

Glossary

Clinician

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

Country

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics*, Cat. 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, Vietnam, 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 1-year diploma from a higher 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 5 years to maintain enrolment. Enrolled nurses include mothercraft and dental nurses where the educational course requirements may be greater than 1 year but less than a 3-year degree course or equivalent.

Hospital staffing

- *Salaried medical officers*: Medical officers engaged by the hospital on a full time or part time salaried basis.
- *Nurses*
 - *Enrolled nurses*: Second-level nurses who are enrolled in all states and territories except Victoria where they are registered by the state registration board to practise in this capacity. Includes general enrolled nurses and specialist enrolled nurses (e.g. mothercraft nurses in some states and territories).
 - *Registered nurses*: Nurses with at least a 3-year training certificate and nurses holding postgraduate qualifications. Registered nurses must be registered with a state or territory registration board.

- *Other personal care staff:* This category includes attendants, assistants or home assistants, home companions, family aides, ward helpers, orderlies, ward assistants and nursing assistants engaged primarily in the provision of personal care to patients or residents, who are formally qualified or undergoing training in nursing or allied health professions.
- *Diagnostic and health professionals:* Qualified staff (other than qualified medical and nursing staff) engaged in duties of a diagnostic, professional or technical nature (but also including diagnostic and health professionals whose duties are primarily or partly of an administrative nature). This category includes all allied health professionals and laboratory technicians but excludes civil engineers and computing staff.
- *Administrative and clerical staff:* Staff engaged in administrative and clerical duties. Civil engineers and computing staff are included in this category. Medical staff and nursing staff, diagnostic and health professionals and any domestic staff primarily or partly engaged in administrative and clerical duties are excluded.
- *Domestic and other staff:* Staff engaged in the provision of food and cleaning services. They include domestic staff, such as food services managers, primarily engaged in administrative duties. This category also includes all staff not elsewhere included (primarily maintenance staff, tradespersons and gardening staff).

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 4 weeks before the survey. Note that the Queensland and South Australian surveys did not specify the 4-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.

Job classification

The classification of the registered nurse varies according to the industrial award in each state and territory. With the introduction of certified agreements and Australian workplace agreements the use of industrial awards is limited as a form of classification. The concordance among the reported classifications and the published classification is shown in Table G.1.

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 with 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 resides 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–Bomaderry, 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 that 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).

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 3 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.

Nursing role

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

- *Nurse clinician*: A registered or enrolled nurse who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including nursing diagnosis and preventive action.
- *Clinician nurse manager*: A registered or enrolled nurse who 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.
- *Administrator*: A person mainly employed in nursing administration.
- *Teacher/Educator*: A person who teaches or trains persons in nursing for their initial qualification or in advanced skills after initial qualification.
- *Researcher*: A person engaged in nursing research.
- *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 3-year degree from a tertiary education institution or equivalent from a recognised hospital-based program. Registered nurses may have their practise certificate endorsed to practice 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 5 years.

Work setting

The functional use of the premises where a nursing job is located.

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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. 14: Nursing labour force 1998
- No. 15: Medical labour force 1997
- No. 16: Medical labour force 1998
- No. 17: Pharmacy labour force 1998
- No. 18: Optometrist labour force 1999
- No. 19: Health and community services labour force 1996
- No. 20: Nursing labour force 1999
- No. 21: Occupational therapy labour force 1998
- No. 22: Physiotherapy labour force 1998
- No. 23: Podiatry labour force 1999
- No. 24: Medical labour force 1999
- No. 25: Pharmacy labour force up to 2001

Other publications

Australia's health 1994

Australia's health 1996

Australia's health 1998

Australia's health 2000

Australia's health 2002

Australia hospital statistics 1993–95: an overview

Australian hospital statistics 1996–97

Australian hospital statistics 1997–98

Australian hospital statistics 1998–99

Australian hospital statistics 1999–00

Internet access

Additional tables on the 1999 nursing labour force survey and a selection of material produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is published on the Institute's website at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au>>. This includes the Institute's medical and nursing labour force publications and the publications catalogue ordering information.

