

Glossary

Age

Age has been derived as the number of completed years from year of birth to the year of the survey.

Area of clinical nursing

A classification of the area of nursing in which a nursing clinician is engaged.

A detailed classification of some 61 classes was used by New South Wales that does not precisely match the standard 21 classes used in other States and Territories. The concordance between the standard classification and the New South Wales classification is shown in the table below.

Table 78: Area of clinical nursing concordance, New South Wales, 1996

Publication classification	New South Wales classification
Mixed medical and surgical	Mixed medical surgical
Medical	Medical group excluding aged care Diagnostic group
Surgical	Surgical group excluding operating theatre/recovery
Operating theatre	Operating theatre/recovery
Intensive care	Acute care group excluding casualty accident/emergency
Paediatric	
Obstetrics and gynaecology	Gynaecology Reproductive medicine
Midwifery	Obstetrics/midwifery
Psychiatric/mental health	Mental health group excluding drug and alcohol
Developmental disability	Developmental disability Mental health (drug and alcohol)
Gerontology/geriatric	Aged care
Accident and emergency	Casualty accident/emergency
Community	Community nursing—general
Child health	Child and family health
School medical	School children's health
District/domiciliary	
Occupational health	Occupational health
Private medical practice	
Independent practice	
No one principal area	No one area of practice
Other	Other Mothercraft Aboriginal health Women's health

Classification of job

The classification of the registered nurse according to the industrial award in each State and Territory. New South Wales and Victoria have state awards while the other States and Territories operate with a federal award. The concordance among the reported classifications and the published classification is shown in Table 79.

Table 79: Registered nurses: classification of job concordance, States and Territories, 1996

Publication Classification	Reported classification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Level 5 director of nursing	Management: area DON/RNO	X							
	Management: area manager nurse education	X							
	Management: director of nursing	X							
	Management: deputy director of nursing	X							
	Grade 7 director of nursing		X						
	Grade 6 management/education		X						
	Level 5 director of nursing			X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 4 assistant director of nursing: clinical/management	Clinical: assistant director of nursing	X							
	Management: assistant director of nursing	X							
	Grade 5 clinical consultant/supervisor/educator		X						
	Level 4 ADON: clinical/management			X					
	Level 4 clinical/management				X	X	X	X	X
Level 4 staff development/education/research	Management: manager nurse education	X							
	Level 4 staff development/education/research			X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 3 nurse manager	Clinical: nursing unit manager	X							
	Management: nursing unit manager	X							
	Grade 4 charge nurse/maternal and child health nurse/education		X						
	Level 3 Nurse manager			X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 3 clinical nurse consultant/specialist	Clinical nurse consultant	X							
	Grade 3 clinical nurse consultant/associate charge nurse		X						
	Level 3 Nurse practice coordinator			X					
	Level 3 clinical nurse consultant/specialist			X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 3 staff development/education/research	Education: clinical education	X							
	Education: staff development	X							
	Education: vocational education	X							
	Researcher	X							
	Level 3 staff development/education			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Level 3 research			X	X				
	Level 2 staff development/education				X				
Level 2 clinical nurse	Clinical nurse specialist	X							
	Clinical: midwife	X							
	Level 2 clinical nurse			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Level 2 area manager				X				
Level 1 registered nurse	Clinical: registered nurse	X							
	Grade 2 registered nurse		X						
	Grade 1 registered nurse		X						
	Psychiatric nurse (Division 3)		X						
	Level 1 registered nurse			X	X	X	X	X	X
Lecturer—higher education sector	Education: nurse academic	X							
	Lecturer—higher education sector		X		X	X	X	X	X
	Lecturer/Tutor—higher education sector			X					
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Clinician

A registered or enrolled nurse who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including nursing diagnosis and preventative action.

Country

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics*, Catalogue No. 1269.0 has been used to classify country of initial qualification and country of birth into the following categories:

1. *Australia*
2. *New Zealand*
3. *United Kingdom and Ireland*: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland
4. *Asia*: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Republic of Korea (South Korea), Macau, Mongolia, Formosa, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
5. *Other countries*: all countries not specified above.

Enrolled nurse

A nurse who is on the roll maintained by the State or Territory nurses board or nursing council to practise nursing in that State or Territory. The minimum educational requirement for an enrolled nurse is a one-year diploma from a tertiary education institution or equivalent from a recognised hospital-based program. It is necessary for a nurse to have practised for a specified minimum period in the past five years to maintain enrolment. Enrolled nurses include mothercraft and dental nurses where the educational course requirements may be greater than one year but less than a three-year degree course or equivalent.

Geographic classification

The *Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification (RRMA)*, November 1994, of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy and the Department of Health and Aged Care has been used to classify the geographic location of the main job of responding nurses in the following seven categories.

Metropolitan areas:

1. *Capital cities* consist of the State and Territory capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin and Canberra.
2. *Other metropolitan centres* consist of one or more statistical subdivisions which have an urban centre of population of 100,000 or more in size. These centres are: Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan (part of Canberra-Queanbeyan), Geelong, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads, Townsville-Thuringowa.

Rural zones:

3. *Large rural centres* are statistical local areas where most of the population reside in urban centres of population of 25,000 to 99,999. These centres are: Albury-Wodonga, Dubbo, Lismore, Orange, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga (NSW); Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton-Mooroopna (Vic); Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Maroochydore-Mooloolaba, Rockhampton, Toowoomba (Qld); Whyalla (SA); and Launceston (Tas).
4. *Small rural centres* are statistical local areas in rural zones containing urban centres of population between 10,000 and 24,999. These centres are: Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Casino, Coffs Harbour, Forster-Tuncurry, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Lithgow, Moree Plains, Muswellbrook, Nowra-Bombaderry, Singleton, Taree (NSW); Bairnsdale, Colac, Echuca-Moama, Horsham, Mildura, Moe-Yallourn, Morwell, Ocean

Grove–Barwon Heads, Portland, Sale, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool (Vic); Caloundra, Gladstone, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Tewantin–Noosa, Warwick (Qld); Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie (SA); Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Mandurah (WA); Burnie–Somerset, Devonport (Tas).

5. *Other rural areas* are the remaining statistical areas within the rural zone. Examples are Cowra Shire, Temora Shire, Guyra Shire (NSW); Ararat Shire, Cobram Shire (Vic); Cardwell Shire, Whitsunday Shire (Qld); Barossa, Pinnaroo (SA); Moora Shire, York Shire (WA); George Town, Ross (Tas); Coomalie, Litchfield (NT).

Remote zones: these are generally less densely populated than rural statistical local areas and hundreds of kilometres from a major urban centre. Data in this publication are reported for the zone which comprises the two areas shown below.

6. *Remote centres* are statistical local areas in the remote zone containing urban centres of population of 5,000 or more. These centres are: Blackwater, Bowen, Emerald, Mareeba, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Roma (Qld); Broome, Carnarvon, East Pilbara, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Port Hedland, Karratha (WA); Alice Springs, Katherine (NT).
7. *Other remote areas* are the remaining areas within the remote zone. Examples are: Balranald, Bourke, Cobar, Lord Howe Island (NSW); French Island, Orbost, Walpeup (Vic); Aurukun, Longreach, Quilpie (Qld); Coober Pedy, Murat Bay, Roxby Downs (SA); Coolgardie, Exmouth, Laverton, Shark Bay (WA); King Island, Strahan (Tas); Daly, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy (NT).

Hours worked

The total number of hours worked per week self-reported by responding nurses as the usual number of hours worked per week in all nursing-related jobs over the four weeks before the survey. Note that the Queensland and South Australian surveys did not specify the four week period.

Hours worked exclude time spent on travel between work locations (except travel to call-outs) and unpaid professional and/or voluntary activities. In the editing of survey responses, maximum hours worked per week was limited to 99 hours per week for main, second and subsequent jobs and 126 hours per week for total hours worked.

The cut-off for full-time and part-time work varies among the States and Territories. In this publication the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition has been used:

- *full-time*: 35 hours or more per week;
- *part-time*: less than 35 hours per week.

Nursing labour force

The nursing labour force (registered and enrolled nurses) in each State and Territory includes nurses currently employed in nursing and nurses who are not employed in nursing but are looking for work in nursing.

Registered and enrolled nurses who, at the time of the survey, were on maternity or other extended leave for more than three months are employed, and thus part of the nursing labour force. However, in most cross-classified tables for employed nurses, those on extended leave have not been included because not all States and Territories collected data on their employment characteristics prior to commencement of leave.

Occupation

A description of the job function within the field of nursing of a person with nursing qualifications. The occupations are:

- *clinician*: a registered or enrolled nurse who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including nursing diagnosis and preventative action;
- *administrator*: a person mainly employed in nursing administration;
- *teacher/educator*: a person who is teaching or training persons in nursing for their initial qualification or in advanced skills after initial qualification;
- *researcher*: a person engaged in nursing research; and
- *other*: a job function in nursing which is not one of the above – for example, industrial relations or public health activities in nursing.

Registered nurse

A nurse who is on the register maintained by the State or Territory nurses board or nursing council to practise nursing in that State or Territory. The minimum educational requirement for a registered nurse is a three-year degree from a tertiary education institution or equivalent from a recognised hospital-based program. Registered nurses may have their practice certificate endorsed to practise in a specific clinical area (for example, midwifery) on completion of a recognised postgraduate course. To maintain registration, it is necessary for a nurse to have practised for a specified minimum period in the field of nursing in the past five years.

Work setting

The functional use of the premises where a nursing job is located. Table 80 presents the concordance between the description in the publication and the data as collected from each State and Territory.

Table 80: Work setting concordance, States and Territories, 1996

Publication description	Data collection description	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Public sector									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	Hospital inpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Hospital outpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Acute general/specialist hospital			X					
	Psychiatric hospital/service			X					
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Nursing home/aged care service			X					
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hostel	Hostel	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hospice	Hospice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Community health centre ^(a)	Community health centre/service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency	Agency		X		X	X	X	X	X
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School/child health service	School	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Maternal and child health service		X						
	Child health service			X					
Tertiary education institution	Tertiary/higher education institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prison medical service ^(b)	Prison medical service	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Defence forces ^(b)	Defence forces	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Domiciliary nursing service			X					
	Government dept/statutory authority			X					
	Local government			X					
Private sector									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	Hospital inpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Hospital outpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Acute general/specialist hospital			X					
	Psychiatric hospital/service			X					
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Nursing home/aged care service			X					
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Day surgery centre/facility			X					
Hostel	Hostel	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hospice	Hospice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Private medical rooms	Private medical (doctor's rooms)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency	Agency	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private nursing practice	Private nursing practice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School/child health service	School	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Maternal and child health service		X						
Tertiary education institution	Tertiary/higher education institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private sector	Private sector	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Industry/private enterprise			X					
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Domiciliary nursing service			X					

(a) Includes private community health centres for New South Wales.

(b) Includes private prison medical services and private defence forces for South Australia.

References

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Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics. ABS Cat. No. 1269.0. Canberra: ABS.

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Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 1998. OECD Health Data File, 1998. Paris: OECD.

Related publications

The following publications relating to the health labour force have been issued by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

National health labour force series

- No. 1: *Pharmacy labour force 1992*
- No. 2: *Podiatry labour force 1992*
- No. 3: *Medical labour force 1992–93*
- No. 4: *Physiotherapy labour force 1993*
- No. 5: *Pharmacy labour force 1993*
- No. 6: *Medical labour force 1994*
- No. 7: *Podiatry labour force 1994*
- No. 8: *Pharmacy labour force 1994*
- No. 9: *Nursing labour force 1993 and 1994*
- No. 10: *Medical labour force 1995*
- No. 11: *Nursing labour force 1995*
- No. 12: *Pharmacy labour force 1995*
- No. 13: *Medical labour force 1996*
- No. 15: *Medical labour force 1997*

Other publications

- Australia's health 1994*
- Australia's health 1996*
- Australia's health 1998*
- Australia hospital statistics 1993–95: an overview*
- Australian hospital statistics 1996–97*
- Australian hospital statistics 1997–98*

Internet access

A selection of material produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is published on the Institute's web site at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>. This includes the Institute's medical and nursing labour force publications, the publications catalogue and the order form for purchase of publications.

This report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare presents statistics on trends in the employment of nurses in Australia over the decade up to, and including, 1998.

The number and characteristics of all registered and enrolled nurses are presented for 1996, including statistics showing employment in nursing by age, sex, type of nurse, area of clinical nursing, classification, work setting, hours worked and geographic region of main job.

The report also includes statistics on numbers of certified nurses employed in OECD countries, levels of international migration by nurses, and the numbers of students enrolled in and completing tertiary nursing courses.