

# Explanatory notes

## Counts

All census data in this publication are the counts of people as recorded in the census (raw counts), without adjustment for non-response or under-enumeration. Full details of the census methodology may be obtained on the internet at <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

Counts of persons in a given occupation or occupational group may vary from one table to the next, for a number of reasons:

- Varying response rates to individual questions in the census may result in some persons being excluded from the analysis of a given variable.
- The ABS routinely rounds up small numbers in its census data in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals: a single person in a table cell may be reported as three persons. This leads to small discrepancies in total values between tables. Unfortunately, this process may have altered the accuracy of data regarding Indigenous participation in health and community services occupations – where participation is low, the small estimates reported for many occupations might actually seem to increase participation.

## Industry

Industry is classified to the *ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification*, 1993 edition in the 1996 and 2001 censuses. In the 1991 census industry was classified to the *Australian Standard Industry Classification*. Therefore industry data for 2001 and 1996 are not directly comparable with previous censuses. This affects only a small number of tables in this publication. The industries included in this publication are shown below.

Subdivision 86: Health Services

- 861: Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- 8611: Hospitals (Except Psychiatric Hospitals)
- 8612: Psychiatric Hospitals
- 8613: Nursing Homes
- 862: Medical and Dental Services
- 8621: General Practice Medical Services
- 8622: Specialist Medical Services
- 8623: Dental Services
- 863: Other Health Services
- 8631: Pathology Services
- 8632: Optometry and Optical Dispensing
- 8633: Ambulance Services
- 8634: Community Health Centres

- 8635: Physiotherapy Services
- 8636: Chiropractic Services
- 8639: Health Services nec
- Subdivision 87: Community Services
- 871: Child Care Services
- 8710: Child Care Services
- 872: Community Care Services
- 8721: Accommodation for the Aged
- 8722: Residential Care Services nec
- 8729: Non-Residential Care Services nec

## Occupation

Occupation data in the 1996 and 2001 censuses were classified to the *ABS Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)*, 2nd edition, and the 1991 census data were classified to the ASCO 1st edition. Therefore the 1996 and 2001 data may be not be directly comparable at the occupation level (6 digit) with previous censuses, but may be comparable at the broader level (4-digit).

The occupations included in this publication are shown below.

ASCO code	Occupation title	Description
<b>Health occupations</b>		
<i>Medical workers</i>		
1292-13	Medical administrator	Directs and manages the professional activities of medical staff in hospitals, health services and health service facilities.
231	Medical practitioner nfd	Diagnose physical and mental illnesses, disorders and injuries and prescribe medications and treatment to promote or restore good health.
2311-11	Generalist medical practitioner	Diagnoses, treats and prevents human physical and mental disorders and injuries.
2311-81	Medical practitioner in training	Undertakes diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human physical and mental disorders and injuries, under the supervision of specialists or senior general practitioners.
2312	Specialist medical practitioner nfd	Diagnose and treat physical and mental diseases and disorders using specialist testing, diagnostic, medical and surgical techniques. Medical registrars who are training as specialist medical practitioners are included in this unit group.
2312-11	Anaesthetist	Administers anaesthetics to prevent pain and maintain major body function throughout surgical and related procedures.
2312-13	Dermatologist	Provides diagnostic, treatment and preventative medical services related to human skin disorders.
2312-15	Emergency medicine specialist	Diagnoses and manages patients with acute and urgent illness and injury.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
2312-17	Obstetrician and gynaecologist	Provides diagnostic, treatment and preventative medical services related to disorders of the female genital, urinary, rectal and reproductive organs, and the care of women during pregnancy and childbirth.
2312-19	Ophthalmologist	Provides diagnostic, treatment and preventative medical services related to diseases, injuries and deficiencies of the human eye and associated structures.
2312-21	Paediatrician	Provides specialist medical services to children from birth up to and including adolescence.
2312-23	Pathologist	Identifies and diagnoses the presence and stages of diseases and possible sources of infection in body tissues, fluids, secretions and other specimens.
2312-25	Specialist physician	Investigates and diagnoses internal human disorders and diseases, and administers treatment.
2312-27	Psychiatrist	Diagnoses, treats and prevents human mental, emotional and behavioural disorders.
2312-29	Radiologist	Diagnoses and treats diseases of the human body using radiant energies such as X-rays, ultrasound, gamma rays and radio waves.
2312-31	Surgeon	Performs surgery to correct deformities, repair injuries, prevent and treat diseases and improve human body functions and appearance.
2312-79	Specialist medical practitioner nec	This occupation group covers specialist medical practitioners not elsewhere classified.
<i>Medical imaging workers</i>		
2391-11	Medical diagnostic radiographer	Operates X-ray and other medical imaging equipment to produce images for medical diagnostic purposes in conjunction with radiologists or other medical specialists.
2391-13	Radiation therapist	Operates high energy X-ray and other radiation and electron generating and monitoring equipment to administer radiation treatment for medical purposes in conjunction with radiologists or other medical specialists.
2391-15	Nuclear Medicine technologist	Performs or assists in the performance of diagnostic examinations using radionuclides and radiopharmaceuticals, and administers radionuclides for therapeutic purposes under the direction of nuclear medicine specialists or other specialist medical practitioners.
2391-17	Sonographer	Operates ultrasound machines and related medical imaging equipment to produce images for medical diagnostic purposes in conjunction with other medical professionals.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Dental workers</i>		
2381-11	Dentist	Diagnoses and treats diseases, injuries and abnormalities of teeth, gums and related oral structures, prescribes and administers restorative and preventive procedures, and conducts surgery or uses other specialist techniques.
2381-13	Dental specialist	Diagnoses and treats diseases, injuries, irregularities and malformations of teeth and associated structures in the mouth and jaw using surgery or other specialist techniques.
3492	Dental associate professional nfd	Examine and treat ailments of the teeth and gums under the supervision of dentists, carry out preventative therapy, and construct and repair dentures and other dental devices.
3492-11	Dental therapist	Examines and treats ailments of the teeth and gums, mainly among pre-school and primary school age children, under the supervision of dentists.
3492-13	Dental hygienist	Carries out preventative therapy related to dental hygiene under the direction of dentists.
3492-15	Dental technician	Constructs and repairs dentures and other dental devices.
6391-11	Dental assistant	Prepares patients for dental examinations and assists dentists in providing care and treatment.
<i>Nursing workers</i>		
1292-11	Director of nursing	Directs and manages nursing programs and clinical services in hospitals, nursing homes and other health service facilities and maintains standards of nursing care.
232	Nursing professional nec	Treat and care for the physically or mentally ill, the elderly, and mothers and their babies in hospitals, nursing homes, medical centres and the community. They provide health counselling for individuals and families, manage human and material resources for a nursing group or unit and are responsible for the professional development of nurses and for researching issues concerning nursing practice.
2321-11	Nurse manager	Manages a hospital nursing care unit or other sub unit of a hospital, nursing home or health care facility, or supervises nursing staff for a particular unit or shift.
2322-11	Nurse educator	Assesses, plans, implements and evaluates nursing education and professional development programs.
2322-13	Nurse researcher	Conducts research into nursing issues.
2323-11	Registered nurse	Provides nursing care for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care facilities or other health care facilities and in the community.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
2324-11	Registered midwife	Provides care and advice during pregnancy, labour and birth and provides postnatal care for women and babies.
2325-11	Registered mental health nurse	Treats and cares for people with mental illness, disorder or dysfunction, or those experiencing emotional difficulties, distress or crisis, in hospitals, nursing homes and the community.
2326-11	Registered developmental disability nurse	Provides nursing care to people with intellectual disabilities.
3411-11	Enrolled nurse	Assists registered nurses, doctors and other health professionals in the provision of patient care in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities.
6314-11	Personal care assistant	Assists with the care of patients in a range of health care facilities, or in the client's home.
6314-13	Nursing assistant	Assists registered nurses in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities, in the provision of patient care.
<i>Pharmacist workers</i>		
2382-11	Hospital pharmacist	Prepares and dispenses pharmaceuticals, drugs and medicines in hospital pharmacies.
2382-13	Industrial pharmacist	Undertakes research, testing and analysis related to the development, production, storage, quality control and distribution of drugs and related supplies.
2382-15	Retail pharmacist	Compounds and dispenses prescribed pharmaceuticals in retail outlets and sells non-prescription medicines and related goods.
<i>Allied health workers</i>		
2383-11	Occupational therapist	Assesses the function of people whose abilities and daily activities are impaired.
2384-11	Optometrist	Performs eye examinations and vision tests to determine the presence of visual, ocular and other abnormalities, and prescribes lenses, other optical aids or therapy.
2385-11	Physiotherapist	Assesses, treats and prevents disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease.
2386-11	Speech pathologist	Assesses and treats people with communication disorders including speech, language, voice, fluency and literacy difficulties or people who have physical problems with eating or swallowing.
2388-11	Podiatrist	Prevents, diagnoses and treats medical and surgical conditions of the feet, including those resulting from bone and joint disorders, muscular pathologies as well as neurological and circulatory diseases.
2393-11	Dietitian	Assists individuals, groups and communities to attain, maintain and promote health through good diet and nutrition.
2399-11	Audiologist	Provides diagnostic assessment and rehabilitative services related to human hearing defects.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
2399-13	Orthoptist	Diagnoses and manages eye movement disorders and associated sensory deficiencies.
2399-15	Orthotist	Designs, builds, fits and repairs splints, braces, callipers and related appliances to restore functions or compensate for muscular or skeletal disabilities.
2399-79	Health professional nec	This occupation group covers health professionals not elsewhere classified.
2514-11	Clinical psychologist	Consults with individuals and groups, assesses psychological disorders and administers programs of treatment.
6313-19	Therapy aide	Provides assistance to occupational, diversional or physiotherapists in therapy programs and care of their patients.
<i>Complementary therapies</i>		
2387-11	Chiropractor	Diagnoses, treats and provides preventative advice on physiological and mechanical disorders of the human locomotor system, particularly neuro-muscular skeletal disorders.
2387-13	Osteopath	Diagnoses, treats and provides preventative advice on physiological and mechanical disorders of the human locomotor system.
2394-11	Naturopath	Treats internal health problems, metabolic disorders and imbalances, through treatment of the whole person, using natural therapies.
2394-13	Acupuncturist	Treats disorders and illnesses by stimulating the body's defence mechanisms through fine-needle insertions into the skin.
2394-79	Natural therapy professional nec	This occupation group covers natural therapy professionals not elsewhere classified.
6395-13	Natural remedy consultant	Uses traditional techniques or diagnostic methods for treatment, relaxation or health purposes.
<i>Miscellaneous health workers</i>		
2113-11	Anatomist or physiologist	Studies the anatomy or physiology of humans.
2115	Medical scientist	Conducts medical laboratory tests to develop applications for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and testing of drugs for therapeutic use.
2129-15	Biomedical engineer	Applies knowledge and methodology of physics, engineering, mathematics, computing, physical chemistry and materials science to problems in biology and prevention of human disease.
2299-11	Health information manager	Designs, implements and administers medical record systems and information services in accordance with legal and confidentiality requirements.
2543-11	Occupational health and safety officer	Develops, implements and evaluates policies and programs to ensure safe and healthy working conditions, and assists injured staff through the workers' compensation and rehabilitation process.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
2543-13	Environmental health officer	Develops, implements and evaluates environmental health policies, programs and issues, and oversees the implementation and monitoring of environmental health legislation.
3111	Medical technical officers	Perform or assist with laboratory tests and operate diagnostic and monitoring equipment used in support of health professionals.
3491-11	Ambulance officer	Provides specialised transport services and emergency health care for injured, sick, infirm and aged persons.
3491-13	Intensive care ambulance paramedic	Provides specialised pre-hospital health care to injured, sick, infirm and aged persons and emergency transport to medical facilities.
3493-11	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker	Liaises with patients, clients and visitors to hospitals and health clinics and works as a team member to arrange, coordinate and provide health care delivery in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health clinics.
3494-11	Massage therapist	Performs therapeutic massage and administers body treatments for relaxation, health, fitness and remedial purposes.
3991-11	Primary products inspector	Inspects animals, plants, agricultural produce and facilities to ensure conformity with government and industry standards with respect to quality, health and licensing.
3992-11	Safety inspector	Inspects machinery, equipment, working conditions and public places to ensure conformity with government and industry standards and regulations, in relation to occupational health and safety.
6191-13	Admissions clerk	Records and processes information required for the admission and discharge of hospital patients and responds to telephone inquiries.
6395-15	Weight loss consultant	Assists clients with advice and practical solutions for losing weight.
<b>Welfare and community services occupations</b>		
<i>Child and youth services workers</i>		
1295-11	Child care coordinator	Directs the activities of a child care centre or service.
2411-11	Pre-primary school teacher	Teaches the basics of numeracy, literacy, music, art and literature to students at pre-primary schools and promotes students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.
3421-13	Youth worker	Assists young people as individuals or groups to solve social, emotional and financial problems in an agency framework.
6311-11	Pre-school aide	Provides care and supervision for children at pre-school centres under the direction of pre-school teachers.
6312-11	Child care worker	Provides care and supervision for children in programs such as long day care and occasional care in child care centres, hospitals and educational centres.

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<b>ASCO code</b>	<b>Occupation title</b>	<b>Description</b>
6312-13	Family day care worker	Provides care and supervision for babies and children, usually in worker's own home, under local government or community-based schemes.
6312-15	Nanny	Assists parents in the provision of on going care and supervision for babies and children, usually in the child's home.
6313-11	Hostel parent	Operates residential child care establishments, which provide home environments for children.
6313-13	Child or youth residential care assistant	Provides care and supervision for children in correctional services institutions.
<i>Family services workers</i>		
2512-11	Welfare worker	Assists individuals, families and groups with social, emotional and financial difficulties to improve quality of life by educating and supporting them and working towards change in their social environment.
2513-15	Family counsellor	Assists individuals, couples or families with marriage or relationship difficulties.
3421-19	Family support worker	Assists the work of social and welfare workers by providing services and support to families.
<i>Disability workers</i>		
2414-11	Special needs teacher	Teaches primary and secondary school students with particular learning difficulties and promotes students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.
2414-13	Teacher of the hearing-impaired	Teaches academic and living skills to hearing-impaired students and promotes students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.
2414-15	Teacher of the sight-impaired	Teaches academic and living skills to sight-impaired students and promotes students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.
2414-79	Special education teacher n.e.c.	This occupation group covers special education teachers not elsewhere classified.
3421-15	Residential care officer	Provides care and supervision for children or disabled persons in group housing or government institutions.
3421-17	Disabilities services officer	Works in a range of adult service units, which provide education and community access to people with intellectual, physical, social and emotional disabilities.
6311-13	Integration aide	Assists children with developmental disabilities in mainstream schools.
<i>Aged and disabled care workers</i>		
6313-17	Aged or disabled person carer	Provides general household assistance, emotional support, care and companionship for aged or disabled people in their homes.

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ASCO code	Occupation title	Description
<i>Other community services workers</i>		
1299-15	Welfare centre manager	Manages and coordinates centres, programs or projects concerned with social welfare support.
2511-11	Social worker	Assesses the social needs of individuals and groups, and assists people to develop and use the skills and resources needed to resolve social and other problems.
2512-13	Community worker	Facilitates community development initiatives and collective solutions within a community to address issues, needs and problems.
2513-11	Rehabilitation counsellor	Assists physically, mentally and socially disadvantaged people to re-integrate into work and the community.
2513-13	Drug and alcohol counsellor	Provides assessment, support and treatment for people, develops strategies which assist them to set goals, effect and maintain change, and provides community advice and education.
3421	Welfare associate professionals	Provide support, information and advice to clients on emotional, financial, recreational, health, housing and other social welfare matters and evaluate and coordinate the services of welfare and community service agencies.
3421-11	Parole or probation officer	Supervises parolees who have been placed on probation by court order or released conditionally from corrective service institutions.
6194-15	Social security assessor	Inspects and assesses social welfare claims and entitlements under government legislation.
6313-15	Refuge worker	Provides services and support to people seeking assistance in refuges.

## Data on region

The regional data in this report relate to an employed person's place of employment. It is based on question 37 on the census form: 'For the main job held *last week*, what was the person's workplace address?'. People who worked from home were asked to provide their home address. People who had no fixed place of work were asked to provide the depot address if they usually travelled to a depot to start work, otherwise to report 'no fixed address'. A consequence of the latter instruction is that a person who worked at a number of addresses, e.g. a nurse working in a hospital and a surgery, were classified as 'undefined'.

Regional classifications in this report include the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) for Remoteness; the Rural, Regional and Metropolitan Area (RRMA); classification and statistical region.

A full list of the ASGC detailed statistical region structure is available at the ABS web site for each State and Territory, using the following link: <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>

## Qualifications

Qualifications are classified to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 1991, *ABS Classification of Qualifications*, ABS Cat. no. 1262.0, Canberra: ABS.