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Most importantly, we also thank the psychologists who took the time to complete the survey. Without their cooperation, it would not have been possible to conduct this collection, which is used to inform the community about the psychology profession.

## Symbols and other usages

Throughout this publication, data from the AIHW surveys may not add to the totals shown due to the estimation process used for non-responses (see 'Explanatory notes'). As a result of this process, numbers of psychologists may be in fractions, but are rounded to whole numbers for publication. Percentages are calculated on the unrounded figures. Where tables contain a 'not stated' category, percentage calculations exclude this category. Per cent distributions may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

*Italics* within a table denote a subtotal.

– Nil or rounded to zero.

.. Not applicable.

n.a. Not available.

n.p. Not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality concerns or other concerns about the quality of the data. Main findings

# Main findings

- In 2004–05 there were 22,175 registered psychologists in Australia (excluding the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, where registration figures were not available).
- In 2005, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) national estimate of the number of employed clinical psychologists was 13,939, a rise of 50.5% from the estimate for 2000 (9,260). Over a comparable period (1999–00 and 2004–05), the numbers of psychologists registered with the psychology boards in most jurisdictions increased by between 20.2% and 58.5%.
- The first psychology data to be published as part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s (AIHW) National Health Labour Force series have been compiled from surveys of psychologists conducted in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory in 2003. Registered psychologists in the jurisdictions which participated in the 2003 survey totalled 16,094.
- The AIHW survey showed that most of those (14,073 or 87.4%) were employed in the profession (the psychology workforce), ranging from 89.6% in Victoria to 85.3% in South Australia.
- The figure of 14,073 across the surveyed jurisdictions comprising the AIHW data was slightly higher than data from the 2005 ABS Labour Force survey, which estimated that employed psychologists numbered 12,256 for the same group of jurisdictions.
- AIHW survey data showed that most employed psychologists self-reported that they were practising in the clinical psychology field, while around a third were employed in non-clinical fields (ranging from 28.5% in New South Wales to 36.6% in the Australian Capital Territory).
- The full-time equivalent (FTE) rate of psychologists per 100,000 population for each jurisdiction was New South Wales, 88; Victoria, 95; Queensland, 64; South Australia, 54; and the Australian Capital Territory, 170 (reflecting its capital city status).
- In the jurisdictions surveyed:
  - the average age of working psychologists was highest in South Australia (46.9 years) and lowest in Queensland (41.5 years)
  - psychologists were predominantly female, with males comprising around a third of the profession (ranging from 26.3% in Victoria to 39.7% in South Australia)
  - average weekly hours worked by psychologists ranged between 33.7 in Queensland and 37.7 in the Australian Capital Territory
  - the proportion of psychologists working more than 50 hours per week was lowest in Queensland (9.0%), while the proportions in the remaining jurisdictions ranged from 14.7% to 17.5%
  - the proportion of psychologists working part-time ranged between 30.2% in South Australia and 40.1% in Victoria.

# The psychologist population

## Introduction

In the main, data in this report have been compiled from surveys of psychologists conducted in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory in 2003. Surveys were also conducted in New South Wales and Queensland in 2000 and these data are included. Information from administrative records of the state and territory psychology registration boards has been used to estimate psychologist population figures from the survey data (see Explanatory notes) and to provide some overall figures for jurisdictions which did not conduct the psychologist survey. In order to provide a broad-level, national dimension to the AIHW psychology labour force data, also included in this report are National Health Survey data and Labour Force Survey data from the ABS surveys of the general population, plus higher education administrative data from DEST.

## Size and composition of the psychology labour force

### Psychologists registration board data

Data from the administrative records of the psychologist registration boards have been provided by most jurisdictions from 1999–00 to 2004–05 (except the Northern Territory). In 2004–05 there were 22,175 psychologists registered in total (excluding the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory). Figures provided show an increase in the number of registrations over the period 1999–00 to 2004–05 in all jurisdictions (Table 1), ranging from 20.2% in Western Australia to 58.5% in New South Wales. The relatively large rise in New South Wales is attributable to a jump between 2002–03 and 2003–04 (up by 1,319 psychologists).

Over the most recent period (from 2003–04 to 2004–05), increases ranged from 0.6% in Western Australia to 13.1% in Tasmania.

**Table 1: Psychologist registrations, states and territories, 2000 to 2005**

	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1999–00</b>	5,449 <sup>(c)</sup>	4,267	2,637	1,805	810	n.a.	450	n.a.
<b>2000–01</b>	5,590	4,556	2,854	1,872	838	n.a.	497	n.a.
<b>2001–02</b>	6,309	4,813	3,073	1,949	871	n.a.	554	n.a.
<b>2002–03</b>	6,774	5,290	3,008	2,071	922	n.a.	615	n.a.
<b>2003–04</b>	8,093	5,692	3,579	2,156	952	359	660	n.a.
<b>2004–05</b>	8,636	6,096	3,859	2,169	1,009	406	n.a.	n.a.
<b>% change from 1999–00 to 2004–05</b>	58.5	42.9	46.3	20.2	24.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>% change from 2003–04 to 2004–05</b>	6.7	7.1	7.8	0.6	6.0	13.1	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Figures for Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory are as at 31 December within the financial year.

(b) Registration data for the Northern Territory are unavailable.

(c) Includes an estimate only, for probationary psychologists.

Sources: State and territory psychologist registration boards.

## Estimates from the AIHW survey and the ABS labour force survey

The AIHW survey targets psychologists via registration administrative records (see Explanatory notes) and this approach results in multiple registrations being recorded when psychologists register in more than one jurisdiction. Survey data are used to estimate multiple registrations and, after accounting for these, the number of registered psychologists in the jurisdictions that participated in the 2003 survey totaled 16,094.

The survey data are then weighted to match the available registration data (see Explanatory Notes on page 20).

The AIHW survey showed that the majority of registered psychologists were employed in the profession (the psychology workforce), ranging from 89.6% in Victoria to 85.3% in South Australia (Table 2). In 2003, employed psychologists numbered 14,073 across the AIHW surveyed jurisdictions and clinical psychologists numbered 9,694 (Table 2).

For the same jurisdictions, the ABS Labour Force survey, which identifies clinical psychologists only, reported 12,256 employed clinical psychologists in 2005.

### Comparisons with ABS Labour Force Survey data

*Because of differences between the AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey and the ABS Labour Force Survey, it is not possible to make comparisons between the two below a national level. The main differences are that the ABS survey is a sample survey and intended to provide broad-level, national estimates only and, being a sample survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. The AIHW survey is conducted as a census of psychologists within each participating jurisdiction, but is subject to non-response.*

*Another limitation with comparing AIHW data and ABS data at the state level is that, in the compilation of ABS data, psychologists are assigned to their jurisdiction of residence (that is, where they were surveyed) whereas in the AIHW data psychologists are assigned to the jurisdiction in which they did most work (see Table 5, page 5).*

*The ABS survey is not designed to estimate occupations at a fine level whereas the AIHW survey targets psychologists directly from the registration boards. Further, the data collection periods vary across the two collections, limiting comparability between them.*

*Nevertheless, the ABS data are more recent (available for 2005) and can add a broad-level, national dimension to supplement the AIHW data.*

**Table 2: Registered psychologists: labour force status, 2003**

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld <sup>(a)</sup>	SA	ACT	Total
Psychology labour force <sup>(b)</sup>	5,842	4,840	2,568	814	519	14,584
Working in psychology	5,589	4,671	2,535	769	509	14,073
Clinical psychologist	3,996	3,067	1,793	516	323	9,694
Non-clinical psychologist	1,593	1,605	742	253	186	4,379
Not working in psychology	253	168	n.a.	46	10	511
On extended leave	102	46	34	37	n.p.	222
Looking for work in psychology	151	122	n.a.	8	8	289
Not in psychology labour force <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	620	303	43	78	48	1,092
Overseas	185	38	43	4	5	275
Not looking for work in psychology	434	265	n.a.	74	43	817
Looking for work status not known	21	69	317	9	n.p.	419
Total registered psychologists	6,483	5,212	2,928	901	569	16,094
Multiple registrations	291	78	80	21	46	515
<b>Total registrations<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>6,774</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>16,609</b>

(a) Excludes 'whether looking for work' because this was not collected in the Queensland survey.

(b) Excludes 'looking for work' not known.

(c) Excludes Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.



Clinical psychology is one of many specialist branches of psychology and is concerned with the development, prevention and treatment of emotional problems in children, adolescents and adults. Clinical psychologists are specialists in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems and mental illness. They also design and implement a wide range of prevention and mental health promotion programs (APS, 07/06/06).

In 2005 the ABS national estimate of the number of employed clinical psychologists was 13,939, a rise of 50.5% from the estimate for 2000 (9,260) (Table 5). Similarly, over a comparable period, the number of psychologists registered with the psychology boards (for those jurisdictions with data available) rose by between 20.2% and 58.5% (Table 1).

The AIHW survey found that most employed psychologists were practising in the field of clinical psychology while around a third were employed in non-clinical fields (ranging from 28.5% in New South Wales to 36.6% in the Australian Capital Territory) (Table 2). The proportion of registered psychologists looking for work in psychology was small (2.3% in New South Wales, 2.4% in Victoria, 0.9% in South Australia and 1.3% in the Australian Capital Territory). In New South Wales, the age and sex distributions of psychologists in the workforce were similar to psychologists looking for work in psychology (45.3 years, on average, and 29.4% male, respectively; and 45.6 years and 30.7% male, respectively) (Table 3).

#### **Defining clinical psychologists**

*The AIHW survey scope is registered psychologists, that is, those meeting the minimum legal qualification and practice requirements for registration with the psychology boards. The ABS Labour force survey relies entirely on those who self-report their occupation.*

*In the AIHW and the ABS surveys, estimates of clinical psychologist numbers are based on psychologists who self-report that they are clinical psychologists. The AIHW questionnaires in some states and territories, but not all, indicated that this work involved direct patient care. No other guidance was provided to respondents on the definition of 'clinical psychologist'.*

*Self-reported clinical psychologists would be a broader group than membership of the Australian Psychological Society's (APS) College of Clinical Psychologists (CCP), which requires a minimum of six years' university training, including approved postgraduate clinical studies and placements in psychiatric settings, plus two years of further approved supervision in the clinical field. Members are also required to maintain a program of on-going professional development (APS 2006).*

*Neither the AIHW nor the ABS surveys can separately identify the subset of psychologists with APS CCP membership or eligibility for membership. The AIHW will seek opportunities with the jurisdictions to address this problem by adding a question on the form.*

**Table 3: Registered psychologists: selected characteristics, 2003**

<b>Labour force status/characteristic</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>In the psychology labour force</b>					
Employed in psychology <sup>(a)</sup>					
Number	5,589	4,671	2,535	769	509
Per cent male <sup>(b)</sup>	29.4	26.3	32.1	39.7	28.5
Average age	45.3	43.9	41.5	46.9	45.4
Looking for work in psychology <sup>(c)</sup>					
Number	151	122	n.a.	8	8
Per cent male	30.7	16.4	n.a.	45.4	31.6
Average age	45.6	38.3	n.a.	45.7	37.8
<b>Not in the psychology labour force<sup>(d)</sup></b>					
Number	434	265	n.a.	74	43
Per cent male	25.2	25.8	n.a.	30.7	45.1
Average age	48.1	46.3	n.a.	48.0	48.6

(a) Excludes psychologists on extended leave.

(b) Sex not known for 38% of Queensland registrations.

(c) 'Looking for work' not collected in Queensland survey.

(d) Excludes psychologists overseas.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

1. See 'Field of psychology' in the Explanatory notes.

2. Non-clinical fields include administration, teaching/education, research, professional supervision, and other.

# Employed psychologists

## Workforce size

Queensland and New South Wales were the only two states for which data were available from the AIHW survey between 2000 and 2003. Employed psychologists (the psychology workforce) rose by 21.2% and 33.9% in those two states, respectively (Table A.4). Clinical psychologists, who are of interest because they provide direct patient care, rose by 11.9% and 31.3%, respectively, reflecting the registration increases over a similar period (tables 4 and 1).

**Table 4: Employed clinical psychologists, 2000 and 2003**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	ACT
2000	3,571	..	1,366	..	..
2003	3,996	3,067	1,793	516	323
Change (%)	11.9		31.3		

Sources: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2003.

ABS Labour Force Survey data showed a 50.5% national rise (Table 5) in employed clinical psychologists, which aligns with the 20.2%–58.5% rise (Table 1) in registered psychologists in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia

In the absence of AIHW survey data for all states, the ABS data provide a national picture. However, estimates at the state level show considerable movement over the period and sizeable differences in the 2000 estimates for New South Wales and Queensland (the only overlapping data from the two sources) (tables 4 and 5). This is likely because the 2000 and 2005 survey samples varied, combined with the fact that psychologists are a comparatively small population for the ABS survey to target, given its design (see box on page 3).

**Table 5: Employed clinical psychologists, states and territories, 2000 and 2005**

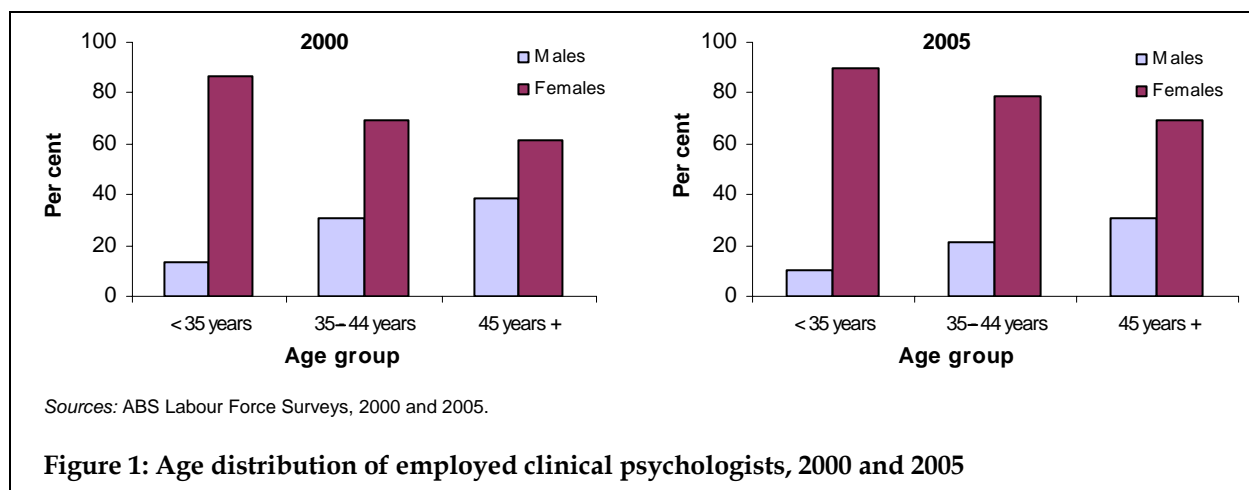
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2000	2,984	2,977	1,919	616	288	205	248	24	9,260
2005	3,660	4,852	2,140	1,273	1,163	225	442	186	13,939
Change (%)	*22.7	*63.0	*11.5	*106.6	*303.6	*9.4	*78.0	*691.5	50.5

\* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should therefore be used with caution.

Sources: ABS Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2005.

## Demographic characteristics

Although there are variations across time and jurisdictions between estimates from the ABS and AIHW surveys, a comparison of the demographic profiles of employed clinical psychologists shows similar distributions in the two surveys (figures 1 and 2). Both data sources show that the proportion of females in the youngest clinical psychologist age group was much higher than in older groups. For psychologists aged under 35 years, the ABS estimate of the proportion female was 86.4% in 2000 and 90.1% in 2005. The AIHW 2003 estimate was 86.6%. Both ABS and AIHW data show these proportions gradually reducing as age increases. For those aged 45 years or more, the ABS estimate of the proportion was 61.6% female in 2000 and 69.7% in 2005, while the AIHW estimated 71.9% for 2003 (figures 1 and 2).



**Figure 1: Age distribution of employed clinical psychologists, 2000 and 2005**



**Figure 2: Age distribution of employed clinical psychologists, selected jurisdictions, 2003**

In the surveyed jurisdictions, the average age of working psychologists in 2003 was highest in South Australia (46.9 years) and lowest in Queensland (41.5 years) (Table 3). Males were a smaller proportion of the working psychologists in Victoria (26.3%) than in other jurisdictions, while in South Australia the proportion was highest (39.7%, compared with 29.4% in New South Wales, 32.1% in Queensland and 28.5% in the Australian Capital Territory).

Almost all employed psychologists (around 95% in all five jurisdictions) were Australian citizens (Table 6).

Nationally, 86.9% of the population lived in metropolitan areas in 2003. Across the surveyed jurisdictions, these figures were 92.1% in New South Wales, 94.7% in Victoria, 78.6% in Queensland, 84.4% in South Australia and 100% in the Australian Capital Territory (where there is no non-metropolitan area) (ABS 2003). The Territory aside, the main work location of psychologists shows their distribution was skewed towards being metropolitan-based, with proportions ranging from 86.9% in Queensland to 98.3% in Victoria (Table 6).

**Table 6: Employed psychologists: selected demographics, 2003**

Characteristic	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		ACT	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Residency status</b>										
Australian citizen	5,212	94.6	4,460	95.5	2386	94.8	743	96.7	492	96.6
Not Australian citizen	297	5.1	208	4.1	131	3.9	26	3.0	17	3.4
<b>Location of main job<sup>(a)</sup></b>										
Metropolitan	5,252	97.4	4,541	98.3	2148	86.9	725	96.1	496	100.0
Non-metropolitan	141	2.6	77	1.7	324	13.1	30	3.9	..	..
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>5,589</b>		<b>4,671</b>		<b>2535</b>		<b>769</b>		<b>509</b>	

(a) Based on the ABS ASGC Remoteness Areas. See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary.

(b) Includes 'not stated', but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

## Employment characteristics

This section uses the AIHW survey data to present employment characteristics across jurisdictions. Employment characteristics broadly cover psychology field, area of practice, main work setting, employment sector and hours worked. For comparisons between field, area, work setting and sector, data have been drawn from the state and territory profiles provided in the latter part of the report (tables 11 to 15).

### Field of psychology

Psychologists can work in clinical psychology (directly with patients/clients) or non-clinical psychology (administration, teaching/education, research, other). Across the jurisdictions in the 2003 AIHW survey, the majority of psychologists working in the profession were in clinical psychology. Proportions ranged from 71.5% in New South Wales to 63.4% in the Australian Capital Territory (tables 11 and 15).

Administrators were the next largest group in all jurisdictions except Queensland, where the proportion of teachers/educators (9.7%) was higher than that of administrators (5.8%). The proportions of administrators in Victoria (18.8%), South Australia (20.2%) and the Australian Capital Territory (20.1%) were similar whereas in New South Wales (13.8%) it was lower. The composition of the psychologist workforce in Queensland also differed from other jurisdictions in its proportions in the remaining psychology fields. However, it should be noted that the Queensland survey used a different approach to collecting the data, and differences in the data may be attributable to conceptual differences between questionnaires.

In all jurisdictions, psychologists who were teachers/educators were older, on average, than their colleagues in other fields (ranging from 45.0 years in Queensland to 52.2 years in South Australia). Fields in which psychologists were more likely to be male varied. In New South Wales the highest proportion of males was in the field of administration (33.1%) and in Victoria it was in the field of research (36.8%). In Queensland and South Australia the highest male proportions were in teaching/education (41.5% and 69.6%, respectively), while in the Territory, the highest was for those providing professional supervision/support (55.2%).

### Main work setting

Work setting is the type of service or centre in which psychologists work. The largest proportion worked in private practice in all the surveyed jurisdictions (ranging from 34.6% in Victoria and 31.7% in South Australia to 24.0%, 22.9% and 27.1% in New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, respectively). The next most common work setting was community health in all jurisdictions except Queensland, where government departments were the next largest proportion (21.0%). Of the psychologists working in private practice, males comprised a higher proportion in South Australia (40.4%) than in other jurisdictions, while in Victoria, the male proportion was lowest (27.6%). A relatively low proportion of South Australian psychologists in private practice worked part-time (37.5%, compared with around half in other jurisdictions – ranging from 45.5% in New South Wales to 55.2% in Victoria). Also, the proportion of part-time workers overall in South Australia (30.2%) was the lowest of all jurisdictions (tables 11 to 15).

Data for 2000 are available for New South Wales and Queensland, and show that in New South Wales, private practice (24.1%) was also the most common main work setting in 2000, followed by community health (19.6%). However, in Queensland in 2000, the picture was the reverse of 2003, with the highest proportion of psychologists working in government departments (27.2%), followed by private practice (22.8%) (Table A.11).

## Sector

Overall, in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the ratio of public sector to private sector employment was approximately 60:40. However, this pattern differed in Victoria, where under half of psychologists (47.1%) worked in the public sector. In all jurisdictions, psychologists in the public sector were younger, on average, than their private sector colleagues. Age differences between sectors ranged between 1.5 years, on average, in New South Wales and 8.7 years, on average, in the Australian Capital Territory). Males made up a higher proportion in the private sector than in the public sector in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and the largest difference was in Queensland (29.3% public compared with 35.8% private). Conversely, in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, males made up a higher proportion in the public sector, the larger difference being in South Australia (41.3% public and 36.6% private) (tables 11 to 15).

## Hours worked

Psychologists in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia worked the highest average weekly hours (37.7 and 37.6 respectively) (Table 7). This was four hours per week more, on average, than Queensland (33.7 hours), the jurisdiction with the lowest average weekly hours. The highest proportion of employed psychologists working part-time (40.1%) was in Victoria, while the lowest was in South Australia (30.2%). South Australia also had the highest proportion of psychologists working more than 50 hours per week (17.5%), followed closely by the Australian Capital Territory (17.2%) and New South Wales (16.7%).

In each jurisdiction, around half of psychologists worked between 35 and 49 hours per week (ranging from 45.2% in Victoria to 55.1% in Queensland) (Table A.3). In New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, around 1 in 10 psychologists worked less than 20 hours per week, while in Victoria and Queensland the proportions were slightly higher (15.6% and 15.9%, respectively).

**Table 7: Employed psychologists: number and selected features of weekly hours worked, 2003**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	ACT
Number	5,589	4,671	2,535	769	509
Average hours worked per week	36.8	34.9	33.7	37.6	37.7
Proportion working part-time <sup>(a)</sup>	31.6	40.1	35.9	30.2	31.3
Proportion working less than 20 hours per week	11.5	15.6	15.9	9.4	11.4
Proportion working 50 hours or more per week	16.7	14.7	9.0	17.5	17.2

(a) Working less than 35 hours per week.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Within psychology fields, those employed in administration/management worked the highest average weekly hours in all jurisdictions (ranging from 37.6 in Queensland to 45.0 in the Australian Capital Territory), except South Australia where researchers worked more hours per week than administrators (43.1 hours, on average, compared with 41.7) (tables 11 to 15). The hours worked by psychologists also varied depending on their main setting. The highest average weekly hours over all work settings and all jurisdictions surveyed were worked by psychologists in government work settings in the Australian Capital Territory (44.1 hours per week, on average). Correspondingly, this group also had the lowest proportion working part-time (6.4% compared with the state/territory proportions of part-time psychologists which, as noted above, were generally around a third, and up to 40.1% in Victoria) (tables 11 to 15).

Psychologists working in the public sector worked more hours than their private sector colleagues (tables 11 to 15). The difference was largest in the Australian Capital Territory where public sector psychologists worked eight hours per week more, on average, followed by Victoria (5.5 hours more). Again, this was reflected in the part-time work patterns between sectors, with public sector psychologists less likely to be working part-time. In the states surveyed, proportions of part-time workers were similar, ranging between 24.7% and 29.6% in the public sector, and 37.9% to 49.3% in the private sector. In the Territory, the public to private sector difference was more marked, with 18.7% in the public sector and 51.2% in the private sector working part-time.

## Main clients

Four of the surveyed jurisdictions collected data on the main clients treated by clinical psychologists. Although the survey allowed psychologists to nominate more than one client group, data below focus on psychologists who reported one client group only (Table 8). The proportions varied by jurisdiction, with the highest proportions in New South Wales and Victoria (40.4% and 48.7%, respectively), and the lowest proportion in South Australia (14.1%). In all four jurisdictions, adults were the client type most nominated (Table 8).

**Table 8: Employed clinical psychologists who reported one main client group: main client types, 2003**

Main client types <sup>(a)</sup>	NSW	Vic	SA	ACT
Elderly/aged	40	84	11	n.p.
Adult	1,095	1,025	201	95
Adolescent	158	140	7	26
Child	133	107	24	10
Organisations	147	71	n.p.	5
Community groups	9	7	—	—
Families	32	49	7	n.p.
Other	—	10	—	—
<b>Total employed clinical psychologists<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>3,067</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>516</b>

(a) The survey questionnaires did not define the client groups of 'elderly/aged', 'adult', 'adolescent' and 'child'.

(b) Although respondents were able to nominate more than one client type, the table focuses on psychologists who reported just one main client group and, therefore, the total, which includes all respondents, adds to more than the sum of the categories.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

The above data show the picture from the psychologist's perspective, and are for only four jurisdictions. Another source of data on clients is the ABS National Health Survey (ABS 2006), which collected data from the general population and reported from the client's view. This survey collected national data about whether people had consulted a psychologist within a two-week reference period. Results show that, in 2004–05, about 562 people per 100,000 population reported consulting a psychologist. Those in the 25–64 age group had a higher rate of psychologist consultation than those aged under 24 years (638 people per 100,000 population compared with 570) (Table A.9). Between 2001 and 2004–05, the rate of people consulting psychologists increased overall (by 25.8%), but the rate for people aged under 25 years more than doubled (up by 61.9%) while the rate for those aged 25–64 years rose by 5.7%. In 2001, females were more likely to consult a psychologist (478 per 100,000 population compared with 413 for males), but in 2004–05 the rates were about the same (548 and 574 per 100,000 population, respectively).

# Supply of psychologists

Data on the size and characteristics of the psychology workforce present a valuable profile of psychologists, but do not give a picture of the overall level of service they provide. There are several ways of looking at supply. The number of psychologists per 100,000 population (the psychologist rate) enables some comparisons. However, because some psychologists tend to have long working weeks while others work part-time, their relative contributions to the level of service need to be taken into account to effectively measure the overall supply. In order to take into account the variations in psychologists' working hours, the AIHW survey data on the number of employed psychologists and their average hours worked have been used to calculate a 'full-time equivalent' (FTE) number of psychologists (see box). Further, the FTE estimates from AIHW survey data and ABS population figures have been used to present some measures of supply in terms of the FTE rate (FTE per 100,000 population).

A comparison between the psychologist rate and the FTE rate highlights the effect of the average weekly hours worked (Table 9) and the reason FTE is used as a measure of supply. In New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory the average hours worked were greater than the standard week of 35 hours (see box) and this resulted in their FTE rates (88, 54 and 170, respectively) being higher than their psychologist rates (84, 50 and 157, respectively).

For New South Wales and Queensland, 2000 data are available and a comparison with 2003 shows an overall increase in supply in both states. In New South Wales in 2003, the FTE rate (88) was noticeably higher than in 2000 (73), influenced by the sizeable increase in numbers of employed psychologists (21.2%) and the relatively small increase in the population in that state (3.0%). This is despite average hours worked decreasing over the period (tables 9, A.4 and A.6).

In Queensland the FTE rate rose from 49 in 2000 to 64 in 2003, also despite a decline in average hours worked. As in New South Wales, this was because, at the same time, there was a large increase in the number of employed psychologists (33.9%) combined with a comparatively low population growth (6.7%) (tables 9, A.4 and A.6).

Overall in 2003, the FTE rate of clinical psychologists (those working directly with patients/clients) was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (103) and lowest in South Australia (35) (Table 9). The Australian Capital Territory also had the highest FTE rate of non-clinical psychologists (those working in administration, teaching/education, research, etc.) (67) which was nearly double that of Victoria (35), the second highest rate. South Australia had the lowest non-clinician FTE rate, followed closely by Queensland (19 and 20, respectively) (Table 9).

## Full-time equivalent

*The full-time equivalent (FTE) measure of supply is based on the total hours worked by all psychologists, divided by 35 hours (the standard of 35 hours being consistent with the ABS cut-off for part-time work).*

*That is, FTE measures how many 35-hour week workloads are being worked by psychologists. This provides a measure of the supply of psychologists because it takes into account both psychologists working full-time and those working part-time.*

*By defining supply in terms of FTE per 100,000 population (or the FTE rate), meaningful comparisons across geographic areas and over time can be made.*

**Table 9: Employed psychologists, psychologist rate and FTE rate, 2003**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	ACT
<b>Clinical psychologists</b>					
Psychologist rate <sup>(a)</sup>	60	62	47	34	100
FTE rate <sup>(b)</sup>	61	60	44	35	103
Average weekly hours worked	35.7	33.4	33.0	36.5	36.0
<b>Non-clinical psychologists</b>					
Psychologist rate <sup>(a)</sup>	24	33	20	17	58
FTE rate <sup>(b)</sup>	27	35	20	19	67
Average weekly hours worked	39.7	38.0	35.5	39.9	40.9
<b>Total</b>					
Psychologist rate <sup>(a)</sup>	84	95	67	50	157
FTE rate <sup>(b)</sup>	88	95	64	54	170
Average weekly hours worked	36.8	34.9	33.7	37.6	37.7
Population	6,682,053	4,911,425	3,801,039	1,526,301	323,363

(a) Psychologists per 100,000 population.

(b) Full-time equivalent psychologists per 100,000 population.

Sources: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Surveys, 2003; ABS 2003.

The Department of Education, Science and Training maintains administrative data on higher education course completions and these can be indicative of expected numbers moving into the labour market. Data show the number of people completing psychology courses has steadily increased between 1998 and 2004 (Table 10). The number of people completing postgraduate courses in psychology has also increased over the period and, at higher rates from 2002 onwards than prior to 2002. This reflects changes to the regulations on eligibility for registration to practise clinical psychology. Previously, people completing an undergraduate degree in psychology could practise under supervision for two years to gain full registration, but this is being phased out and replaced by set postgraduate level qualifications as the minimum to obtain registration. This may give rise to a longer lag between study completions and psychologists moving into the psychology workforce, until the former eligibility requirements have been completely phased out across Australia.

**Table 10: Australian citizens and permanent residents completing psychology courses: level, sex, age, 1998 to 2004**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>All psychology courses</b>							
Number	2,823	2,850	2,995	3,088	3,393	3,813	4,063
Per cent undergraduate	62.7	64.9	61.9	62.8	63.1	60.0	58.0
Per cent male	21.7	20.9	20.0	19.9	20.2	20.3	20.5
<b>Postgraduate courses</b>							
Number	1,053	1,000	1,141	1,149	1,253	1,527	1,705
Per cent male	23.6	21.4	21.7	20.5	20.7	19.3	21.5
Average age	31.3	32.1	31.9	32.4	32.6	32.6	32.1

Note: Excludes New Zealand citizens with or without permanent residency status in Australia.

Source: Higher Education Student Data (unpublished), Department of Education, Science and Training.

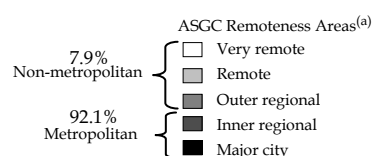


# State and territory profiles

This section uses the AIHW survey data to summarise employment characteristics of those employed as psychologists for each jurisdiction surveyed.

## New South Wales

Population in 2003: 6,682,053



In 2003, employed psychologists in New South Wales were, on average, 45.3 years of age and worked 36.8 hours per week. They were most likely to work in private rooms/consultancy (1,342), followed by community health services (1,108).

This was a change from 2000 when, on average, employed psychologists were younger (44.2 years) and had longer working weeks (37.1 hours) (Table A.11). Between 2000 and 2003 employed psychologist numbers rose by 21.2%.

In 2003, over a third of the State's psychologists (39.2%) earned between \$40,001 and \$60,000 annually and around a quarter (26.7%) earned more than \$60,000 (Table A.7).

### Psychologists in 2003:

Number of employed psychologists: 5,589

Proportion metropolitan-based<sup>(a)</sup>: 97.4%

FTE rate<sup>(b)</sup> of psychologist supply: 88

**Table 11: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, New South Wales, 2003**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	3,996	45.2	28.9	35.7	34.7
Non-clinical psychologist					
Administrator	772	44.1	33.1	41.2	17.0
Teacher/educator	125	50.6	31.1	37.0	32.1
Researcher	251	45.6	27.7	39.2	28.3
Provide professional supervision	64	47.0	32.4	32.9	47.7
Other	381	46.7	27.0	39.0	28.0
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private rooms/consultancy	1,342	48.2	31.4	33.9	45.5
Hospital	463	40.5	24.8	39.0	23.1
Community health services (incl. mental health)	1,108	41.5	28.6	36.8	30.0
Developmental disability service	134	39.6	28.6	35.8	27.6
Tertiary education institution	574	47.8	31.1	37.7	32.6
Government (incl. community services dept, defence and justice)	327	42.4	26.9	38.9	21.3
School	908	49.9	28.0	37.8	25.2
Mining, industrial or commercial	243	40.7	32.8	40.2	23.9
Other	268	42.6	36.6	39.5	16.1
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	3,275	44.6	29.3	38.1	25.3
Private	2,091	46.1	30.1	35.2	40.4
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>5,589</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>31.6</b>

(a) See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary. Proportions of metropolitan/non-metropolitan based on ABS population figures.

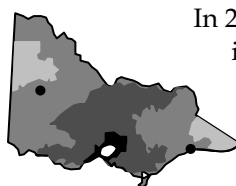
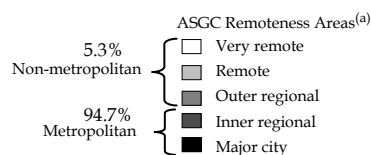
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. See box on page 10.

(c) Total includes 'not stated' to the various characteristics in the table, but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

# Victoria

Population in 2003: 4,911,425



In 2003, the average age of employed psychologists in Victoria was 43.9 years and they worked an average of 34.9 hours per week. Over a third (34.6% or 1,613) worked in private practice/consultancy and, of these, over half (55.2%) worked part-time. Across the work settings, psychologists working in tertiary institutions were the most likely to be male (39.6%) and those in developmental disability services were least likely (9.8%). This compared with 26.3% male in Victoria, overall.

Psychologists working in the private sector (52.9%) were older, on average, than their public sector colleagues (45.6 years compared with 41.9) and worked fewer hours per week on average (32.4 hours compared with 37.9).

## Psychologists in 2003:

Number of employed psychologists: 4,671

Proportion metropolitan-based<sup>(a)</sup>: 98.3%

FTE rate<sup>(b)</sup> of psychologist supply: 95

**Table 12: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, Victoria, 2003**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	3,067	44.3	25.2	33.4	45.7
Non-clinical psychologist					
Administrator	878	42.0	28.4	39.0	25.7
Teacher/educator	258	48.1	26.4	36.0	30.6
Researcher	211	41.9	36.8	38.9	36.2
Provide professional supervision	72	45.8	34.6	32.6	45.4
Other	186	41.6	19.4	37.0	30.6
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private practice/consultancy	1,613	48.0	27.6	30.4	55.2
Hospital	388	39.0	16.8	35.4	36.1
Community health (incl. mental health)	835	39.7	22.5	36.9	31.0
Developmental disability service	104	44.9	9.8	34.1	43.2
Drug/alcohol treatment service	56	41.4	31.5	43.3	9.2
Government (incl. community services dept, defence and justice)	248	42.5	28.1	36.5	33.8
School	585	42.4	20.8	37.6	32.3
Tertiary institution	424	46.5	39.6	40.4	24.9
Mining, industrial, corporate or commercial	274	42.8	37.3	37.0	41.7
Other	134	37.3	29.7	38.2	24.4
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	2,197	41.9	25.6	37.9	29.6
Private	2,465	45.6	27.0	32.4	49.3
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>40.1</b>

(a) See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary. Proportions of metropolitan/non-metropolitan based on ABS population figures.

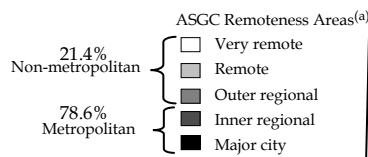
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. See box on page 10.

(c) Total includes 'not stated' to the various characteristics in the table, but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

# Queensland

Population in 2003: 3,801,039



## Psychologists in 2003:

Number of employed psychologists: 2,535  
 Proportion metropolitan-based<sup>(a)</sup>: 86.9%  
 FTE rate<sup>(b)</sup> of psychologist supply: 64

In 2003, employed psychologists in Queensland were, on average, 41.5 years of age and worked 33.7 hours per week.

Most were clinical psychologists (1,793), followed by teacher/educators (247) (Table 13). This was a change from 2000 when employed psychologists, on average, had longer working weeks (34.3 hours). Their average age was unchanged at 41.5 years.

Between 2000 and 2003, the number of employed psychologists grew by 33.9% (Table A.11).

A lower proportion of psychologists working in the public sector were male (29.3%) than their private sector colleagues (35.8%). Public sector workers were also less likely than those in the private sector to work part-time (29.2% compared with 45.9%).

**Table 13: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, Queensland, 2003**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	1,793	41.5	29.6	33.0	38.1
Non-clinical psychologist					
Administrator	147	42.9	34.1	37.6	17.6
Teacher/educator	247	45.0	41.5	35.9	32.6
Researcher	156	38.0	33.0	34.6	33.8
Public health psychologist	25	37.5	30.4	35.7	14.9
Occupational health psychologist	23	36.3	33.6	31.7	50.2
Other	144	39.6	44.4	34.0	36.4
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private rooms/consultancy	581	47.1	37.4	30.2	54.3
Hospital (incl. psychiatric hospital)	192	39.7	28.1	36.5	25.2
Other residential care facility	25	38.1	39.6	28.8	52.0
24-hour or other medical centre	16	40.9	26.1	27.3	71.0
Other non-residential health care facility	348	38.0	30.4	36.4	22.7
Aboriginal health services	5	47.2	—	27.9	50.7
Government (incl. community services dept, justice)	522	39.0	29.3	35.0	26.2
Tertiary education institution	398	41.0	32.8	33.4	37.0
Defence forces	17	43.3	37.9	23.5	65.4
Other	377	41.0	28.2	35.1	33.9
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	1,487	39.6	29.3	34.9	29.2
Private	993	44.3	35.8	32.0	45.9
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>35.9</b>

(a) See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary. Proportions of metropolitan/non-metropolitan based on ABS population figures.

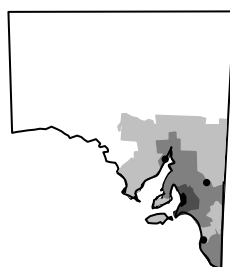
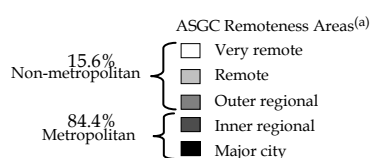
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. See box on page 10.

(c) Total includes 'not stated' to the various characteristics in the table, but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

# South Australia

Population in 2003: 1,526,301



In 2003, employed psychologists in South Australia were, on average, 46.9 years of age and worked 37.6 hours per week. The majority (67.1% or 516) were clinical psychologists, followed by administrators (20.2% or 155).

Across work settings, a third (32.2%) of psychologists worked in private rooms/consultancy, followed by around a fifth (17.2%) in community health. In development disability

services and in industrial, corporate or commercial settings, a quarter of psychologists were male, which was relatively low (24.0% and 25.1% respectively, compared with 39.7% for South Australian psychologists overall).

Psychologists working in the public sector tended to be younger and average longer working weeks than their colleagues in the private sector (45.8 years and 38.2 hours compared with 48.4 years and 36.7 hours) (Table 14).

## Psychologists in 2003:

Number of employed psychologists: 769

Proportion metropolitan-based<sup>(a)</sup>: 96.1%

FTE rate<sup>(b)</sup> of psychologist supply: 54

**Table 14: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, South Australia, 2003**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	516	46.9	36.2	36.5	34.9
Non-clinical psychologist					
Administrator	155	47.5	41.8	41.7	16.9
Teacher/educator	21	52.2	69.6	36.3	39.0
Researcher	21	45.0	58.6	43.1	—
Provide professional supervision/support	5	51.7	n.p.	46.7	—
Other	51	42.7	42.2	34.0	34.1
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private rooms/consultancy	244	50.0	40.4	36.8	37.5
Hospital (incl. psychiatric hospital)	86	42.7	43.0	38.1	28.0
Community health (incl. mental health)	130	45.2	43.0	38.1	25.6
Development disability service	33	45.2	24.0	35.4	25.2
Government (incl. community services dept, defence and justice)	82	44.3	29.1	37.9	21.0
School	66	53.4	35.9	35.9	34.5
Tertiary education institution	52	46.4	50.3	40.6	21.9
Industrial, corporate or commercial	34	38.6	25.1	41.4	25.2
Other	30	44.9	54.1	35.6	35.8
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	446	45.8	41.3	38.2	24.7
Private	311	48.4	36.6	36.7	37.9
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>769</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>30.2</b>

(a) See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary. Proportions of metropolitan/non-metropolitan based on ABS population figures.

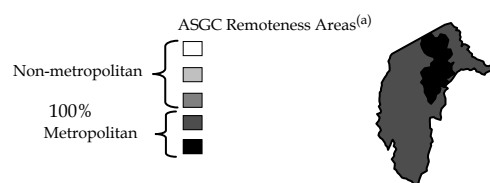
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. See box on page 10.

(c) Total includes 'not stated' to the various characteristics in the table, but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

# Australian Capital Territory

Population in 2003: 323,363



In 2003, employed psychologists in the Australian Capital Territory were, on average, 45.4 years of age, and they worked an average week of 37.7 hours. Almost two-thirds (63.4% or 323) were clinical psychologists.

Psychologists in community health work settings and developmental disability services were less likely to be male than those in other work settings (17.3% and 18.8%, respectively, compared with 28.5% in the Territory overall).

Across sectors, psychologists employed in the private sector were older and more likely to work part-time than those in the public sector (50.5 years and 18.7% part-time, respectively) (Table 15).

## Psychologists in 2003:

Number of employed psychologists: 509

Proportion metropolitan-based<sup>(a)</sup>: 100%

FTE rate<sup>(b)</sup> of psychologist supply: 170

**Table 15: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, Australian Capital Territory, 2003**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	323	47.4	26.2	36.0	37.0
Non-clinical psychologist					
Administrator	102	42.7	28.4	45.0	17.7
Teacher/educator	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Researcher	26	40.4	28.4	38.4	22.8
Provide professional supervision/support	18	54.8	55.2	21.4	58.6
Other	38	33.6	31.6	39.6	14.1
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private rooms/consultancy	138	52.9	29.8	33.6	47.9
Hospital (incl. psychiatric hospital)	33	41.3	29.1	41.0	31.5
Community health (incl. mental health)	98	39.1	17.3	39.1	30.2
Developmental disability service	13	55.1	18.8	38.3	20.3
Government	84	38.1	31.6	44.1	6.4
School	46	52.6	26.2	37.7	28.4
Tertiary education institution	49	43.4	29.9	37.8	27.0
Industrial, corporate or commercial	35	42.9	40.9	31.4	50.0
Other	n.p.	45.0	n.p.	40.0	—
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	299	41.8	28.3	40.9	18.7
Private	200	50.5	27.9	32.9	51.2
<b>Total employed psychologists<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>509</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>31.3</b>

(a) See 'Geographic classification' in the Glossary. Proportions of metropolitan/non-metropolitan based on ABS population figures.

(b) Rate per 100,000 population. See box on page 10.

(c) Total includes 'not stated' to the various characteristics in the table, but percentage calculations exclude 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

# Additional tables

**Table A.1: Employed clinical psychologists: sex, states and territories, 2000 and 2005**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<b>2000</b>									
Males	713	995	563	319	—	98	94	—	<b>2,781</b>
Females	2,271	1,982	1,356	298	288	108	154	24	<b>6,479</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,984</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9,260</b>
<b>2005</b>									
Males	536	1,027	950	187	147	26	46	67	<b>2,985</b>
Females	3,124	3,825	1,190	1,087	1,016	198	397	119	<b>10,954</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,660</b>	<b>4,852</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>13,939</b>

Sources: ABS Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2005.

**Table A.2: Employed psychologists: age distribution, New South Wales and Queensland, 2000**

Age (years)	NSW			Qld		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Less than 30	75	559	<b>634</b>	51	323	<b>374</b>
30 to 39	229	705	<b>934</b>	117	336	<b>453</b>
40 to 49	493	917	<b>1,410</b>	207	361	<b>568</b>
50 to 59	499	821	<b>1,320</b>	164	233	<b>397</b>
60 years or older	138	173	<b>311</b>	53	48	<b>101</b>
<b>Total psychologists</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>1,893</b>
<b>Average age</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>41.5</b>

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2000.

**Table A.3: Employed psychologists: hours worked per week, 2003**

Hours worked per week	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	ACT
Less than 20	621	724	387	72	57
20–34	1,094	1,142	490	160	100
35–49	2,802	2,102	1,344	403	258
50 hours or more	905	684	219	134	86
Hours not stated	166	19	94	..	8
<b>Total psychologists</b>	<b>5,589</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>509</b>
<b>Average weekly hours</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>37.7</b>

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

**Table A.4: Employed psychologists, 2000 and 2003**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	ACT
2000	4,610	..	1,893	..	..
2003	5,589	4,671	2,535	769	509
Change (%)	21.2	..	33.9	..	..

Sources: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2003.

**Table A.5: Registered psychologists: labour force status, 2000**

Labour force status	NSW	Qld
Psychology labour force	4,861	1,915
Working in psychology	4,610	1,893
Not working in psychology	252	22
Not in psychology labour force	382	27
Looking for work status not stated	38	246
Total registered psychologists	5,281	2,189
Multiple registrations, working mainly or only interstate	168	75
<b>Total registrations</b>	<b>5,449</b>	<b>2,264</b>

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2000.

**Table A.6: Employed psychologists: rate, FTE rate and selected features of weekly hours worked, 2000**

	NSW	Qld
Psychologist rate <sup>(a)</sup>	69	50
FTE rate <sup>(b)</sup>	73	49
Average weekly hours	37.1	34.3
Proportion working part-time <sup>(c)</sup>	30.0	33.9
Proportion working 50 hours or more per week	18.0	8.9
Population	6,486,213	3,561,537

(a) Psychologists per 100,000 population.

(b) FTE per 100,000 population.

(c) Working less than 35 hours per week.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2000.

**Table A.7: Employed psychologists: annual income in main job by employment sector, proportion part-time, New South Wales, 2003**

Sector	Less than \$20,000	\$20,001–\$40,000	\$40,001–\$60,000	\$60,001–\$80,000	\$80,001–\$100,000	More than \$100,000	Not stated	Total	% part-time
Public	181	461	1,472	841	100	44	176	3,275	25.3
Private	306	440	475	298	135	188	248	2,091	40.4
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>514</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>5,589</b>	<b>31.6</b>

(a) Includes not stated to sector.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

**Table A.8: Employed psychologists: areas of psychology practice in main job, 2003**

Area of psychology practice <sup>(a) (b)</sup>	NSW	Vic	Qld <sup>(c)</sup>	SA	ACT
Clinical	2,112	1,884	851	477	253
Counselling	2,815	2,564	566	262	246
Educational and developmental	1,459	1,242	188	200	83
Organisational	820	717	266	128	109
Health	565	498	88	112	63
Community	451	316	135	45	44
Forensic	391	339	108	89	40
Research	388	438	n.a.	48	38
Teaching	283	421	n.a.	57	28
Neuropsychology	254	210	68	45	25
Sports	45	38	18	12	15
Academic psychology	n.a.	n.a.	191	n.a.	n.a.
Other	32	36	54	13	n.a.
<b>Total psychologists<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>5,589</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>509</b>

(a) Figures may add to more than the total because psychologists could nominate more than one area.

(b) The clinical areas listed here are not consistent with the definition of 'clinical psychologist', which is based on hours worked mainly in direct patient care.

(c) Unlike other states/ the ACT where more than one area could be nominated, only one area could be selected in the Queensland survey and therefore comparisons between Queensland and other jurisdictions cannot be made.

(d) Total includes 'not stated'.

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.

**Table A.9: Persons consulting a psychologist in the two-week reference period<sup>(a)</sup>: age and sex, 2001 and 2004–05**

	Client age (years)			Client sex		
	0–24	25–64	65+	Males	Females	Total
<b>2001</b>						
Number	23,400	62,400	**900	39,800	46,800	86,700
Rate per 100,000	352	604	37	413	478	447
<b>2004–05</b>						
Number	38,600	69,000	*5,900	57,700	55,700	113,500
Rate per 100,000	570	638	224	574	548	562
% rate change between 2001 and 2004–05	61.9	5.7	**506.2	38.9	14.6	25.8

(a) Reference period was the two weeks before the survey interview.

\* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should therefore be used with caution.

\*\*Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Sources: Unpublished data from the ABS National Health Survey 2001 and 2004–05; ABS population 2003.

**Table A.10: Psychology Labour Force Survey: estimated response rate, 2003**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2003 response rate	76.1	29.5	88.4	..	45.1	..	39.2	..	55.7

Source: Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2003.



**Table A.11: Employed psychologists: summary characteristics, New South Wales and Queensland, 2000**

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours	% part-time
<b>New South Wales</b>					
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	3,571	43.9	29.4	35.7	32.4
Administration / management	570	45.3	38.0	41.2	18.8
Teaching psychology	123	48.4	44.6	37.0	28.6
Psychology research	202	42.5	32.9	39.2	23.9
Provide professional supervision	38	48.5	24.2	32.9	30.5
Other	106	44.5	35.0	39.0	23.7
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private practice/consultancy	1,090	47.0	35.1	34.4	46.3
Hospital	407	39.6	23.3	37.7	27.3
Community health (incl. mental health)	887	40.1	30.2	37.0	26.2
Developmental disability service	91	38.3	34.8	36.7	20.1
Government	357	41.4	31.4	38.6	21.5
School	785	48.9	27.8	36.9	27.1
Tertiary education institution	515	47.1	36.9	39.1	25.7
Mining, industrial or commercial	156	38.1	29.8	44.5	13.9
Other	238	41.3	28.4	39.1	15.9
Not stated	82	49.3	27.5	31.1	55.2
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	2,896	43.5	30.5	37.9	23.9
Private	1,632	45.1	32.3	35.8	40.2
<b>Total employed psychologists</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>30.0</b>
<b>Queensland</b>					
<b>Field of psychology</b>					
Clinical psychologist	1,366	41.4	29.6	33.6	36.6
Administrator	91	42.7	44.5	37.4	24.8
Teacher/educator	168	45.2	35.4	37.9	24.5
Researcher	89	37.0	25.2	34.8	28.9
Public health psychologist	22	39.0	21.9	35.9	12.6
Occupational health psychologist	144	40.2	40.3	34.4	31.6
Other	13	38.3	19.8	35.1	33.3
<b>Principal work setting</b>					
Private rooms/surgery	418	47.5	39.2	30.8	53.0
Hospital	131	38.2	21.0	35.1	27.6
Other residential health care facility	24	39.1	40.8	33.8	26.9
24-hour or other medical centre	6	37.0	20.2	26.2	80.4
Other non-residential health care facility	264	37.2	26.9	35.9	24.8
Aboriginal health services	3	46.9	50.4	38.5	0.0
Government department or agency	500	38.9	29.7	36.0	22.9
Tertiary educational institution	273	42.8	32.0	36.2	27.8
Defence forces	13	42.4	61.8	36.8	29.7
Other	202	41.1	28.0	32.3	46.5
Not stated	58	43.1	28.6	31.9	40.4
<b>Sector of main job</b>					
Public	1,170	39.5	28.3	36.1	24.1
Private	665	44.8	36.7	31.1	51.4
<b>Total employed psychologists</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>33.9</b>

Source: AIHW Psychology Labour Force Survey, 2000.

# Explanatory notes

## Method and collection timing

The AIHW labour force data in this publication were obtained from the Labour Force Surveys conducted by the psychologists registration boards in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. A survey questionnaire was sent to all psychologists in those jurisdictions in conjunction with the registration renewal process. Returned questionnaires were sent to the respective health authorities which then forwarded a computer file of the survey data to the AIHW for analysis. The survey timing depended on the licence renewal procedure operating in each jurisdiction that conducted the survey.

## Scope and coverage

The scope of the Psychology Labour Force Survey was intended to be all psychologists registered with the psychologists board or psychology council in each state/territory, and eligible to practise, but the survey was conducted in five jurisdictions only (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory). Coverage may exclude psychologists who registered for the first time during 2003. These psychologists may not be required to renew their registration at the standard renewal date if the initial registration in that state or territory had occurred during the preceding 12 months. The number of registered psychologists in these jurisdictions comprised around 86% of psychologists registered nationally (Table 1).

## Response rate

The overall response rate can only be estimated. It is calculated using the number of questionnaires used to compile the data divided by the number of registrations. Some psychologists were registered in more than one jurisdiction but may have completed a questionnaire in just one state or territory, resulting in a possible undercount. It is not known how often this occurred, because it is not possible to match survey records between states and territories. Response was quite varied across the surveyed jurisdictions and very low in the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. The overall rate was 55.7% (Table A.10).

## Notes on the AIHW labour force estimates

The figures produced from the Psychology Labour Force Survey are estimates only. Not all psychologists who were sent a questionnaire responded to the survey. Estimates of the whole psychology population are based on survey data from renewals that were weighted to match the available registration data. In 2003, total registrations by age and sex were available for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. For the Australian Capital Territory weights were based on the total registration number.

Additional estimation was made for respondents for whom age, sex and labour force status were not known. In Queensland, the registration file was incomplete for sex, with 38% of registrations missing this data. Where registration data were not available, it was assumed in the estimation that survey non-respondents had the same characteristics as respondents. This process may overestimate psychologist numbers in the labour force in each state/territory if non-respondents are more likely to be those with multiple registration or those not in the psychology labour force. This survey error is likely to be greater in the Australian Capital Territory, where it is probable that a higher proportion of psychologists register in other jurisdictions, and a lower proportion of psychologists practise solely in the Territory.

# Glossary of AIHW survey terms

## Employed psychologist

A psychologist who reported working in psychology in the four weeks prior to completing the survey. Psychologists registered in more than one state/territory were assigned to the jurisdiction in which they mainly worked (that is, worked the most hours). Registered psychologists 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 psychology labour force (see below). However, in all cross-classified tables for employed psychologists, those on extended leave have not been included.

## Field of psychology

A description of the job function of the psychology work undertaken, as self-reported by the AIHW survey respondents. The fields are:

*Clinical psychology:* The survey forms did not define clinical psychology. However, it can be regarded as the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of psychological problems and mental illness by a registered psychologist. Clinical psychology mainly involves the care and treatment of patients, but includes prevention and mental health promotion programs.

The AIHW questionnaires in some states and territories, but not all, indicated that this work involved direct patient care, but no other guidance was provided to respondents. Those who self-reported spending most work hours as a clinical psychologist were classified as being in the clinical field of psychology. It should be noted, however, that the term 'clinical psychologist' is defined by the Australian Psychological Society College of Clinical Psychologists (CCP) as psychologists with a minimum of six years university training, including approved postgraduate clinical studies and placements in psychiatric settings. To become a full member of the APS CCP requires two years of further approved supervision in the clinical field.

*Non-clinical psychology:*

- Administration/management
- Teaching/education
- Research
- Other (a job function in psychology that is not one of the above).

## Geographic classification

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) and the Remoteness Area Structure within it, produced by the (ABS), has been used in this publication to present regional data. ASGC is based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), where the remoteness index value of a point is based on the physical road distance to the nearest town or service in each of five population size classes based on the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. These classes are:

- Major cities of Australia
  - Inner regional Australia
  - Outer regional Australia
  - Remote Australia
- } Described as 'metropolitan' in this report
- } Described as 'non-metropolitan' in this report

- Very remote Australia.

### **Hours worked**

The total number of weekly hours worked is self-reported by psychologists and relates to the number of hours worked in all psychology-related jobs. In the 2003 survey, hours related to the week prior to the survey, whereas earlier surveys referred to hours 'usually' worked. Hours worked exclude time spent on travel between work locations (except to call-outs) and unpaid professional and/or voluntary activities. In editing survey responses, maximum hours worked were 99 hours per week in any one job. In this publication 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.

### **Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas**

See 'Geographic classification' above.

### **Principal area of psychology**

A psychology specialty or activity in which a person with psychology qualifications practises.

### **Psychologist**

A psychologist who is on the register maintained by the state or territory psychologists board or council to practise psychology in that state or territory. The requirements for registration differ slightly in each State or Territory. The minimum educational requirement of a registered psychologist is either:

- a four-year degree in a course approved by the appropriate state/territory registration board plus two years of supervised training; or
- a four-year degree plus a two-year full-time masters degree accredited by the Australian Psychological Society.

### **Psychology labour force**

The psychology labour force includes registered psychologists currently employed in psychology and those who are not employed in psychology but are looking for work in psychology.

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