

# 2 Public hospitals—Beds and staffing profiles

## Introduction

This chapter describes the public hospital sector in terms of the number of hospitals, availability of public hospital beds, number of staff employed, and specialised services provided. The main source of data reported in this chapter is the National Public Hospital Establishments Database.

All data in this chapter relate to public hospitals, except for description of the number of hospitals and hospital beds by hospital sector and the comparison of hospital accreditation between the public and private sectors (Tables 2.1 and 2.2). The data for the one remaining Department of Veterans' Affairs hospital are included with New South Wales figures.

## Hospitals and hospital beds

Information on the number of hospitals and hospital beds available by State and Territory is provided in Table 2.1. Data in this table are provided for both public hospitals (using 1996–97 data) and private hospitals (using 1995–96 data). Nationally, there are 1,188 hospitals, of which 727 are public hospitals. Public hospitals provide 56,836 beds nationally (71% of the national total), compared to the 23,780 beds provided in private hospitals (29% of beds nationally).

Any comparison of the number of hospitals between years should be made with caution. The apparent decrease in the number of hospitals reported by States and Territories for 1996–97 is largely due to changes in reporting arrangements. For example, there are instances of hospital campuses that were reported as single establishments in previous years, but have now been subsumed into larger groups or 'networks' of hospital campuses for which a single data record is provided to the Institute by the State central health authority; each record is then counted as one hospital only. There was a reduced number of public psychiatric hospitals in some jurisdictions, notably in Victoria, and this has had an impact on the data also. (See Chapter 3 for a discussion of the impact that the changed reporting arrangements have had on the financial data for 1996–97.)

It is more useful, therefore, to compare the number of hospital beds available in a single jurisdiction in different reporting periods as an indicator of changes in the availability of public hospital services. Nationally, there were 2,914 fewer available beds in public hospitals between 1996–97 when compared with 1995–96. This represents a decline of 4.8% in available hospital beds across all States, although there have been small increases in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. The largest decline in available beds has been reported in Victoria.

## Hospital Accreditation

Table 2.2 presents a comparison of the percentage of hospitals accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS 1998) between the public and private hospitals. ACHS accreditation is awarded to those hospitals that demonstrate a continuing adherence to quality assurance standards, and is regarded as one of the few indicators of hospital quality that is available nationally. Data for public hospitals are based on 1996–97 reports and data for private hospitals are based on 1995–96 reports and includes only acute hospitals. Nationally, 43% (316) of all public hospitals are accredited, which account for 72% (41,107) of all public hospital beds reported for 1996–97. In the private sector, 64% (208) of acute hospitals are accredited, which account for 78% (17,661) of acute hospital beds reported for 1995–96.

Comparison of accreditation rates shown in Table 2.2 among the States and Territories is limited because of the voluntary nature of a hospital's participation in the award scheme and because accreditation at any point in time does not assume a fixed or continuing status for a hospital. Accreditation of larger hospitals, for example, can substantially increase the proportion of beds that are accredited in a jurisdiction.

It should be noted that private hospital data presented in this table are for 1995–96. Given that there have been increases in accreditation rates for public hospitals between 1995–96 and 1996–97, it is likely that the accreditation rates for private hospitals presented in these tables may underestimate the true number of accredited hospitals.

## Hospital size

Table 2.3 presents information on the distribution of hospitals by their size, which has been determined by the number of available beds. The median bed size of public hospitals Australia-wide is 28.8 beds. There are more smaller sized hospitals, particularly in those jurisdictions that cover large geographic areas, even though the availability of beds is skewed towards larger hospitals.

## Regional distribution of beds

Information on the availability of public hospital beds in metropolitan, rural and remote areas is presented in Table 2.4. For many States, there are more hospitals services in areas classified as 'capital cities' and 'other rural centres', although these figures do not take account of the size of hospitals. To allow easier comparison across geographic areas within a State/Territory and between States and Territories, the available beds per 1,000 population is also provided. The availability of beds ranges between 2.8 beds per 1,000 population nationally in metropolitan areas to 3.7 beds per 1,000 population in rural areas and 4.6 beds per 1,000 population in remote areas. This table does not, however, provide data on the distribution and availability of private hospital beds, nor does it take account of the differences in areas serviced by a hospital or the different types of services provided. Many of the large hospitals based in central locations may serve the most seriously ill patients who may have originated from anywhere in the State. Many of the rural and remote hospitals have a high proportion of nursing home type patients who in metropolitan areas are cared for in nursing homes or hostels.

## Specialised services

Data relating to the availability of specialised services (such as obstetric/maternity services, intensive care units, cancer treatment centres and organ transplant services) for all States except South Australia are presented in Table 2.5. By far, the most common specialised services offered by hospitals nationally are obstetric/maternity services, domiciliary care units and nursing home care units. By contrast, acute spinal cord injury units and pancreas, heart and liver transplant services are provided by only a few hospitals nationally, reflecting the highly specialised nature of the services and the limited demand.

## Staffing

Information on the number of staff employed in public hospitals by State is presented in Table 2.6. Data on full time equivalent staff are reported here as the average available staff for the year. The collection of data by staffing category is not consistent among States and Territories— for some jurisdictions, best estimates in some staffing categories only are reported. New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania were unable to provide information by nurse categories, although total nurses are provided.

Nationally, over 174,000 full time equivalent staff were employed in the public hospital sector in 1996–97. Over 40% (77,390) of public hospital staff were nurses; registered nurses were the largest group in those States and Territories that reported a break-down of the nursing categories.

There were over 14,000 salaried medical officers employed in public hospitals throughout Australia, representing 8% of the public hospital labour force. Information on numbers of visiting medical officers (VMOs), who are contracted by hospitals to provide services to public patients and paid on a sessional or fee-for-service basis in public hospitals, is not available due to problems in the collection of systematic data on the hours, sessions and/or services provided by VMOs for many hospitals. (See Chapter 3 for data on payments to VMOs).

In order to allow comparison of staffing profiles across the jurisdictions, data are also presented as full time equivalent staff per 1,000 separations and 1,000 patient days. It should be noted, however, that the rates are based on total separations reported and no adjustment for the differing casemix treated within States and Territories has been made.

There is some variation across jurisdictions in terms of the number of full time equivalent staff employed per 1,000 separations. Nationally, nurses are the largest staff group (21.2 per 1,000 separations), compared to smaller numbers of salaried medical staff (3.9 per 1,000 separations).

The number of full time equivalent staff per 1,000 patient days ranges between 9.4 full time equivalent staff per 1,000 patient days in Tasmania, to 12.3 in the Northern Territory. In particular, the number of nurses employed per 1,000 patient days treated varies from 5.7 in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.2 in Tasmania. Nationally, 4.6 nurses were employed per 1,000 patient days. The difference between the States and Territories in terms of full time equivalent staff per 1,000 patient days is less pronounced than the differences per 1,000 separations.

This report does not include any detailed indicators of quality of care, nor data for other health outcomes resulting from hospital care, and the variation in staff numbers per 1,000 separations and patient days requires caution with regard to interpreting the effects of staffing rates on quality of care and quality of health outcomes. Note also that a State can be

higher than the national average on staff per 1,000 separations but lower on staff per 1,000 patient days.

Variation in some staffing categories (in particular, 'other personal care staff' and 'domestic and other staff' is most likely due to different coding practices within the States.

Queensland, in particular, have noted that there is little difference between these categories, and that an employee may perform different functions within these two categories on different days. Variation in the number of salaried medical officers per 1,000 separations and patient days may also be due to availability of visiting medical officers.

Advice from States and Territories indicates that there has been an increase in the outsourcing of services with a large labour-related component (eg food services and domestic services). Increased outsourcing may explain some of the apparent decline in full time equivalent staff in some staffing categories and also some of the differences between the States and Territories.

## **Medical practitioners in public and private hospitals**

The data in Table 2.7 includes all practitioners registered with the appropriate board in each State and Territory and eligible to practice. This table differs in scope and source from data presented elsewhere in this report because it is based on a survey of medical practitioners rather than on data provided by hospitals, and provides a count of the people who practised rather than the number of full time equivalents (AIHW 1998a). Each medical practitioner must renew practice registration annually and these surveys are conducted in conjunction with the renewals. Coverage may exclude practitioners with a conditional registration for fixed periods and who do not receive a renewal notice or practitioners with a recent initial registration.

The data presented in Table 2.7 shows that the majority of medical practitioners in both the public and private hospital sector practice in primarily clinical roles and most are specialists. Medical practitioners employed in administrative positions are the largest group in non-clinical practice, but account for only 1.2% of all medical practitioners working in either the public or the private hospital sector.

**Table 2.1: Number of hospitals and available beds by hospital sector and type, States and Territories<sup>(a)</sup>**

Hospitals	NSW <sup>(b)</sup>	Vic <sup>(c)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(d)</sup>	Tas <sup>(c)</sup>	ACT <sup>(b)</sup>	NT <sup>(d)</sup>	Total
Public acute hospitals	212	120	183	87	80	14	3	5	704
Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(e)</sup>	8	2	8	3	1	1	0	0	23
<i>Total public hospitals</i>	220	122	191	90	81	15	3	5	727
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	73	23	17	10	10	2	5	0	140
Private other <sup>(f)</sup>	91	104	50	23	42	10	2	1	323
<i>Total private hospitals</i>	164	127	67	33	52	12	7	1	463
<b>Total hospitals</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,190</b>
<b>Average available beds</b>									
Public acute hospitals	19,279	12,076	9,887	4,849	4,744	1,214	784	577	53,411
Public psychiatric hospitals <sup>(e)</sup>	1,426	58	994	328	506	114	..	..	3,426
<i>Total beds available in public hospitals</i>	20,705	12,134	10,881	5,177	5,250	1,328	784	577	56,836
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	552	172	136	63	67	n.p.	33	..	1,023
Private other <sup>(f)</sup>	6,351	6,152	4,962	2,148	2,392	752	n.p.	n.p.	22,757
<i>Total beds available in private hospitals</i>	6,903	6,324	5,098	2,211	2,459	752	33	n.p.	23,780
<b>Total available beds</b>	<b>27,608</b>	<b>18,458</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>7,388</b>	<b>7,709</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>80,616</b>

(a) Public hospital data are for 1996–97, private hospital data are for 1995–96.

(b) Average available beds in *private other* hospitals for the Australian Capital Territory are included with New South Wales.

(c) Average available beds/chairs in *private free-standing day* hospitals for Tasmania are included with Victoria.

(d) Average available beds in *private other* hospitals for the Northern Territory are included with South Australia.

(e) Includes public psychiatric and alcohol and drug hospitals.

(f) Includes private acute and private psychiatric hospitals.

n.p. not published.

.. not applicable.

Note: Private hospital data are provided from the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Census of Private Hospitals.

**Table 2.2: Number of hospitals and available beds<sup>(a)</sup> by sector and accreditation status,<sup>(b)</sup> States and Territories<sup>(c)</sup>**

Hospital accreditation	NSW <sup>(d)</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA <sup>(e)</sup>	Tas	ACT <sup>(f)</sup>	NT <sup>(g)</sup>	Total
<b>Public hospitals</b>									
Accredited hospitals	136	71	28	30	45	3	2	1	316
Non-accredited hospitals	84	51	163	60	36	12	1	4	411
Hospitals accredited (%)	62	58	15	33	56	20	67	20	43
<i>Total public hospitals</i>	220	122	191	90	81	15	3	5	727
Accredited beds	15,521	10,491	5,713	3,675	3,578	1,059	773	297	41,107
Non-accredited beds	5,185	1,643	5,168	1,502	1,672	269	11	280	15,729
Beds accredited (%)	75	86	53	71	68	80	99	51	72
<i>Total available beds for admitted patients</i>	20,705	12,134	10,881	5,177	5,250	1,328	784	577	56,836
<b>Private hospitals<sup>(h)</sup></b>									
Accredited hospitals	83	56	31	13	25	0	n.p.	n.p.	208
Non-accredited hospitals	10	48	19	10	18	10	n.p.	n.p.	115
Hospitals accredited (%)	89	54	62	57	58	0	n.p.	n.p.	64
<i>Total private hospitals</i>	93	104	50	23	43	10	n.p.	n.p.	323
Accredited beds	5,964	4,425	4,046	1,374	1,852	0	n.p.	n.p.	17,661
Non-accredited beds	387	1,727	916	774	540	752	n.p.	n.p.	5,096
Beds accredited (%)	94	72	82	64	77	0	n.p.	n.p.	78
<i>Total available beds for admitted patients</i>	6,351	6,152	4,962	2,148	2,392	752	n.p.	n.p.	22,757
<b>All hospitals<sup>(i)</sup></b>									
Accredited hospitals	219	127	59	43	70	3	n.p.	n.p.	521
Non-accredited hospitals	94	99	182	70	54	22	n.p.	n.p.	521
Hospitals accredited (%)	70	56	24	38	56	12	n.p.	n.p.	50
<i>Total hospitals</i>	313	226	241	113	124	25	n.p.	n.p.	1,042
Accredited beds	21,485	14,916	9,759	5,049	5,430	1,059	n.p.	n.p.	57,698
Non-accredited beds	5,572	3,370	6,084	2,276	2,212	1,021	n.p.	n.p.	20,534
Beds accredited (%)	79	82	62	69	71	51	n.p.	n.p.	74
<i>Total available beds for admitted patients</i>	27,056	18,286	15,843	7,325	7,642	2,080	n.p.	n.p.	78,232

(a) Where average available beds for the year were not available, bed numbers at 30 June 1997 were used.

(b) Accreditation status at 30 June 1997.

(c) Public hospital data are for 1996–97, private hospital data are for 1995–96.

(d) Australian Capital Territory private hospital data are included with New South Wales.

(e) Northern Territory private hospital data are included with South Australia.

(f) Excludes private free-standing day hospital facilities.

n.p. not published.

Note: Private hospital data are provided from the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Census of Private Hospitals and accreditation data are provided from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards 1998.

**Table 2.3: Number of hospitals and available beds by hospital size, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1996-97**

Hospital size <sup>(a)</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Hospitals</b>									
0-10	11	18	79	39	8	5	0	0	160
11-50	116	50	77	31	54	6	1	2	337
51-100	34	24	8	8	9	0	0	1	84
101-200	32	9	11	6	4	2	1	1	66
201-500	20	16	12	4	4	1	0	1	58
500+	7	5	4	2	2	1	1	0	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>727</b>
<b>Available beds</b>									
0-10	67	135	216	252	45	38	..	..	753
11-50	3,074	1,255	2,039	751	1,490	117	11	50	8,787
51-100	2,502	1,727	602	574	601	..	..	60	6,066
101-200	4,541	1,200	1,508	1,019	592	274	182	170	9,485
201-500	5,840	4,650	3,616	1,157	1,370	347	..	297	17,277
500+	4,682	3,167	2,900	1,424	1,152	552	591	..	14,468
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,705</b>	<b>12,134</b>	<b>10,881</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>56,836</b>

(a) Size is based on the number of available beds.  
.. not applicable.

**Table 2.4: Number of hospitals and available beds per 1,000 population by metropolitan, rural and remote region, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1996–97**

Region	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Hospitals</b>									
Capital cities	51	40	28	17	15	2	3	1	157
Other metropolitan centres	17	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	24
<i>Total metropolitan</i>	68	42	33	17	15	2	3	1	181
Large rural centres	12	5	8	..	1	2	..	..	28
Small rural centres	20	10	6	4	5	1	..	..	46
Other rural areas	103	63	56	32	49	9	0	0	312
<i>Total rural</i>	135	78	70	36	55	12	0	0	386
Remote centres	..	..	17	8	..	..	..	2	27
Other remote areas	17	2	71	29	11	1	..	2	133
<i>Total remote</i>	17	2	88	37	11	1	..	4	160
<b>Total all regions</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>727</b>
<b>Available beds per 1,000 population</b>									
Capital cities	2.9	2.4	3.2	2.7	3.0	3.4	2.5	3.6	2.8
Other metropolitan centres	3.0	3.2	2.1	..	..	..	..	..	2.7
<i>Total metropolitan</i>	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.4	2.5	3.6	2.8
Large rural centres	5.5	4.2	4.5	..	4.3	4.2	..	..	4.7
Small rural centres	3.2	3.9	2.6	3.4	4.5	2.8	..	..	3.3
Other rural areas	4.7	2.7	2.7	3.5	5.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
<i>Total rural</i>	4.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	5.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	3.7
Remote centres	..	..	4.2	3.7	..	..	..	6.7	4.4
Other remote areas	6.5	2.2	6.2	3.8	6.6	2.1	..	1.0	4.7
<i>Total remote</i>	6.5	2.2	5.3	3.7	6.6	2.1	..	3.3	4.6
<b>Total all regions</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>

.. not applicable.

**Table 2.5: Number of public acute hospitals with specialised services, States and Territories, 1996–97<sup>(a)</sup>**

Specialised services	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total <sup>(b)</sup>
Obstetric/maternity service	115	79	67	36	n.a.	6	2	5	310
Specialist paediatric service	41	35	21	12	n.a.	3	2	4	118
Psychiatric unit/ward	28	32	13	9	n.a.	3	2	2	89
Intensive care unit (level III)	37	25	7	5	n.a.	2	1	2	79
Hospice care unit	30	32	10	12	n.a.	4	0	0	88
Nursing home care unit	61	87	19	31	n.a.	4	1	0	203
Geriatric assessment unit	56	28	9	14	n.a.	0	1	0	108
Domiciliary care service	109	102	14	35	n.a.	0	0	3	263
Alcohol and drug unit	32	12	12	2	n.a.	0	0	1	59
Acute spinal cord injury unit	4	1	1	1	n.a.	0	0	0	7
Coronary care unit	44	29	17	5	n.a.	3	2	2	102
Cardiac surgery unit	10	6	3	3	n.a.	1	0	0	23
Acute renal dialysis unit	12	8	6	3	n.a.	2	1	2	34
Maintenance renal dialysis centre	20	40	16	7	n.a.	2	1	2	88
Burns unit (level III)	5	2	3	2	n.a.	1	0	0	13
Major plastic/reconstructive surgery unit	11	12	6	5	n.a.	2	1	0	37
Oncology unit	25	20	13	8	n.a.	4	1	0	71
Neonatal intensive care unit (level III)	16	5	3	2	n.a.	1	1	2	30
In-vitro fertilisation unit	3	3	0	1	n.a.	0	0	0	7
Refractory epilepsy unit	5	4	0	3	n.a.	0	0	0	12
Transplantation unit—bone marrow	9	6	2	3	n.a.	1	1	0	22
Transplantation unit—renal	9	6	1	3	n.a.	0	0	0	19
Transplantation unit—heart (including heart/lung)	3	2	1	1	n.a.	0	0	0	7
Transplantation unit—liver	3	1	2	1	n.a.	0	0	0	7
Transplantation unit—pancreas	1	1	0	0	n.a.	0	0	0	2
Clinical genetics unit	7	6	2	3	n.a.	0	1	0	19
Sleep centre	10	9	5	2	n.a.	1	0	0	27
Neurosurgical unit	11	7	6	3	n.a.	1	1	0	29
Infectious diseases unit	7	10	9	3	n.a.	1	1	2	33
AIDS unit	15	4	4	2	n.a.	0	1	1	27
Diabetes unit	21	15	9	6	n.a.	2	1	1	55
Rehabilitation unit	48	31	11	10	n.a.	3	1	2	106

(a) Excludes psychiatric and drug and alcohol hospitals.

(b) Excludes South Australia.

n.a. not available.

**Table 2.6: Average full time equivalent staff,<sup>(a)</sup> staff per 1,000 separations and staff per 1,000 patient days, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1996–97**

Staffing category	NSW	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Full time equivalent staff numbers</b>									
Salaried medical officers	5,157	3,454	2,430	948	1,414	327	262	220	14,210
Registered nurses	n.a.	14,790	11,462	n.a.	5,637	n.a.	1,169	836	n.a.
Enrolled nurses	n.a.	2,421	2,396	n.a.	1,532	n.a.	195	131	n.a.
Student nurses	n.a.	n.a.	85	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	0	n.a.
Trainee/pupil nurses	n.a.	n.a.	30	n.a.	79	n.a.	0	0	n.a.
<i>Total nurses</i>	<i>28,471</i>	<i>17,211</i>	<i>13,973</i>	<i>6,252</i>	<i>7,248</i>	<i>1,903</i>	<i>1,365</i>	<i>967</i>	<i>77,390</i>
Other personal care staff	1,930	1,929	995	144	277	18	32	65	5,389
Diagnostic & allied health professionals	8,475	6,042	3,441	1,556	1,831	447	422	147	22,360
Administrative & clerical staff	7,890	6,333	4,012	2,406	2,512	512	466	288	24,418
Domestic & other staff	11,356	5,613	6,264	3,415	2,369	1,037	317	555	30,927
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>63,278</b>	<b>40,582</b>	<b>31,116</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>15,650</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>174,695</b>
<b>Full time equivalent staff per 1,000 separations</b>									
Salaried medical officers	4.2	3.8	3.7	2.7	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	3.9
Registered nurses	n.a.	16.5	17.7	n.a.	17.1	n.a.	19.8	17.3	n.a.
Enrolled nurses	n.a.	2.7	3.7	n.a.	4.7	n.a.	3.3	2.7	n.a.
Student nurses	n.a.	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	..	n.a.
Trainee/pupil nurses	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	n.a.	0.2	n.a.	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total nurses</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>19.2</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>24.9</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>21.2</i>
Other personal care staff	1.6	2.1	1.5	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.5	1.3	1.5
Diagnostic & allied health professionals	6.9	6.7	5.3	4.5	5.6	5.8	7.2	3.0	6.1
Administrative & clerical staff	6.4	7.0	6.2	6.9	7.6	6.7	7.9	6.0	6.7
Domestic & other staff	9.2	6.2	9.7	9.8	7.2	13.6	5.4	11.5	8.5
<b>Total staff per 1,000 separations</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>47.9</b>

(continued)

**Table 2.6: (continued) Average full time equivalent staff,<sup>(a)</sup> staff per 1,000 separations and staff per 1,000 patient days, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1996–97**

Staffing category	NSW	Vic	Qld <sup>(b)</sup>	WA <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Full time equivalent staff per 1,000 patient days</b>									
Salaried medical officers	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.2	0.9
Registered nurses	n.a.	4.0	3.7	n.a.	3.7	n.a.	4.9	4.6	n.a.
Enrolled nurses	n.a.	0.6	0.8	n.a.	1.0	n.a.	0.8	0.7	n.a.
Student nurses	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	n.a.	..	n.a.	..	..	n.a.
Trainee/pupil nurses	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	n.a.	0.1	n.a.	..	..	n.a.
<i>Total nurses</i>	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.2	5.7	5.3	4.6
Other personal care staff	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3
Diagnostic & allied health professionals	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.8	0.8	1.3
Administrative & clerical staff	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.6	1.5
Domestic & other staff	1.9	1.5	2.0	2.4	1.6	2.3	1.3	3.0	1.9
<b>Total staff per 1,000 patient days</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>

(a) Where average full time equivalent staff numbers were not available, staff numbers at 30 June 1997 were used.

(b) Many hospitals were unable to provide a split between registered and enrolled nurses. In these cases, the data are a best estimate only.

(c) Other personal care staff for Western Australia excludes staff on retention who do not work regular hours.  
n.a. not available.

**Table 2.7: Medical practitioners working in public and private hospitals, (a) by type of occupation, States and Territories, 1996**

Occupation <sup>(b)</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>Public hospitals</b>									
Clinician									
Primary care	1,112	374	206	170	166	52	49	6	2,135
Hospital non-specialist	1,608	628	867	291	282	35	82	57	3,850
Specialist	3,295	2,564	1,234	772	915	224	154	84	9,242
Specialist in training	1,277	1,198	717	321	321	57	50	17	3,958
Total	7,292	4,764	3,024	1,554	1,684	368	335	164	19,185
Administrator	93	70	40	25	25	3	3	7	266
Teacher/Educator	21	12	3	2	6	0	0	0	44
Researcher	49	20	8	8	8	0	1	0	94
Public health physician	50	35	37	2	9	2	0	0	135
Occupational health physician	27	3	3	2	2	0	1	0	38
Other	59	74	38	2	6	3	0	2	184
<b>Total public</b>	<b>7,591</b>	<b>4,978</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>19,946</b>
<b>Private hospitals</b>									
Clinician									
Primary care	662	108	103	31	49	22	10	2	987
Hospital non-specialist	162	41	78	17	18	18	4	4	342
Specialist	1,506	698	381	190	172	78	36	14	3,075
Specialist in training	191	82	41	17	24	8	3	2	368
Total	2,521	929	603	255	263	126	53	22	4,772
Administrator	20	3	8	0	0	2	0	0	33
Teacher/Educator	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Researcher	5	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	11
Public health physician	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Occupational health physician	5	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	9
Other	29	20	15	0	0	0	0	0	64
<b>Total private</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,904</b>

(a) All medical practitioners who reported working in a hospital in a main, second or third job. Therefore a practitioner can be counted in both public and private sectors.

(b) For clinicians working in a hospital, occupation refers to their main job as a clinician and not necessarily to their occupation within a hospital. For example, a medical practitioner in a rural area may be a primary care practitioner in their main job but also work as a non-specialist at the local hospital. For non-clinicians, occupation refers to their principal job.