3,877	36.5	6.8	91.6
Victoria	3,412	36.2	8.4	92.6
Queensland	2,987	36.0	6.7	92.0
Western Australia	2,176	35.9	9.2	92.4
South Australia	1,180	36.0	7.5	90.0
Tasmania	232	41.9	15.5	90.5
Australian Capital Territory	205	38.0	12.7	89.2
Northern Territory	123	36.6	8.1	90.2
Not stated/inadequately described	115	40.3	12.2	93.0
Australia (excluding Qld, WA and SA and unknown/overseas)	**7,849**	**36.6**	**7.9**	**91.9**
Australia	**14,307**	**36.3**	**7.8**	**91.9**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy; otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

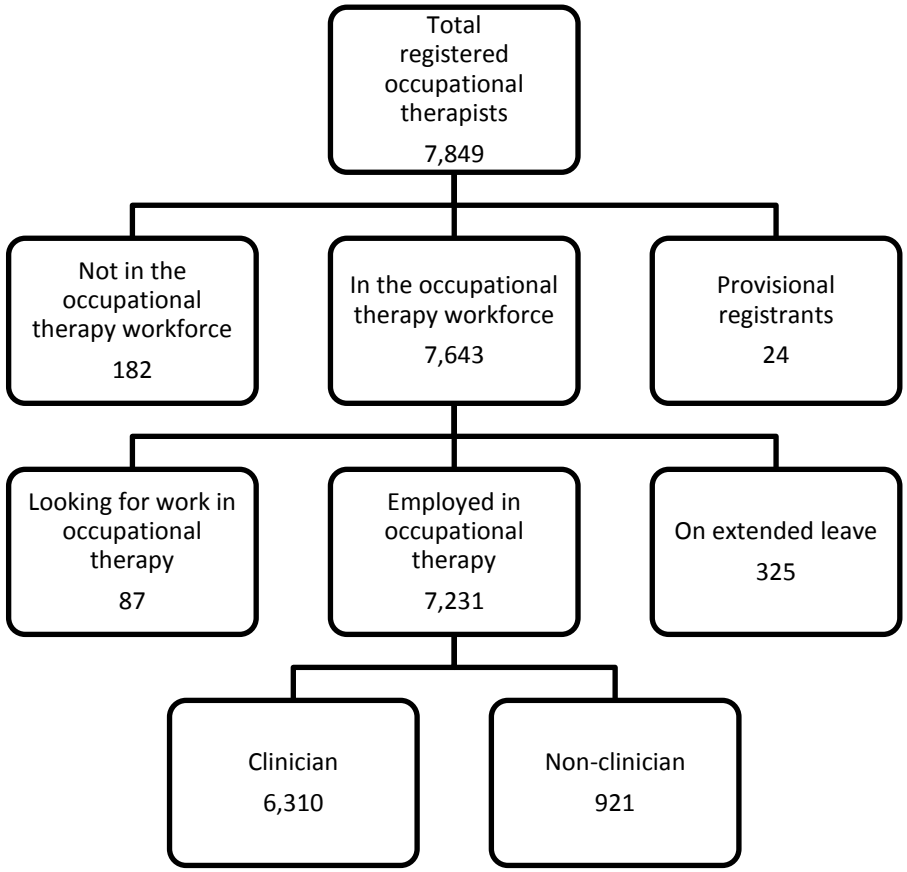
Most registered occupational therapists were general registrants. Twenty six people had provisional registration where graduates are required to perform for a period of time under supervision (Table 6.2). These registrants are required to renew only after completing their first year. None of the provisional registrants completed workforce survey. Due to their provisional status and lack of survey data it was decided to exclude them from counts of employed practitioners and from many of the tables.

Table 6.2: Registered occupational therapists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	14,018	36.4	7.9	91.8
Limited (postgraduate training)	101	32.0	2.0	96.0
Limited (teaching and research)	1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	161	35.0	6.2	97.5
Provisional	26	42.7	3.8	96.2
Total	**14,307**	**36.3**	**7.8**	**91.9**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

In 2012, there were 7,849 registered occupational therapists in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. The majority of these were in the occupational therapy workforce (7,643). Of these, 87 were looking for work in occupational therapy and 325 were on extended leave (1.1% and 4.3%, respectively, of the total (Figure 6.1 and Table 6.3).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 6.1: Registered occupational therapists: workforce status, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Table 6.3: Registered occupational therapists: registration type, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	7,667	36.6	8.0	91.8
Limited (postgraduate training)	80	31.7	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	78	32.6	n.p.	n.p.
Provisional	24	43.0	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**7,849**	**36.6**	**7.9**	**91.9**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

The proportion of registered occupational therapists in the occupational therapy workforce ranged from 93.5% in the Northern Territory to 99.1% in Tasmania. The number of occupational therapists looking for work in occupational therapy was highest in Victoria (42) (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Registered occupational therapists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
In the occupational therapy workforce	*3,777*	*3,321*	*230*	*199*	*115*	*7,643*
Employed in occupational therapy	*3,557*	*3,159*	*218*	*190*	*107*	*7,231*
Clinician[(b)]	3,087	2,793	190	153	86	6,310
Non-clinician	470	366	28	36	21	921
Looking for work in occupational therapy	*40*	*42*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*87*
Employed elsewhere	18	19	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	40
Not employed	22	23	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	48
On extended leave	180	119	11	7	8	325
Not in occupational therapy workforce	*85*	*83*	*n.p.*	*5*	*n.p.*	*182*
Overseas	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	25
Not looking for work in occupational therapy	*71*	*65*	*n.p.*	*5*	*n.p.*	*151*
Employed elsewhere	37	32	n.p.	4	n.p.	79
Not employed	34	33	—	n.p.	n.p.	73
Retired from regular work	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	6
Total registered occupational therapists	**3,862**	**3,404**	**232**	**204**	**123**	**7,825**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

6.2 Occupational therapists employed in occupational therapy

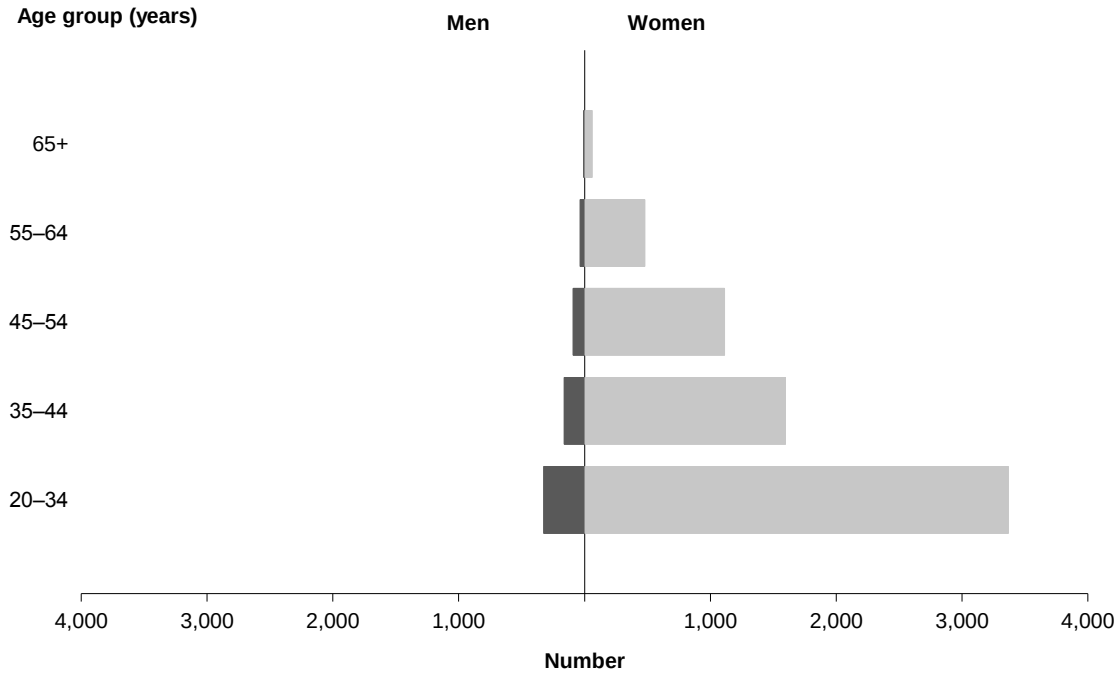
A person who reported working in occupational therapy in the week before the survey was considered to have been an 'employed occupational therapist' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of occupational therapists (not provisionally registered) employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of occupational therapists is 44.9 FTE per 100,000 population in 2012 (Table 6.5).

Age and sex

In 2012, there were more women than men across all age groups, with women aged between 20–34 representing the highest numbers of occupational therapists (3,368). For male occupational therapists, the 20–34 age group was also the largest (322) (Figure 6.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 6.2: Number of employed occupational therapists, by age group and sex, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupational therapists

There were 21 employed occupational therapists in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.3% of employed occupational therapists who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed occupational therapists in in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 6,411 received their initial occupational therapy qualification in Australia (88.7%). Those employed occupational therapists who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a slightly lower average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (35.7 and 36.5 respectively) (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5: Employed occupational therapists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Australia	6,411	36.5	7.7	91.9	33.0	39.6
New Zealand	127	35.7	9.8	86.6	35.6	0.8
Other country	399	43.4	14.2	84.3	33.5	2.5
Not stated/inadequately described	294	34.7	6.2	93.5	34.3	1.9
Total	**7,231**	**36.8**	**8.0**	**91.5**	**33.1**	**44.9**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in occupational therapy

The principal role in occupational therapy describes the types of work undertaken by employed occupational therapists. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 87.3% of employed occupational therapists. The smallest group were researchers accounting for 1.0% of employed occupational therapists (Table 6.6).

Table 6.6: Employed occupational therapists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinician[(b)]	6,310	36.3	7.6	91.9	32.9	38.9
Non-clinician	*921*	*40.2*	*10.8*	*88.4*	*34.4*	*5.9*
Administrator	383	42.5	11.1	86.9	35.3	2.5
Teacher/educator	132	44.9	19.9	93.1	33.2	0.8
Researcher	70	41.1	n.p.	n.p.	32.1	0.4
Other	335	35.6	7.7	86.4	34.4	2.2
Total	**7,231**	**36.8**	**8.0**	**91.5**	**33.1**	**44.9**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Occupational therapists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in occupational therapy in the week before completing the survey. Working in community health-care services (35.7% of clinicians and 34.1% of all employed occupational therapists) was the most commonly reported work setting (Table 6.7).

Table 6.7: Employed occupational therapists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

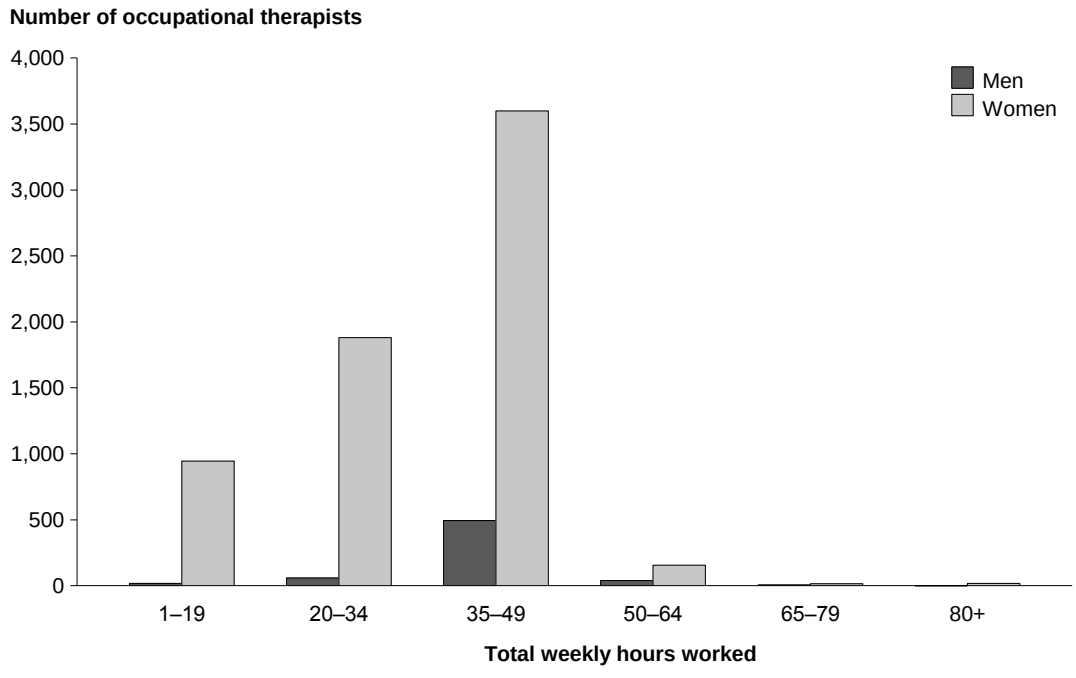
	Clinician[(a)]		Total occupational therapists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	1,031	31.5	1,133	31.5
Aboriginal health service	9	31.7	10	32.2
Community health-care services	2,250	33.1	2,468	33.2
Hospital	1,895	33.8	2,030	33.9
Residential health-care facility	186	31.2	202	31.0
Commercial/business services	69	34.0	143	35.1
Educational services	178	31.6	310	32.8
Correctional services	5	39.5	6	35.0
Defence forces	5	33.4	10	30.2
Other government department or agency	261	31.7	383	32.7
Other	247	33.3	347	33.8
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	174	34.7	189	35.0
Total	**6,310**	**32.9**	**7,231**	**33.1**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

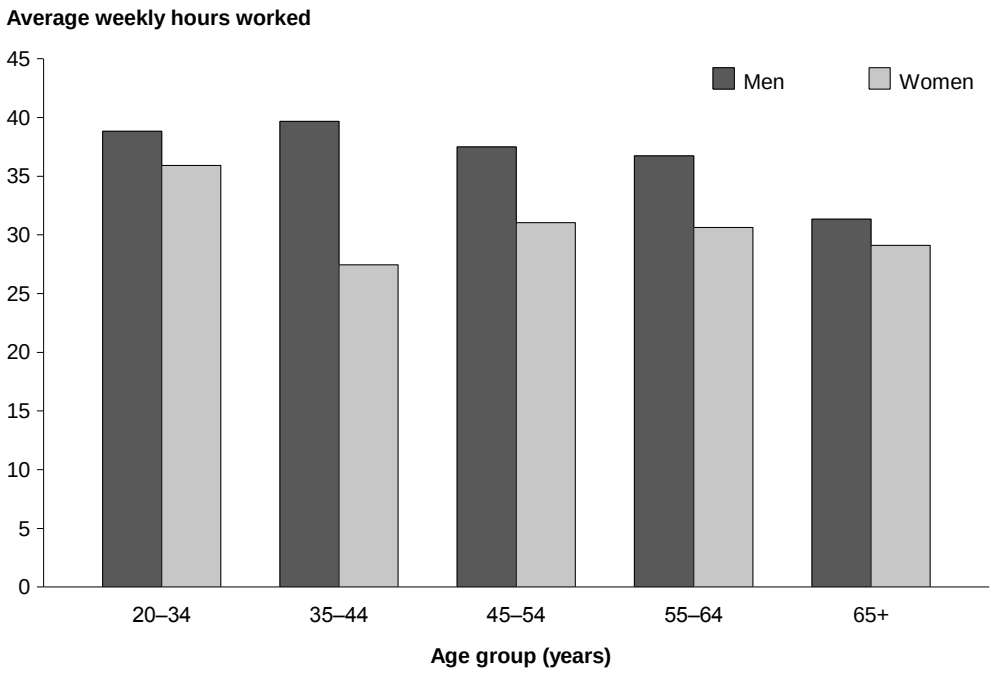
On average, employed occupational therapists worked 33.1 hours a week in 2012 (Table 6.8). About 2 in 5 (40.1%) worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 6.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 6.3: Employed occupational therapists: total hours worked per week, by sex, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Male occupational therapists worked 38.7 hours per week on average, while female physiotherapists worked 32.6 hours on average (Table 6.8). This greatest difference was in the 35–44 age group, with men working 12.3 hours a week on average more than women, while the least difference between men and women was among those aged 65 and over (2.2 hours) (Figure 6.4).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 6.4: Employed occupational therapists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

States and territories

In New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory male occupational therapists worked 38.7 hours per week on average, while female occupational therapists worked 32.6 hours. This gap was widest for 35–44 olds but relatively constant across the other age groups (Figure 6.4).

On average, employed occupational therapists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (33.8) while those in Tasmania worked the least (29.4) (Table 6.8).

Table 6.8: Employed occupational therapists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Men	38.8	38.6	37.1	37.9	39.5	38.7
Women	32.5	33.0	28.6	32.3	33.2	32.6
Persons	**33.1**	**33.4**	**29.4**	**33.0**	**33.8**	**33.1**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

In New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, occupational therapists working in *Major cities* worked on average the most weekly hours (33.4) in 2012, while those in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the least (30.1) (Table 6.9).

Table 6.9: Employed occupational therapists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)], New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Total
Men	38.8	38.4	38.3	37.2	38.7
Women	32.9	31.5	31.9	29.1	32.6
Persons	**33.4**	**32.1**	**32.3**	**30.1**	**33.1**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, there were more occupational therapists in the public sector than in the private sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (3,351 FTE clinicians in the public sector and 1,761 in the private sector). Occupational therapists in the public sector worked more hours per week on average than their private sector counterparts (28.9 compared with 24.8 respectively) (Table 6.10).

Table 6.10: Employed occupational therapists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	2,703	4,412
Average age	37.5	36.3
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	8.1	7.9
Women (per cent)	91.3	91.9
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	24.8	28.9
Clinical FTE number[(a)]	1,761	3,351

Note: occupational therapists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Sources: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

6.3 Geographic profile of employed occupational therapists

Remoteness area

The supply of occupational therapists in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory was highest in *Major cities* (48.4 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (16.7 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 6.11).

Table 6.11: Employed occupational therapists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia
Number	5,537	1,345	313	34	7,231
Average age	36.4	38.2	37.7	39.0	36.8
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	7.5	9.7	8.8	n.p.	8.0
Women (per cent)	91.3	91.9	93.1	n.p.	91.5
Average weekly hours worked	33.4	32.1	32.3	30.1	33.1
FTE rate[(c)]	48.4	40.1	27.0	16.7	44.9

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed occupational therapists was in New South Wales (3,557), followed by Victoria (3,159). The FTE rate was highest in Victoria, with 49.4 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in Tasmania, with 32.9 (Table 6.12).

Table 6.12: Employed occupational therapists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number	3,557	3,159	218	190	107	7,231
Average age	36.7	36.5	42.3	37.5	37.0	36.8
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	7.0	8.4	16.4	10.5	8.3	8.0
Women (per cent)	91.1	92.2	90.4	88.4	89.7	91.5
Average weekly hours worked	33.1	33.4	29.4	33.0	33.8	33.1
FTE rate[(b)]	42.4	49.4	32.9	43.9	40.4	44.9

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

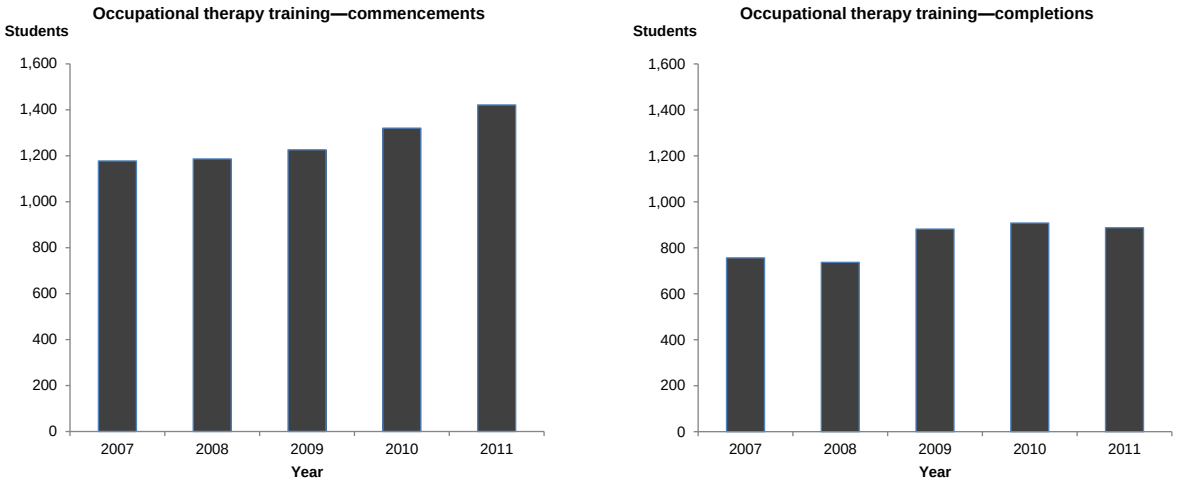
6.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the occupational therapy workforce

Occupational therapy training

Information on occupational therapist student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as an occupational therapist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering occupational therapist courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training.

Commencements in university courses leading to qualification as an occupational therapist by domestic students in Australia have increased by 20.6%, from 1,178 in 2007 to 1,421 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 17.3%, from 756 to 887 (Figure 6.5).



Notes

1. Higher education data includes all occupational therapy students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Occupational Therapy Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is occupational therapy.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 6.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing occupational therapy courses (higher education), 2007–2011

Occupational therapists not employed in occupational therapy

The Occupational Therapist Workforce Survey collects some basic information on those occupational therapists who are registered but not actively employed in occupational therapy in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory; that is, occupational therapists on extended leave, working overseas, employed

elsewhere or not employed. Occupational therapists who were not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among occupational therapists, the youngest group not actively employed in occupational therapy were those looking for work in occupational therapy and employed elsewhere (average age 29.9). The average age of those occupational therapists retired from regular work was 59.1 (Table 6.13).

Table 6.13: Occupational therapists not actively employed in occupational therapy: workforce status, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(a)] (per cent)[(b)]
On extended leave	325	34.2	2.9	98.9	93.1
Looking for work in occupational therapy	*87*	*31.6*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	40	29.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	48	33.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	25	31.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work in occupational therapy	*151*	*38.1*	*10.5*	*93.2*	*93.5*
Employed elsewhere	79	40.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	73	35.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	6	59.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total occupational therapists not actively employed in occupational therapy	**594**	**35.0**	**6.0**	**96.5**	**94.0**
Total employed occupational therapists	**7,231**	**36.8**	**8.0**	**91.5**	**95.2**

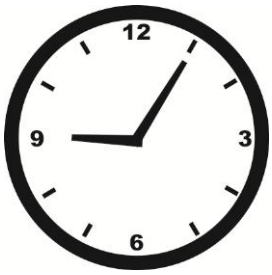
(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions. (See Glossary.)

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

7 Medical radiation practitioner workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 13,376 registered medical radiation practitioners.
	Almost 7 in 10 registered medical radiation practitioners were women.
	In 2012, the average age of registered medical radiation practitioners was 38.3; 13.7% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed medical radiation practitioners in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory worked 34.4 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the medical radiation practitioner workforce in Australia. For information about what medical radiation practitioners do, see Box 7.1.

Box 7.1: Services provided by medical radiation practitioners

Medical radiation practitioners operate X-ray and other radiation producing and imaging equipment for diagnostic, monitoring and treatment purposes under the direction of radiologists and other medical practitioners.

A medical radiation practitioner can provide the following treatment:

- receive referrals from medical practitioners to perform medical imaging and radiation treatment of patients
- determine the appropriate equipment to use, such as X-ray equipment, radiation scanners, fluoroscopes, ultrasound equipment, nuclear instrumentation, angiography equipment and computed tomography (CT) equipment, and selecting the appropriate equipment settings to provide the diagnostic information requested by medical practitioners.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

7.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 13,376 registered medical radiation practitioners in Australia. Selected characteristics of all registered medical practitioners are shown in tables 7.1 and 7.2. Due to transitional arrangements, data are incomplete for some states (see boxes 7.2 and 7.3).

Table 7.1: Registered medical radiation practitioners (including provisional registrants): states and territories[(a)], selected characteristics, 2012

State/territory[(a)]	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
New South Wales	4,255	37.6	13.1	66.3
Victoria	3,417	38.5	14.2	67.6
Queensland	2,746	38.3	12.5	66.7
Western Australia	1,242	38.9	15.9	68.4
Sout Australia	993	38.3	13.1	74.3
Tasmania	258	41.1	19.4	68.6
Australian Capital Territory[(b)]	222	37.0	12.6	n.p.
Northern Territory	107	38.4	n.p.	n.p.
Australia (excluding Qld, Tas, WA and unknown/overseas)	**9,243**	**38.1**	**13.9**	**67.1**
Australia	**13,376**	**38.3**	**13.7**	**67.6**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about their sex was mssing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Box 7.2: Treatment of medical radiation practitioners in Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia

2012 was the first year that medical radiation practitioners were registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). Most of the registration details were migrated from individual state-based systems and updated at the time of registration renewal (where necessary).

Due to transitional arrangements, many medical radiation practitioners in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania were not required to renew their registrations, and as a result did not complete workforce surveys. Data for these states, data for unknown state or territory and overseas medical radiation practitioners, have been excluded from survey data and from Table 7.3.

Because the state or territory of a persons main job was not collected for Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia this was not able to be used for cross-border occupational therapist flows. As a result, the state and territory of principal practice was used for the tables in this chapter. If principal practice details were not available, state and territory of residence of the person was used as a proxy. Based on the data from other professions it is likely the numbers of medical radiation practitioners working in the Northern Territory will be understated by the order of 10%.

In 2012, the average age of registered medical radiation practitioners was 38.3. About two thirds of registered medical radiation practitioners (67.6%) were women. Of those registered medical radiation practitioners who held a general registration, over 1 in 8 (14.5%) were aged 55 and over (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Registered medical radiation practitioners: registration type, selected characteristics, Australia, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	12,576	39.0	14.5	67.6
Limited (public interest)	1	n.p.	n.p.	—
Non-practising	138	n.p.	n.p.	76.8
Provisional	661	24.6	—	65.2
Total	**13,376**	**38.3**	**13.7**	**67.6**

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Most registered medical radiation therapists were general registrants (12,576), and 661 people had provisional registration where graduates are required to perform for a period of time under supervision (Table 7.2). These registrants are required to renew only after completing their first year. Very few provisional registrants completed the workforce survey. Due to their provisional status and lack of survey data, it was decided to exclude them from counts of employed practitioners and from many of the tables.

In 2012, there were 8,994 registered medical radiation practitioners in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 7.3). The majority of these were in the medical radiation practitioner workforce (8,171). Of these, 47 were looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner and 318 were on

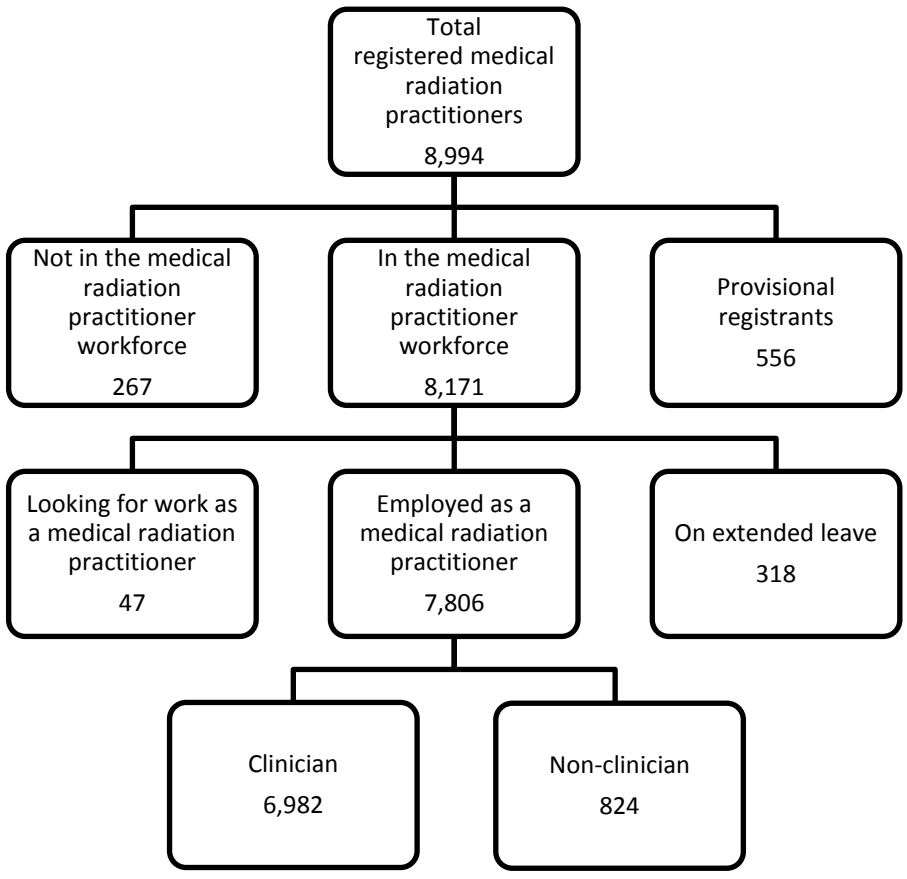
extended leave. This accounts for 0.6% and 3.9%, respectively, of total registered medical radiation practitioners currently in the medical radiation practitioner workforce (Figure 7.1).

Table 7.3: Registered medical radiation practitioners: registration type, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	8,314	38.9	14.5	67.8
Limited (public interest)	1	n.p.	n.p.	—
Non-practising	123	n.p.	n.p.	77.2
Provisional	556	24.7	—	63.5
Total	**8,994**	**38.0**	**13.5**	**67.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about their sex was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 7.1: Registered medical radiation practitioners: workforce status, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

The proportion of registered medical radiation practitioners in the medical radiation practitioner workforce ranged from 94.8% in the Northern Territory to 98.8% in South Australia. The number of medical radiation practitioners looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner was highest in New South Wales (22) (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4: Registered medical radiation practitioners (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	SA	ACT	NT	Total
In the medical radiation practitioner workforce	*3,810*	*3,092*	*971*	*206*	*92*	*8,171*
Employed as a medical radiation practitioner	*3,645*	*2,938*	*936*	*200*	*87*	*7,806*
Clinician[(b)]	3,250	2,647	826	180	79	6,982
Non-clinician	395	291	110	20	9	824
Looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner	*22*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	*47*
Employed elsewhere	7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	11
Not employed	15	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	36
On extended leave	143	133	33	4	4	318
Not in the medical radiation practitioner workforce	*81*	*162*	*12*	*7*	*5*	*267*
Overseas	18	48	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	71
Not looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner	*57*	*104*	*6*	*5*	*3*	*176*
Employed elsewhere	35	75	5	n.p.	n.p.	117
Not employed	22	30	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	59
Retired from regular work	6	10	4	—	—	19
Total registered medical radiation practitioners	**3,891**	**3,254**	**983**	**213**	**97**	**8,438**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

7.2 Medical radiation practitioners employed as a medical radiation practitioner

A person who reported working as a medical radiation practitioner in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed medical radiation practitioner' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of medical radiation practitioners (not provisionally registered) employed in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are the focus of the remainder of this section.

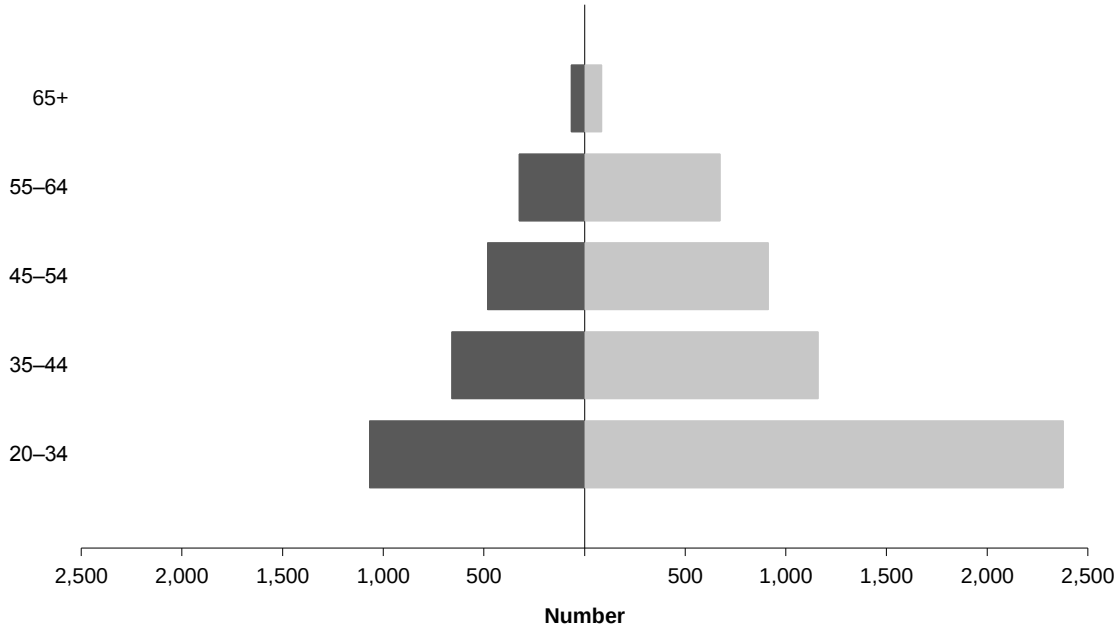
Across Australia, the overall supply of medical radiation practitioners is 46.5 FTE per 100,000 population in 2012 (Table 7.5).

Box 7.3: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners from the Australian Capital Territory (83.3% of registered medical radiation practitioners). Although this had a minimal impact on the national figures, sex for these medical radiation practitioners was imputed but in tables by state and territory, data for the Australian Capital Territory pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

Age and sex

In 2012, in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, there were more women than men across all age groups, with women aged between 20–34 representing the highest numbers of medical radiation practitioners (2,377). For male medical radiation practitioners, the 20–34 age group was also the largest (1,068) (Figure 7.2).



Note: For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 7.2: Number of employed medical radiation practitioners, by age group and sex, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical radiation practitioners

In New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory there were 23 employed medical radiation practitioners who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.3% of employed medical radiation practitioners who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed medical radiation practitioners in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 6,418 received their initial medical radiation practitioner qualification in Australia (82.2%). Those employed medical radiation practitioners who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a higher average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (41.5 and 38.0 respectively) (Table 7.5).

Table 7.5: Employed medical radiation practitioners: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	6,418	38.0	12.3	65.7	34.5	38.4
New Zealand	212	41.5	18.4	82.8	35.2	1.3
Other country	867	48.6	35.6	69.9	33.0	5.0
Not stated/inadequately described	310	34.0	3.9	67.6	35.4	1.9
Total	**7,806**	**39.1**	**14.7**	**66.7**	**34.4**	**46.5**

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in medical radiation practice

The principal role in medical radiation practice describes the types of work undertaken by employed medical radiation practitioners. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 89.4% of employed medical radiation practitioners. The smallest group was researchers accounting for 0.5% of employed medical radiation practitioners (Table 7.6).

Table 7.6: Employed medical radiation practitioners: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	6,982	38.8	14.3	67.6	34.2	41.3
Non-clinician	*824*	*42.3*	*18.4*	*59.5*	*36.3*	*5.2*
Administrator	271	45.5	21.1	42.8	39.5	1.9
Teacher/educator	131	42.0	14.5	65.0	37.1	0.8
Researcher	44	39.5	n.p.	n.p.	33.8	0.3
Other	378	40.4	19.0	69.5	34.0	2.2
Total	**7,806**	**39.1**	**14.7**	**66.7**	**34.4**	**46.5**

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Medical radiation practitioners were asked to indicate the setting of their main job as a medical radiation practitioner in the week before completing the survey. Working in hospitals (51.3% of clinicians and 51.0% of all medical radiation practitioners) was the most commonly reported work setting (Table 7.7).

Table 7.7: Employed medical radiation practitioners: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

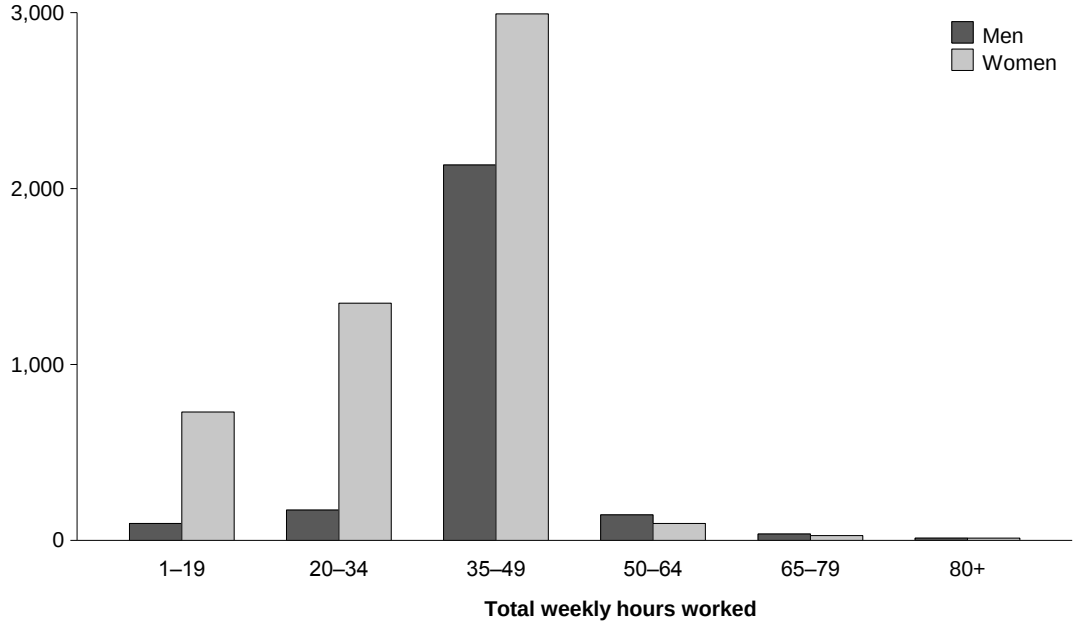
	Clinician[(a)]		Total medical radiation practitioners	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	2,730	33.4	2,972	33.4
Community health-care services	73	30.5	82	30.6
Hospital	3,583	35.1	3,984	35.3
Commercial/business services	12	40.8	36	42.3
Educational services	16	32.0	74	35.4
Defence forces	5	28.4	7	30.5
Other government department or agency	61	27.3	78	28.6
Other	35	32.0	71	35.5
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	467	33.5	502	33.9
Total	**6,982**	**34.2**	**7,806**	**34.4**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

On average, employed medical radiation practitioners worked 34.4 hours a week in 2012 (Table 7.7). Three in 10 (30.1%) medical radiation practitioners worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 7.3).



Note: For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 7.3: Employed medical radiation practitioners: total hours worked per week, by sex, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Male medical radiation practitioners worked 38.5 hours per week on average, while female medical radiation practitioners worked 32.4 hours on average (Table 7.8). This gap varied slightly across age groups (Figure 7.4).

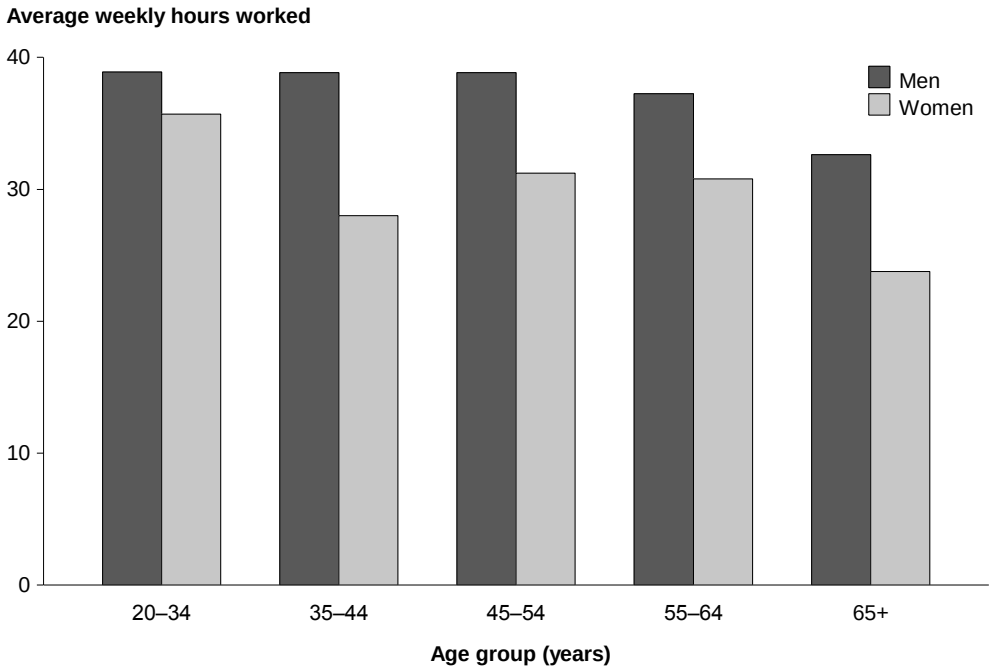
Table 7.8: Employed medical radiation practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	SA	ACT[(b)]	NT	Total
Men	37.9	39.7	38.9	n.p.	34.4	38.5
Women	32.0	32.9	31.9	n.p.	33.3	32.4
Persons	**34.0**	**35.2**	**33.8**	**33.9**	**33.7**	**34.4**

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.



Note: For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 7.4: Employed medical radiation practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed medical radiation practitioners in the Victoria worked the most weekly hours (35.2) while those in the Northern Territory worked the least (33.7) (Table 7.8).

Remoteness area

On average, in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, medical radiation practitioners working in *Inner regional* areas worked the most weekly hours (34.7) in 2012 while those in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the least (32.2) (Table 7.9).

Table 7.9: Employed medical radiation practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)], New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Sex[(b)]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Total
Men	38.7	38.3	36.9	32.6	38.5
Women	32.4	32.6	31.1	31.9	32.4
Persons	**34.4**	**34.7**	**32.8**	**32.2**	**34.4**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, there were more medical radiation practitioners in the public sector than in the private sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (3,320 FTE clinicians in the public sector and 3,041 in the private sector). Medical radiation practitioners in the public sector worked more hours per week than their private sector counterparts (31.1 hours compared with 30.9 hours per week on average, respectively) unlike most other professions (Table 7.10).

Table 7.10: Employed medical radiation practitioners: selected characteristics, by employment sector, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,737	4,055
Average age	39.8	38.4
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	16.1	13.2
Women[(a)] (per cent)	69.0	65.0
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	30.9	31.1
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	3,041	3,320

Note: Medical radiation practitioners appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

7.3 Geographic profile of employed medical radiation practitioners

Remoteness area

The supply of medical radiation practitioners in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory was highest in *Major cities* (49.2 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (13.3 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 7.11).

Table 7.11: Employed medical radiation practitioners: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[a], New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[b]	Total
Number	6,473	1,032	249	50	7,806
Average age	38.9	40.2	40.7	41.2	39.1
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.4	16.2	18.1	n.p.	14.7
Women[c] (per cent)	67.3	62.9	70.1	n.p.	66.7
Average weekly hours worked	34.4	34.7	32.8	32.2	34.4
FTE rate[d]	49.2	34.8	21.3	13.3	46.5

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed medical radiation practitioners was in New South Wales (3,645), followed by Victoria (2,938). The FTE rate was highest in South Australia, with 50.2 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in the Northern Territory, with 32.9 FTE per 100,000 population (Table 7.12).

Table 7.12: Employed medical radiation practitioners: selected characteristics, by state and territory[a], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	SA	ACT[b]	NT	Total
Number	3,645	2,938	936	200	87	7,806
Average age	39.1	39.4	38.7	37.7	39.9	39.1
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.6	15.2	13.1	14.0	n.p.	14.7
Women (per cent)	65.4	66.2	73.6	n.p.	n.p.	66.7
Average weekly hours worked	34.0	35.2	33.8	33.9	33.7	34.4
FTE rate[c]	44.7	48.3	50.2	47.5	32.9	46.5

(a) Derived from state and territory of principal practice; if principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used as a proxy. Otherwise, state and territory of main job is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was missing.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

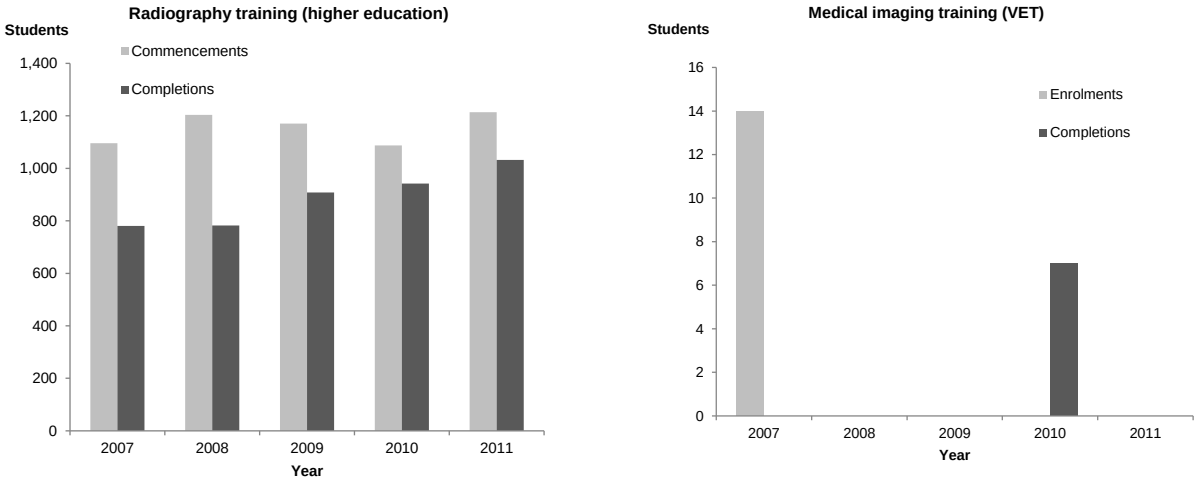
Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

7.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the medical radiation practitioner workforce

Medical radiation practitioner training

Information on radiography student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

Commencements in university courses leading to qualification as a radiographer by domestic students in Australia have increased by 10.8%, from 1,096 in 2007 to 1,214 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 32.1%, from 781 to 1,032. Enrolments in vocational education and training courses leading to qualifications in medical imaging was 14 in 2007 and there were 7 completions in 2010 (Figure 7.5).



Notes

1. Higher education and vocational education and training data includes all radiography/medical imaging students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Medical Radiation Practice Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is radiograhy.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Sources: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection; NCVER 2012.

Figure 7.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing medical radiation practice courses, 2007–2011

Medical radiation practitioners not employed in medical radiation practice

The workforce survey collects some basic information on those medical radiation practitioners who are registered but not actively employed in medical radiation practice in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory; that is, medical radiation practitioners on extended leave, working overseas, employed

elsewhere or not employed. Medical radiation practitioners who were not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among medical radiation practitioners, the youngest group not actively employed as a medical radiation practitioner were those who were overseas (33.0). The average age of those medical radiation practitioners retired from regular work was 60.8 (Table 7.13)

Table 7.13: Medical radiation practitioners not actively employed in medical radiation practice: workforce status, selected characteristics, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	318	35.7	7.7	93.3	96.8
Looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner	*47*	*36.4*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	11	36.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	36	36.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	71	33.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work as a medical radiation practitioner	*176*	*38.9*	*10.4*	*77.3*	*94.1*
Employed elsewhere	117	40.1	11.1	70.9	95.9
Not employed	59	36.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	19	60.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total medical radiation practitioners not actively employed in medical radiation practice in Australia	**632**	**37.1**	**11.0**	**83.5**	**94.9**
Total employed medical radiation practitioners	**7,806**	**39.1**	**14.7**	**66.7**	**96.1**

(a) For a significant proportion of medical radiation practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory, information about sex was imputed.

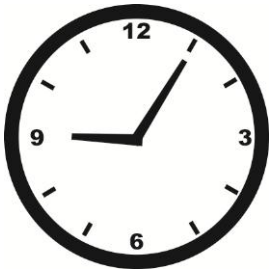
(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

8 Optometry workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 4,564 registered optometrists, 3,876 of whom were employed as clinicians.
	About half of registered optometrists were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed optometrists was 41.2; 15.4% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed optometrists worked 36.1 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: optometrists 2012.

This chapter provides details about the optometry workforce in Australia. For information about what optometrists do, see Box 8.1.

Box 8.1: Services provided by optometrists

Optometrists perform eye examinations, vision tests, prescribe lenses and other optical aids and therapy, and diagnose and manage eye movement disorders and associated sensory problems.

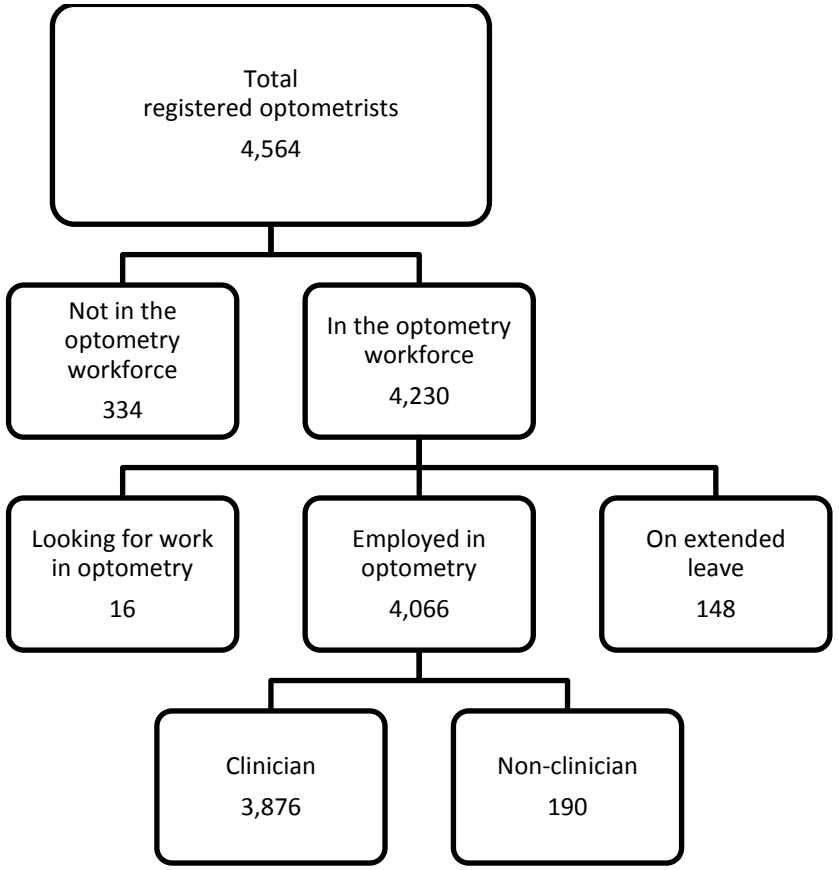
An optometrist can provide the following treatment:

- examine patients' eyes and setting tests to determine the nature and extent of vision problems and abnormalities
- assess ocular health and visual function by measuring visual acuity and refractive error, and testing the function of visual pathways, visual fields, eye movements, freedom of vision and intraocular pressure, and performing other tests using special eye test equipment
- detect, diagnose and manage eye disease, referring patients to, and receiving referrals from other health providers, and prescribing medications for the treatment of eye disease.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

8.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 4,564 registered optometrists in Australia. The majority of these were in the optometry workforce (4,230). Of these, 16 were looking for work in optometry and 147 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.4% and 3.5%, respectively, of total registered optometrists in the optometry workforce (Figure 8.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 8.1: Registered optometrists: workforce status, 2012

Of all registered optometrists, the average age of those who held a general registration was lower than for those who held a non-practising registration (41.2 compared with 44.8) (Table 8.1).

Box 8.2: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of optometrists from South Australia (42.2% of registered optometrists). Although this has minimal impact on the national figures, data for South Australia pertaining to sex has been suppressed, but has not been omitted from the national totals. Where the proportion of women occurs in tables it excludes those with unknown sex. Where data has been presented by sex, those with unknown sex are included in the total, but are not separately reported.

Table 8.1: Registered optometrists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	4,462	41.2	15.6	48.9
Non-practising	102	44.8	19.6	51.0
Total	**4,564**	**41.3**	**15.7**	**49.0**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of optometrists in the optometry workforce increased slightly, from 4,505 to 4,564 (Table 8.2).

Table 8.2: Registered optometrists: workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the optometry workforce	*4,186*	*4,230*	*1.0*
Employed in optometry	4,034	4,066	0.8
Looking for work in optometry	*14*	*16*	*13.7*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
On extended leave	139	148	6.4
Not in optometry workforce	*319*	*334*	*4.9*
Overseas	196	193	–1.2
Not looking for work in optometry	*101*	*117*	*15.5*
Employed elsewhere	48	64	32.3
Not employed	53	53	0.2
Retired from regular work	22	24	10.0
Total registered optometrists	**4,505**	**4,564**	**1.3**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health workforce, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered optometrists in the optometry workforce ranged from 93.9% in the Northern Territory to 98.8% in South Australia (Table 8.3).

Table 8.3: Registered optometrists: workforce status and principal role of main job, state and territory[a], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
In the optometry workforce	*1,462*	*1,096*	*864*	*365*	*249*	*88*	*72*	*31*	*4,230*
Employed in optometry	*1,416*	*1,044*	*825*	*354*	*243*	*87*	*68*	*30*	*4,066*
Clinician[c]	1,332	989	792	348	239	85	64	28	3,876
Non-clinician	83	55	32	6	5	n.p.	4	n.p.	190
Looking for work in optometry	*5*	*4*	*3*	*3*	—	—	—	—	*16*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	n.p.
On extended leave	41	48	36	8	5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	148
Not in optometry workforce	*83*	*67*	*28*	*16*	*3*	*3*	*4*	*2*	*334*
Overseas	25	26	8	7	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	193
Not looking for work in optometry	*46*	*38*	*14*	*7*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*117*
Employed elsewhere	24	23	6	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	64
Not employed	22	15	8	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	53
Retired from regular work	12	3	5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	24
Total registered optometrists	**1,545**	**1,163**	**892**	**382**	**252**	**91**	**76**	**33**	**4,564**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the optometry workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to optometrists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

8.2 Optometrists employed in optometry

A person who reported working in optometry in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed optometrist' (see Glossary).

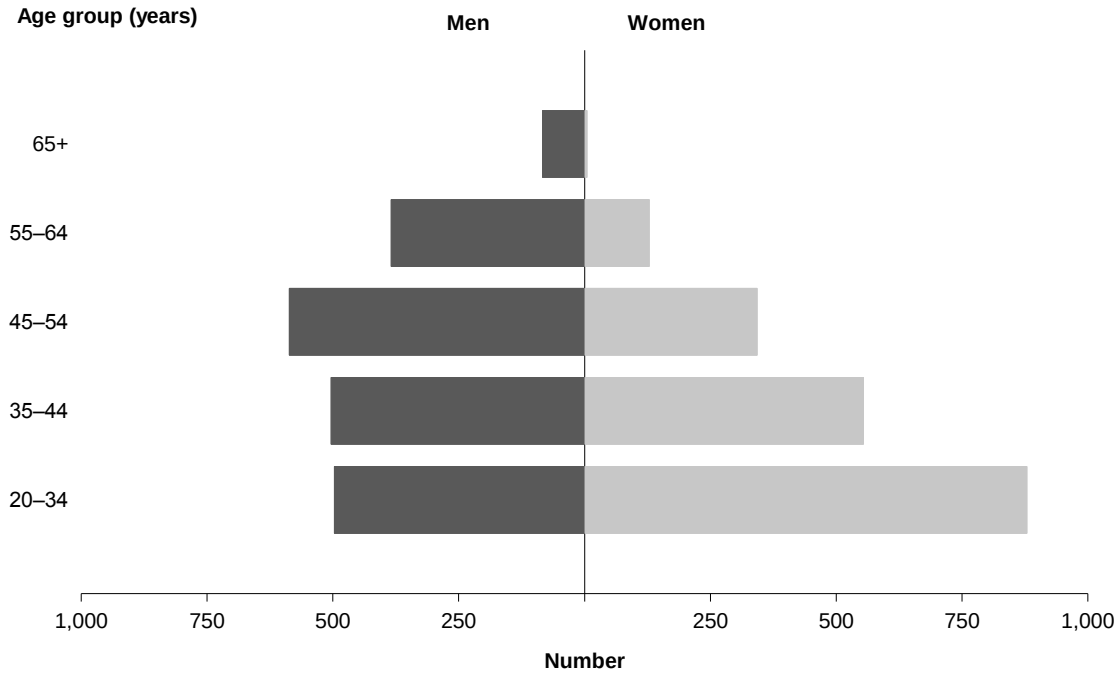
The characteristics and supply of optometrists employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of optometrists remained steady at about 17 FTE per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2012 (tables 8.4 and A.38).

Age and sex

In 2012, the average age of employed optometrists was 41.2. Nearly half of employed optometrists (48.2%) were women (Table 8.4).

There were more women than men across the 20–34 and 35–44 age groups, with the most women in the 20–34 age group (879). For male optometrists, the 45–54 age group was the largest (586) (Figure 8.2).



Note: For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 8.2: Number of employed optometrists, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander optometrists

There were fewer than 10 employed optometrists who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing less than 1% of employed optometrists who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed optometrists, 3,295 received their initial optometry qualification in Australia (81.0%). Those employed optometrists who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a lower average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (33.0 and 41.2 respectively) (Table 8.4).

Table 8.4: Employed optometrists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	3,295	41.2	15.4	48.5	36.0	13.7
New Zealand	219	33.0	5.7	55.4	37.4	0.9
Other country	350	46.7	22.0	40.9	35.4	1.4
Not stated/inadequately described	202	39.8	14.5	47.9	36.6	0.9
Total	**4,066**	**41.2**	**15.4**	**48.2**	**36.1**	**17.0**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Fields of optometry

Role in optometry

The principal role in optometry describes the types of work undertaken by employed optometrists. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 95.3% of employed optometrists. The smallest group was 'other' non-clinicians, accounting for 0.5% of employed optometrists (Table 8.5).

Table 8.5: Employed optometrists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	3,876	41.1	15.4	48.0	35.9	16.1
Non-clinician	*190*	*42.8*	*15.2*	*52.5*	*39.4*	*0.9*
Administrator	60	44.4	n.p.	n.p.	39.5	0.3
Teacher/educator	55	45.1	n.p.	n.p.	38.8	0.2
Researcher	56	40.4	n.p.	n.p.	40.1	0.3
Other	19	39.0	n.p.	n.p.	38.8	0.1
Total	**4,066**	**41.2**	**15.4**	**48.2**	**36.1**	**17.0**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Endorsements of optometrists

An optometrist who holds a scheduled medicine endorsement is qualified to prescribe or supply schedule 2, 3 or 4 medicines to patients for the treatment of conditions of the eye from a list approved by the Optometry Board of Australia. There were 1,302 employed optometrists with a scheduled medicines endorsement. Their average age was 36.1, compared with 41.2 for all employed optometrists.

Work setting

Optometrists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in optometry in the week before completing the survey. Most optometrists reported working in private practice (89.8% of clinicians and 86.7% of total optometrists (Table 8.6).

Table 8.6: Employed optometrists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

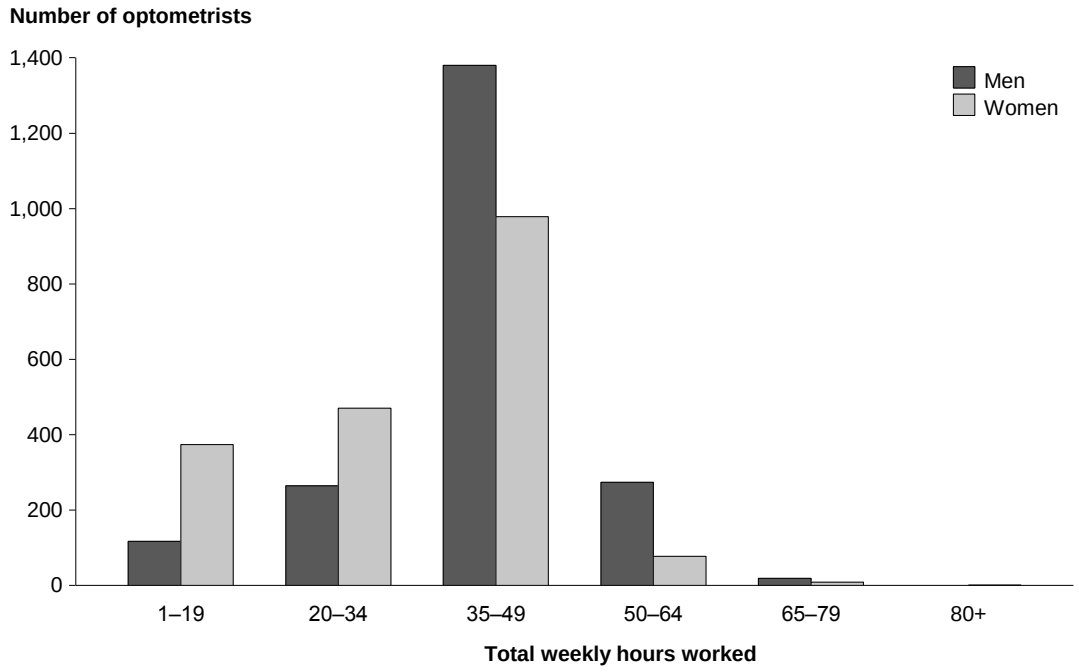
	Clinician[(a)]		Total optometrists	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	3,481	35.8	3,525	35.8
Aboriginal health service	7	31.2	10	30.8
Community health-care services	39	35.5	42	36.7
Hospital	15	28.9	17	32.3
Residential health-care services	10	34.4	10	34.4
Commercial/business services	172	35.5	186	36.2
Educational facility	15	39.5	106	40.7
Other	43	34.7	72	36.1
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	95	42.1	99	42.7
Total	**3,876**	**35.9**	**4,066**	**36.1**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

On average, employed optometrists worked 36.1 hours a week in 2012, up slightly from 35.9 in 2011 (tables 8.7 and A.40). Over 3 in 10 (30.9%) optometrists worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 8.3).

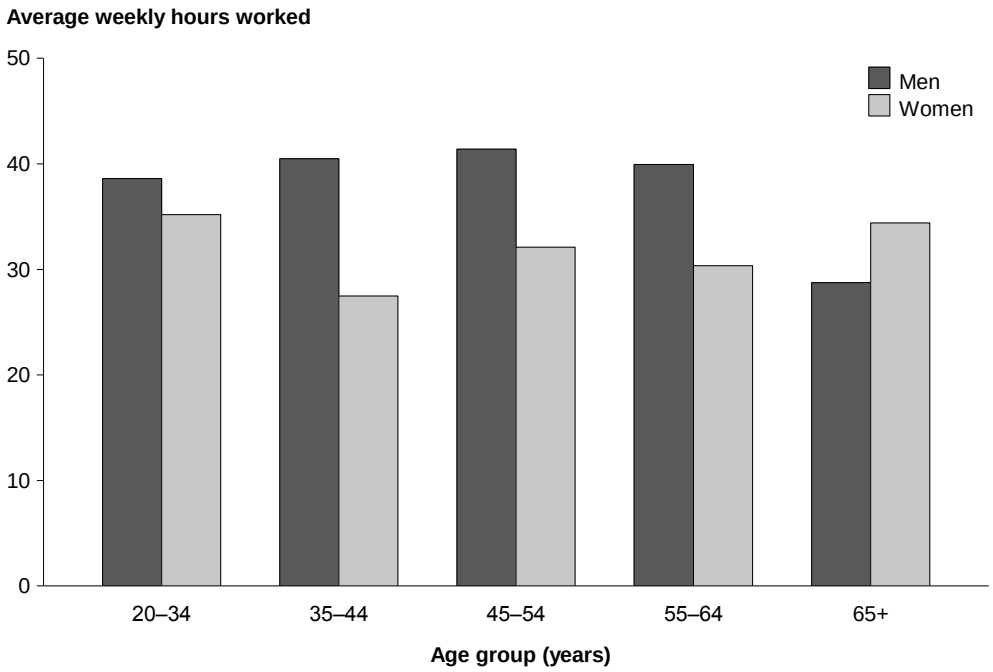


Note: For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 8.3: Employed optometrists: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male optometrists worked 39.7 hours per week on average, while female optometrists worked 32.2 hours (Table 8.7). This gap remained relatively consistent across the 35–64 age groups (Figure 8.4). However, female optometrists aged 65 and over worked on average more hours a week than their male counterparts.



Note: For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 8.4: Employed optometrists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed optometrists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (41.2) while those in the Australian Capital Territory worked the least (34.9) (Table 8.7).

Table 8.7: Employed optometrists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Men	40.0	39.9	39.3	39.0	n.p.	39.9	39.0	42.4	39.7
Women	32.6	32.0	30.6	32.3	n.p.	33.3	30.5	39.9	32.2
Persons	**36.2**	**35.9**	**35.3**	**36.3**	**37.0**	**37.7**	**34.9**	**41.2**	**36.1**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, optometrists working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the most weekly hours (38.4) in 2012 while those in *Major cities* worked the least (35.7) (Table 8.8).

Table 8.8: Employed optometrists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)] of main job, 2012

Sex[(b)]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Men	39.6	40.2	38.9	39.1	39.7
Women	31.9	32.7	35.2	38.7	32.2
Persons	**35.7**	**37.3**	**37.4**	**38.4**	**36.1**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more optometrists in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (3,275 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 205 in the public sector). Optometrists in the private sector worked more hours per week on average than their public sector counterparts (32.8 and 21.5 hours, respectively) (Table 8.9).

Table 8.9: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,791	362
Average age	41.3	40.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	15.4	18.1
Women[(a)] (per cent)	47.5	51.9
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	32.8	21.5
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	3,275	205

Note: Optometrists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

8.3 Geographic profile of employed optometrists

Remoteness area

The supply of optometrists in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (18.7 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (6.1 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 8.10).

Table 8.10: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	3,177	639	214	32	4,066
Average age	40.8	42.3	43.7	42.4	41.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.7	15.6	24.9	n.p.	15.4
Women[(d)] (per cent)	50.5	38.4	43.5	n.p.	48.2
Average weekly hours worked	35.7	37.3	37.4	38.4	36.1
FTE rate[(e)]	18.7	15.1	10.3	6.1	17.0

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed optometrists was in New South Wales (1,416), followed by Victoria (1,044). The FTE rate was highest in New South Wales, with 18.5 FTE per 100,000 population while the lowest FTE rate was in the Northern Territory, with 13.8 FTE per 100,000 population (Table 8.11).

Table 8.11: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	1,416	1,044	825	354	243	87	68	30	4,066
Average age	42.0	39.7	41.2	42.1	41.1	44.8	37.0	41.7	41.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	17.7	12.9	13.4	15.2	19.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15.4
Women (per cent)	51.5	50.2	45.8	40.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	48.2
Average weekly hours worked	36.2	35.9	35.3	36.3	37.0	37.7	34.9	41.2	36.1
FTE rate[(d)]	18.5	17.5	16.8	13.9	14.3	16.9	16.7	13.8	17.0

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

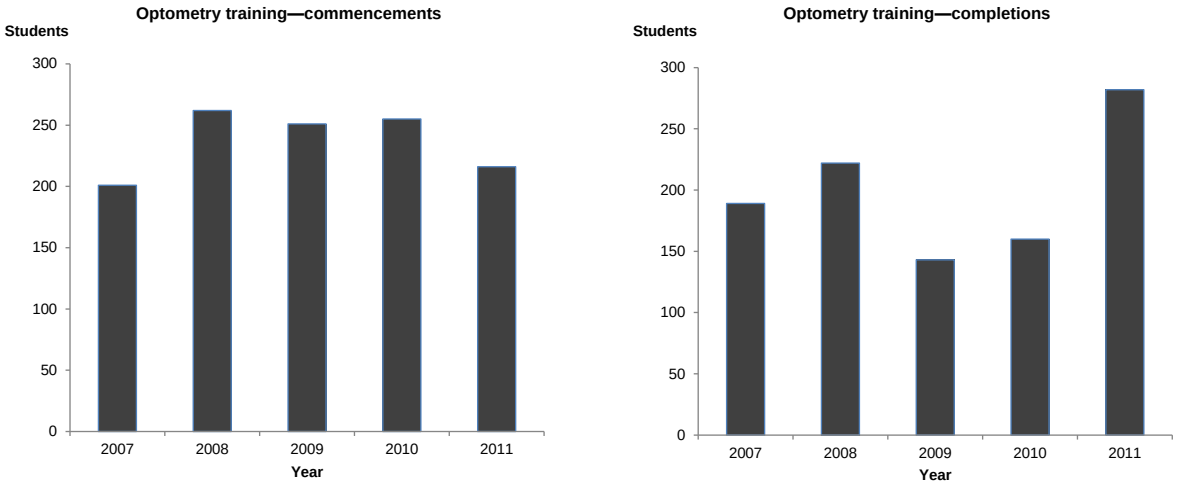
8.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the optometry workforce

Optometry training

Information on optometry student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as an optometrist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering optometry courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training.

The number of domestic student commencements of Australian university courses that lead to optometrist qualifications has increased by 7.5%, from 201 in 2007 to 216 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 49.2%, from 189 to 282 (Figure 8.5).



Notes

1. Higher education data includes all optometry students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Optometry Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is optometry.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 8.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing optometry courses (higher education), 2007–2011

Optometrists not employed in optometry

The survey collects some basic information on those optometrists who are registered but not actively employed in optometry in Australia; that is, optometrists on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Optometrists who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among optometrists, the youngest group not actively employed in optometry are those looking for work in optometry (average age 35.1). The average age of those optometrists retired from regular work was 61.5 (Table 8.12).

Table 8.12: Optometrists not actively employed in optometry in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[a] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[b] (per cent)[c]
On extended leave	148	38.0	11.0	75.4	92.9
Looking for work in optometry	*16*	*35.1*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	193	46.0	20.0	45.3	27.8
Not looking for work in optometry	*117*	*41.8*	*14.9*	*53.8*	*95.1*
Employed elsewhere	64	43.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	53	40.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	24	61.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total optometrists not actively employed in optometry in Australia	**498**	**43.0**	**18.4**	**55.2**	**68.0**
Total employed optometrists	**4,066**	**41.2**	**15.4**	**48.2**	**93.8**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

9 Chiropractic workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 4,533 registered chiropractors, 3,918 of whom were employed as clinicians.
	About 1 in 3 registered chiropractors were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed chiropractors was 41.2; 15.2% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed chiropractors worked 33.3 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the chiropractor workforce in Australia. For information about what chiropractors do, see Box 9.1.

Box 9.1: Services provided by chiropractors

Chiropractors diagnose and treat physiological and mechanical disorders of the locomotor system and tissue strain, stress and dysfunction that impede normal neural, vascular and biochemical mechanisms, and provide advice on preventing these disorders.

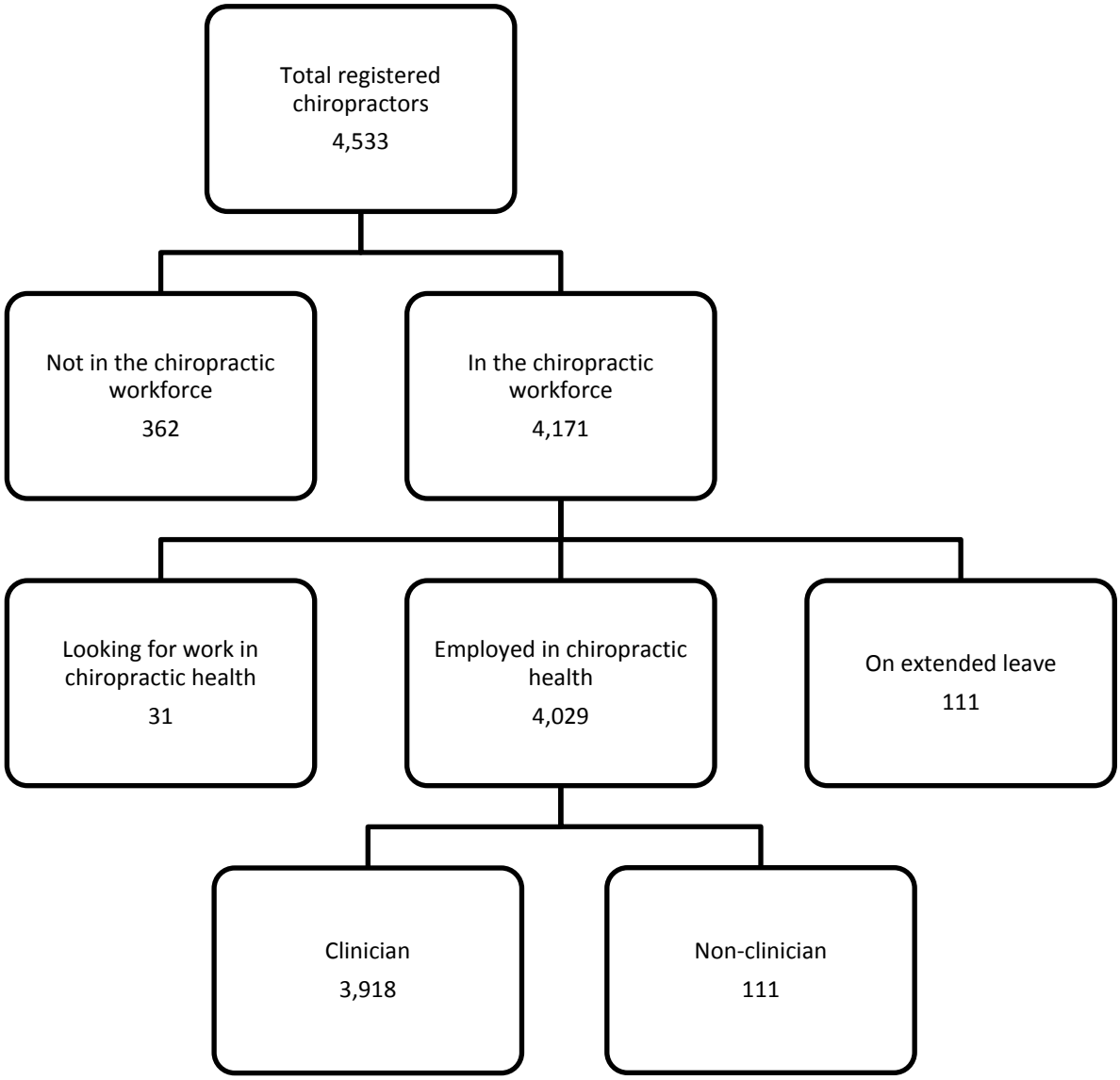
A chiropractor can provide the following treatment:

- administering a variety of neurological, musculoskeletal and functional tests to identify and assess physical problems and ailments of patients
- planning and discussing effective management of patients' dysfunction.
- designing, reviewing, monitoring, assessing and evaluating treatment programs.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

9.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 4,533 registered chiropractors in Australia. The majority of these were in the chiropractor workforce (4,171). Of these, 31 were looking for work as a chiropractor and 111 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.7% and 2.7%, respectively, of total registered chiropractors in the chiropractor workforce (Figure 9.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 9.1: Registered chiropractors: workforce status, 2012

Of all registered chiropractors, the average age of those who held a general registration was lower than for those who held a non-practising registration (41.0 compared with 43.3). Chiropractors with a non-practising registration were also much more likely to be aged 55 and over (22.9% compared with 15.1%) (Table 9.1).

Table 9.1: Registered chiropractors: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	4,281	41.0	15.1	35.9
Limited (area of need)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—
Limited (public interest)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	16.7
Non-practising	245	43.3	22.9	40.8
Total	**4,533**	**41.1**	**15.6**	**36.1**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of chiropractors in the chiropractor workforce increased slightly, from 4,045 to 4,171. Of the total registered chiropractors, the greatest increase (per cent) was for chiropractors retired from regular work (29.3%) while the greatest decrease (per cent) was for those on extended leave (13.3%) (Table 9.2).

Table 9.2: Registered chiropractors: workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the chiropractic workforce	*4,045*	*4,171*	*3.1*
Employed in chiropractic health	3,890	4,029	3.6
Looking for work in chiropractic health	*28*	*31*	*12.5*
Employed elsewhere	14	18	26.2
Not employed	14	13	–1.5
On extended leave	128	111	–13.3
Not in chiropractic workforce	*313*	*362*	*15.7*
Overseas	145	165	13.5
Not looking for work in chiropractic health	*129*	*147*	*14.1*
Employed elsewhere	67	73	8.6
Not employed	62	74	20.0
Retired from regular work	39	51	29.3
Total registered chiropractors	**4,358**	**4,533**	**4.0**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health workforce, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered chiropractors in the chiropractor workforce ranged from 91.3% in the Northern Territory to 97.9% in Tasmania. The number of chiropractors looking for work as a chiropractor was highest in New South Wales (10), and lowest in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, where no chiropractors were looking for work (Table 9.3).

Table 9.3: Registered chiropractors: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[a], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
In the chiropractic workforce	*1,405*	*1,139*	*666*	*494*	*339*	*47*	*55*	*21*	*4,171*
Employed in chiropractic health	*1,356*	*1,107*	*642*	*471*	*334*	*45*	*53*	*20*	*4,029*
Clinician[c]	1,321	1,075	623	451	330	45	53	19	3,918
Non-clinician	34	33	20	21	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	111
Looking for work in chiropractic health	*10*	*3*	*5*	*8*	*n.p.*	—	—	—	*31*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	5	n.p.	—	—	—	18
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3	—	—	—	—	13
On extended leave	39	29	18	15	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	111
Not in chiropractic workforce	*90*	*96*	*35*	*30*	*21*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*362*
Overseas	31	31	9	10	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	165
Not looking for work in chiropractic health	*42*	*50*	*19*	*17*	*n.p.*	—	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*147*
Employed elsewhere	23	31	5	6	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	73
Not employed	19	19	14	11	9	—	—	—	74
Retired from regular work	17	15	7	3	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	51
Total registered chiropractors	**1,495**	**1,236**	**701**	**524**	**360**	**48**	**58**	**23**	**4,533**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the chiropractic workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to chiropractors working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

9.2 Chiropractors employed as a chiropractor

A person who reported working as a chiropractor in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed chiropractor' (see Glossary).

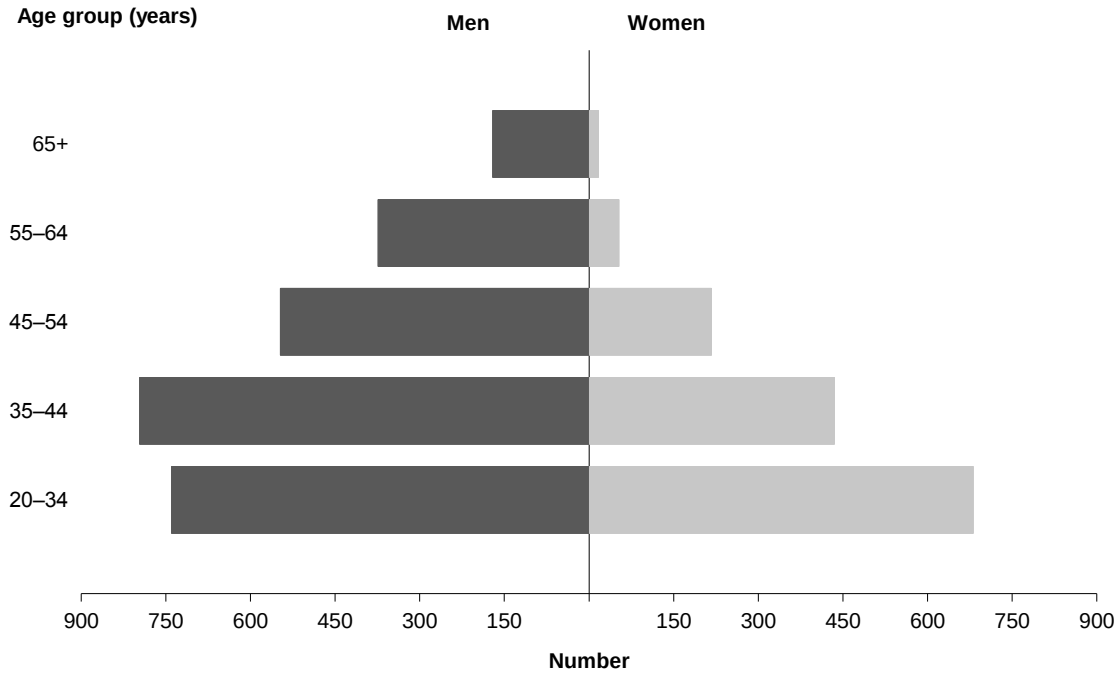
The characteristics and supply of chiropractors employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of chiropractors increased between 2011 and 2012, from 15.2 FTE per 100,000 population in 2011 to 15.5 in 2012 (tables 9.4 and A.48).

Age and sex

In 2012, the average age of employed chiropractors was 41.2. More than 1 in every 3 employed chiropractors (34.8%) were women (Table 9.4).

There were more men than women across all age groups, with the most men in the 35–44 year age group (796), followed by the 20–34 age group (739). For female chiropractors, the 20–34 age group was the largest (681) (Figure 9.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 9.2: Number of employed chiropractors, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chiropractors

There were 12 employed chiropractors who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.3% of employed chiropractors who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed chiropractors, 3,303 received their initial chiropractic qualification in Australia (82.0%). Those employed chiropractors who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a lower average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (34.4 and 40.1 respectively) (Table 9.4).

Table 9.4: Employed chiropractors: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Australia	3,303	40.1	12.1	35.9	33.3	12.8
New Zealand	65	34.4	8.2	41.3	32.0	0.2
Other country	505	51.0	39.5	25.0	32.9	1.9
Not stated/inadequately described	157	37.4	6.1	40.7	34.1	0.6
Total	**4,029**	**41.2**	**15.2**	**34.8**	**33.3**	**15.5**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in chiropractic health

The principal role in chiropractic health describes the types of work undertaken by employed chiropractors. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 97.2% of employed chiropractors. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 0.2% of employed chiropractors (Table 9.5).

Table 9.5: Employed chiropractors: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinician[(b)]	3,918	41.1	14.9	34.7	33.4	15.2
Non-clinician	*111*	*45.8*	*25.3*	*39.6*	*30.0*	*0.4*
Administrator	33	41.4	n.p.	n.p.	26.8	0.1
Teacher/educator	49	49.9	n.p.	n.p.	33.9	0.2
Researcher	7	49.9	n.p.	n.p.	22.3	—
Other	22	41.8	n.p.	n.p.	28.9	0.1
Total	**4,029**	**41.2**	**15.2**	**34.8**	**33.3**	**15.5**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Chiropractors were asked to indicate the setting of their main job as a chiropractor in the week before completing the survey. Most chiropractors reported working in private practice (97.0% of clinicians and 95.3% of all employed chiropractors) (Table 9.6).

Table 9.6: Employed chiropractors: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

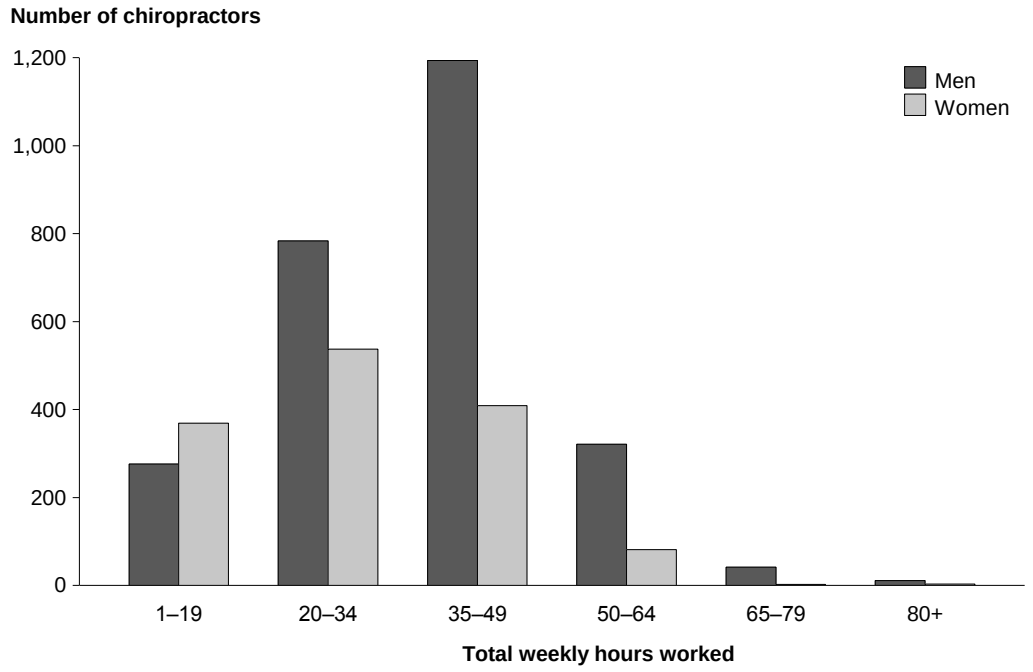
	Clinician[(a)]		Total chiropractors	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	3,799	33.4	3,840	33.3
Community health-care services	6	23.3	8	27.4
Hospital	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Residential health-care services	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Commercial/business services	8	39.3	12	37.5
Educational services	n.p.	n.p.	49	34.6
Other government department or agency	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Other	8	25.6	19	24.4
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	89	33.7	91	33.5
Total	**3,918**	**33.4**	**4,029**	**33.3**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

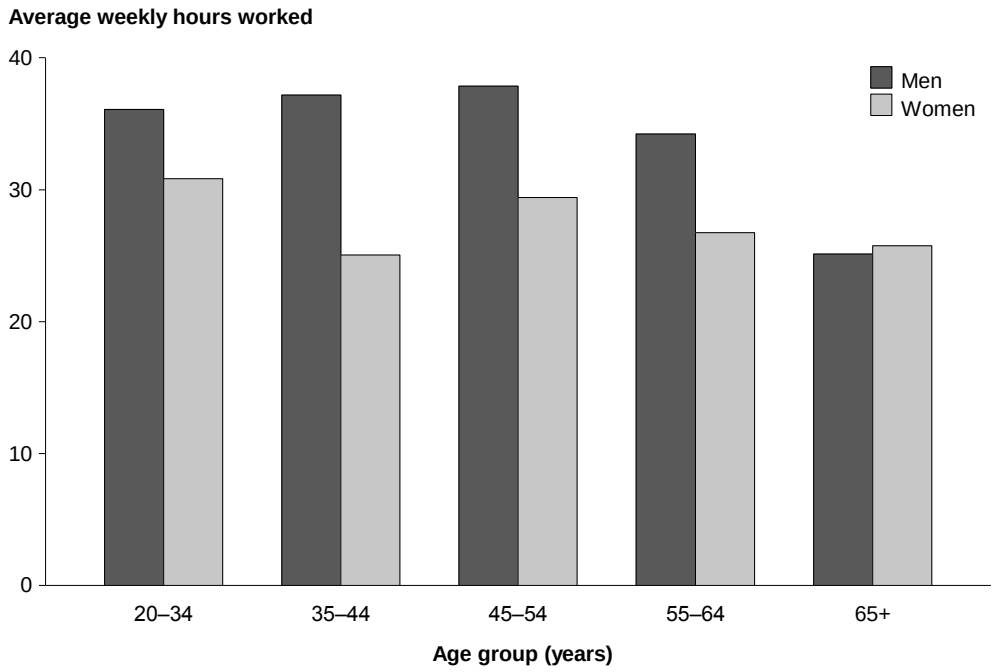
On average, employed chiropractors worked 33.3 hours a week in 2012, up slightly from 33.1 in 2011 (tables 9.7 and A.50). Nearly half (48.8%) of chiropractors worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 9.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 9.3: Employed chiropractors: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male chiropractors worked 35.8 hours per week on average, while female chiropractors worked 28.6 hours on average (Table 9.7). Male chiropractors worked more hours than female chiropractors across all age groups except for the 65 and over age group (Figure 9.4).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 9.4: Employed chiropractors: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed chiropractors in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (36.7) while those in Victoria worked the least (31.7) (Table 9.7).

Table 9.7: Employed chiropractors: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Men	36.9	34.8	36.0	34.7	35.6	34.5	36.3	39.6	35.8
Women	29.5	26.5	30.2	29.1	29.0	28.9	30.4	24.3	28.6
Persons	**34.4**	**31.7**	**34.2**	**32.5**	**33.5**	**33.2**	**33.9**	**36.7**	**33.3**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, chiropractors working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the most weekly hours (36.7) while those in *Inner regional* areas worked the least (32.3) (Table 9.8).

Table 9.8: Employed chiropractors: average total weekly hours worked, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Men	36.1	34.4	36.1	38.9	35.8
Women	28.4	28.0	31.3	34.1	28.6
Persons	**33.4**	**32.3**	**34.5**	**36.7**	**33.3**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more chiropractors in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (2,819 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 216 in the public sector). Chiropractors in the private sector worked more hours per week than their public sector counterparts (28.5 hours compared with 20.7 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 9.9).

Table 9.9: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,763	396
Average age	41.1	42.3
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.6	18.9
Women (per cent)	34.5	33.0
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	28.5	20.7
Clinical FTE number[(a)]	2,819	216

Note: Chiropractors appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

9.3 Geographic profile of employed chiropractors

Remoteness area

The supply of chiropractors in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (16.7 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (6.6 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 9.10).

Table 9.10: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[a], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[b]	Australia[c]
Number	3,033	718	241	36	4,029
Average age	40.6	43.1	44.7	38.5	41.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.0	20.5	28.0	n.p.	15.2
Women (per cent)	35.4	32.0	33.5	n.p.	34.8
Average weekly hours worked	33.4	32.3	34.5	36.7	33.3
FTE rate[d]	16.7	14.7	10.7	6.6	15.5

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed chiropractors was in New South Wales (1,356), followed by Victoria (1,107). The FTE rate was highest in South Australia, with 17.7 FTE per 100,000 population while the lowest was in Tasmania, with 7.7 FTE (Table 9.11).

Table 9.11: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by state and territory[a], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
Number	1,356	1,107	642	471	334	45	53	20	4,029
Average age	41.3	40.7	43.2	38.1	42.9	44.2	42.4	39.6	41.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	15.1	13.5	18.9	11.6	19.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	15.2
Women (per cent)	34.1	37.3	31.0	38.8	32.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	34.8
Average weekly hours worked	34.4	31.7	34.2	32.5	33.5	33.2	33.9	36.7	33.3
FTE rate[c]	16.8	16.4	12.6	16.6	17.7	7.7	12.5	8.1	15.5

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

9.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the chiropractic workforce

Chiropractor training

Information on chiropractor student commencements and completions of vocational education and training courses is collected by the National Centre for Vocational Educational Research, however the data are reported together with osteopath students and cannot be separated, and therefore are not presented here.

Chiropractors not employed as a chiropractor

The survey collects some basic information on those chiropractors who are registered but not actively employed as a chiropractor in Australia; that is, chiropractors on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Chiropractors who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among chiropractors, the youngest group not actively employed as a chiropractor are those who are looking for work as a chiropractor and employed elsewhere (average age 34.4). The average age of those chiropractors retired from regular work was 60.8 (Table 9.12).

Table 9.12: Chiropractors not actively employed in chiropractic health in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(a)] (per cent)[(b)]
On extended leave	111	39.5	18.2	63.0	89.9
Looking for work in chiropractic health	*31*	*36.8*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	18	34.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	13	39.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	165	39.3	9.8	29.7	42.4
Not looking for work in chiropractic health	*147*	*38.9*	*8.4*	*62.2*	*93.5*
Employed elsewhere	73	40.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	74	36.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	51	60.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total chiropractors not actively employed in chiropractic health in Australia	**504**	**41.2**	**18.5**	**46.4**	**74.8**
Total employed chiropractors	**4,029**	**41.2**	**15.2**	**34.8**	**93.1**

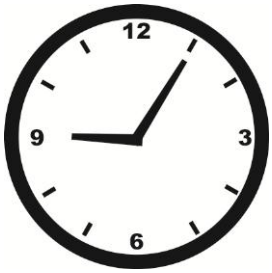
(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

10 Chinese medicine practitioner workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 3,885 registered Chinese medicine practitioners, 3,276 of whom were employed in private practice.
	About half of registered Chinese medicine practitioners were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed Chinese medicine practitioners was 47.0; 28.5% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed Chinese medicine practitioners worked 31.8 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce in Australia. For information about what Chinese medicine practitioners do, see Box 10.1.

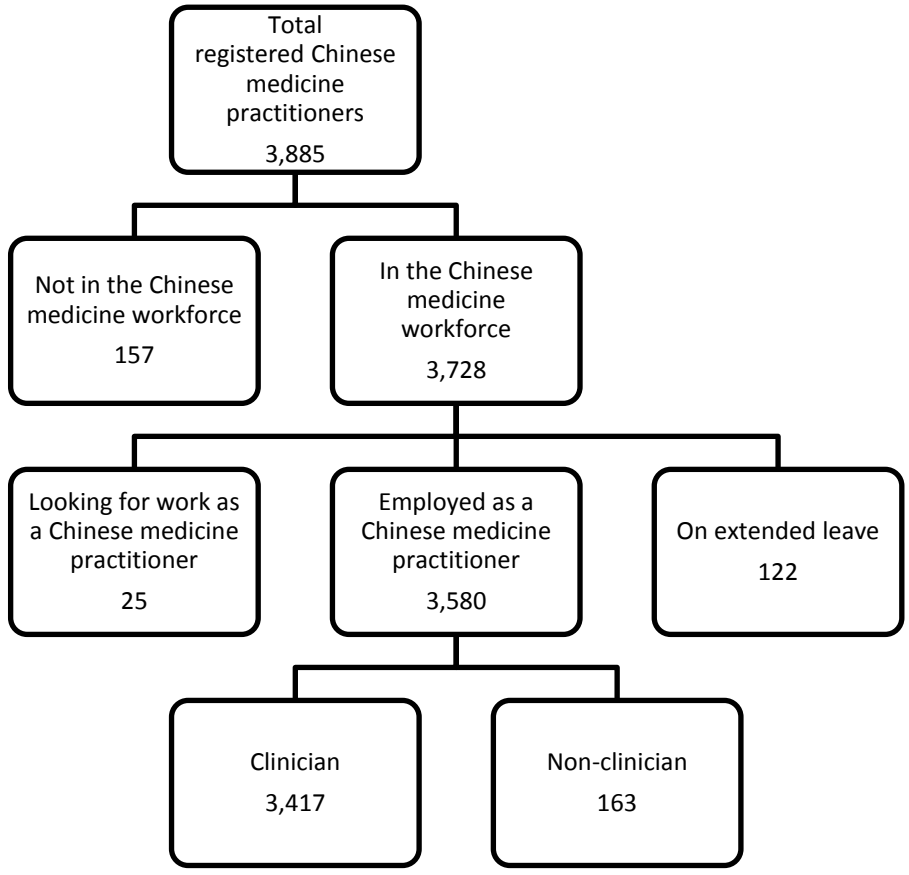
Box 10.1: Services provided by Chinese medicine practitioners

Chinese medicine practitioners treat imbalances of energy flows through the body by assessing the whole person and using techniques and methods such as acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, massage, diet, exercise and breathing therapy.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

10.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 3,885 registered Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia. The majority of these were in the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce (3,728). Of these, 25 were looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner and 122 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.7% and 3.3%,respectively, of total registered Chinese medicine practitioners currently in the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce (Figure 10.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 10.1: Registered Chinese medicine practitioners: workforce status, 2012

In 2012, the average age of registered Chinese medicine practitioners was 46.9. About half of registered Chinese medicine practitioners (52.9%) were women. Of all registered Chinese medicine practitioners, those who held a general registration were more likely to be aged 55 and over (28.3%) (Table 10.1).

Table 10.1: Registered Chinese medicine practitioners: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	3,790	46.9	28.3	52.8
Limited (public interest)	8	50.6	37.5	37.5
Limited (teaching and research)	1	58.0	100.0	—
Non-practising	86	45.0	22.1	61.6
Total	**3,885**	**46.9**	**28.2**	**52.9**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

The proportion of registered Chinese medicine practitioners in the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce ranged from 86.7% in the Northern Territory to 99.4% in South Australia and Tasmania. The number of Chinese medicine practitioners looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner was highest in New South Wales (12) (Table 10.2).

Table 10.2: Registered Chinese medicine practitioners: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the Chinese medicine workforce	*1,531*	*1,023*	*739*	*176*	*154*	*30*	*61*	*13*	*3,728*
Employed as a Chinese medicine practitioner	*1,469*	*977*	*721*	*164*	*148*	*29*	*59*	*13*	*3,580*
Clinician[(c)]	1,393	917	701	160	145	29	59	12	3,417
Non-clinician	75	60	20	4	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	163
Looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner	*12*	*6*	*n.p.*	—	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	*25*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	5	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	14
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
On extended leave	50	40	14	11	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	122
Not in Chinese medicine workforce	*37*	*68*	*12*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*157*
Overseas	13	12	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	53
Not looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner	*24*	*50*	*6*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	*n.p.*	*94*
Employed elsewhere	6	34	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	n.p.	49
Not employed	17	16	4	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	46
Retired from regular work	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	—	10
Total registered Chinese medicine practitioners	**1,569**	**1,091**	**751**	**184**	**155**	**31**	**62**	**15**	**3,885**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes Chinese medicine practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to Chinese medicine practitioners working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

10.2 Chinese medicine practitioners employed as a Chinese medicine practitioner

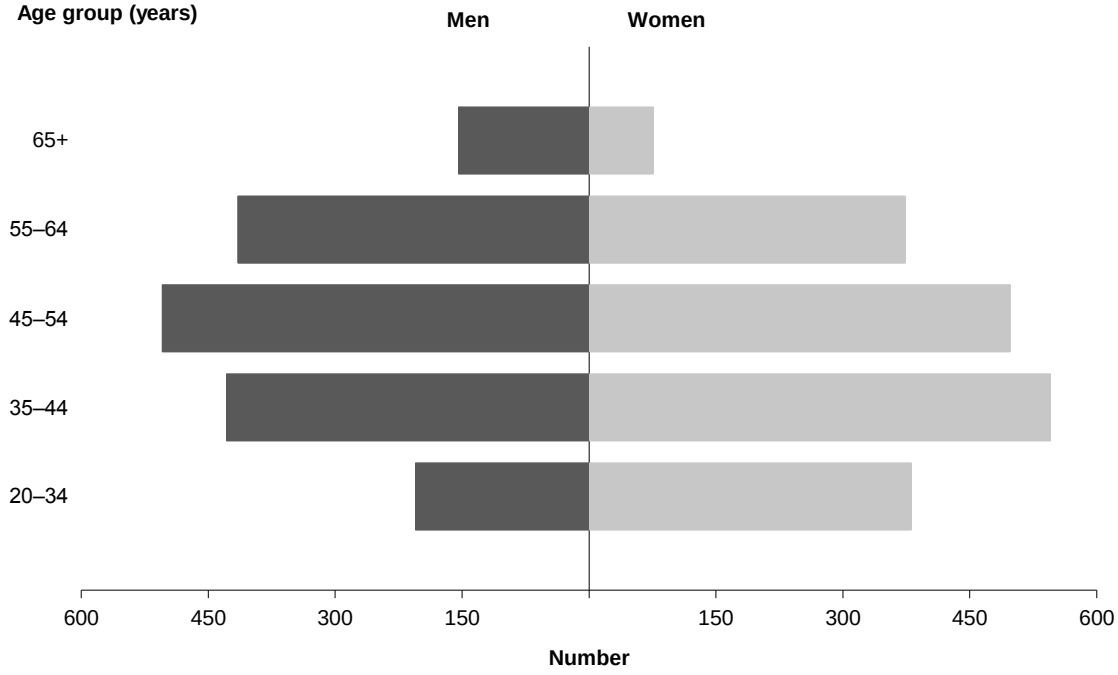
A person who reported working as a Chinese medicine practitioner in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed Chinese medicine practitioner' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of Chinese medicine practitioners employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of Chinese medicine practitioners was 13.2 FTE per 100,000 population in 2012 (Table 10.3).

Age and sex

In 2012, the number of women and men differed across all age groups, with women aged between 35–44 representing the highest numbers of Chinese medicine practitioners (545). For male Chinese medicine practitioners, the 45–54 age group was the largest (504) (Figure 10.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 10.2: Number of employed Chinese medicine practitioners, by age group and sex, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chinese medicine practitioners

There were 14 employed Chinese medicine practitioners who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.4% of employed Chinese medicine practitioners who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed Chinese medicine practitioners, 2,387 received their initial Chinese medicine practitioner qualification in Australia (66.7%). Those employed Chinese medicine practitioners

who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a higher average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (47.2 and 45.3 respectively) (Table 10.3).

Table 10.3: Employed Chinese medical practitioners: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Australia	2,387	45.3	25.2	55.0	30.1	8.3
New Zealand	11	47.2	n.p.	n.p.	29.0	—
Other country	1,112	50.7	36.2	45.6	35.7	4.6
Not stated/inadequately described	70	44.7	n.p.	n.p.	29.1	0.2
Total	**3,580**	**47.0**	**28.5**	**52.3**	**31.8**	**13.2**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in Chinese medicine practice

The principal role in Chinese medicine practice describes the types of work undertaken by employed Chinese medicine practitioners. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher, and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 95.4% of employed Chinese medicine practitioners. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 1.2% of employed Chinese medicine practitioners (Table 10.4).

Table 10.4: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: principal role of main job, selected characteristics 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinician[(b)]	3,417	47.1	28.5	52.1	31.8	12.6
Non-clinician	*163*	*45.5*	*27.3*	*57.4*	*31.6*	*0.6*
Administrator	29	44.0	n.p.	n.p.	26.3	0.1
Teacher/educator	47	47.1	n.p.	n.p.	31.0	0.2
Researcher	42	42.5	n.p.	n.p.	34.1	0.2
Other	46	47.4	n.p.	n.p.	33.2	0.2
Total	**3,580**	**47.0**	**28.5**	**52.3**	**31.8**	**13.2**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Chinese medicine practitioners were asked to indicate the setting of their main job as a Chinese medicine practitioner in the week before completing the survey. Working in private practice (93.7% of clinicians and 91.5% of all employed Chinese medicine practitioners) was the most commonly reported work setting (Table 10.5).

Table 10.5: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

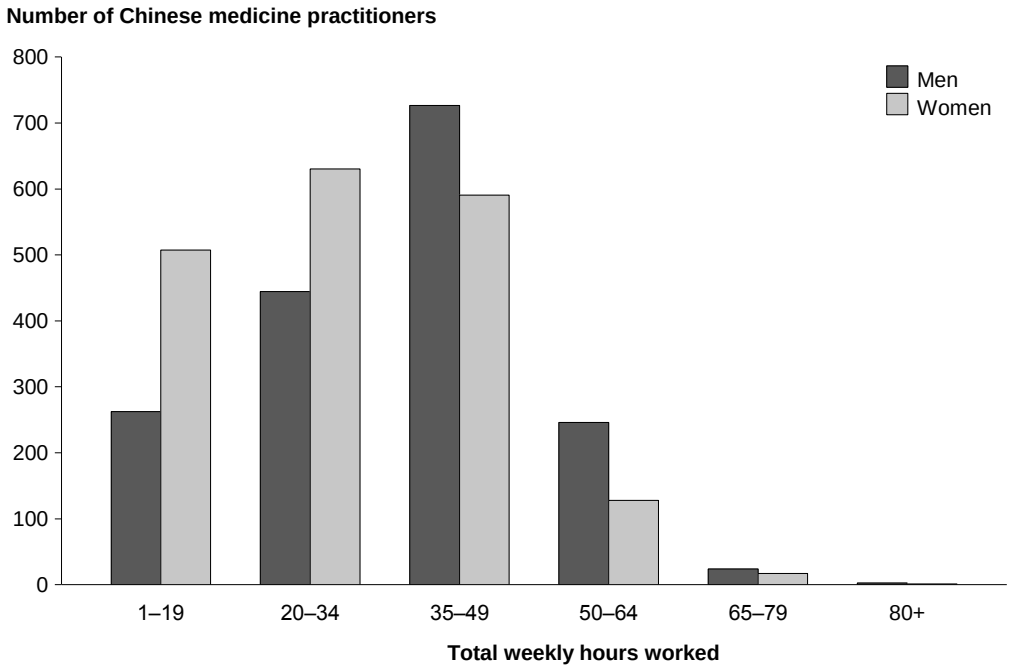
	Clinician[(a)]		Total Chinese medicine practitioners	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	3,201	31.8	3,276	31.7
Community health-care services	26	28.4	29	28.3
Hospital	n.p.	n.p.	5	31.9
Residential health-care services	8	31.9	8	31.9
Commercial/business services	28	35.3	28	35.3
Educational services	5	30.4	67	36.0
Other government department or agency	n.p.	n.p.	3	47.5
Other	15	19.0	29	26.0
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	129	32.8	135	32.4
Total	**3,417**	**31.8**	**3,580**	**31.8**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

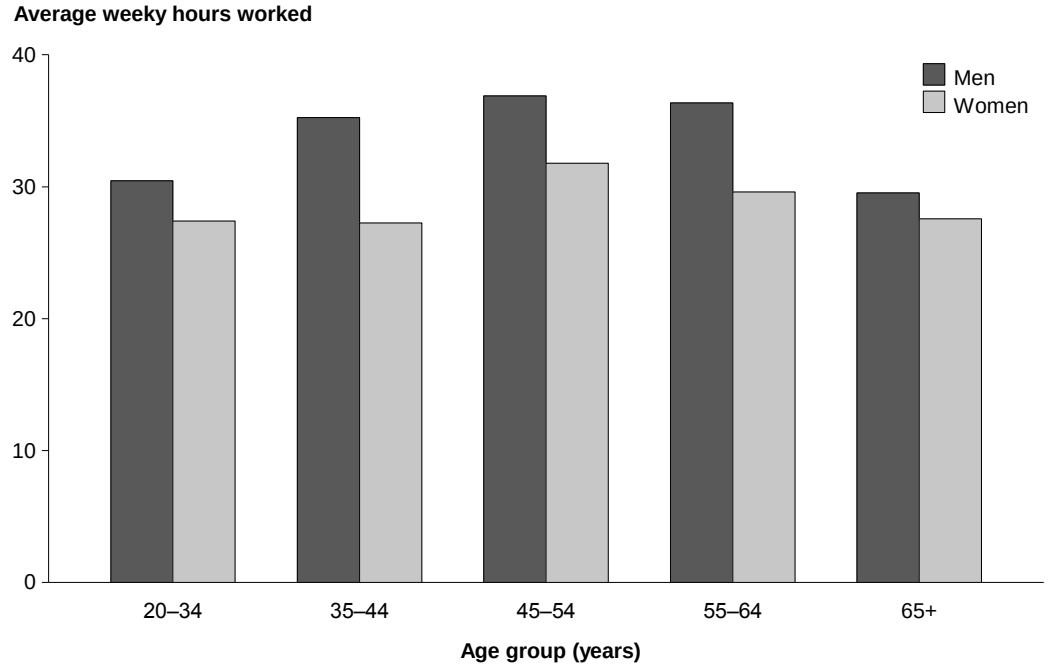
On average, employed Chinese medicine practitioners worked 31.8 hours a week in 2012 (Table 10.6). Over half (51.5%) of Chinese medicine practitioners worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) with more women than men working part-time (Figure 10.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 10.3: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male Chinese medicine practitioners worked 34.9 hours per week on average, while female Chinese medicine practitioners worked 29.0 hours on average (Table 10.6). This gap was largest for the 35-44 year group (Figure 10.4).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 10.4: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed Chinese medicine practitioners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory worked the most weekly hours (33.2) while those in Victoria worked the least (30.1) (Table 10.6).

Table 10.6: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Men	35.8	33.7	34.7	38.1	33.6	31.6	33.4	36.4	34.9
Women	30.7	26.9	27.7	28.8	29.5	32.1	33.1	28.9	29.0
Persons	**33.2**	**30.1**	**31.1**	**32.5**	**31.4**	**31.9**	**33.2**	**31.2**	**31.8**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes Chinese medicine practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, Chinese medicine practitioners working in *Major cities* and *Outer regional* areas worked the most weekly hours (32.1) in 2012, while those in *Inner regional* areas worked the least (28.8 hours) (Table 10.7).

Table 10.7: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Men	35.4	30.2	35.7	37.3	34.9
Women	29.1	27.5	28.9	28.5	29.0
Persons	**32.1**	**28.8**	**32.1**	**31.9**	**31.8**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes Chinese medicine practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more Chinese medicine practitioners in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (2,168 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 346 in the public sector). Chinese medicine practitioners in the private sector worked more clinical hours per week than their public sector counterparts (25.6 hours compared with 20.4 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 10.8).

Table 10.8: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,220	645
Average age	47.1	47.5
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	28.8	27.9
Women (per cent)	52.2	52.0
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	25.6	20.4
Clinical FTE number[(a)]	2,168	346

Note: Chinese medicine practitioners appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

10.3 Geographic profile of employed Chinese medicine practitioners

Remoteness area

The supply of Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (16.6 FTE per 100,000 population), and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (2.2 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 10.9).

Table 10.9: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	3,143	331	92	14	3,580
Average age	46.8	47.8	50.5	42.8	47.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	28.0	29.7	n.p.	n.p.	28.5
Women (per cent)	52.2	52.8	n.p.	n.p.	52.3
Average weekly hours worked	32.1	28.8	32.1	31.9	31.8
FTE rate[(d)]	16.6	6.1	3.8	2.2	13.2

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes Chinese medicine practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed Chinese medicine practitioners was in New South Wales (1,469), followed by Victoria (977). The FTE rate was also highest in New South Wales, with 17.6 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, both with 4.7 FTE (Table 10.10).

Table 10.10: Employed Chinese medicine practitioners: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Number	1,469	977	721	164	148	29	59	13	3,580
Average age	48.4	45.2	46.6	46.7	47.4	51.3	46.9	43.9	47.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	31.1	24.1	27.7	26.6	33.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	28.5
Women (per cent)	51.0	53.7	51.1	60.2	53.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	52.3
Average weekly hours worked	33.2	30.1	31.1	32.5	31.4	31.9	33.2	31.2	31.8
FTE rate[(c)]	17.6	13.7	12.9	5.8	7.4	4.7	13.8	4.7	13.2

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy.
If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes Chinese medicine practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

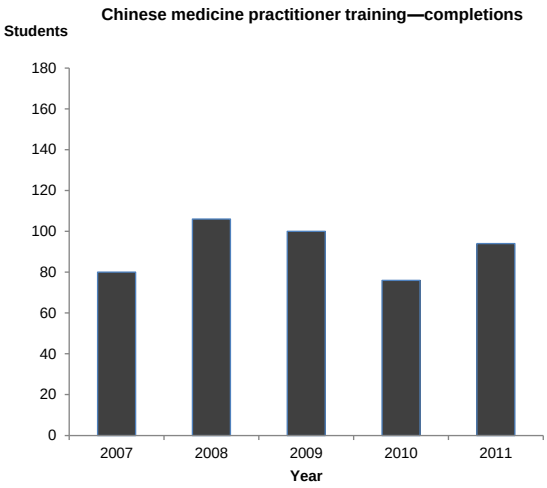
10.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the Chinese medicine practitioner workforce

Chinese medicine practitioner training

Information on Chinese medicine practitioner student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as a Chinese medicine practitioner in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering Chinese medicine courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training.

Commencements in university courses leading to qualification as a Chinese medicine practitioner by domestic students in Australia have increased by 8.3%, from 145 in 2007 to 157 in 2011, with a decrease in 2008 before increasing again. Over the same period, completions varied with a peak in 2008 and an increase over the period of 17.5%, from 80 to 94 (Figure 10.5).



Notes

1. Higher education data includes all Chinese medicine students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Chinese Medicine Practice Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is Chinese medicine.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 10.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing Chinese medicine practice courses (higher education), 2007–2011

Chinese medicine practitioners not employed in Chinese medicine practice

The Chinese medicine practitioner Workforce Survey collects some basic information on those Chinese medicine practitioners who are registered but not actively employed in Chinese medicine practice in Australia; that is, Chinese medicine practitioners on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Chinese medicine practitioners who were not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among Chinese medicine practitioners, the youngest group not actively employed in Chinese medicine practitioners are those looking for work in Chinese medicine practitioners and employed elsewhere (average age 39.0). The average age of those retired from regular work was 57.3 (Table 10.11).

Table 10.11: Chinese medicine practitioners not actively employed in Chinese medicine practice in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[a] (per cent)[b]
On extended leave	122	44.6	25.7	65.8	93.2
Looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner	*25*	*40.5*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	14	39.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	11	42.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	53	50.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work as a Chinese medicine practitioner	*94*	*42.5*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	49	40.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	46	44.1	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	10	57.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total Chinese medicine practitioners not actively employed in Chinese medicine practice in Australia	**305**	**45.0**	**24.4**	**60.1**	**85.9**
Total employed Chinese medicine practitioners	**3,580**	**47.0**	**28.5**	**52.3**	**97.0**

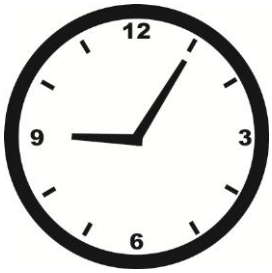
(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

11 Podiatry workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 3,783 registered podiatrists, 2,402 of whom were employed in private practice.
	In 2012, the average age of employed podiatrists was 37.6; 8.2% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed podiatrists worked 36.4 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the podiatry workforce in Australia. For information about what podiatrists do, see Box 11.1.

Box 11.1: Services provided by podiatrists and podiatric surgeons

Podiatrists prevent, diagnose and treat disorders of the feet. A podiatrist can provide the following treatment:

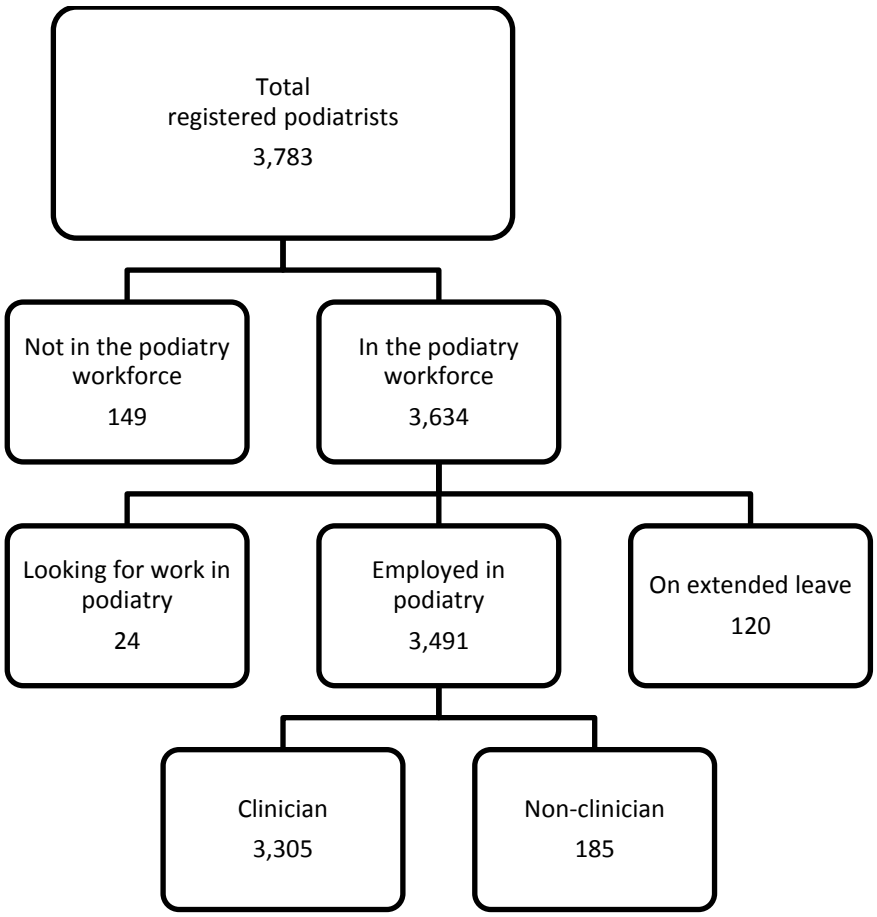
- examining patients' feet to determine the nature and extent of conditions, deformities and injuries
- examining and treating foot disabilities caused by diseases such as diabetes, peripheral vascular disorders, rheumatoid arthritis and other neuropathies
- prescribing and arranging the fabrication of footwear to correct foot abnormalities

Podiatric surgeons are podiatrists who have completed extensive, post graduate medical and surgical training, which enables them to perform reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009; ACPS 2009.

11.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 3,783 registered podiatrists in Australia. The majority of these were in the podiatry workforce (3,634). Of these, 24 were looking for work in podiatry and 120 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.7% and 3.3%, respectively, of total registered podiatrists currently in the podiatry workforce (Figure 11.1 and Table 11.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 11.1: Registered podiatrists: workforce status, 2012

Box 11.2: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria (59.7% of registered podiatrists). As a consequence, national data was significantly affected with information about sex missing for 19.3% of podiatrists. National and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

Table 11.1: Registered podiatrists: registration type, selected characteristics

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	3,689	37.4	7.9	n.p.
General and specialist	24	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	70	38.8	8.6	n.p.
Total	**3,783**	**37.5**	**7.9**	**n.p.**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health workforce 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of podiatrists in the podiatry workforce increased slightly, from 3,430 in 2011 to 3,634 in 2012. Of the total registered podiatrists, the greatest increase (per cent) was for podiatrists who were looking for work in podiatry and not employed (137.9%) while the greatest decrease (per cent) was seen for those who were not in the podiatry workforce and retired from regular work (51.2%) (Table 11.2).

Table 11.2: Registered podiatrists: workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the podiatry workforce	*3,430*	*3,634*	*6.0*
Employed in podiatry	3,316	3,491	5.3
Looking for work in podiatry	*16*	*24*	*52.8*
Employed elsewhere	8	5	–32.6
Not employed	8	19	137.9
On extended leave	98	120	22.1
Not in podiatry workforce	*149*	*149*	*–0.5*
Overseas	44	51	15.8
Not looking for work in podiatry	*95*	*93*	*–2.5*
Employed elsewhere	53	51	–5.3
Not employed	42	42	1.0
Retired from regular work	10	5	–51.2
Total registered podiatrists	**3,579**	**3,783**	**5.7**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health workforce, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered podiatrists in the podiatry workforce ranged from 95.8% in Victoria to all those (100%) in the Northern Territory. The number of podiatrists looking for work in podiatry was highest in Victoria (10), whereas no podiatrists were looking for work in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 11.3).

Table 11.3: Registered podiatrists: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the podiatry workforce	*943*	*1,171*	*623*	*382*	*362*	*90*	*47*	*14*	*3,634*
Employed in podiatry	*919*	*1,123*	*584*	*366*	*349*	*89*	*46*	*13*	*3,491*
Clinician[(c)]	883	1,053	549	345	332	85	43	13	3,305
Non-clinician	36	71	35	20	17	4	3	—	185
Looking for work in podiatry	*n.p.*	*10*	*7*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	—	*24*
Employed elsewhere	—	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	—	—	5
Not employed	n.p.	5	7	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	19
On extended leave	22	38	33	12	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	120
Not in podiatry workforce	*23*	*51*	*25*	*13*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	*149*
Overseas	7	7	11	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	51
Not looking for work in podiatry	*12*	*42*	*14*	*10*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	*93*
Employed elsewhere	8	23	8	4	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	51
Not employed	5	19	6	6	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	42
Retired from regular work	n.p.	n.p	—	—	n.p.	—	—	—	5
Total registered podiatrists	**966**	**1,222**	**649**	**395**	**376**	**92**	**48**	**14**	**3,783**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the podiatry workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to podiatrists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

11.2 Podiatrists employed in podiatry

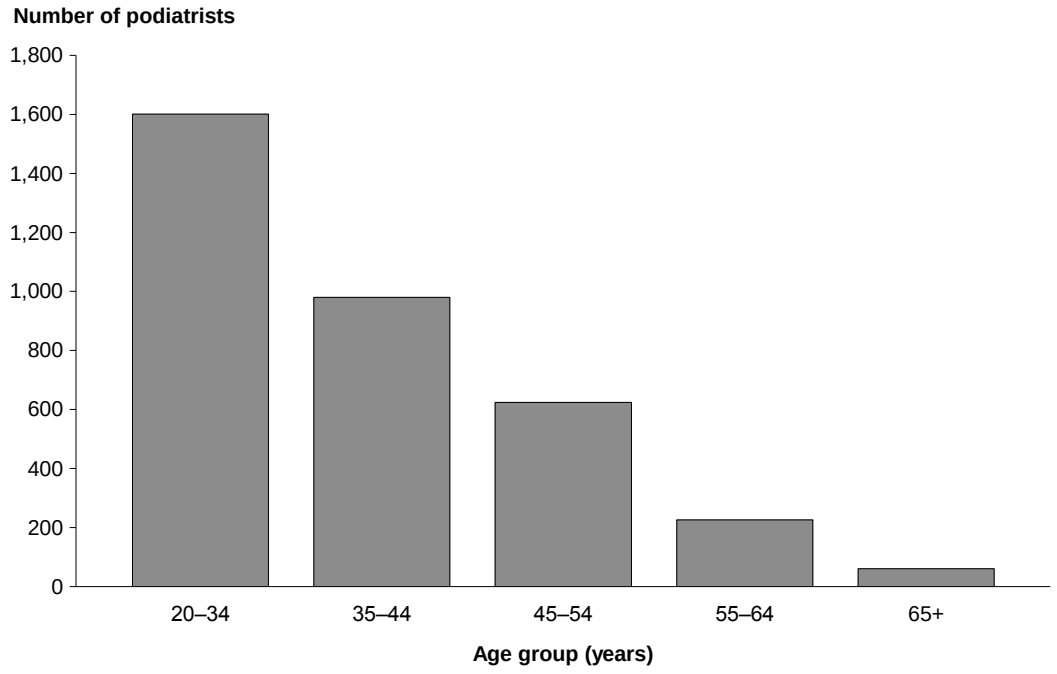
A person who reported working in podiatry in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed podiatrist' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of podiatrists employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of podiatrists increased slightly between 2011 and 2012, from 14.3 FTE per 100,000 population in 2011 to 14.7 in 2012 (tables 11.4 and A.58).

Age

In 2012, the average age of employed podiatrists was 37.6 (Table 11.4). Podiatrists show a relatively skewed age distribution with a large peak in the youngest age group (1,602) and lower numbers in each age group after that (Figure 11.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 11.2: Number of employed podiatrists, by age group, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander podiatrists

There were 10 employed podiatrists who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.3% of employed podiatrists who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed podiatrists, 2,912 received their initial podiatry qualification in Australia (83.4%). Those employed podiatrists who received their initial qualification in another country reported a higher average age than those with Australian or New Zealand qualifications (43.2, 37.3 and 35.7 respectively) (Table 11.4).

Table 11.4: Employed podiatrists: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	2,912	37.3	7.5	n.p.	36.1	12.2
New Zealand	106	35.7	7.0	n.p.	38.8	0.5
Other country	290	43.2	17.9	n.p.	38.0	1.3
Not stated/inadequately described	183	34.7	3.4	n.p.	38.0	0.8
Total	**3,491**	**37.6**	**8.2**	**n.p.**	**36.4**	**14.7**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Fields of podiatry

Role in podiatry

The principal role in podiatry describes the types of work undertaken by employed podiatrists. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 94.7% of employed podiatrists (Table 11.5).

Table 11.5: Employed podiatrists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	3,305	37.5	8.2	n.p.	36.6	14.0
Non-clinician	*185*	*40.2*	*7.8*	*n.p.*	*33.2*	*0.7*
Administrator	88	39.3	n.p.	n.p.	30.4	0.3
Teacher/educator	50	40.5	n.p.	n.p.	36.8	0.2
Researcher	23	36.5	n.p.	n.p.	37.9	0.1
Other	24	46.1	n.p.	n.p.	31.5	0.1
Total	**3,491**	**37.6**	**8.2**	**n.p.**	**36.4**	**14.7**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Endorsements of podiatrists

A podiatrist who holds a scheduled medicine endorsement is able to prescribe or supply scheduled medicines only to the extent of the authority conferred under the drugs and poisons legislation in the jurisdiction in which they practice. There were 49 employed podiatrists with a scheduled medicines endorsement.

Specialists

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has approved the Podiatry Board of Australia's specialty name and specialist title. Podiatrists who have the necessary qualification in the approved specialty of podiatric surgery and meet the other requirements for specialist and general registration are included on the Specialist Register and their specialty are recorded as part of the NRAS data (AHPRA 2012c). In 2012, there were 23 podiatric surgeons who held a specialist registration, and whose average age was 48.0 (Table 11.6).

Table 11.6: Employed podiatric surgeons: selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Specialist	23	48.0	n.p.	n.p.	38.6	0.1

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Podiatrists were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in podiatry in the week before completing the survey. The majority of podiatrists reported working in private practice (71.4% of clinicians and 68.8% of all employed podiatrists). Podiatrists working in Aboriginal health services as their main job worked the most hours on average (39.3 hours per week for both clinicians and all employed podiatrists), while those working in residential health-care services worked the least hours on average—about 32 hours per week, for both clinicians and all podiatrists (Table 11.7).

Table 11.7: Employed podiatrists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

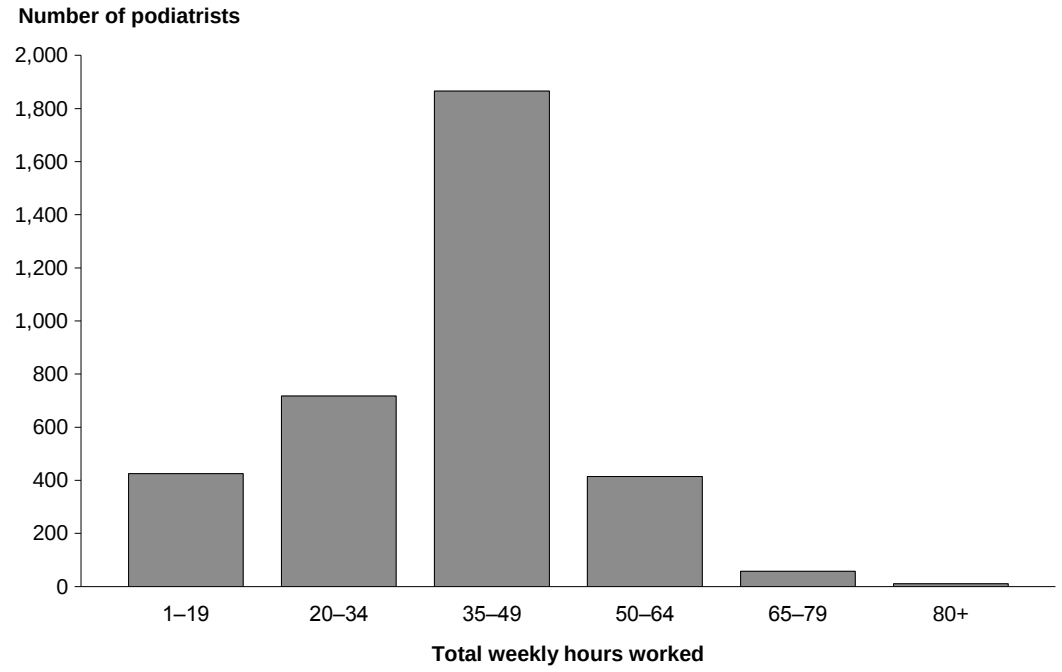
	Clinician[(a)]		Total podiatrists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	2,360	37.2	2,402	37.0
Aboriginal health service	25	39.3	26	39.3
Community health-care services	316	34.3	345	34.0
Hospital	284	36.4	312	36.4
Residential health-care services	142	32.0	147	31.9
Commercial/business services	55	34.9	60	35.7
Educational facility	n.p.	n.p.	56	37.9
Correctional services	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Defence forces	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Other government department or agency	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other	20	36.8	31	34.8
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	87	39.1	90	38.2
Total	**3,305**	**36.6**	**3,491**	**36.4**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

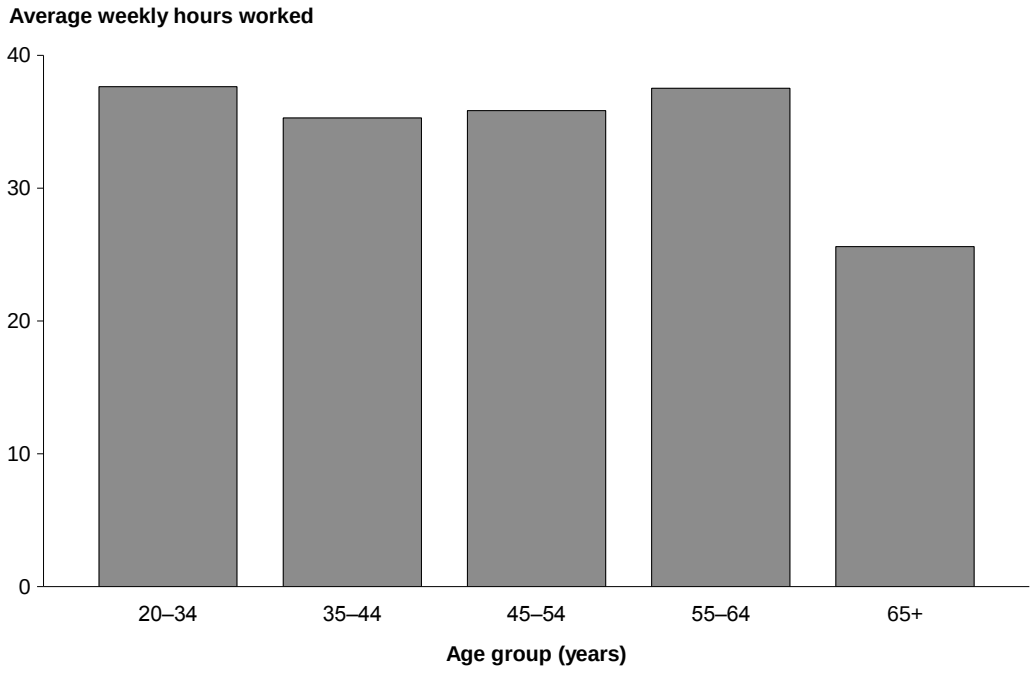
On average podiatrists worked 36.4 hours per week in 2012 (Table 11.8). Nearly 1 in 3 podiatrists (32.7%) worked part-time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 11.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 11.3: Number of employed podiatrists: total hours worked per week, 2012

Employed podiatrists under the age of 65 worked on average similar hours. Among this group, those aged 20–34 and 55–64 worked the most hours (37.6 and 37.5 respectively) and those aged 35–44 the least (35.3) (Figure 11.4)



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 11.4: Employed podiatrists: average total weekly hours worked, by age group, 2012

States and territories

Podiatrists in the Northern Territory worked the most weekly hours (39.2), and those in Western Australia worked the least (33.7) (Table 11.8).

Table 11.8: Employed podiatrists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)(c)]
Men	42.0	n.p.	41.4	39.8	38.6	37.1	42.4	39.9	n.p.
Women	34.4	n.p.	35.8	29.5	34.1	36.1	31.2	38.3	n.p.
Persons	**37.6**	**35.6**	**38.2**	**33.7**	**35.9**	**36.5**	**36.2**	**39.2**	**36.4**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(c) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, podiatrists working in *Outer regional* areas worked the most weekly hours (37.4) in 2012, while those working in *Remote/Very remote* areas worked the least (35.6) (Table 11.9).

Table 11.9: Employed podiatrists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)] of main job, 2012

Sex[(b)]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Men	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	38.4	n.p.
Women	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	34.3	n.p.
Persons	**36.3**	**36.8**	**37.4**	**35.6**	**36.4**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy.
If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more podiatrists in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (2,308 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 536 in the public sector). Podiatrists in the public sector worked fewer hours than those in the private sector (22.9 hours compared with 29.6 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 11.10).

Table 11.10: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	2,960	888
Average age	37.8	37.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	8.6	6.5
Women[(a)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	29.6	22.9
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	2,308	536

Note: Podiatrists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

11.3 Geographic profile of employed podiatrists

Remoteness area

The supply of podiatrists in Australia was the highest in *Major cities* (15.8 FTE per 100,000 population) and lowest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (5.3 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 11.11).

Table 11.11: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	2,638	610	207	30	3,491
Average age	37.6	37.7	37.7	37.9	37.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	8.1	8.8	7.0	n.p.	8.2
Women[(d)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	36.3	36.8	37.4	35.6	36.4
FTE rate[(e)]	15.8	14.2	10.0	5.3	14.7

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed podiatrists was in Victoria (1,123), followed by New South Wales (919). The FTE rate was highest in South Australia, with 19.9 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in the Northern Territory, with 5.7 FTE (Table 11.12).

Table 11.12: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
Number	919	1,123	584	366	349	89	46	13	3,491
Average age	39.6	35.8	36.5	38.0	38.7	39.5	41.9	38.2	37.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	11.5	5.5	5.3	7.9	10.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	8.2
Women[(c)] (per cent)	57.0	n.p.	57.1	59.7	59.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	37.6	35.6	38.2	33.7	35.9	36.5	36.2	39.2	36.4
FTE rate[(d)]	12.5	18.7	12.9	13.3	19.9	16.7	11.7	5.7	14.7

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(c) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

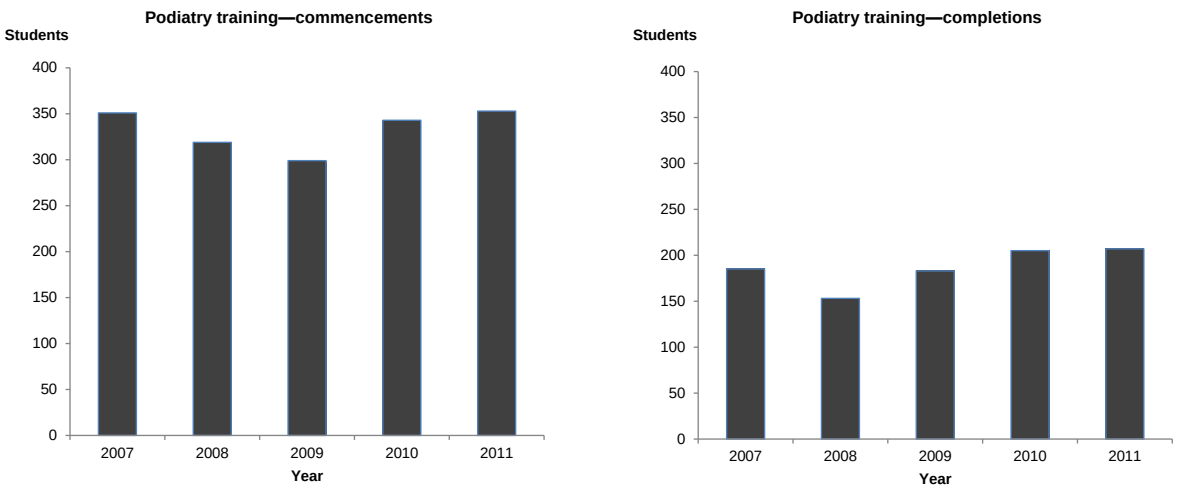
11.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the podiatry workforce

Podiatry training

Information on podiatry student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To qualify as a podiatrist in Australia, a student must meet the entry requirements of one of the Australian tertiary education institutions offering podiatry courses, and then complete the required academic and clinical training. If podiatrists wish to specialise, they must complete extra study after completing a period of clinical experience in podiatric surgery.

The number of domestic student commencements of Australian university courses that lead to podiatrist qualifications has increased overall by 0.6%, from 351 in 2007 to 353 in 2011, after falling to a low of 299 students in 2009. Over the same period, completions have increased by 11.9%, from 185 to 207 (Figure 11.5).



Notes

1. Higher education data includes all podiatry students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Podiatry Board.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is podiatry.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Source: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Figure 11.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing podiatry courses (higher education), 2007–2011

Podiatrists not employed in podiatry

The survey collects some basic information on those podiatrists who are registered but not actively employed in podiatry in Australia; that is, podiatrists on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Podiatrists who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among podiatrists, the youngest groups not actively employed in podiatry are those who are on extended leave and looking for work in podiatry who are not employed (both with an average age of 34.2). The average age of those podiatrists retired from regular work was 61.4 (Table 11.13).

Table 11.13: Podiatrists not actively employed in podiatry in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	120	34.2	2.8	n.p.	92.6
Looking for work in podiatry	*24*	*36.1*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	5	42.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	19	34.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	51	35.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work in podiatry	*93*	*36.3*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	51	37.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	42	35.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	5	61.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total podiatrists not actively employed in podiatry in Australia	**292**	**35.7**	**5.1**	**n.p.**	**84.7**
Total employed podiatrists	**3,491**	**37.6**	**8.2**	**n.p.**	**93.1**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

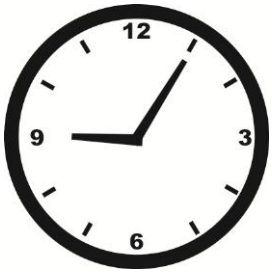
(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

12 Osteopathy workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 1,729 registered osteopaths, 1,463 of whom were employed in private practice.
	In 2012, the average age of employed osteopaths was 38.8; 13.2% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed osteopaths worked 35.7 hours a week.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the osteopathy workforce in Australia. For information about what osteopaths do, see Box 12.1.

Box 12.1: Services provided by osteopaths

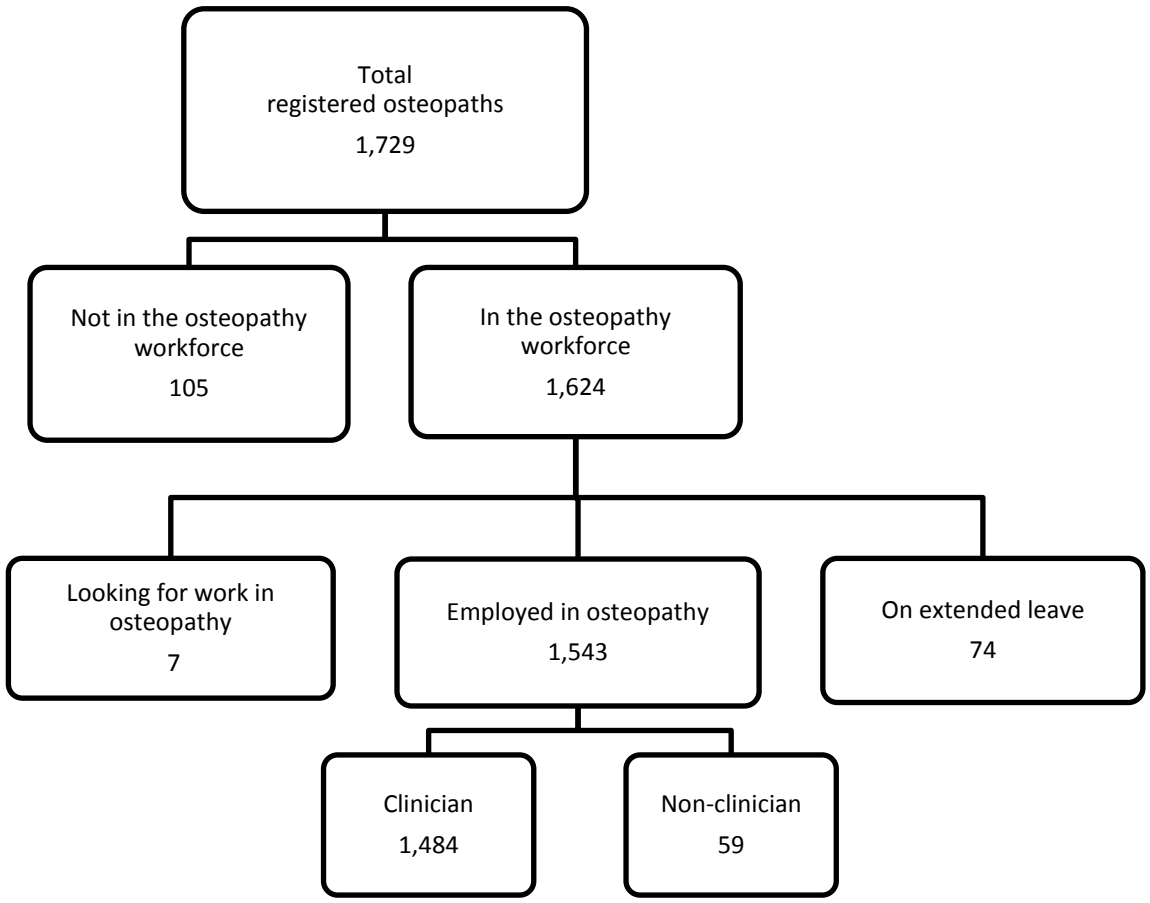
Osteopaths diagnose and treat physiological and mechanical disorders of the locomotor system and tissue strain, stress and dysfunction that impede normal neural, vascular and biochemical mechanisms, and provide advice on preventing these disorders. An osteopath can provide the following treatment:

- administering a variety of neurological, musculoskeletal and functional tests to identify and assess physical problems and ailments of patients
- planning and discussing effective management of patients' dysfunction
- designing, reviewing, monitoring, assessing and evaluating treatment programs.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

12.1 Workforce status

In 2012, there were 1,729 registered osteopaths in Australia. The majority of these were in the osteopathy workforce (1,624). Of these, 7 were looking for work in osteopathy and 74 were on extended leave. This accounts for 0.4% and 4.3%, respectively, of total registered osteopaths currently in the osteopathy workforce (Figure 12.1).



Note: A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 12.1: Registered osteopaths: workforce status, 2012

In 2012, the average age of registered osteopaths was 38.5 while 13.1% where aged over 55 (Table 12.1).

Box 12.2: Treatment of missing information

Due to shortcomings with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria (58.0% of registered osteopaths) were missing information about sex. As a consequence, national data was significantly affected with information about sex missing for 30.1% of osteopaths. National and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed. Where data has been presented by sex, those with unknown sex are included in the total, but are not separately reported.

Table 12.1: Registered osteopaths: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	1,652	38.6	13.1	n.p.
Limited (postgraduate training)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Non-practising	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**1,729**	**38.5**	**13.1**	**n.p.**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Between 2011 and 2012, the number of osteopaths in the osteopathy workforce increased slightly, from 1,535 to 1,624 (Table 12.2).

Table 12.2: Registered osteopaths: workforce status, 2011 and 2012

Workforce status	2011	2012	Change between 2011 and 2012 (per cent)
In the osteopathy workforce	*1,535*	*1,624*	*5.8*
Employed in osteopathy	1,479	1,543	4.3
Looking for work in osteopathy	*n.p.*	*7*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	—
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
On extended leave	53	74	38.3
Not in osteopathy workforce	*100*	*105*	*5.3*
Overseas	42	47	10.4
Not looking for work in osteopathy	44	45	*1.6*
Employed elsewhere	19	16	–16.6
Not employed	25	29	15.0
Retired from regular work	14	14	1.2
Total registered osteopaths	**1,635**	**1,729**	**5.7**

Sources: NHWDS: allied health workforce, 2011 and 2012.

The proportion of registered osteopaths in the osteopathy workforce ranged from 90.9% in South Australia to 100% in the Tasmania and the Northern Territory (Table 12.3).

Table 12.3: Registered osteopaths: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[a], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
In the osteopathy workforce	*486*	*845*	*139*	*52*	*30*	*41*	*29*	*1*	*1,624*
Employed in osteopathy	*470*	*796*	*130*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*38*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*1,543*
Clinician[c]	455	759	125	n.p.	n.p.	38	n.p.	n.p.	1,484
Non-clinician	15	37	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	59
Looking for work in osteopathy	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	—	*n.p.*	—	—	*7*
Employed elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	n.p.	—	—	7
On extended leave	14	46	10	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	74
Not in osteopathy workforce	*18*	*53*	*8*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	*n.p.*	—	*105*
Overseas	4	19	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	47
Not looking for work in osteopathy	*7*	*31*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	*n.p.*	—	*45*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	13	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	16
Not employed	n.p.	19	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	29
Retired from regular work	7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	14
Total registered osteopaths	**504**	**898**	**148**	**53**	**33**	**41**	**31**	**1**	**1,729**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the osteopathy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to osteopaths working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

12.2 Osteopaths employed in osteopathy

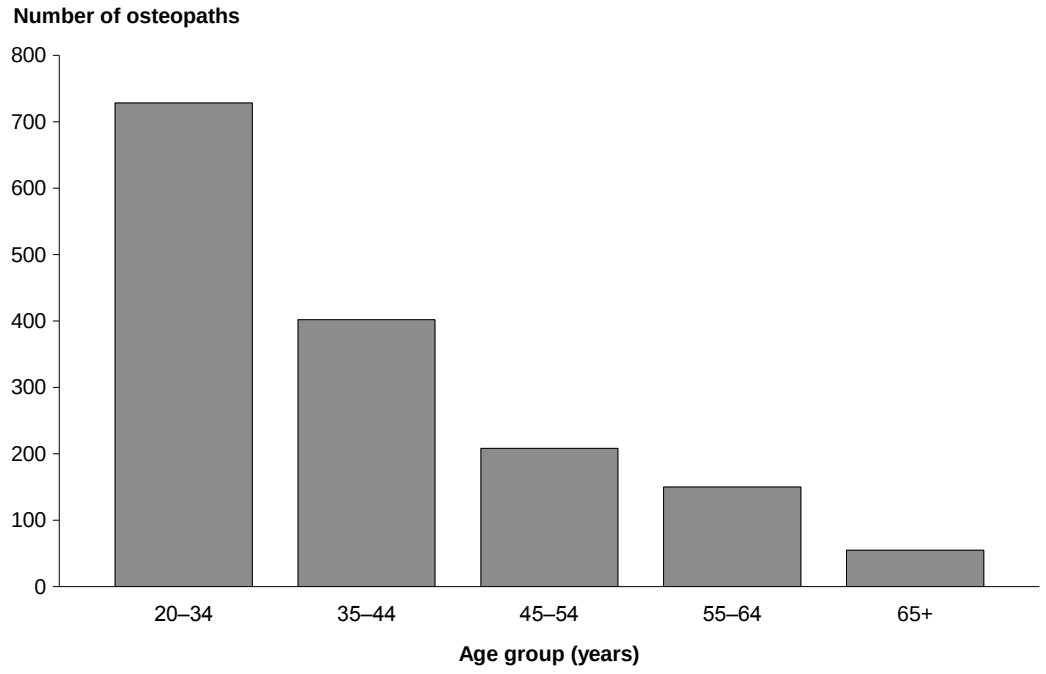
A person who reported working in osteopathy in the week before the survey was considered to have been an 'employed osteopath' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of osteopaths employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section.

Across Australia, the overall supply of osteopaths increased between 2011 and 2012, from 6.1 FTE per 100,000 population in 2011 to 6.4 in 2012 (tables 12.4 and A.69).

Age

The highest numbers of employed osteopaths were in the 20–34 age group (729) (Figure 12.2).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 12.2: Number of employed osteopaths, by age group, 2012

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander osteopaths

There were fewer than 10 employed osteopaths who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing about 0.4% of employed osteopaths who responded to the question.

Country of initial qualification

Of all employed osteopaths, 1,322 received their initial osteopathy qualification in Australia (85.7%). Those employed osteopaths who received their initial qualification in New Zealand reported a lower average age than those with Australian initial qualifications (36.4 and 38.0 respectively) (Table 12.4).

Table 12.4: Employed osteopaths: country of initial qualification, selected characteristics, 2012

Country of initial qualification	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Australia	1,322	38.0	12.5	n.p.	35.7	5.5
New Zealand	18	36.4	7.5	n.p.	34.3	0.1
Other country	149	48.2	23.7	n.p.	35.2	0.6
Not stated/inadequately described	54	32.8	3.7	n.p.	38.0	0.2
Total	**1,543**	**38.8**	**13.2**	**n.p.**	**35.7**	**6.4**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Role in osteopathy

The principal role in osteopathy describes the types of work undertaken by employed osteopaths. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the largest group was clinicians, accounting for 96.2% of employed osteopaths. The smallest group was researchers, accounting for 0.3% of employed osteopaths (Table 12.5).

Table 12.5: Employed osteopaths: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	1,484	38.8	13.4	n.p.	35.8	6.2
Non-clinician	*59*	*38.9*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*34.0*	*0.2*
Administrator	13	37.1	n.p.	n.p.	32.2	—
Teacher/educator	23	44.3	n.p.	n.p.	35.3	0.1
Researcher	4	52.5	n.p.	n.p.	31.0	—
Other	18	30.1	n.p.	n.p.	34.4	0.1
Total	**1,543**	**38.8**	**13.2**	**n.p.**	**35.7**	**6.4**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Osteopaths were asked to indicate the setting of their main job in osteopathy in the week before completing the survey. Working in private practice (96.9% of clinicians and 94.8% of all employed osteopaths) was the most commonly reported work setting (Table 12.6).

Table 12.6: Employed osteopaths: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

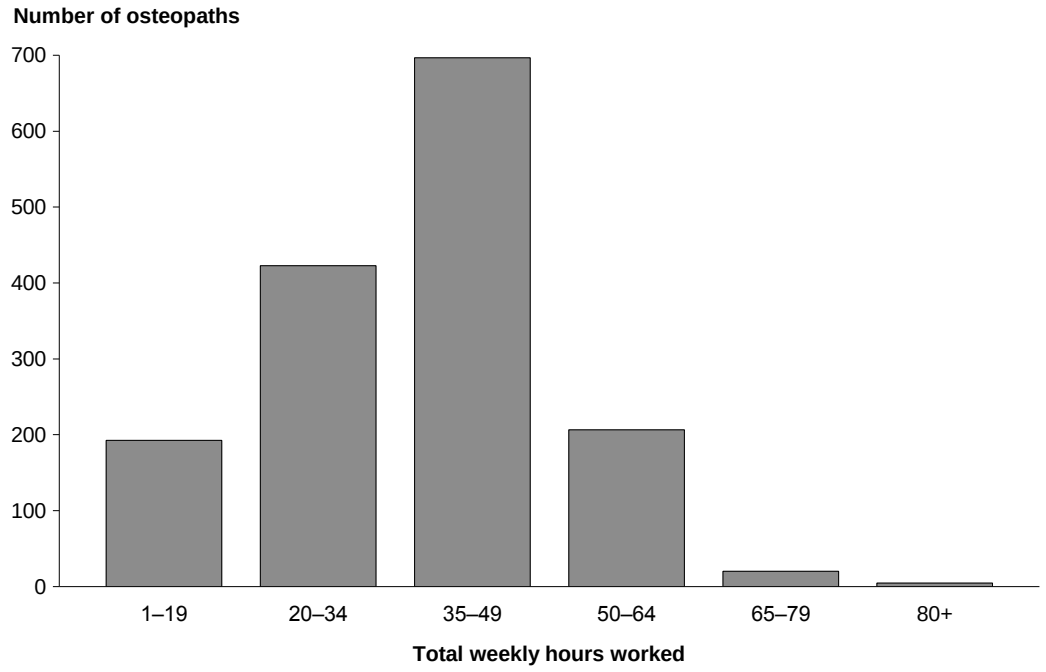
	Clinician[(a)]		Total osteopaths	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	1,438	35.9	1,463	35.8
Residential health-care services	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Commercial/business services	n.p.	n.p.	3	24.1
Educational facility	—	—	24	36.2
Other government department or agency	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Other	n.p.	n.p.	9	33.3
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**1,484**	**35.8**	**1,543**	**35.7**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

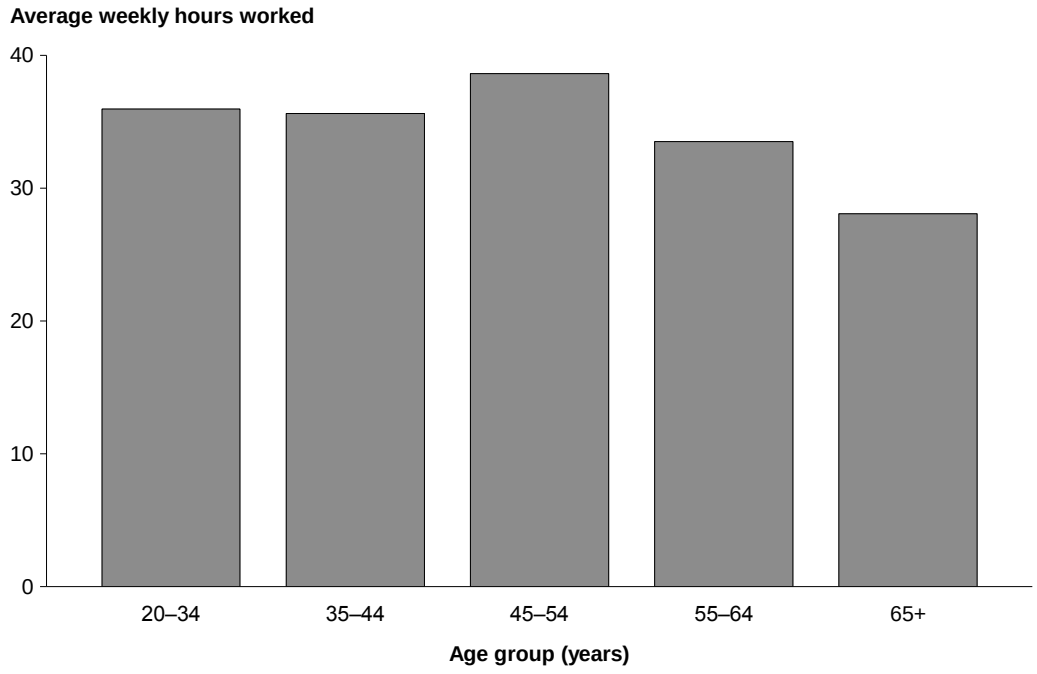
On average, employed osteopaths worked 35.7 hours a week in 2012 (Table 12.7). Nearly 2 in 5 (39.8%) osteopaths worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 12.3).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 12.3: Number of employed osteopaths: total hours worked per week, 2012

Osteopaths aged 45–54 worked the most hours per week (38.6), followed by those aged 20–34 (36.0 hours) and those in the 35–44 age group (35.6 hours) (Figure 12.4).



Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 12.4: Employed osteopaths: average total weekly hours worked, by age group, 2012

States and territories

On average, employed osteopaths in Queensland worked the most weekly hours (38.8) and those in Western Australia worked the least (33.9) (Table 12.7).

Table 12.7: Employed osteopaths: average total weekly hours worked, by sex, and state and territory[(a)], 2012

Sex	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)(c)]
Men	37.6	n.p.	42.1	35.4	33.2	35.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Women	31.7	n.p.	33.0	31.9	39.2	38.3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	**35.3**	**35.4**	**38.8**	**33.9**	**36.7**	**37.3**	n.p	n.p	**35.7**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Remoteness area

On average, osteopaths working in *Major cities* areas worked more weekly hours (36.0) in 2012, than those working in *Inner regional* areas (34.6) (Table 12.8).

Table 12.8: Employed osteopaths: average total weekly hours worked, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Sex[(b)]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Men	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Women	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	**36.0**	**34.6**	**n.p.**	**n.p.**	**35.7**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were more osteopaths in the private sector than in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (1,217 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 58 in the public sector). Osteopaths in the private sector worked more hours per week than their public sector counterparts (31.4 hours compared with 18.8 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 12.9).

Table 12.9: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	1,472	118
Average age	38.9	39.1
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.5	11.1
Women[(a)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	31.4	18.8
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	1,217	58

Note: Osteopaths appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

12.3 Geographic profile of employed osteopaths

Remoteness area

The supply of osteopaths in Australia was highest in *Major cities* (7.5 FTE per 100,000 population and lowest in *Inner regional* (5.0)(Table 12.10).

Table 12.10: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	1,269	231	n.p.	n.p.	1,543
Average age	38.4	40.4	n.p.	n.p.	38.8
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	12.7	15.1	n.p.	n.p.	13.2
Women[(d)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	36.0	34.6	n.p.	n.p.	35.7
FTE rate[(e)]	7.5	5.1	n.p.	n.p.	6.4

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed osteopaths was in Victoria (796), followed by New South Wales (470). The FTE rate was highest in Victoria, with 13.2 FTE per 100,000 population, while the lowest was in South Australia, with 1.7 FTE (Table 12.11).

Table 12.11: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)(c)]
Number	470	796	130	50	29	38	n.p.	n.p.	1,543
Average age	45.2	33.8	41.8	45.4	40.4	40.0	n.p.	n.p.	38.8
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	26.7	3.4	16.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	13.2
Women (per cent)	39.0	n.p.	35.7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	35.3	35.4	38.8	33.9	36.7	37.3	n.p.	n.p.	35.7
FTE rate[(d)]	6.0	13.2	2.9	1.8	1.7	7.2	n.p.	n.p	6.4

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

12.4 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the osteopathy workforce

Osteopathy training

Information on osteopathy student commencements and completions of vocational education and training courses is collected by the National Centre for Vocational Educational Research; however the data are reported together with chiropractor students and cannot be separated, and therefore are not presented here.

Osteopaths not employed in osteopathy

The osteopathy workforce survey collects some basic information on those osteopaths who are registered but not actively employed in osteopathy in Australia; that is, osteopaths on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Osteopaths who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among osteopaths, those on extended leave had an average age of 34.1 while the average age of those retired from regular work was 59.2 (Table 12.12).

Table 12.12: Osteopaths not actively employed in osteopathy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(a)] (per cent)[(b)]
On extended leave	74	34.1	3.1	n.p.	95.2
Looking for work in osteopathy	*7*	*33.0*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	—	—	—	n.p	—
Not employed	7	33.0	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	47	38.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work in osteopathy	*45*	*35.2*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	16	35.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	29	34.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Retired from regular work	14	59.2	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total osteopaths not actively employed in osteopathy in Australia	**186**	**37.4**	**10.6**	**n.p.**	**82.6**
Total employed osteopaths	**1,543**	**38.8**	**13.2**	**n.p.**	**97.3**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce

At a glance

	In 2012, there were 265 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, 127 of whom were employed in Aboriginal health services.
	Almost 3 out of 4 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners were women.
	In 2012, the average age of employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners was 44.4; 18.8% were aged 55 or over.
	On average, employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners worked 40.5 hours a week.

Note: Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

This chapter provides details about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce in Australia. In order to register applicants must provide evidence that they, are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, identify as an Aboriginal and/or a Torres Strait Islander person, and are accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in the community in which they live or have lived. For information about what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners do, see Box 13.1.

Box 13.1: Services provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners assist with the coordination and provision of health-care delivery to Indigenous communities. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners can provide the following treatment:

- maintaining health records and statistics
- acting as an advocate in the community they serve, and as a communicator and interpreter on behalf of clients and other health workers
- providing clinical functions, such as case management and follow-up, independently or in consultation with other health-care providers.

Sources: ABS 2006, 2009.

13.1 Workforce status

This report covers only those practitioners who are registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice board, and hereafter referred to as 'registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners' (see Box 13.2).

Box 13.2: Registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner

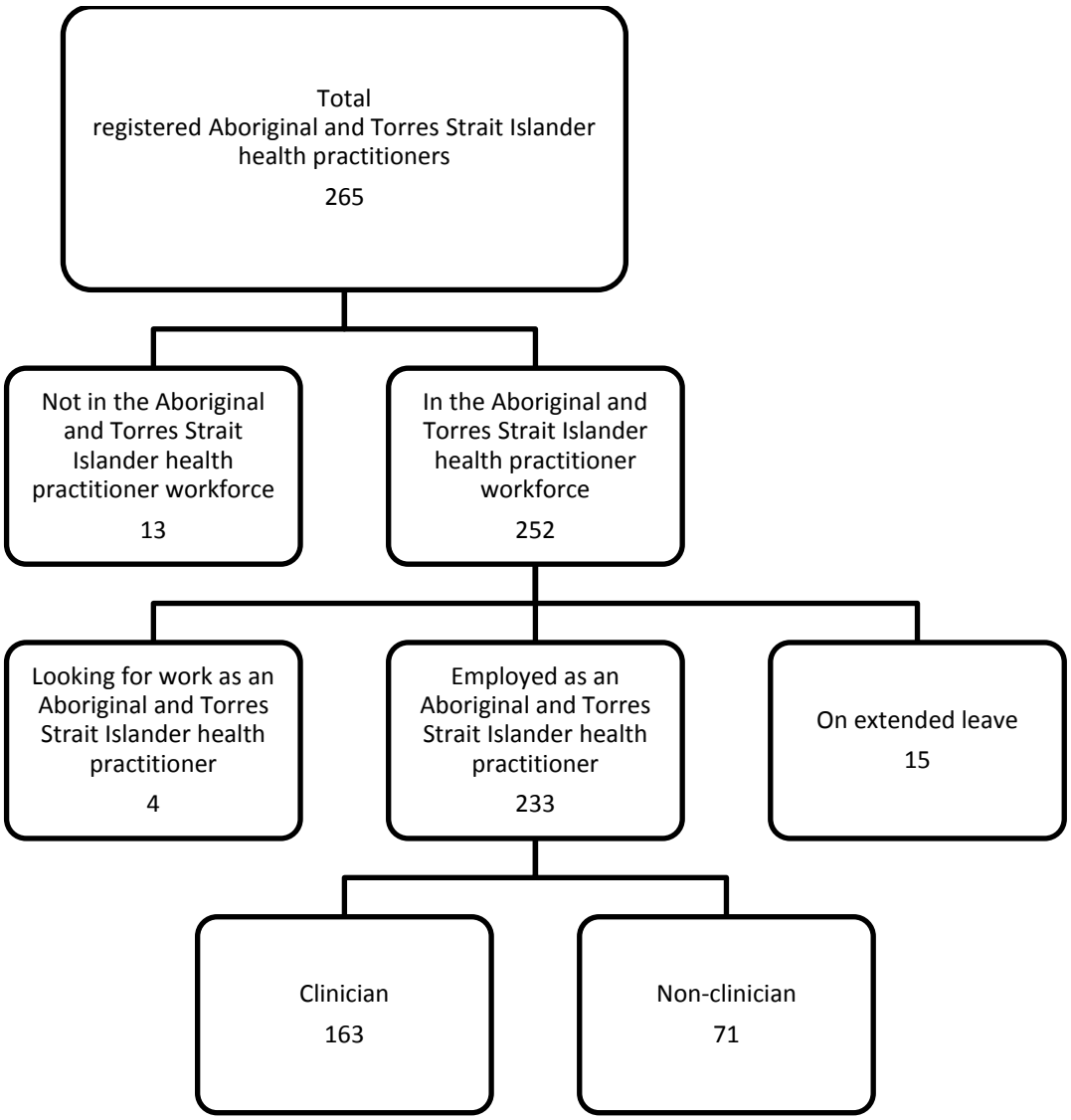
Practitioners who intend on practicing as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must apply for national registration.

Those Aboriginal health workers who are not required by their employer to use the title 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner', 'Aboriginal health practitioner' or 'Torres Strait Islander health practitioner', are not required to be registered, and can continue to work using their current titles (for example, 'Aboriginal health worker', 'drug and alcohol worker' and 'mental health worker').

Source: ATSIHPBA 2013a.

In 2012, there were 265 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in Australia. The majority of these were in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce (252). Of these, 4 were looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner and 15 were on extended leave. This accounts for 1.6% and 6.0%, respectively, of total registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners currently in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce (Figure 13.1).

As noted in Box 13.2, not all people who work as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander workers are registered as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander practitioners. For example, in 2010–11, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health-care services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stand-alone substance use services, funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health of the Department of Health and Ageing, employed just over 960 FTE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers. Nearly 98% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people (AIHW 2012).



Notes

1. Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.
2. A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 13.1: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners: workforce status, 2012

Among registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, the average age was 44.6, and 17.7% were aged 55 and over. Women represented the majority of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (74.3%) (Table 13.1).

Table 13.1: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: registration type, selected characteristics, 2012

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	265	44.6	17.7	74.3
Total	**265**	**44.6**	**17.7**	**74.3**

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

The number of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce was highest in the Northern Territory (218), followed by Queensland (12) (Table 13.2).

Table 13.2: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(b)], 2012

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
In the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice workforce	*11*	*3*	*12*	*9*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*4*	*209*	*252*
Employed as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	*11*	*3*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*194*	*233*
Clinician[(d)]	11	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	138	163
Non-clinician	—	3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	56	71
Looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*4*	*4*
Employed elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
On extended leave	—	—	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	—	11	15
Not in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice workforce	—	—	—	—	—	—	*4*	*9*	*13*
Overseas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	—	—	—	—	—	—	*4*	*9*	*13*
Employed elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Not employed	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	10
Total registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners	**11**	**3**	**12**	**9**	**2**	**2**	**8**	**218**	**265**

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners working overseas.

(d) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

13.2 Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners employed in Australia

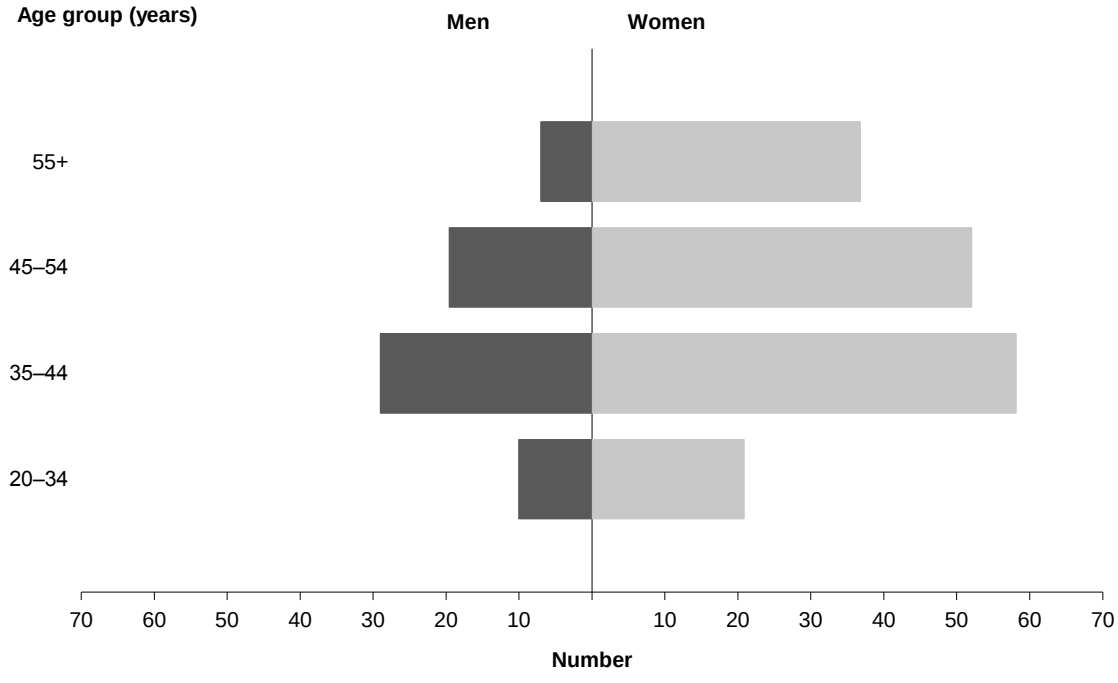
A person who reported working as a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in the week before the survey was considered to be an 'employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner' (see Glossary).

The characteristics and supply of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners employed in Australia are the focus of the remainder of this section. Note that the workforce survey had a relatively low response rate of 44.2% (Table B.1).

Across Australia, the overall supply of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners is 1.1 FTE per 100,000 population in 2012 (Table 13.4).

Age and sex

There were more women than men across all age groups, with the most women in the 35–44 age group (58). For male registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, the 35–44 age group was the largest (29) (Figure 13.2).



Note: Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 13.2: Number of employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, by age group and sex, 2012

Role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice

The principal role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice describes the types of work undertaken by employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. The 2012 survey categorised the roles as clinician and non-clinician. The non-clinical roles comprised of administrator, teacher/educator, researcher and other. In 2012, the

largest group was clinicians, accounting for 70.0% of employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners (Table 13.3).

Table 13.3: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2012

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	163	44.2	19.6	70.7	41.8	0.8
Non-clinician	*71*	*44.8*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*37.6*	*0.3*
Administrator	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Teacher/educator	26	46.3	n.p.	n.p.	34.1	0.1
Researcher	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other	30	41.8	n.p.	n.p.	39.2	0.1
Total	**233**	**44.4**	**18.8**	**71.9**	**40.5**	**1.1**

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population (all Australian population). FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Work setting

Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners were asked to indicate the setting of their main job as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in the week before completing the survey. Most employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners reported working in Aboriginal health service (62.6% of clinicians and 54.5% of total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners) (Table 13.4).

Table 13.4: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2012

	Clinician[(b)]		Total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Aboriginal health service	102	42.1	127	40.9
Community health-care services	31	42.4	33	42.2
Hospital	3	30.0	8	35.2
Educational services	—	—	7	40.4
Correctional services	7	53.7	7	53.7
Other government department or agency	11	36.4	24	38.8
Other	—	—	11	35.3
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	10	37.4	18	37.6
Total	**163**	**41.8**	**233**	**40.5**

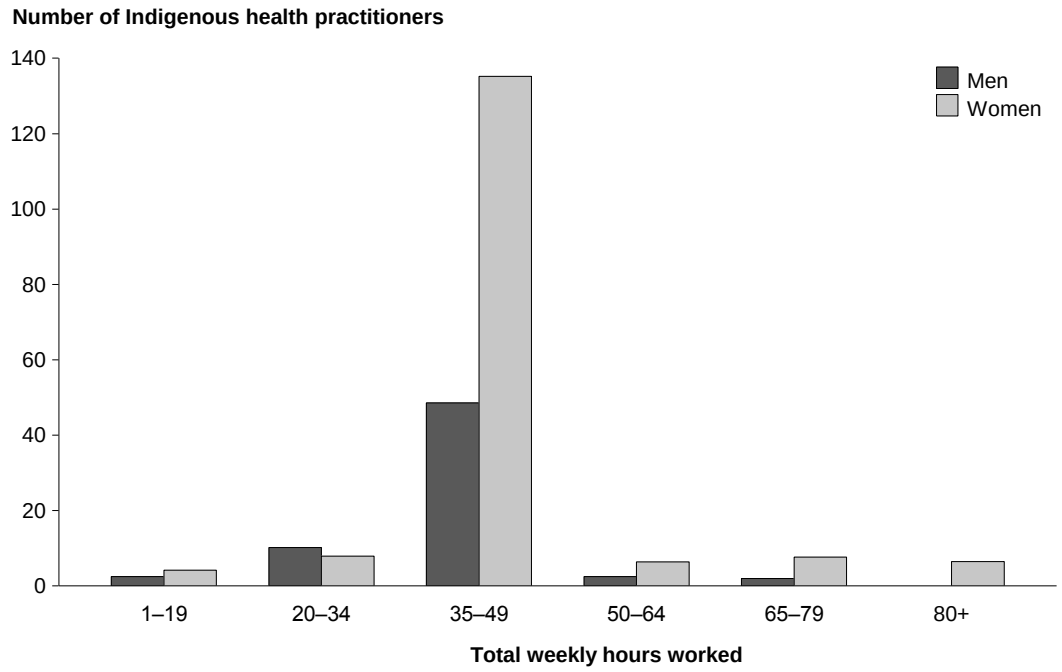
(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Working hours

On average, employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners worked 40.5 hours a week in 2012 (Table 13.5). Over 1 in 10 (10.5%) registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners worked part time (less than 35 hours per week) (Figure 13.3).

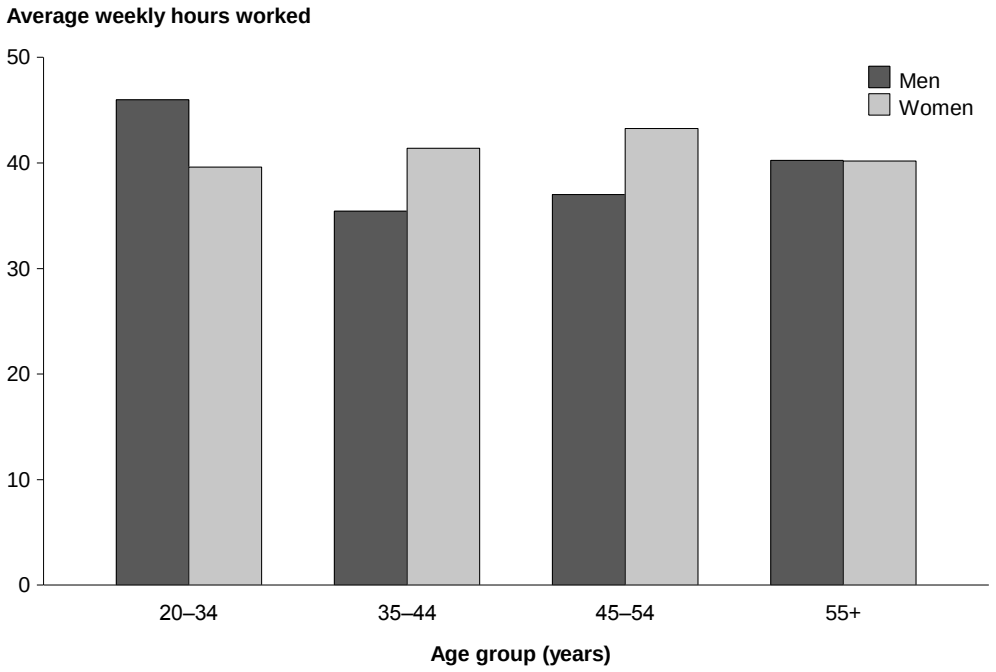


Note: Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 13.3: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners: total hours worked per week, by sex, 2012

Male registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners worked 38.0 hours per week on average, while female registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners worked 41.5 (Table 13.5). Women worked more hours per week in the 35–44 and 45–54 age groups, whereas men worked more hours in the youngest age group (20–34 years) (Figure 13.4).



Note: Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Figure 13.4: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners: average total weekly hours worked, by age group and sex, 2012

Remoteness area

On average, registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners working in *Major cities* worked the most weekly hours (43.3) in 2012 while those in *Outer regional* areas worked the least (37.7) (Table 13.5).

Table 13.5: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(b)] of main job, 2012

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Men	—	—	40.2	37.0	38.0
Women	43.3	39.4	36.7	44.3	41.5
Persons	**43.3**	**39.4**	**37.7**	**42.0**	**40.5**

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Employment sector

In 2012, there were about the same number of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in the private sector and in the public sector. This was seen both in terms of numbers and full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians (95 FTE clinicians in the private sector and 81 in the public sector). Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in the public sector worked fewer hours per week than their private sector counterparts (30.0 hours compared with 34.0 hours per week on average, respectively) (Table 13.6).

Table 13.6: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2012

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	106	103
Average age	43.8	44.1
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	19.1	20.9
Women (per cent)	69.8	71.2
Average weekly clinical hours worked in sector	34.0	30.0
Clinical FTE number[(b)]	95	81

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on clinical hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

13.3 Geographic profile of employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners

Remoteness area

The supply of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in Australia was highest in *Remote/Very remote* areas (29.7 FTE per 100,000 population) (Table 13.7).

Table 13.7: Employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(b)], 2012

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Number	7	9	73	142	233
Average age	46.3	42.8	46.6	43.4	44.4
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	17.1	18.8
Women (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	68.4	71.9
Average weekly hours worked	43.3	39.4	37.7	42.0	40.5
FTE rate[(e)]	—	0.2	3.6	29.7	1.1

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population (all Australian population). FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

States and territories

In 2012, the highest number of employed registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners was in the Northern Territory (194), followed by New South Wales (11). The FTE rate was highest in the Northern Territory, with 88.0 FTE per 100,000 population (Table 13.8).

Table 13.8: Employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(b)], 2012

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	11	3	10	9	2	4	194	233
Average age	49.7	n.p.	46.4	45.3	n.p.	43.7	44.2	44.4
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19.0	18.8
Women (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	69.9	71.9
Average weekly hours worked	39.1	n.p.	38.1	45.3	n.p.	42.6	40.5	40.5
FTE rate[(d)]	0.1	n.p.	0.2	0.4	n.p.	1.3	88.0	1.1

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state/territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population (all Australian population). FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

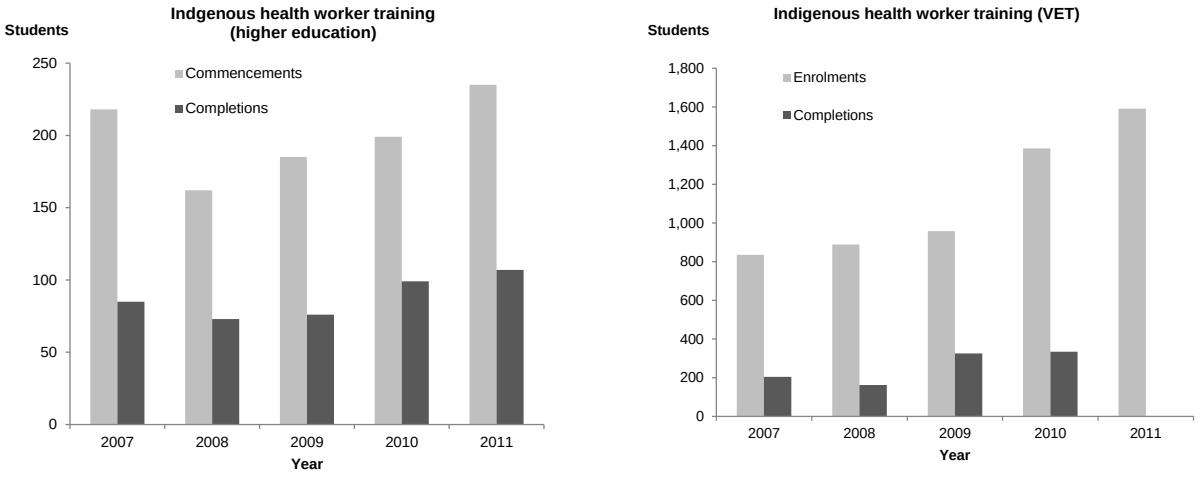
13.5 Sources of new entrants and re-entrants to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner training

Information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner student commencements and completions of higher education (university) courses is derived from data provided by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

To register as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in Australia, a student must complete the required academic and clinical training at an Australian tertiary education institutions offering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner courses.

Commencements in university courses leading to qualification as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner by students in Australia have increased by 7.8%, from 218 in 2007 to 235 in 2011. Over the same period, completions have increased by 25.9%, from 85 to 107. Enrolments in vocational education and training courses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice have increased 90.5% from 2007 to 2011 (835 to 1,591), and completions increased 63.7% (204 to 334) during this period (Figure 13.5).



Notes

1. Higher education and vocational education and training data includes all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker students, not just those in courses leading to registration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board. The majority of these courses do not lead to registration.
2. Higher education data includes students whose primary or secondary field of education is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.
3. Higher education data includes undergraduate and postgraduate numbers.
4. For higher education students, 'domestic' refers to Australian citizens or permanent residents (excludes New Zealand citizens and includes those on humanitarian visas).

Sources: Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Higher Education Statistics Collection; NCVER 2012.

Figure 13.5: Domestic Australian students enrolled in and completing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice courses, 2007–2011

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners not employed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner Workforce Survey collects some basic information on those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who are registered but not actively employed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice in Australia; that is, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners on extended leave, working overseas, employed elsewhere or not employed. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners who are not registered at the time of the survey are excluded.

Among registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, the youngest group not actively employed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice are those not looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner (38.2) (Table 13.9).

Table 13.9: Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)] not actively employed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2012

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	15	41.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	*4*	*50.0*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not looking for work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner	*13*	*38.2*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	10	36.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners not actively employed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice in Australia	**32**	**41.4**	**7.1**	**92.3**	**12.6**
Total employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners	**233**	**44.4**	**18.8**	**71.9**	**6.8**

(a) Not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Appendix A: Tables for National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners 2011

A.1 Composition of the allied health workforce

Table A.1: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)], selected characteristics, 2011

Practitioner type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
Psychologist	28,440	43.3	23.2	77.8
Pharmacist[(b)]	26,196	39.4	16.9	58.9
Physiotherapist[(c)]	22,874	38.6	11.7	70.7
Optometrist[(c)]	4,505	41.1	14.4	48.5
Chiropractor	4,358	41.1	15.4	35.4
Podiatrist[(d)]	3,579	37.5	7.5	n.p.
Osteopath[(d)]	1,635	38.7	13.5	n.p.

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a small proportion of pharmacists from Victoria were missing information about their sex. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(c) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of physiotherapists and optometrists from South Australia were missing information about their sex.

(d) Due to transitional arrangements with the migration of data from state and territory-based systems, a significant proportion of podiatrists and osteopaths from Victoria were missing information about their sex. As a result, national data pertaining to sex has been suppressed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.2: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)] per 100,000 population, by practitioner type, remoteness area[(b)], 2011

Practitioner type	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(c)]	Australia[(d)]
Psychologist	148.1	82.1	63.8	44.3	127.3
Pharmacist	126.9	90.7	84.3	56.5	117.3
Physiotherapist	113.9	70.5	57.0	46.4	102.4
Optometrist	21.9	15.4	11.6	6.3	20.2
Chiropractor	20.6	17.8	13.1	6.7	19.5
Podiatrist	17.2	14.7	11.0	5.9	16.0
Osteopath	8.3	6.3	2.3	0.4	7.3

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes allied health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their location and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.3: Registered allied health practitioners[(a)] per 100,000 population, by practitioner type, state and territory[(b)], 2011

Practitioner type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Psychologist	134.1	138.7	111.2	125.6	84.7	99.7	209.2	91.7	127.3
Pharmacist	113.3	117.1	113.2	119.9	116.0	122.4	115.2	79.6	117.3
Physiotherapist	92.8	103.1	95.4	115.2	115.1	76.8	119.3	61.8	102.4
Optometrist	21.0	20.8	20.3	15.4	14.5	16.4	19.8	14.3	20.2
Chiropractor	20.2	21.3	15.0	20.9	21.7	8.4	15.2	9.1	19.5
Podiatrist	12.7	20.9	13.6	15.3	22.3	17.6	12.8	6.9	16.0
Osteopath	7.0	14.7	3.2	2.1	1.8	7.2	8.7	1.3	7.3

(a) Includes allied health practitioners who hold provisional registration.

(b) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(c) Includes allied health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.2 Psychology workforce

Table A.4: Registered psychologists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	23,691	45.1	26.2	76.7
Limited (teaching and research)	1	43.0	—	100.0
Non-practising	887	45.4	30.7	82.2
Provisional	3,861	32.0	2.8	83.8
Total	**28,440**	**43.3**	**23.2**	**77.8**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.5: Registered psychologists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the psychology workforce	*7,907*	*6,095*	*3,990*	*2,424*	*1,159*	*412*	*639*	*174*	*22,807*
Employed in psychology	*7,415*	*5,772*	*3,782*	*2,301*	*1,101*	*395*	*602*	*168*	*21,537*
Clinician[(c)]	6,017	4,608	2,880	1,866	912	338	450	142	17,215
Non-clinician	1,398	1,164	902	435	189	56	153	26	4,323
Looking for work in psychology	*87*	*50*	*33*	*12*	*11*	*n.p.*	*7*	*n.p.*	*210*
Employed elsewhere	40	18	11	6	6	n.p.	3	n.p.	86
Not employed	48	32	23	5	6	n.p.	4	n.p.	123
On extended leave	405	273	175	111	47	15	30	3	1,060
Not in psychology workforce	*674*	*332*	*254*	*94*	*90*	*32*	*42*	*5*	*1,772*
Overseas	110	50	28	14	19	n.p.	8	n.p.	455
Not looking for work in psychology	*436*	*241*	*191*	*73*	*52*	*n.p.*	*29*	*n.p.*	*1,076*
Employed elsewhere	230	101	88	20	25	n.p.	14	n.p.	494
Not employed	206	140	104	53	28	n.p.	15	n.p.	582
Retired from regular work	128	41	35	7	18	7	5	—	241
Total registered psychologists	**8,581**	**6,427**	**4,245**	**2,517**	**1,249**	**444**	**681**	**179**	**24,579**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the psychology workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to psychologists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.6: Employed psychologists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinician[(b)]	17,215	45.4	27.1	77.6	32.8	66.6
Non-clinician	*4,323*	*45.4*	*25.7*	*69.5*	*34.6*	*17.6*
Administrator	945	47.2	27.7	65.9	36.0	4.0
Teacher/educator	939	49.8	38.8	67.0	34.4	3.8
Researcher	868	43.6	21.8	71.0	35.5	3.6
Other	1,570	42.7	18.9	72.4	33.6	6.2
Total	**21,537**	**45.4**	**26.8**	**76.0**	**33.2**	**84.2**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.7: Employed psychologists: principal area of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal area of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Assessment	2,324	43.8	24.3	79.8	32.8	9.0
Psychological intervention	12,800	45.7	28.1	77.7	32.6	49.2
Community psychology	711	43.7	21.5	78.2	32.6	2.7
Management/administration	1,085	46.5	24.9	69.5	36.3	4.6
Organisational psychology	1,408	42.7	17.5	65.6	34.6	5.7
Research	777	44.2	23.8	71.3	35.6	3.3
Teaching/supervision	728	50.3	40.3	69.1	35.0	3.0
Other	514	45.6	27.5	80.4	31.8	1.9
Not stated/inadequately described	1,190	45.6	26.8	72.4	34.1	4.8
Total	**21,537**	**45.4**	**26.8**	**76.0**	**33.2**	**84.2**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.8: Employed psychologists: endorsements, selected characteristics, 2011

Endorsement subtype	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(a)]
Clinical psychology	4,518	45.8	26.8	75.5	34.8	18.5
Counselling psychology	781	55.6	56.3	74.3	33.1	3.0
Forensic psychology	352	47.0	32.9	62.4	38.1	1.6
Clinical neuropsychology	407	42.7	16.7	78.4	36.0	1.7
Organisational psychology	316	50.9	39.4	59.2	35.8	1.3
Sport and exercise psychology	68	46.8	22.2	45.3	37.9	0.3
Educational and developmental psychology	419	50.4	44.6	81.7	35.6	1.8
Health psychology	195	49.2	37.7	79.7	36.6	0.8
Community psychology	42	55.9	57.4	77.4	34.8	0.2
Clinical psychology and forensic psychology	143	50.3	40.2	52.5	41.1	0.7
Clinical psychology and counselling psychology	130	55.0	52.0	68.7	37.2	0.6
Clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology	84	46.4	29.8	77.4	39.9	0.4
Clinical psychology and health psychology	80	48.5	37.6	77.5	37.7	0.4
Clinical psychology and educational and developmental psychology	68	50.8	43.8	67.0	39.4	0.3
Psychologists with at least one endorsement	6,423	46.9	30.2	75.3	34.7	26.2
All psychologists	**21,537**	**45.4**	**26.8**	**76.0**	**33.2**	**84.2**

Note: Psychologists appear in each line where they have an endorsement and so may be included in more than one endorsement subtype.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.9: Employed psychologists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[(a)]		Total psychologists	
Work setting of main job	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**	**Number**	**Average weekly hours worked**
Private practice	7,269	31.0	7,669	30.8
Aboriginal health service	44	33.4	50	34.9
Community health-care services	2,687	35.2	3,097	35.1
Hospital	1,107	34.9	1,272	34.8
Residential health-care services	235	33.8	278	34.3
Commercial/business services	305	33.2	923	34.3
Educational facility	2,531	33.0	3,993	34.2
Correctional services	412	35.5	487	35.8
Defence forces	133	36.0	206	35.9
Other government department or agency	979	34.3	1,570	34.3
Other	531	32.9	951	33.4
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	981	34.3	1,041	34.3
Total	**17,215**	**32.8**	**21,537**	**33.2**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.10: Employed psychologists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[(a)], 2011

Sex	**NSW**	**Vic**	**Qld**	**WA**	**SA**	**Tas**	**ACT**	**NT**	**Australia[(b)]**
Men	35.9	36.7	37.5	37.1	36.7	35.9	36.4	36.5	36.6
Women	31.7	31.3	34.0	32.1	31.4	32.8	33.9	38.3	32.1
Persons	**32.7**	**32.5**	**34.9**	**33.3**	**33.0**	**33.5**	**34.5**	**37.8**	**33.2**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.11: Employed psychologists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Men	36.7	35.7	37.2	36.2	36.6
Women	32.0	32.4	33.9	35.1	32.1
Persons	**33.1**	**33.3**	**34.7**	**35.3**	**33.2**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.12: Employed psychologists: employment sector, selected characteristics, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	14,317	10,616
Average age	46.2	44.2
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	28.6	23.7
Women (per cent)	75.0	76.3
Average weekly hours worked in sector	27.2	30.7
FTE number[(a)]	10,252	8,567

Note: Psychologists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.13: Employed psychologists: selected characteristics, remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	17,689	2,629	1,005	185	21,537
Average age	45.0	47.7	46.5	45.2	45.4
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	25.6	33.6	29.1	28.8	26.8
Women (per cent)	76.5	73.2	75.3	77.6	76.0
Average weekly hours worked	33.1	33.3	34.7	35.3	33.2
FTE rate[(d)]	98.3	56.2	45.3	32.9	84.2

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.14: Employed psychologists: selected characteristics by state and territory[a], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
Number	7,415	5,772	3,782	2,301	1,101	395	602	168	21,537
Average age	45.3	46.0	44.1	45.4	45.9	46.1	45.9	47.1	45.4
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	27.3	28.0	22.0	27.0	29.5	28.3	30.4	32.4	26.8
Women (per cent)	76.1	76.8	75.9	76.7	70.5	77.7	75.3	70.9	76.0
Average weekly hours worked	32.7	32.5	34.9	33.3	33.0	33.5	34.5	37.8	33.2
FTE rate[c]	88.3	89.2	77.5	85.6	58.2	68.1	148.7	72.3	84.2

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes psychologists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.15: Psychologists not actively employed in psychology in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[a] (per cent)[b]
On extended leave	1,060	40.4	16.4	90.5	94.3
Looking for work in psychology	*210*	*41.3*	*19.3*	*79.1*	*94.3*
Employed elsewhere	86	40.7	16.6	71.8	93.7
Not employed	123	41.7	21.1	84.2	94.7
Overseas	455	42.0	16.2	70.2	43.9
Not looking for work in psychology	*1,076*	*42.2*	*18.1*	*86.9*	*93.4*
Employed elsewhere	494	43.7	19.9	78.2	95.2
Not employed	582	41.0	16.6	94.3	91.8
Retired from regular work	241	64.8	95.8	64.5	93.3
Total psychologists not actively employed in psychology in Australia	**3,042**	**43.3**	**23.5**	**83.3**	**86.3**
Total employed psychologists	**21,537**	**45.4**	**26.8**	**76.0**	**94.3**

(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.3 Pharmacy workforce

Table A.16: Registered pharmacists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	23,461	39.9	17.6	58.5
Limited (postgraduate training)	8	33.1	—	75.0
Limited (teaching and research)	1	36.0	—	100.0
Limited (unknown)	5	30.0	—	60.0
Non-practising	760	51.1	39.3	59.7
Provisional	1,961	25.2	0.1	63.1
Total	**26,196**	**39.1**	**16.9**	**58.9**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.17: Registered pharmacists (excluding provisional registrants): workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the pharmacy workforce	*6,762*	*5,635*	*4,342*	*2,411*	*1,641*	*554*	*359*	*155*	*21,867*
Employed in pharmacy	*6,331*	*5,348*	*4,073*	*2,278*	*1,540*	*525*	*339*	*144*	*20,580*
Clinician[(c)]	4,620	4,160	3,127	1,597	1,020	385	215	97	15,222
Non-clinician	1,711	1,188	947	681	520	139	124	47	5,358
Looking for work in pharmacy	*119*	*42*	*42*	*31*	*22*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*264*
Employed elsewhere	33	17	11	7	5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	77
Not employed	86	24	31	25	16	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	188
On extended leave	313	245	226	102	79	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1,023
Not in pharmacy workforce	*719*	*473*	*332*	*162*	*116*	*22*	*43*	*5*	*2,368*
Overseas	111	67	74	45	25	n.p.	8	n.p.	744
Not looking for work in pharmacy	*445*	*277*	*178*	*84*	*52*	*n.p.*	*26*	*n.p.*	*1,154*
Employed elsewhere	276	189	94	34	24	n.p.	16	n.p.	682
Not employed	168	88	84	49	28	n.p.	10	n.p.	471
Retired from regular work	163	129	80	33	39	n.p.	9	n.p.	471
Total registered pharmacists	**7,481**	**6,108**	**4,673**	**2,572**	**1,756**	**576**	**402**	**160**	**24,235**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the pharmacy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to pharmacists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.18: Employed pharmacists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[a] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[b]
Clinician[c]	15,222	39.1	16.1	58.5	35.7	64.0
Non-clinician	*5,358*	*42.2*	*20.5*	*55.2*	*36.5*	*23.1*
Administrator	1,600	47.0	29.1	37.3	37.7	7.1
Teacher/educator	378	43.6	17.2	73.3	34.8	1.5
Researcher	246	40.5	13.7	65.2	37.1	1.1
Total	**20,580**	**39.9**	**17.2**	**57.7**	**35.9**	**87.1**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.19: Employed pharmacists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[a]		Total pharmacists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	466	32.2	643	32.2
Aboriginal health service	9	38.6	16	39.7
Community health-care services	387	38.7	515	38.7
Hospital	2,881	35.5	3,590	35.8
Residential health-care services	127	35.0	158	35.2
Commercial/business services	10,440	36.0	13,595	36.2
Educational facility	12	33.8	341	37.0
Correctional services	21	42.1	33	41.0
Defence forces	49	30.5	83	32.9
Other government department or agency	30	32.6	257	36.0
Other	79	28.5	337	32.7
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	721	34.5	1,012	34.9
Total	**15,222**	**35.7**	**20,580**	**35.9**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.20: Employed pharmacists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic[b]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[c]
Men	38.8	38.1	39.3	39.5	38.0	38.9	39.8	41.5	38.8
Women	33.4	33.5	34.3	33.6	35.0	32.8	35.9	38.2	33.8
Persons	**35.7**	**35.5**	**36.4**	**36.0**	**36.3**	**35.5**	**37.4**	**39.5**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health workforce 2011.

Table A.21: Employed pharmacists: average total weekly hours worked by remoteness area[a], 2011

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	38.6	38.6	40.2	43.0	38.8
Women	33.6	33.7	35.8	37.3	33.8
Persons	**35.6**	**36.1**	**37.8**	**40.2**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.22: Employed pharmacists: employment sector, selected characteristics, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	15,655	5,951
Average age	40.2	38.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	17.4	16.4
Women[a] (per cent)	54.6	66.4
Average weekly hours worked in sector	34.4	33.6
FTE number[b]	14,184	5,269

Note: Pharmacists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.23: Employed pharmacists: selected characteristics by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	15,681	3,157	1,468	259	20,580
Average age	39.6	41.7	40.2	39.8	39.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	16.3	20.9	19.2	17.2	17.2
Women[(d)] (per cent)	59.3	52.1	53.4	49.5	57.7
Average weekly hours worked	35.6	36.1	37.8	40.2	35.9
FTE rate[(e)]	93.8	73.0	72.2	52.3	87.1

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.24: Employed pharmacists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	6,331	5,348	4,073	2,278	1,540	525	339	144	20,580
Average age	41.6	40.0	39.0	37.9	38.2	40.8	40.4	35.3	39.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	21.0	17.1	15.2	13.3	14.5	17.0	16.5	7.0	17.2
Women (per cent)	57.0	57.9	57.4	59.2	57.5	55.5	62.0	61.4	57.7
Average weekly hours worked	35.7	35.5	36.4	36.0	36.3	35.5	37.4	39.5	35.9
FTE rate[(d)]	82.4	90.1	87.3	91.8	89.8	95.9	90.6	64.7	87.1

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed. Data for Victoria pertaining to sex should be treated with caution.

(c) Includes pharmacists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.25: Pharmacists not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	1,023	38.7	16.3	70.9	91.0
Looking for work in pharmacy	*264*	*37.4*	*13.0*	*68.1*	*94.9*
Employed elsewhere	77	36.3	9.7	51.4	94.3
Not employed	188	37.9	14.3	75.0	95.2
Overseas	744	37.5	7.2	63.4	38.6
Not looking for work in pharmacy	*1,154*	*42.9*	*19.0*	*65.6*	*89.2*
Employed elsewhere	682	44.9	21.7	57.5	90.9
Not employed	471	40.1	15.0	77.4	86.8
Retired from regular work	471	65.7	88.1	40.3	92.1
Total pharmacists not actively employed in pharmacy in Australia	**3,655**	**43.2**	**24.3**	**63.6**	**80.2**
Total employed pharmacists	**20,580**	**39.9**	**17.2**	**57.7**	**91.5**

(a) For a small proportion of pharmacists in Victoria, information about sex was missing. Because this had minimal impact on the figures, the sex for these pharmacists was imputed.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.4 Physiotherapy workforce

Table A.26: Registered physiotherapists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	22,089	38.3	11.5	70.4
Limited (postgraduate training)	142	30.1	—	67.4
Limited (area of need)	1	45.0	—	—
Limited (public interest)	72	29.7	—	74.6
Limited (teaching and research)	6	42.7	16.7	66.7
Limited (unknown)	6	32.7	—	100.0
Non-practising	558	43.9	21.9	79.3
Total	**22,874**	**38.4**	**11.7**	**70.6**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.27: Registered physiotherapists: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the physiotherapy workforce	*6,074*	*5,271*	*3,936*	*2,497*	*1,799*	*375*	*400*	*130*	*20,491*
Employed in physiotherapy	*5,709*	*4,971*	*3,703*	*2,345*	*1,699*	*350*	*371*	*118*	*19,269*
Clinician[(c)]	5,089	4,439	3,250	2,007	1,477	326	303	104	16,998
Non-clinician	620	532	452	338	222	24	68	15	2,271
Looking for work in physiotherapy	*53*	*54*	*31*	*21*	*15*	*n.p.*	*4*	*n.p.*	*186*
Employed elsewhere	16	16	7	7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	49
Not employed	37	38	24	15	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	137
On extended leave	312	246	203	131	85	22	25	10	1,036
Not in physiotherapy workforce	*621*	*435*	*336*	*213*	*87*	*19*	*40*	*14*	*2,383*
Overseas	158	134	99	63	35	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1,073
Not looking for work in physiotherapy	*369*	*250*	*208*	*135*	*46*	*13*	*26*	*10*	*1,102*
Employed elsewhere	202	142	93	62	19	n.p.	17	n.p.	559
Not employed	167	108	115	73	27	n.p.	9	n.p.	543
Retired from regular work	94	51	28	15	6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	207
Total registered physiotherapists	**6,695**	**5,706**	**4,272**	**2,711**	**1,886**	**394**	**440**	**145**	**22,874**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the physiotherapy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to physiotherapists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.28: Employed physiotherapists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(b)]	16,998	37.8	11.1	68.3	34.5	69.1
Non-clinician	*2,271*	*43.2*	*14.9*	*73.7*	*34.2*	*9.1*
Administrator	887	43.8	14.4	70.1	35.6	3.7
Teacher/educator	585	44.0	16.3	76.3	32.7	2.3
Researcher	295	41.5	8.3	77.9	34.8	1.2
Other	505	42.3	18.2	74.6	33.0	2.0
Total	**19,269**	**38.5**	**11.6**	**68.9**	**34.5**	**78.3**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.29: Employed physiotherapists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[(a)]		Total physiotherapists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	7,138	36.7	7,357	36.6
Aboriginal health service	12	33.3	14	33.6
Community health-care services	2,255	31.6	2,574	31.8
Hospital	5,092	33.5	5,658	33.7
Residential health-care services	859	29.2	911	29.5
Commercial/business services	454	38.5	646	37.0
Educational facility	141	30.8	571	35.2
Correctional services	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Defence forces	109	36.0	118	36.3
Other government department or agency	121	32.7	302	32.3
Other	164	31.5	361	31.9
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**16,998**	**34.5**	**19,269**	**34.5**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Table A.30: Employed physiotherapists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[b]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[c]
Men	41.8	41.4	40.8	39.8	37.3	38.4	38.0	42.2	41.0
Women	31.1	31.7	32.5	31.1	32.1	30.0	32.3	38.0	31.6
Persons	**34.4**	**34.8**	**35.1**	**33.7**	**33.9**	**32.1**	**33.9**	**39.4**	**34.5**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.31: Employed physiotherapists: average total weekly hours worked by remoteness area[a], 2011

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	41.0	41.0	41.0	39.2	41.0
Women	31.6	30.7	33.0	36.2	31.6
Persons	**34.5**	**33.7**	**35.3**	**36.9**	**34.5**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.32: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	12,740	8,004
Average age	38.9	38.1
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	12.2	10.7
Women[a] (per cent)	63.2	78.6
Average weekly hours worked in sector	32.5	31.3
FTE number[b]	10,891	6,594

Note: Physiotherapists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.33: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	15,493	2,561	979	212	19,269
Average age	38.1	40.5	38.7	36.2	38.5
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	11.1	14.8	11.6	7.8	11.6
Women[(d)] (per cent)	68.1	71.6	72.9	70.3	68.9
Average weekly hours worked	34.5	33.7	35.3	36.9	34.5
FTE rate[(e)]	89.8	55.3	44.9	39.3	78.3

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.34: Employed physiotherapists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	5,709	4,971	3,703	2,345	1,699	350	371	118	19,269
Average age	39.7	37.3	38.3	37.4	39.2	41.5	39.1	36.0	38.5
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.6	10.1	9.8	10.6	13.4	17.5	10.7	7.4	11.6
Women (per cent)	69.1	68.1	68.1	70.5	n.p.	75.3	71.7	65.7	68.9
Average weekly hours worked	34.4	34.8	35.1	33.7	33.9	32.1	33.9	39.4	34.5
FTE rate[(d)]	71.6	82.2	76.4	88.3	92.4	57.8	90.0	53.2	78.3

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes physiotherapists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.35: Physiotherapists not actively employed in physiotherapy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	1,036	35.6	6.8	89.2	93.4
Looking for work in physiotherapy	*186*	*36.9*	*7.6*	*81.7*	*88.8*
Employed elsewhere	49	36.9	4.2	73.6	93.1
Not employed	137	36.9	8.8	84.5	87.2
Overseas	1,073	37.8	6.5	68.5	39.6
Not looking for work in physiotherapy	*1,102*	*39.7*	*10.4*	*80.0*	*89.6*
Employed elsewhere	559	41.0	10.9	70.8	92.8
Not employed	543	38.4	9.9	89.7	86.4
Retired from regular work	207	61.2	82.9	91.0	88.7
Total physiotherapists not actively employed in physiotherapy in Australia	**3,605**	**39.1**	**12.2**	**79.8**	**75.7**
Total employed physiotherapists	**19,269**	**38.5**	**11.6**	**68.9**	**93.7**

(a) For a significant proportion of physiotherapists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.5 Optometry workforce

Table A.36: Registered optometrists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	4,420	40.9	14.4	48.5
Limited (teaching and research)	3	36.7	—	33.3
Non-practising	82	44.8	17.1	50.0
Total	**4,505**	**41.0**	**14.4**	**48.5**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.37: Registered optometrists: workforce status and principal role of main job, state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the optometry workforce	*1,455*	*1,089*	*872*	*349*	*233*	*84*	*68*	*33*	*4,186*
Employed in optometry	*1,391*	*1,054*	*843*	*340*	*225*	*82*	*65*	*31*	*4,034*
Clinician[(c)]	1,301	993	803	336	221	n.p.	61	n.p.	3,826
Non-clinician	90	61	40	4	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	207
Looking for work in optometry	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	—	—	—	—	—	*n.p.*
Employed elsewhere	—	—	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	—	n.p.
On extended leave	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	9	8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not in optometry workforce	*62*	*63*	*36*	*13*	*6*	—	*n.p.*	*n.p.*	*319*
Overseas	17	25	14	5	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	196
Not looking for work in optometry	*38*	*30*	*17*	*5*	*n.p.*	—	*n.p.*	—	*101*
Employed elsewhere	20	15	7	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	48
Not employed	19	15	11	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	53
Retired from regular work	6	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	22
Total registered optometrists	**1,517**	**1,152**	**908**	**363**	**239**	**84**	**73**	**34**	**4,505**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the optometry workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to optometrists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.38: Employed optometrists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[(b)]
Clinician[(c)]	3,826	40.9	14.3	47.6	35.8	16.1
Non-clinician	207	42.4	14.6	50.7	37.8	0.9
Administrator	69	45.4	19.7	41.4	37.5	0.3
Teacher/educator	43	44.7	16.4	51.2	38.3	0.2
Researcher	60	39.6	12.2	58.9	38.4	0.3
Other	35	38.4	6.2	53.9	36.9	0.2
Total	**4,034**	**41.0**	**14.3**	**47.8**	**35.9**	**17.1**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.39: Employed optometrists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[(a)]		Total optometrists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	3,380	36.0	3,435	36.0
Aboriginal health service	9	32.1	12	35.7
Hospital	14	27.0	17	27.6
Commercial/business services	138	36.6	158	37.2
Correctional services	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other	55	32.9	83	34.9
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**3,826**	**35.8**	**4,034**	**35.9**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.40: Employed optometrists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex and state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[b]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[c]
Men	39.8	39.6	39.5	39.6	n.p.	39.4	38.6	41.6	39.6
Women	32.9	31.1	30.9	30.1	n.p.	29.3	29.0	37.3	31.7
Persons	**36.4**	**35.2**	**35.7**	**35.8**	**37.5**	**35.9**	**33.5**	**39.4**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about their sex was missing.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.41: Employed optometrists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex, remoteness area[a] of main job, 2011

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	39.6	39.9	39.8	36.6	39.6
Women	31.7	31.3	32.6	41.4	31.7
Persons	**35.7**	**36.7**	**36.9**	**37.9**	**35.9**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.42: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,763	435
Average age	41.1	40.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.2	17.7
Women[a] (per cent)	47.3	52.4
Average weekly hours worked in sector	35.3	27.4
FTE number[b]	3,496	314

Note: Optometrists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.43: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	3,169	600	233	27	4,034
Average age	40.4	42.7	43.3	41.0	41.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.5	15.4	22.1	18.7	14.3
Women[(d)] (per cent)	50.2	37.6	43.3	39.3	47.8
Average weekly hours worked	35.7	36.7	36.9	37.9	35.9
FTE rate[(e)]	19.0	14.1	11.2	5.3	17.1

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.44: Employed optometrists: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA[(b)]	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(c)]
Number	1,391	1,054	843	340	225	82	65	31	4,034
Average age	41.8	39.5	40.7	42.0	41.4	45.8	37.6	39.4	41.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	15.6	12.2	13.6	14.3	19.1	19.4	6.1	9.8	14.3
Women (per cent)	49.8	51.6	45.1	39.7	n.p.	34.2	53.1	50.8	47.8
Average weekly hours worked	36.4	35.2	35.7	35.8	37.5	35.9	33.5	39.4	35.9
FTE rate[(d)]	18.4	17.6	17.7	13.6	13.6	15.1	15.6	14.0	17.1

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(c) Includes optometrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.45: Optometrists not actively employed in optometry in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	139	37.8	11.9	68.9	95.0
Looking for work in optometry	*14*	*33.1*	—	*43.6*	*100.0*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	196	45.0	17.0	46.5	21.5
Not looking for work in optometry	*101*	*40.9*	*9.6*	*57.8*	*91.9*
Employed elsewhere	48	42.9	11.5	47.6	90.2
Not employed	53	39.2	7.9	67.2	93.5
Retired from regular work	22	59.2	47.9	24.0	86.5
Total optometrists not actively employed in optometry in Australia	**471**	**42.3**	**14.9**	**54.2**	**63.5**
Total employed optometrists	**4,034**	**41.0**	**14.3**	**47.8**	**93.4**

(a) For a significant proportion of optometrists in South Australia, information about sex was missing.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.6 Chiropractic workforce

Table A.46: Registered chiropractors: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)
General	4,149	40.8	15.0	35.1
Limited (public interest)	1	25.0	—	100.0
Non-practising	208	44.1	24.0	39.9
Total	**4,358**	**40.9**	**15.4**	**35.4**

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Table A.47: Registered chiropractors: workforce status and principal role of main job, state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the chiropractic workforce	*1,384*	*1,087*	*643*	*476*	*340*	*42*	*53*	*18*	*4,045*
Employed in chiropractic health	*1,329*	*1,048*	*610*	*463*	*328*	*41*	*53*	*18*	*3,890*
Clinician[(c)]	1,286	1,023	599	439	323	n.p.	53	n.p.	3,781
Non-clinician	43	25	10	24	5	n.p.	—	n.p.	109
Looking for work in chiropractic health	*6*	*8*	*6*	*4*	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	*28*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	14
Not employed	n.p.	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	14
On extended leave	50	32	27	9	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	128
Not in chiropractic workforce	*74*	*95*	*30*	*15*	*17*	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*313*
Overseas	24	29	10	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	145
Not looking for work in chiropractic health	*38*	*53*	*11*	*10*	*7*	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*129*
Employed elsewhere	22	32	4	3	3	n.p.	n.p.	—	67
Not employed	17	21	7	7	4	—	n.p.	n.p.	62
Retired from regular work	11	13	9	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	39
Total registered chiropractors	**1,458**	**1,182**	**673**	**491**	**356**	**43**	**56**	**21**	**4,358**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the chiropractic workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to chiropractors working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.48: Employed chiropractors: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[a]
Clinician[b]	3,781	40.8	14.6	34.2	33.2	14.8
Non-clinician	*109*	*45.0*	*25.7*	*36.6*	*31.3*	*0.4*
Administrator	26	41.6	12.5	53.6	28.0	0.1
Teacher/educator	47	47.7	32.1	33.2	35.8	0.2
Researcher	14	50.3	29.7	21.5	30.1	—
Other	22	39.9	25.2	33.2	26.2	0.1
Total	**3,890**	**40.9**	**14.9**	**34.2**	**33.1**	**15.2**

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(b) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.49: Employed chiropractors: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[a]		Total chiropractors	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	3,622	33.2	3,665	33.1
Commercial/business services	9	34.4	12	33.3
Other government department or agency	—	—	2	42.5
Other	5	14.7	13	24.1
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	144	34.5	198	35.2
Total	**3,781**	**33.2**	**3,890**	**33.1**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.50: Employed chiropractors: average total weekly hours worked, by sex, state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
Men	36.1	34.7	36.4	34.6	35.2	35.3	36.1	37.8	35.5
Women	29.5	26.2	31.0	28.2	28.5	29.4	31.1	27.6	28.5
Persons	**33.9**	**31.6**	**34.8**	**32.1**	**32.9**	**33.5**	**34.0**	**35.0**	**33.1**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.51: Employed chiropractors: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Sex	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Men	35.9	34.4	34.8	35.9	35.5
Women	28.5	27.6	30.6	32.4	28.5
Persons	**33.3**	**32.3**	**33.3**	**34.0**	**33.1**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.52: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	3,646	451
Average age	40.9	41.8
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.6	16.6
Women (per cent)	34.2	30.5
Average weekly hours worked in sector	32.4	23.6
FTE number[(a)]	3,112	280

Note: Chiropractors appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.53: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	2,921	696	236	34	3,890
Average age	40.4	42.5	43.5	37.7	40.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.0	20.2	23.3	13.3	14.9
Women (per cent)	34.7	31.1	35.0	53.7	34.2
Average weekly hours worked	33.3	32.3	33.3	34.0	33.1
FTE rate[(d)]	16.3	14.4	10.2	5.8	15.2

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.54: Employed chiropractors: selected characteristics, by state and territory[a], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b]
Number	1,329	1,048	610	463	328	41	53	18	3,890
Average age	41.0	40.6	42.9	37.8	42.4	41.8	41.8	37.9	40.9
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	14.3	13.3	19.5	11.7	19.2	17.1	15.1	—	14.9
Women (per cent)	33.4	35.9	29.6	39.0	34.1	29.4	41.5	27.8	34.2
Average weekly hours worked	33.9	31.6	34.8	32.1	32.9	33.5	34.0	35.0	33.1
FTE rate[c]	16.4	15.7	12.5	16.6	17.3	7.0	12.9	7.2	15.2

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes chiropractors who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(c) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.55: Chiropractors not actively employed in chiropractic health in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[a] (per cent)[b]
On extended leave	128	40.0	16.6	62.9	90.6
Looking for work in chiropractic health	28	38.7	12.3	46.5	84.4
Employed elsewhere	14	39.0	16.1	34.0	85.1
Not employed	14	38.3	8.5	59.3	83.7
Overseas	145	41.0	14.2	27.1	32.9
Not looking for work in chiropractic health	129	40.5	14.3	56.6	92.0
Employed elsewhere	67	42.2	16.8	43.5	93.8
Not employed	62	38.7	11.6	70.8	90.0
Retired from regular work	39	61.0	71.2	9.3	86.4
Total chiropractors not actively employed in chiropractic health in Australia	468	42.1	19.5	44.6	72.4
Total employed chiropractors	**3,890**	**40.9**	**14.9**	**34.2**	**93.0**

(a) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(b) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.7 Podiatry workforce

Table A.56: Registered podiatrists: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	3,492	37.4	7.4	n.p.
General and specialist	22	47.8	18.2	n.p.
Non-practising	65	40.3	9.2	n.p.
Total	**3,579**	**37.5**	**7.5**	**n.p.**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health workforce 2011.

Table A.57: Registered podiatrists: workforce status and principal role of main job, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the podiatry workforce	*890*	*1,102*	*587*	*349*	*353*	*88*	*44*	*16*	*3,430*
Employed in podiatry	*857*	*1,065*	*569*	*337*	*343*	*86*	*43*	*16*	*3,316*
Clinician[(c)]	814	995	533	322	327	81	40	13	3,125
Non-clinician	43	70	36	16	15	4	3	4	191
Looking for work in podiatry	*4*	*6*	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	*16*
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	—	8
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	—	8
On extended leave	29	31	15	12	8	n.p.	n.p.	—	98
Not in podiatry workforce	*25*	*56*	*21*	*12*	*13*	n.p.	n.p.	—	*149*
Overseas	7	6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	44
Not looking for work in podiatry	*15*	*46*	*11*	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	*95*
Employed elsewhere	7	29	6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	53
Not employed	7	17	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	42
Retired from regular work	3	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	10
Total registered podiatrists	**915**	**1,158**	**609**	**361**	**366**	**90**	**47**	**16**	**3,579**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the podiatry workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to podiatrists working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.58: Employed podiatrists: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[a] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[b]
Clinician[c]	3,125	37.5	7.8	n.p.	36.6	13.5
Non-clinician	*191*	*38.4*	*4.2*	*n.p.*	*35.4*	*0.8*
Administrator	82	38.0	1.2	n.p.	32.4	0.3
Teacher/educator	50	38.5	6.0	n.p.	36.9	0.2
Researcher	21	38.9	4.7	n.p.	41.6	0.1
Other	38	38.7	8.2	n.p.	36.7	0.2
Total	**3,316**	**37.5**	**7.6**	**n.p.**	**36.6**	**14.3**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.59: Employed podiatric surgeons: selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[a] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[b]
Specialist	22	47.8	18.2	n.p.	42.2	0.1

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.60: Employed podiatrists: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[a]		Total podiatrists	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	2,187	37.3	2,222	37.2
Aboriginal health service	25	37.2	27	38.1
Community health-care services	324	34.4	353	34.4
Residential health-care services	6	26.8	6	26.8
Correctional services	1	6.0	1	6.0
Defence forces	1	44.0	1	44.0
Other government department or agency	3	25.6	6	36.3
Other	24	30.4	37	34.2
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	553	35.5	662	35.7
Total	**3,125**	**36.6**	**3,316**	**36.6**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.61: Employed podiatrists: average total weekly hours worked, by sex, state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic[b]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b][c]
Men	41.2	n.p.	41.6	40.0	39.2	34.3	40.5	43.6	n.p.
Women	34.3	n.p.	36.0	30.3	33.8	36.9	34.0	34.5	n.p.
Persons	**37.3**	**36.0**	**38.4**	**34.2**	**35.9**	**35.7**	**36.6**	**40.2**	**36.6**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.62: Employed podiatrists: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[a] of main job, 2011

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	39.6	n.p.
Women	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	36.6	n.p.
Persons	**36.3**	**36.8**	**38.2**	**37.3**	**36.6**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.63: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	2,833	900
Average age	37.7	37.0
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	8.0	6.1
Women[a] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked in sector	33.9	27.9
FTE number[b]	2,528	662

Note: Podiatrists appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.64: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	2,509	563	210	29	3,316
Average age	37.6	37.4	37.7	36.5	37.5
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	7.6	8.1	6.4	7.1	7.6
Women[(d)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	36.3	36.8	38.2	37.3	36.6
FTE rate[(e)]	15.3	13.3	10.4	5.4	14.3

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.65: Employed podiatrists: selected characteristics, state and territory[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)(c)]
Number	857	1,065	569	337	343	86	43	16	3,316
Average age	39.3	35.9	36.4	38.0	38.9	39.4	40.8	38.5	37.5
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	10.0	5.7	5.1	6.2	9.9	11.7	20.9	6.3	7.6
Women (per cent)	57.1	n.p.	57.6	60.2	61.1	53.8	60.4	37.5	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	37.3	36.0	38.4	34.2	35.9	35.7	36.6	40.2	36.6
FTE rate[(d)]	11.6	18.2	12.8	12.9	19.8	15.7	11.2	7.3	14.3

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes podiatrists who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.66: Podiatrists not actively employed in podiatry in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	98	34.8	4.6	n.p.	89.8
Looking for work in podiatry	16	35.5	—	*n.p.*	*92.7*
Employed elsewhere	8	36.6	—	n.p.	100.0
Not employed	8	34.4	—	n.p.	85.4
Overseas	44	36.5	6.9	n.p.	37.9
Not looking for work in podiatry	95	37.8	5.4	*n.p.*	*94.2*
Employed elsewhere	53	36.6	2.1	n.p.	95.7
Not employed	42	39.4	9.5	n.p.	92.2
Retired from regular work	10	58.4	59.6	n.p.	100.0
Total podiatrists not actively employed in podiatry in Australia	**263**	**37.2**	**7.1**	**n.p.**	**83.4**
Total employed podiatrists	**3,316**	**37.5**	**7.6**	**n.p.**	**92.6**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of podiatrists from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

A.8 Osteopathy workforce

Table A.67: Registered osteopaths: registration type, selected characteristics, 2011

Registration type	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)
General	1,575	38.8	13.6	n.p.
Non-practising	60	37.1	11.7	n.p.
Total	**1,635**	**38.7**	**13.5**	**n.p.**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.68: Registered osteopaths: workforce status and principal role of main job, state and territory[(a)], 2011

Workforce status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)]
In the osteopathy workforce	*484*	*769*	*134*	*50*	n.p.	*37*	*32*	n.p.	*1,535*
Employed in osteopathy	*474*	*730*	*129*	*48*	n.p.	*37*	*32*	n.p.	*1,479*
Clinician[(c)]	460	699	n.p.	48	n.p.	37	32	n.p.	1,431
Non-clinician	15	31	n.p.	—	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	48
Looking for work in osteopathy	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Employed elsewhere	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	—	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
On extended leave	*10*	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	—	—	n.p.
Not in osteopathy workforce	23	45	7	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	100
Overseas	*4*	*17*	—	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	*42*
Not looking for work in osteopathy	11	25	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	44
Employed elsewhere	3	11	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	19
Not employed	8	14	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	25
Retired from regular work	7	3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	n.p.	14
Total registered osteopaths	**507**	**814**	**141**	**51**	**30**	**37**	**32**	**2**	**1,635**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas. Therefore, state and territory totals may not sum to the national total. In particular, the total for 'Not in the osteopathy workforce' is higher than the sum of the state and territory figures due to osteopaths working overseas.

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.69: Employed osteopaths: principal role of main job, selected characteristics, 2011

Principal role of main job	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[a] (per cent)	Average weekly hours worked	FTE rate[b]
Clinician[c]	1,431	38.7	13.7	n.p.	35.3	6.0
Non-clinician	*48*	*40.2*	*10.2*	*n.p.*	*32.7*	*0.2*
Administrator	6	35.0	—	n.p.	25.2	—
Teacher/educator	28	45.8	17.4	n.p.	32.7	0.1
Researcher	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Total	**1,479**	**38.7**	**13.6**	**n.p.**	**35.2**	**6.1**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

(c) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.70: Employed osteopaths: work setting of main job, by clinician status, number and average weekly hours worked, 2011

	Clinician[a]		Total osteopaths	
Work setting of main job	Number	Average weekly hours worked	Number	Average weekly hours worked
Private practice	1,368	35.4	1,380	35.3
Commercial/business services	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Other government department or agency	—	—	n.p.	n.p.
Other	4	32.1	8	31.0
Unknown/inadequately described/not stated	59	32.4	85	33.8
Total	**1,431**	**35.3**	**1,479**	**35.2**

(a) A clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.71: Employed osteopaths: average total weekly hours worked, sex and state and territory[a], 2011

Sex	NSW	Vic[b]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[b][c]
Men	37.8	n.p.	38.7	35.0	34.4	39.4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Women	29.0	n.p.	33.1	29.0	35.9	34.5	n.p	n.p	n.p.
Persons	**34.3**	**35.6**	**36.6**	**32.5**	**35.2**	**36.4**	**n.p**	**n.p**	**35.2**

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.72: Employed osteopaths: average total weekly hours worked, remoteness area[a], 2011

Sex[b]	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[c]	Australia[d]
Men	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Women	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Persons	**35.4**	**35.1**	**n.p**	**n.p**	**35.2**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(d) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.73: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by employment sector, 2011

Characteristic	Private	Public
Number	1,422	141
Average age	38.7	40.6
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	13.3	15.7
Women[a] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked in sector	34.6	21.1
FTE number[b]	1,293	78

Note: Osteopaths appear in each sector they reported working in and so may be included in both sectors.

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number. FTE is based on total hours worked in sector (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.74: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by remoteness area[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote/Very remote[(b)]	Australia[(c)]
Number	1,205	230	41	2	1,479
Average age	38.4	40.3	40.7	38.0	38.7
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	12.8	17.5	14.6	—	13.6
Women[(d)] (per cent)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	100.0	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	35.4	35.1	31.1	21.5	35.2
FTE rate[(e)]	**7.2**	**5.2**	**1.7**	**0.2**	**6.1**

(a) Derived from remoteness area of main job where available; otherwise, remoteness area of principal practice is used as a proxy. If remoteness area details are unavailable, remoteness area of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their remoteness area, and those who were overseas.

(d) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(e) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Table A.75: Employed osteopaths: selected characteristics, by state and territory[(a)], 2011

Characteristic	NSW	Vic[(b)]	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[(b)(c)]
Number	474	730	129	48	26	37	32	2	1,479
Average age	44.8	33.6	41.4	46.5	41.8	39.1	40.8	44.0	38.7
Aged 55 and over (per cent)	26.2	3.7	15.8	20.9	19.1	13.5	28.1	—	13.6
Women (per cent)	39.3	n.p.	38.6	41.5	49.6	62.2	37.5	—	n.p.
Average weekly hours worked	34.3	35.6	36.6	32.5	35.2	36.4	37.0	41.0	35.2
FTE rate[(d)]	5.9	12.3	2.8	1.7	1.5	6.9	8.5	0.9	6.1

(a) Derived from state and territory of main job where available; otherwise, state and territory of principal practice is used as a proxy. If principal practice details are unavailable, state and territory of residence is used. Records with no information on all three locations are coded to 'not stated'.

(b) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(c) Includes osteopaths who did not state or adequately describe their state or territory, and those who were overseas.

(d) Full-time equivalent (FTE) number per 100,000 population. FTE is based on total weekly hours worked (see Glossary).

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Table A.76: Osteopaths not actively employed in osteopathy in Australia: workforce status, selected characteristics, 2011

Workforce status	Number	Average age	Aged 55 and over (per cent)	Women[(a)] (per cent)	Metropolitan residence[(b)] (per cent)[(c)]
On extended leave	53	35.2	2.2	n.p.	97.8
Looking for work in osteopathy	n.p.	n.p.	—	*n.p.*	n.p.
Employed elsewhere	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.
Not employed	n.p.	n.p.	—	n.p.	n.p.
Overseas	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	*n.p.*	n.p.
Not looking for work in osteopathy	44	36.7	15.1	n.p.	100.0
Employed elsewhere	19	38.2	18.5	n.p.	100.0
Not employed	25	35.6	12.5	n.p.	100.0
Retired from regular work	14	56.8	56.9	n.p.	91.6
Total osteopaths not actively employed in osteopathy in Australia	**156**	**38.2**	**12.9**	**n.p.**	**83.1**
Total employed osteopaths	**1,479**	**38.7**	**13.6**	**n.p.**	**97.1**

(a) Information about sex was missing for a significant proportion of osteopaths from Victoria. As a result, national and Victorian data pertaining to sex have been suppressed.

(b) Based on postcode of home residence matched to ASGC regions (see Glossary).

(c) Percentage calculations exclude 'not stated' values for ASGC region of home residence. 'Metropolitan' includes *Major cities* and *Inner regional* areas.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2011.

Appendix B: Data Quality Statement National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners 2012

Summary of key issues

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 contains information on the demographics, employment characteristics, primary work location and work activity of all allied health practitioners in Australia who renewed their registration with their respective health profession board via the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) introduced on 1 July 2010.

This is the first data published for allied health practitioners from the new national registration scheme. The data set is comprised of registration information provided by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and workforce details obtained by surveys.

This data quality statement should be read in conjunction with the footnotes and commentary accompanying tables and graphs throughout the publication.

Description

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 is a combination of data collected through the practitioner registration renewal process.

Registration data

Almost all allied health practitioners must be registered with the AHPRA to practise in Australia. The exception is those Aboriginal health workers who are not required by their employer to use a defined list of job titles. Allied health practitioners (see Box 1.2), with the noted exception, are required by law to renew their registration through the NRAS, either online via the AHPRA website or using a paper form provided by the AHPRA. For initial registration, practitioners must use a paper form and provide supplementary supporting documentation.

Whether for renewal or initial registration, this information is referred to as 'registration data'. Data collected includes demographic information such as age, sex and country of birth; and details of health qualification(s) and registration status. This is the compulsory component of the registration process.

Registration details on NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 were collected either from the compulsory registration renewal form, new registrations or registration details migrated from the respective state and territory health boards before their dissolution. Copies of registration forms for new registrants are available on the relevant board websites, which can be accessed from the AHPRA website <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>.

Survey data

When practitioners renew their registration online they are asked to complete an online survey customised for each profession. When practitioners renew their registration using a paper form they are also asked to complete a paper version of the relevant survey.

Copies of the survey forms are available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

Database creation

The AHPRA stores both the online registration data and the survey information in separate databases. They send these two de-identified data sets to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), where they are merged into a national data set.

When practitioners renew their registration using a paper form they are also asked to complete a paper version of the relevant survey. The paper registration and survey forms are sent to the AHPRA, where the paper registration forms are scanned and merged with the data obtained from the online process. The AHPRA sends the paper survey forms to Health Workforce Australia (HWA) to be scanned into a data set. HWA sends this data set to AIHW for merging with the online survey forms and registration data, cleansing and adjustment for non-response to form a nationally consistent data set. The final data set is then known as the National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners.

Institutional environment

The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent statutory authority established in 1987, governed by a management board, and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national data sets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these data sets and disseminate information and statistics.

The *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*, in conjunction with compliance to the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth), ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality. For further information, see the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au>.

The AHPRA is the organisation responsible for the implementation of the NRAS across Australia. The AHPRA works with the National Health Practitioner Boards to regulate health practitioners in the public interest and to ensure a competent and flexible health workforce that meets the current and future needs of the Australian community.

HWA are responsible for the development of the workforce surveys.

The AIHW receives registration information on allied health practitioners via the mandatory national registration process administered by the AHPRA and voluntary survey data collected at the time of registration renewal. The registration and survey data are combined, cleansed and adjusted for non-response to form a national data set known as NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

The AIHW is the data custodian of the NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Timeliness

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners, is produced annually from the national registration renewal process, and conducted between 1 October and 30 November (the renewal date) each year. Although the reference time is notionally the renewal date, legislation allows for a 1 month period of grace. Thus, the final registration closure date is 1 month after the renewal date. The AHPRA allow a further 2 weeks to allow for mail and data entry delays before the registrations are considered expired. Consequently the extraction of data occurs (the extraction date) a month and a half after the renewal date.

The survey data are also collected between 1 October and 30 November, as it is administered as part of the registration renewal process.

The exceptions to this timetable are in relation to limited and provisional registrations, where the registrant is renewed on the anniversary of their commencement. These responses are included with the regular survey respondents.

Due to significant delays with release of data from the new national registration system, complete and final data were provided to the AIHW much later than originally scheduled.

Data provided needed joint reviews by the AHPRA, AIHW and HWA to manage the range of considerations and data quality issues. This review process improved data quality, data definitions, metadata and data cleansing. The process also led to improvements in AHPRA's extracting scripts to provide consistency in data exchange specifications. This process delayed the supply of data but improved the overall quality. HWA has provided funding and assistance to AHPRA to improve their survey tool infrastructure to improve timeliness and quality of data provision in future.

The AIHW did not receive complete data for both 2011 and 2012 until May 2013. AHPRA have indicated that future data provision is anticipated to be timely and provided six weeks from the close of registration on 30 November.

Accessibility

Results from the NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 are published in the *Allied health workforce 2012* report. The report also includes results for 2011.The report and workforce survey questionnaires are available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

Users can request data not available online or in reports via the Media and Strategic Engagement Unit on (02) 6244 1032 or via email to <info@aihw.gov.au>. Requests that take longer than half an hour to compile are charged for on a cost-recovery basis.

Access to the master unit record files may be requested through the AIHW Ethics Committee.

HWA provide a data tabulation tool, including data from the National health workforce dataset, on their website <http://www.hwa.gov.au/work-programs/information-analysis-and-planning/health-workforce-data>.

Interpretability

Descriptions of data items in the National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners 2012 are available on request from the Expenditure and Workforce Unit at the AIHW.

The surveys used by each allied health profession are available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

Relevance

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 is highly relevant for understanding the size and characteristics of the allied health workforce in Australia.

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 is highly relevant for health agencies involved in workforce planning as well health policy planning and implementation in general.

The location and distribution of the workforce, as well as demographic details such as age and sex of practitioners are highly useful for workforce planning within states and territories and nationally. Information on qualifications is relevant for the relevant professional associations and educational planning.

The primary purpose of the National Health Workforce Data Set: allied health practitioners 2012 is to provide information on the number and demographic and employment characteristics of the each of the following allied health practitioners:

- psychologists
- pharmacists
- physiotherapists
- occupational therapists
- medical radiation practitioners
- optometrists
- chiropractors
- Chinese medicine practitioners
- podiatrists
- osteopaths
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 contains registration details of all the registered allied health practitioners in Australia at the extraction date, a month and a half after the nominal renewal date of 30 November 2012.

The NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012 also contain details from the surveys. The surveys collect information on the employment characteristics, work locations and work activity of practitioners. Completion of the surveys is voluntary and only practitioners who are on the register at the time of the survey and required to renew their registration receive a questionnaire for completion. New registrants registering outside the registration renewal period will not receive a survey form. These practitioners will receive a survey form when they renew their registration the following year.

Due to transition arrangements between pre-existing state/territory-based registration systems and the NRAS, people previously registered as medical radiation practitioners in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania or occupational therapists previously registered in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia may not have been required to renew their registration in 2012 and hence did not receive a survey. Registration data for these people was migrated from pre-existing state-based systems. As a result, the survey data for these professions excludes these jurisdictions as there were very few surveys received.

Accuracy

Estimation procedures

The AIHW uses registration data together with survey data to derive estimates of the total allied health practitioner workforce. Not all practitioners who receive a survey respond, because it is not mandatory to do so. In deriving the estimates, two sources of non-response to the survey are accounted for:

- item non-response—occurs as some respondents return partially completed surveys. Some survey records were so incomplete that it was decided to omit them from the reported survey data.
- survey non-response—occurs because not all registered practitioners who receive a questionnaire respond.

A separate estimation procedure is used for each. Imputation is used to account for item non-response, and weighting for survey non-response.

Imputation: estimation for item non-response

The imputation process involves an initial examination of all information provided by a respondent. If possible, a reasonable assumption is made about any missing information based on responses to other survey questions. For example, if a respondent provides information on hours worked and the area in which they work, but leaves the workforce question blank, it is reasonable to assume that they were employed.

Missing values remaining after this process are considered for their suitability for further imputation. Suitability is based on the level of non-response to that item. Imputation is usually applied only in cases where the proportion of missing values is less than 5% of the total.

In imputation, the known probabilities of particular responses occurring are used to assign a response category value to each record using a random number generator. Imputed values are based on the distribution of responses occurring in the responding sample.

Therefore, fundamental to imputing missing values for survey respondents who returned partially completed questionnaires is the assumption that respondents who answer various questions are similar to those who do not.

Age and sex values within each state and territory of principal practice are first imputed to account for missing values. Other variables deemed suitable for this process were then imputed. These include hours worked in the week before the survey and principal role of main job.

Weighting: estimation for population non-response

Each survey record (or respondent) is assigned a weight that is calibrated to align with independent data on the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. In principle, this weight is based on the population number (the benchmark) divided by the number in the responding sample. The resulting fraction becomes the expansion factor applied to the record, referred to as the 'weight', providing an estimate of the population when aggregate output is generated. Therefore, the weight for each record is based on particular characteristics that are known for the whole population.

The total number of registered practitioners in each profession is used to benchmark the survey.

The calculation of weights is usually part of the data processing for a sample survey in which the sample is selected before the survey is done. In the 2012 surveys of allied health practitioners, all renewing registrants were sent a workforce survey questionnaire when registration renewal was due. Therefore, technically, it was a census of practitioners. However, because not all renewing registrants in scope respond to the survey, there is a very large non-response bias in the data. Because the group of respondents in the data set is not random, standard errors are not a suitable means of gauging variability.

The benchmark data, used for weighting are the number of registered practitioners in each state and territory (based on the location of principal practice), by broad registration type ('specialist' (including people with both a general and a specialist registration), 'provisional', 'non-practising' and 'other' (including general and limited registrations)), by age group and by sex within the registration data. For psychologists weighting included an identification of persons with an endorsement of 'clinical psychology', 'clinical neuropsychology' and 'other' (all other psychologists). Because of the low numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and the low survey response rate, the state and territory of principal practice was used for weighting was Northern Territory and the remainder. Producing estimates for the profession by weighting the data from respondents adjusts for bias in the responding group of practitioners, but only for known population characteristics (such as age and sex, where provided). If information for a variable is not known for the whole population, the variable cannot be used in the calculation of weights and cannot be used in the adjustment process.

For variables not used in the calculation of weights (for the NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012, that is all variables other than state and territory of principal practice, broad registration category, age and sex), it is assumed, for estimation purposes, that respondents and non-respondents have the same characteristics. If the assumption is incorrect, and non-respondents are different from respondents, then the estimates will have some bias.

The extent of this cannot be measured without obtaining more detailed information about non-respondents. Therefore, there will be some unquantifiable level of bias in the estimates.

Survey responses

The response rates for each of the profession surveys are listed in Table B.1.

Table B.1: Survey response rates, states and territories, 2011 and 2012

Practitioner type/Year		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Psychologist	2011	86.2	82.6	83.8	85.7	85.3	85.5	87.3	81.8	**84.7**
	2012	88.0	82.0	84.1	83.2	85.1	83.7	83.2	84.9	**84.8**
Pharmacist	2011	76.6	76.8	79.6	71.9	74.8	80.3	84.2	81.0	**77.1**
	2012	87.7	87.6	84.5	87.1	85.5	86.3	87.9	79.4	**86.8**
Physiotherapist	2011	91.5	88.8	90.6	90.7	90.9	95.1	90.0	92.5	**90.7**
	2012	95.2	90.9	91.2	88.6	90.4	92.6	93.4	95.3	**92.0**
Occupational therapist[(a)]	2012	83.7	81.9	. .	. .	. .	77.2	81.9	91.9	**82.8**
Medical radiation practitioner[(a)]	2012	87.5	90.7	. .	. .	85.0	. .	86.9	92.8	**88.5**
Optometrist	2011	93.2	89.9	93.3	93.3	92.4	95.2	88.6	96.2	**92.4**
	2012	94.9	94.1	95.9	94.1	95.4	95.2	94.6	93.3	**94.9**
Chiropractor	2011	90.1	86.4	90.3	87.1	90.7	90.9	92.9	82.6	**89.0**
	2012	92.1	89.5	91.4	89.4	92.1	89.4	94.9	87.0	**90.9**
Chinese medicine practitioner[(a)]	2012	80.6	87.0	81.3	76.1	87.1	87.1	67.2	92.3	**82.5**
Podiatrist	2011	93.8	85.2	88.1	85.0	89.9	85.6	95.7	87.5	**88.5**
	2012	94.3	91.3	91.7	89.0	90.0	94.5	95.7	100.0	**91.9**
Osteopath	2011	86.3	83.0	86.9	92.2	89.7	97.3	81.3	66.7	**85.1**
	2012	91.7	88.7	90.6	86.5	90.9	85.4	87.1	100.0	**89.7**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner[(a)]	2012	37.6	58.3	43.8	39.0	58.3	44.4	25.0	44.7	**44.2**

(a) There are no 2011 survey response rates as these professions joined the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2012.

Source: NHWDS: allied health practitioners 2012.

Data are reported on the basis of the most current address at the time the survey was undertaken, unless stated otherwise. The data include employed allied health practitioners who did not state or adequately describe their location as well as employed allied health practitioners who were overseas. Therefore, the national estimates include these groups.

Coherence

This is the first time data on medical radiation practitioners, chiropractors, Chinese medicine practitioners, osteopaths and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners has been produced.

For psychologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, optometrists and podiatrists, data has previously been published by the AIHW based on jurisdictional based board registration and survey data. Data in this report collected through the NRAS is not directly comparable with data collected through the jurisdiction-based data collection.

Appendix C: Number of allied health practitioners registered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Numbers of registrations, as at 31 December 2012, from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency are contained in Table C.1 for comparison purposes.

Table C.1: Registered practitioners: profession by principal place of practice, reported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, 31 December 2012

Profession	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Not stated	Australia
					Number					
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]	10	3	21	6	2	1	1	254	—	298
Chinese medicine practitioners[(a)]	1,591	1,118	764	185	152	30	62	20	17	3,952
Chiropractors	1,513	1,244	709	530	360	47	59	26	122	4,610
Medical radiation practitioners[(a)]	4,225	3,533	2,760	1,224	991	286	232	110	147	13,508
Occupational therapists[(a)]	3,912	3,402	2,984	2,148	1,164	232	204	130	79	14,255
Optometrists	1,558	1,150	916	370	234	82	70	28	178	4,586
Osteopaths	521	892	153	52	35	41	31	2	34	1,761
Pharmacists	8,455	6,707	5,398	2,971	1,918	662	438	195	681	27,425
Physiotherapists	6,935	6,003	4,527	2,991	1,937	401	462	152	896	24,304
Podiatrists	965	1,236	660	406	375	92	46	14	31	3,825
Psychologists	10,113	8,061	5,269	3,143	1,472	523	781	220	402	29,984
Total registrations	**39,798**	**33,349**	**24,161**	**14,026**	**8,640**	**2,397**	**2,386**	**1,151**	**2,587**	**128,508**
					Per cent					
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners[(a)]	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	22.1	—	0.2
Chinese medicine practitioners[(a)]	4.0	3.4	3.2	1.3	1.8	1.3	2.6	1.7	0.7	3.1
Chiropractors	3.8	3.7	2.9	3.8	4.2	2.0	2.5	2.3	4.7	3.6
Medical radiation practitioners[(a)]	10.6	10.6	11.4	8.7	11.5	11.9	9.7	9.6	5.7	10.5
Occupational therapists[(a)]	9.8	10.2	12.4	15.3	13.5	9.7	8.5	11.3	3.1	11.1
Optometrists	3.9	3.4	3.8	2.6	2.7	3.4	2.9	2.4	6.9	3.6
Osteopaths	1.3	2.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.3	0.2	1.3	1.4
Pharmacists	21.2	20.1	22.3	21.2	22.2	27.6	18.4	16.9	26.3	21.3
Physiotherapists	17.4	18.0	18.7	21.3	22.4	16.7	19.4	13.2	34.6	18.9
Podiatrists	2.4	3.7	2.7	2.9	4.3	3.8	1.9	1.2	1.2	3.0
Psychologists	25.4	24.2	21.8	22.4	17.0	21.8	32.7	19.1	15.5	23.3
Total registrations	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) This profession was added to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on I July 2012. The first available data are for November 2012.

Sources: ATSIHPBA 2013b; CBA 2013; CMBA 2013; MRPBA 2013; OBA 2013; OPBA 2013; OTBA 2013; PBA 2013; PDBA 2013; PTBA 2013; PYBA 2013.

Appendix D: Population estimates

This report presents time series information about practitioners, using measures such as number per 100,000 population and FTE rate. To derive these measures, the population estimates (often referred to as 'estimated resident population') are obtained from the ABS. The figures used to derive population and FTE rates in this report are shown in Table D.1.

Table D.1: Population estimates at 30 June: remoteness area, by state and territory, 2011 and 2012

Remoteness area	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia[a]
				2011					
Major cities	5,327,695	4,214,469	2,767,344	1,797,336	1,199,324	. .	367,144	. .	15,673,312
Inner regional	1,401,348	1,070,317	907,773	209,612	177,128	334,969	608	. .	4,102,142
Outer regional	443,112	244,962	661,086	181,414	201,543	165,317	. .	129,062	2,026,496
Remote	30,762	4,778	78,615	99,396	45,176	8,459	. .	48,512	315,698
Very remote[b]	8,551	. .	59,280	64,457	15,061	2,450	. .	53,757	206,285
Total[c]	**7,218,529**	**5,537,817**	**4,476,778**	**2,353,409**	**1,639,614**	**511,483**	**367,985**	**231,292**	**22,340,024**
				2012					
Major cities	5,395,212	4,291,705	2,824,102	1,860,348	1,212,757	. .	373,993	. .	15,958,117
Inner regional	1,411,527	1,081,461	923,908	217,334	179,258	335,731	665	. .	4,150,274
Outer regional	444,247	245,596	672,561	184,642	202,178	165,510	. .	131,678	2,046,412
Remote	30,808	4,730	79,900	101,699	45,468	8,368	. .	48,878	319,851
Very remote[b]	8,551	. .	59,588	66,229	15,117	2,410	. .	54,280	208,919
Total[c]	**7,301,134**	**5,629,122**	**4,565,529**	**2,432,706**	**1,656,299**	**512,333**	**374,912**	**235,182**	**22,710,352**

(a) Includes Other territories.

(b) Includes *Migratory* areas.

(c) Final remoteness area population estimates were unavailable from the ABS when this report was prepared; therefore, estimates are preliminary. As a result, totals for states and territories may not equal to the sum of the remoteness area categories.

Source: Unpublished ABS estimated resident population data based on 2011 Census.

Glossary

Aboriginal: a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

benchmark data: for the workforce surveys 2012, responses were weighted to the number of registered practitioners by sex and age group in each state and territory, to take account of survey questionnaire non-response (see Appendix B). These numbers are referred to as 'benchmarks' throughout this report and may not be equivalent to that reported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (at 31 December 2012) due to scope and reporting time differences.

clinical area of allied health activity: the area where allied health practitioners were working the most hours in the week before the survey. The categories differ for each allied health profession, they can be found on the workforce survey form of each profession for details.

clinician: a clinician is a practitioner who spends the majority of his or her time working in the area of clinical practice; that is, the diagnosis, care and treatment and including recommended preventive action, of patients or clients.

clinical hours: total number of hours a practitioner spends working in the area of clinical practice; that is, the diagnosis, care and treatment and including recommended preventive action, of patients or clients.

clinical neuropsychologist: clinical neuropsychologists use their knowledge of psychology and the brain, to research and diagnostically assess brain dysfunction in individuals.

clinical psychologist: clinical psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and mental health for the assessment, diagnosis, formulation, treatment, and prevention of psychological problems and mental illness across the lifespan.

community psychologist: community psychologists use their knowledge of psychology to provide services to the community when it is faced with challenges. They work in partnership with the community to help solve problems and restore individual and collective well-being.

counselling psychologist: counselling psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and therapy to help individuals and groups develop positive strengths and well-being, and to assist the resolution of problems and disorders.

educational and developmental psychologist: educational and developmental psychologists use their knowledge of psychology, learning and development, to assist children, young persons, adults and older adults regarding their learning, academic performance, behavioural, social and emotional development.

employed: an employed practitioner is one who either:

- worked for a total of 1 hour or more in the week before the survey in a job or business for pay, commission, payment in kind or profit, mainly or only in a particular state or territory
- usually worked, but was away on leave (with some pay) for less than 3 months, on strike or locked out, or rostered off.

forensic psychologist: forensic psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and the law, and have the forensic skills, to understand legal and justice issues and to generate legally

relevant and useful psychological data that enable them to provide services to those who administer law and justice.

full-time equivalent (FTE) number: FTE number measures the number of standard-hour workloads worked by employed allied health practitioners. This provides a useful measure of supply because it takes into account both the number of allied health practitioners who are working and the hours that they work.

FTE number is calculated by the number of hours worked by employed allied health practitioners in the category divided by the standard working week hours. In this report, 38 hours is assumed to be a standard working week and equivalent to 1 FTE.

full-time equivalent (FTE) rate: FTE rate (number of FTE allied health practitioners per 100,000 population) is a measure of supply. By defining supply in terms of the FTE rate, meaningful comparisons of supply can be made across geographic areas and over time. FTE rate is calculated as: the number of FTE allied health practitioners divided by the relevant population count multiplied by 100,000.

health psychologist: health psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and health, particularly across the spectrum from wellbeing to illness, to foster health promotion, public health, and clinical assessment and interventions relevant to health and illness.

hours worked: the total number of weekly hours worked as self-reported by allied health practitioners relates to the number of hours worked in allied health jobs in the week before the survey.

In this report, the ABS definition has been used for the cut-off for full-time and part-time work:

- full-time work: 35 hours or more per week
- part-time work: less than 35 hours per week.

Indigenous: a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

organisational psychologist: organisational psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and organisations to promote organisational effectiveness and employee well-being. They research how people think, feel and act at work, and use their psychological knowledge to develop scientifically-based approaches to improve an employee's effectiveness and productivity.

principal role: unless otherwise stated in this report, the role of the allied health practitioner refers to the main role (that is, the core role with the most number of hours worked in the week before the survey) in the allied health practitioner's main job (that is, the job with the most number of hours worked in the week before the survey). Core roles are divided into two main groups, as follows:

- *clinical role*: clinician.
- *non-clinical role*: this comprises:
  - administrators
  - teacher/educator

- researcher
- other.

remoteness area: the Remoteness Areas from the Australian Standard Geographical Classification produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics have been used in this report to show data by geographic region. The categories used are: *Major cities*, *Inner regional*, *Outer regional*, *Remote, Very remote* and *Migratory*. Due to the small numbers in the *Very remote* and *Migratory* classes, they have been combined and reported as *Remote/Very remote* in this report.

sport and exercise psychologist: sport and exercise psychologists use their knowledge of psychology to provide services to the community to enhance personal development and well-being from participation in sport and exercise.

Torres Strait Islander: a person of Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as a Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

work setting of main job in allied health activity: the work setting where allied health practitioners were working the most hours in the week before the survey. The categories differ for each allied health profession, details can be found on the workforce survey form of each profession.

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Related publications

This report is part of the National health workforce series. Reports can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/>.

Workforce survey

The surveys used by each allied health profession are available from the AIHW website <http://www.aihw.gov.au/workforce-publications/> (select link to Allied health workforce 2012).

Technical notes

The following AIHW publications relating to health workforces might also be of interest:

AIHW 2013. Dental workforce 2011. National health workforce series no. 4. Cat. no. HWL 50. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2013. Medical workforce 2011. National health workforce series no. 3. Cat. no. HWL 49. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2012. Nursing and midwifery workforce 2011. National health workforce series no. 2. Cat. no. HWL 48. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2012. Medical workforce 2010. National health workforce series no. 1. Cat. no. HWL 47. Canberra: AIHW.

This report outlines the workforce characteristics of 11 allied health practitioners for 2011 and 2012. In 2012, more than 4 in 5 registered practitioners were actively employed in their profession (from 76.2% for psychologists to 92.3% for podiatrists). For most professions there were more women than men employed. The average working week for employed practitioners ranged from 31.8 hours for Chinese medicine practitioners to 40.5 hours for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.