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Most importantly, we also thank the podiatrists who took the time to complete the survey. Without their cooperation, it would not have been possible to compile the data, which are used to inform the community about the podiatry profession.

Symbols and notes

Throughout this publication, data from the AIHW surveys may not add to the totals shown because of the estimation process used for non-responses (see 'Explanatory notes'). As a result of this process, numbers of podiatrists 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 because of 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

- In 2003 there were 2,361 podiatrists registered with the state/territory podiatrists boards (excluding the Northern Territory for which registration figures were not available).
- This was an overall increase of 15.3% between 1999 and 2003.
- Across the six states and the Australian Capital Territory, there were increases in the number of registrations over the period 1999 to 2003 in all except Tasmania (down by 13.2%). The increases ranged from 34.3% in New South Wales to 2.1% in Victoria.
- A survey of 1,988 registered podiatrists across five states (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania) was conducted in 2003 and AIHW analysis showed that most of these registered podiatrists (1,820) were employed in the profession (the podiatry workforce), ranging from 97.0% in South Australia to 88.9% in Victoria.
- By comparison, for the same five states, ABS employed podiatrist figures from the Census in 2001 and from the Labour Force Survey in 2005 were 1,554 and 1,423, respectively. National figures of employed podiatrists from the ABS were 1,767 podiatrists reported in the 2001 Census and an estimated 2,071 podiatrists in the Labour Force Survey in 2005.
- Of the 1,820 employed podiatrists in the five states surveyed, 1,755 (96.4%) reported that they were clinical podiatrists (i.e. were involved in the diagnosis, care or treatment of patients or clients).
- Also from the 2003 survey, the AIHW estimated the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) podiatrists per 100,000 population for each state to be: New South Wales, 9.3; Victoria, 14.5; Queensland, 7.7; South Australia, 19.7; and Tasmania, 13.2.
- Other information from the five states surveyed in 2003 includes:
 - the average age of working podiatrists was highest in Tasmania (39.8 years) and lowest in Queensland (37.8 years).
 - less than half of working podiatrists were male, with proportions ranging from 30.2% in Victoria to 42.3% in South Australia).
 - average weekly hours worked by podiatrists ranged between 37.4 in New South Wales and 41.7 in Tasmania.
 - the proportion of podiatrists working 50 hours or more per week was around one in five, ranging from 18.2% in South Australia to 22.4% in Victoria.
 - the lowest proportion of podiatrists working part time was in Tasmania (18.8%) and the remaining states ranged between 29.1% in Queensland and 37.7% in South Australia.

The podiatrist population

Introduction

Podiatrists

Podiatrists, also known as chiropodists, are primary health care professionals who assess, diagnose and treat disorders of the lower leg and foot that have resulted from developmental abnormalities, disease or injury. They also educate and promote health issues related to the prevention of such conditions. The majority of work involves older patients who develop difficulties with mobility because of injury, structural problems or the effects of systemic diseases. Overuse injuries and sports injuries and children's developmental disorders are also treated (APC 2006).

Data in this report

In the main, data in this report have been compiled from surveys of podiatrists conducted in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania in 1999 and 2003. Information from administrative records of the state and territory podiatry registration boards has been used to estimate podiatrist population figures from the survey data (see 'Explanatory notes') and to provide some overall figures for jurisdictions which did not conduct the survey of podiatrists. In order to provide a broad-level, national dimension to the AIHW podiatry labour force data, also included in this report are the following data from the ABS collections from the general population: the National Health Survey, the Labour Force Survey and the Census of Population and Housing. Higher education administrative data from DEST are also included to show course completions in podiatry.

Size and composition of the podiatry labour force

Podiatrists registration board data

Administrative data from the podiatrist registration boards have been provided by each state and the Australian Capital Territory (data for the Northern Territory are not available). In 2003 there were 2,361 podiatrist registrations in total (excluding the Northern Territory), a rise of 15.3% from 2,048 in 1999. Figures by jurisdiction show an increase in the number of registrations over the period 1999 to 2003 in all except Tasmania (down by 13.2%) (Table 1). The increases ranged from 34.3% in New South Wales to 2.1% in Victoria.

Table 1: Podiatrist registrations, states and territories, 1999 and 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Total
1999	496	720	258	212	255	68	39	n.a.	2,048
2003	666	735	313	251	291	59	46	n.a.	2,361
Change between 1999 and 2003 (%)	34.3	2.1	21.3	18.4	14.1	-13.2	17.9	n.a.	15.3

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

Note: Western Australia figures are at 31 December of the reference year, Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania figures are at June of the reference year and remaining states are at the time of the survey.

Sources: State and territory podiatrist registration boards.

Estimates from the AIHW survey of podiatrists and ABS data

The AIHW survey targets podiatrists via registration administrative records, and when podiatrists register in more than one jurisdiction, they receive more than one survey questionnaire. Survey data are used to identify podiatrists with multiple registrations, and after accounting for these, the survey data are weighted to match the available registration data (see 'Explanatory notes'). Excluding multiple registrations, the number of registered podiatrists in the states that participated in the 2003 survey totalled 1,988 (Table 2).

The AIHW survey showed that most registered podiatrists were employed in the profession (the podiatry workforce), ranging from 97.0% in South Australia to 88.9% in Victoria (Table 2). In 2003, employed podiatrists numbered 1,820 across the five AIHW surveyed states and clinical¹ podiatrists numbered 1,755 (Table 2).

For the same states, the ABS Census reported 1,554 employed podiatrists in 2001 and the ABS Labour Force Survey estimated 1,423 employed podiatrists in 2005. The national figure reported from the 2001 ABS Census was 1,767 employed podiatrists and in 2005, the ABS national estimate from the Labour Force survey was 2,071 employed podiatrists (tables 4 and A.2).

The AIHW survey found that nearly all employed podiatrists were practising in clinical podiatry, with those employed in non-clinical fields¹ ranging from 3.0% in New South Wales to 5.9% in Tasmania (Table 2). Few podiatrists were looking for work in podiatry.

Comparisons with ABS Labour Force Survey data and 2001 Census data

In the absence of national AIHW survey data, the ABS Labour Force Survey data can add a broad-level, national view, as well as provide more recent occupation data, to supplement the AIHW figures for employed podiatrists. However, differences between the AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey and the ABS Labour Force Survey prevent comparisons between the two below the national level.

The ABS Labour Force Survey is a sample survey of households and when analysis of state-level estimates was undertaken, the small numbers of podiatrists in the general population resulted in high sample errors on the ABS figures. Estimates of podiatrist numbers, particularly in the smaller jurisdictions, had relative standard errors greater than 50% and were considered too unreliable for general use.

For this reason, ABS Labour Force Survey data have been used to provide a recent national view, and the ABS 2001 Census data have been used for state comparisons.

Table 2: Registered podiatrists: labour force status, 2003

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	Total
Podiatry labour force	583	655	279	284	53	1,854
<i>Working in podiatry</i>	580	636	273	278	53	1,820
Clinical podiatrist	563	610	264	268	50	1,755
Non-clinical podiatrist	17	26	9	10	n.p.	65
<i>Not working in podiatry</i>	n.p.	19	n.p.	6	n.p.	33
On extended leave	—	17	n.p.	6	—	27
Looking for work in podiatry	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	—	—	6
Not in podiatry labour force	46	61	22	n.p.	n.p.	134
Overseas	n.p.	10	7	n.p.	n.p.	22
Not looking for work in podiatry	44	50	15	n.p.	n.p.	112
<i>Total registered podiatrists</i>	629	716	301	286	56	1,988
Multiple registrations	37	19	12	5	n.p.	76
Total registrations^(a)	666	735	313	291	59	2,064

(a) Excludes Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

¹ Clinical podiatrists work in direct patient care; non-clinical podiatrists work in podiatry-related jobs such as administration, education and research.

Employed podiatrists

Workforce size

The AIHW data showed there were 1,820 employed podiatrists in 2003 in the surveyed states, a rise of 12.5% from 1,618 in 1999. Across the states between 1999 and 2003, employed podiatrist numbers rose in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia (by 37.0%, 24.1% and 13.4%, respectively) and decreased in Victoria and Tasmania (by 4.2% and 18.2%, respectively) (Table 3).

Table 3: Employed podiatrists, 1999 and 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	Total
1999	424	665	220	245	65	1,618
2003	580	636	273	278	53	1,820
Per cent change	37.0	-4.2	24.1	13.4	-18.2	12.5

Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003.

In between the two AIHW survey years, the ABS 2001 Census reported 1,767 employed podiatrists across all jurisdictions and a total of 1,554 for the five surveyed states (Table 4).

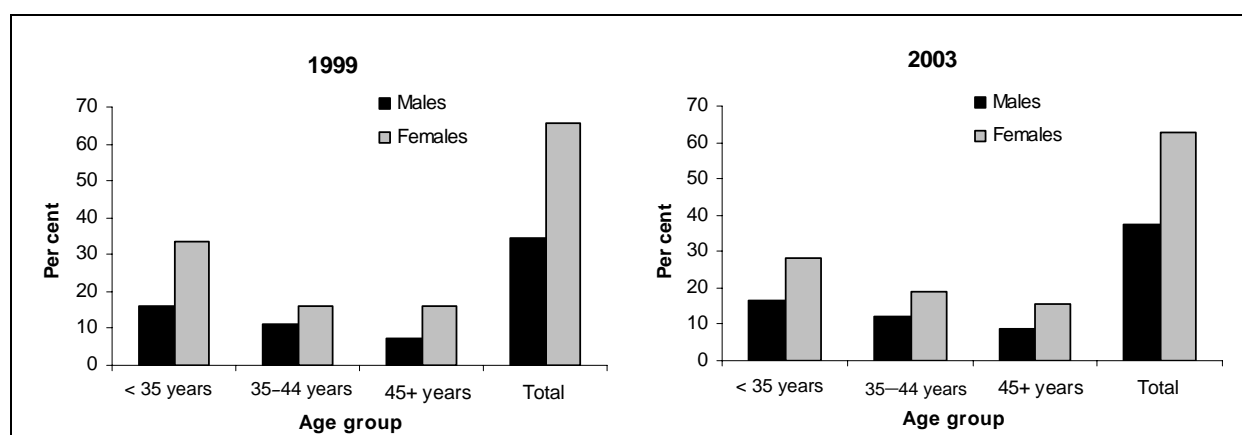
Table 4: Employed podiatrists, states and territories, 2001

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2001 Census	486	554	249	185	218	47	35	3	1,767

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2001

Demographic characteristics

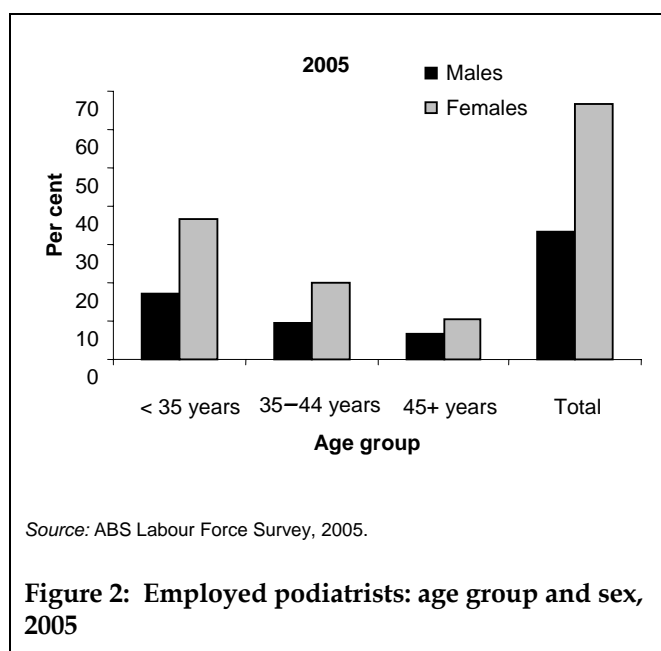
Between 1999 and 2003, AIHW data showed that, overall, in the surveyed states the podiatrist workforce aged slightly, with the proportion aged under 35 years decreasing (from 49.7% to 44.7%) and the proportion aged 35–44 years rising (from 27.1% to 30.9%). The proportion of podiatrists aged 45 years and older remained stable (proportions were 23.2% in 1999 and 24.3% in 2003) (Figure 1).



Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003.

Figure 1: Employed podiatrists: age group and sex, selected states, 1999 and 2003

At the same time, the proportion of male podiatrists rose (from 34.3% to 37.4%).



In 2005, the ABS Labour Force Survey estimated the overall male proportion of employed podiatrists to be 33.1% (Figure 2).

The distribution across age groups from the ABS survey showed a younger podiatrist workforce overall than the AIHW surveys. The ABS estimated that over half (53.6%) of podiatrists were aged under 35 years. For podiatrists aged 35-44 years, the ABS estimated the proportion to be 29.6%, and for those aged 45 years and older, 16.8% (Figure 2).

Employment characteristics in 2003

This section presents AIHW survey data on employment characteristics of podiatrists across the surveyed states in 2003. Employment characteristics broadly cover aspects of podiatry field, principal work setting, employment sector and hours worked.

Field of podiatry

Podiatrists can work in clinical podiatry (directly with patients/clients) or non-clinical podiatry (administration, teaching/education, research, other). Across the states in the 2003 AIHW survey, the majority of podiatrists working in the profession were in clinical podiatry. Proportions of non-clinical podiatrists were small (3.1% overall), as were the numbers (65 in total) and do not support further disaggregation (Table 2).

Principal work setting

The type of service or centre in which podiatrists work is termed their 'work setting'. In all the surveyed states, most worked in their own group/private practice, comprising around three-quarters of podiatrists in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania (77.2%, 76.7% and 75.8%, respectively) and just over half of those in Victoria and South Australia (57.3% in both states). Hospitals were the next most common work setting in New South Wales (8.5%) and Tasmania (15.1%), whereas in Victoria and Queensland it was community health (22.0% and 9.2%, respectively). Of the podiatrists working in their own group/private practices, males constituted a higher proportion in New South Wales (44.3%) and South Australia (43.6%) than in Victoria (36.1%), Queensland (40.1%), and Tasmania (40.0%) (tables 8 to 12).

Sector

In New South Wales and Queensland, the proportions of podiatrists in private sector employment were similar to each other (84.7% and 81.5%, respectively). In Victoria and South Australia the private sector proportions were lower, but also similar to each other (64.2% and 65.2% private sector, respectively). In Tasmania the proportion was 75.8% in the private sector. Podiatrists in the private sector were older, on average, than their public sector colleagues except in Tasmania, where public sector podiatrists were 6.5 years, on average, older than their private sector colleagues. In the other states the age differences between sectors ranged between 1.8 years, on average, in New South Wales and 5.3 years, on average, in Victoria (tables 8 to 12).

Hours worked

This section presents total weekly hours (i.e. 'paid' plus 'unpaid' hours) worked by podiatrists in 2003, in the surveyed states (see box).

Podiatrists in Tasmania worked the highest total average weekly hours (41.7), followed by those in Victoria and South Australia (39.3 and 38.0, respectively) (Table 5). Podiatrists with the lowest average weekly hours worked in New South Wales and Queensland (37.4 and 37.7, respectively).

The highest proportion of employed podiatrists working part time was in South Australia (37.7%) and the lowest was in Tasmania (18.8%). The proportions of podiatrists working 50 hours or more per week were similar across the states, at around one in five (Table 5).

The highest proportions of podiatrists worked between 35 and 49 hours per week, ranging from 44.1% in South Australia to 59.4% in Tasmania (Table A.5). In New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia, around one in ten podiatrists worked less than 20 hours per week; in Victoria the proportion was higher, and in Tasmania it was lower (14.3% and 6.3%, respectively) (Table 5).

Comparability of data on 'weekly hours worked'

In the 2003 AIHW survey, 'weekly hours worked' by podiatrists in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania were collected differently from the method used for the 1999 surveys in those states. In changing their method in 2003, the three states were consistent with New South Wales and Queensland in 2003. This enables comparisons across states with 2003 data, but comparisons across states for 1999 data are not possible.

For this reason, 'weekly hours worked' data are presented in two different ways in this publication:

- 1. In this section, 2003 data show 'total weekly hours worked' (that is, 'paid' plus 'unpaid' hours) to enable comparisons across states.*
- 2. In the state profiles which follow (Tables 8 to 12), 'paid hours' only have been used, to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for each state.*

Note: This also affects the comparability over time of estimates of supply (see box on page 7).

Table 5: Employed podiatrists: number and selected features of total weekly hours worked^(a), 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
Number	580	636	273	278	53
Average hours worked per week	37.4	39.3	37.7	38.0	41.7
Proportion working part-time ^(b)	33.8	30.3	29.1	37.7	18.8
Proportion working less than 20 hours per week	11.4	14.3	11.3	10.4	6.3
Proportion working 50 hours or more per week	20.0	22.4	20.8	18.2	21.9

(a) Based on total hours ('paid' plus 'unpaid'). See box on this page.

(b) Working less than 35 hours per week.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Main clients

Four of the surveyed jurisdictions collected data on the age group of clients mainly treated by clinical podiatrists. In Victoria and South Australia, the most reported client group was 65 years and older (49.7% and 47.0%, respectively), whereas in Queensland and Tasmania the category of mixed age groups was most commonly reported (58.6% and 56.2%, respectively) (Table 6).

Table 6: Employed clinical podiatrists by age group of main clients, 2003

Client age group	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
Paediatric (0–12 years)	n.p.	4	n.p.	—
Adolescent (13–18 years)	16	n.p.	n.p.	—
Adult (19–64 years)	157	33	49	5
Aged (65+ years)	296	68	124	17
Mixed age groups	123	153	88	28
Not stated	16	4	4	—
Total employed clinical podiatrists	610	264	268	50

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Another source of data on clients is the ABS National Health Survey (ABS 2002, 2006), which collected data from the general population and shows the picture from the client's perspective. The National Health Survey provides national data about reported podiatrist consultations within a 2-week reference period.

Results estimate that, in 2004–05, 178,000 people reported podiatrist consultations, compared with the 2001 figure of 170,700 (Table 7). People aged 65 years and older reported podiatrist consultations at the highest rate of all groups (3,637 people per 100,000 population), a rate that was six times higher than people in the 25–64 years group (614 people per 100,000 population). In 2004–05, females were more likely to report podiatrist consultations than males (1,134 per 100,000 population compared with 625 for males) (Table 7).

Table 7: Persons consulting a podiatrist in the 2-week reference period^(a): age and sex, 2001 and 2004–05

	Client age (years)			Client sex		
	0–24	25–64	65+	Males	Females	Total
2001						
Number	*12,400	68,200	90,000	42,500	128,200	170,700
Rate per 100,000 population	187	660	3,695	441	1,310	879
2004–05						
Number	*15,800	66,400	95,800	62,800	115,200	178,000
Rate per 100,000 population	234	614	3,637	625	1,134	881

(a) Reference period was the 2 weeks before the survey week.

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

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

Supply of podiatrists

Data on the size and characteristics of the podiatry workforce present a valuable profile of podiatrists, but do not give a picture of the overall level of service they provide. The number of podiatrists per 100,000 population (the podiatrist rate) enables some comparisons. However, because some podiatrists tend to have long working weeks and others work part time, their relative contributions to the level of service need to be taken into account to effectively measure the overall supply. To do this, the AIHW data on the number of employed podiatrists and their average hours worked have been used to calculate a 'full-time equivalent' (FTE) number of podiatrists (see box). Also, the FTE estimates from AIHW survey data and the ABS population figures have been used to show some measures of supply in terms of the FTE rate (FTE per 100,000 population).

A comparison between the podiatrist rate and the FTE rate highlights the effect of average weekly hours worked (Figure 3) and the reason FTE is used as a supply measure. In all the surveyed states, the average hours worked were greater than the standard week of 35 hours (see box) and this resulted in their FTE rates being higher than their podiatrist rates (Table 5 and Figure 3).

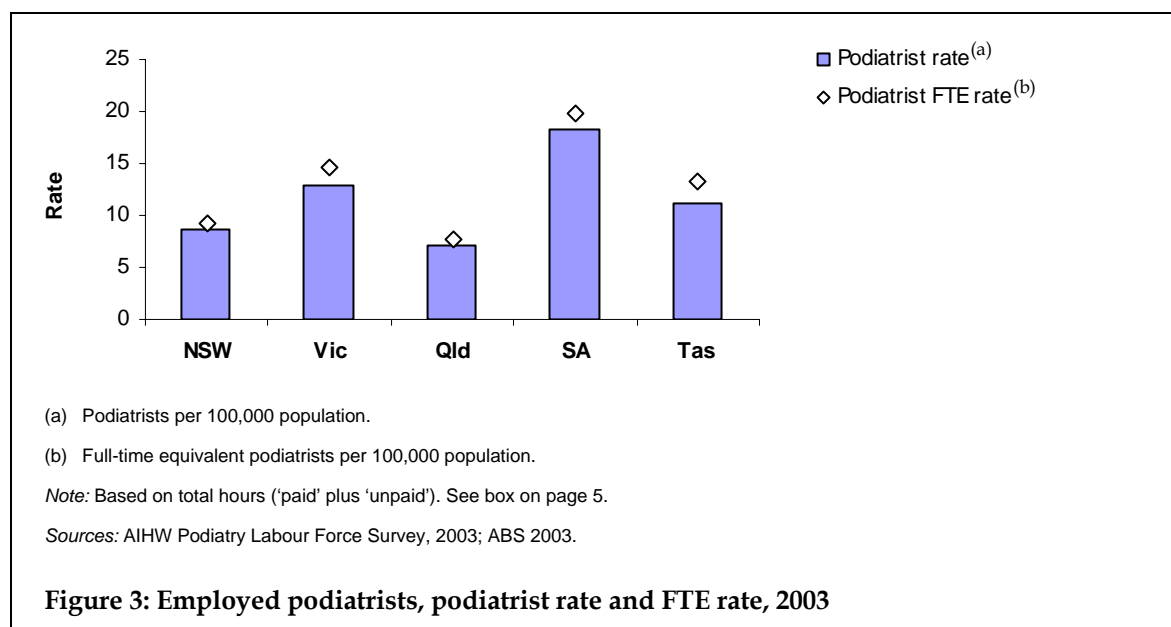
Overall in 2003, the podiatrist FTE rate was highest in South Australia – more than double that of Queensland which was the lowest (Figure 3).

Full-time equivalent

The full-time equivalent (FTE) measure of supply is based on the total hours worked by all podiatrists, 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 podiatrists. This provides a measure of the supply of podiatrists because it takes into account both podiatrists working full time and those working part time.

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



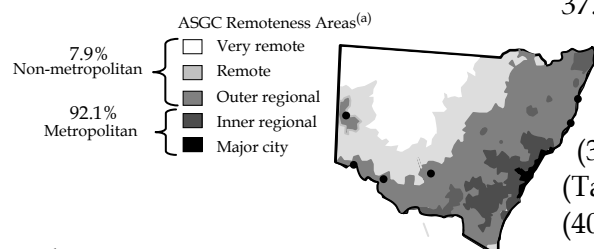
The DEST administrative data on higher education course completions can be indicative of expected numbers of qualified people moving into the labour market. Over the 1998 to 2001 period, data show the number of podiatry course completions varied between 106 and 145.

State profiles

This section uses the AIHW survey data to summarise employment characteristics for each jurisdiction surveyed.

New South Wales

Population in 2003: 6,682,053



Podiatrists in 2003:

number of employed podiatrists: 580
 proportion metropolitan-based^(a): 97.0%
 FTE rate^(b) of podiatrist supply^(c): 9.3

In 2003, employed podiatrists in New South Wales were, on average, 38.7 years of age and worked 37.4 hours per week^(c). They were most likely to work in their own/group practice (441), followed by hospitals (48). This was a change from 1999 when, on average, employed podiatrists were younger (38.2 years) and worked fewer weekly hours^(c) (36.0) (Table A.10). The male proportion was similar in 1999 (40.2%) and 2003 (40.7%), whereas the overall proportion of part-time podiatrists decreased (36.4% in 1999 and 33.8% in 2003) (tables 8 and A.10).

Between 1999 and 2003 employed podiatrist numbers rose by 37.0%, and podiatrist supply^(c) rose from 6.8 to 9.3 FTE per 100,000 population (tables 3 and A.7).

Table 8: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, New South Wales, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours ^(c)	% part time ^(c)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	563	38.8	40.9	37.2	34.6
Non-clinical podiatrist	17	35.3	34.6	43.6	8.0
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	441	38.5	44.3	38.8	30.7
Hospital	48	34.7	41.1	37.9	25.7
Aged care facility	15	45.3	8.3	27.6	55.8
Community health service	16	33.6	7.1	29.5	62.4
Domiciliary care service	30	47.7	21.6	24.6	71.7
Tertiary education institution	9	37.3	42.0	42.6	14.7
Government (including defence)	6	36.7	39.2	45.2	—
Other	6	32.8	79.8	45.9	—
Not stated	9	47.6	12.8	18.5	100.0
Sector of main job					
Private	484	38.9	42.8	37.9	32.7
Public	87	37.1	32.1	35.6	35.7
Not stated	9	47.6	12.8	18.5	100.0
Region of main job^(a)					
Metropolitan	548	38.4	41.8	38.0	32.2
Non-metropolitan	17	46.8	27.8	28.2	57.2
Not stated	16	40.7	14.5	23.6	71.1
Total employed podiatrists	580	38.7	40.7	37.4	33.8

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

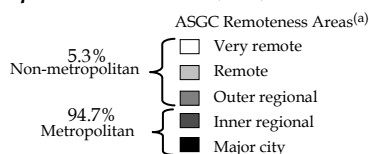
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. ABS population data have been used to calculate rates of supply. See box on page 7 for more detail on FTE.

(c) Based on total hours ('paid' plus 'unpaid'). See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Victoria

Population in 2003: 4,911,425



Podiatrists in 2003:

number of employed podiatrists: 636
proportion metropolitan-based^(a): 94.4%
FTE rate^(b) of podiatrist supply^(c): 13.0

In 2003, employed podiatrists in Victoria were, on average, 38.3 years of age and worked an average of 35.2 paid hours per week^(c). Over half (57.3% or 360) worked in their own/group practice and, of these, 40.1% worked part time (Table 9).

This was a change from 1999 when, on average, employed podiatrists were younger (37.9 years) and had longer working weeks (36.1 paid hours) (Table A.11). The proportion of male podiatrists was lower in 1999 (28.0%) than in 2003 (30.2%), and the overall proportion of part-time podiatrists rose (34.3% in 1999 and 37.3% in 2003) (tables 9 and A.11).

Between 1999 and 2003 employed podiatrist numbers decreased by 4.2%, and podiatrist supply (based on paid hours)^(c) also decreased (from 14.6 to 13.0 FTE per 100,000 population) (tables 3 and A.9).

Table 9: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Victoria, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(c)	% part time ^(c)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	610	38.4	30.6	35.0	37.9
Non-clinical podiatrist	26	36.6	20.0	39.2	21.4
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	360	39.7	36.1	35.2	40.1
Hospital	62	34.3	19.5	37.4	25.0
Aged care facility	26	48.3	6.7	24.8	60.0
Community health service	138	32.4	30.0	37.6	28.8
Domiciliary care service	21	51.1	16.7	20.3	72.8
Tertiary education institution	7	40.7	25.0	46.5	25.0
Government (including defence)	—	—	—	—	—
Other	14	29.4	—	37.6	12.5
Not stated	9	57.6	20.0	8.0	100.0
Sector of main job					
Private	403	40.0	33.5	34.5	40.1
Public	225	34.7	24.6	36.5	31.8
Not stated	9	57.6	20.0	8.0	100.0
Region of main job^(a)					
Metropolitan	581	37.8	30.1	35.3	37.6
Non-metropolitan	35	39.2	30.0	35.5	30.0
Not stated	21	52.5	33.3	28.3	42.9
Total employed podiatrists	636	38.3	30.2	35.2	37.3

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

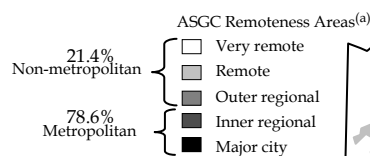
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. ABS population data have been used to calculate rates of supply. See box on page 7 for more detail on FTE.

(c) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for Victoria. See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Queensland

Population in 2003: 3,801,039



In 2003, employed podiatrists in Queensland were, on average, 37.8 years of age and worked 37.7 paid hours per week^(c) (Table 10). This was a change from 1999 when employed podiatrists, on average, were older (38.5 years) and had shorter working weeks (35.2 hours) (Table A.12).

The proportion of male podiatrists in 1999 (37.4%), was lower than in 2003 (41.3%) and the overall proportion of part-time podiatrists decreased (40.3% in 1999 and 29.1% in 2003) (tables 10 and A.12).

Podiatrists in 2003:

number of employed podiatrists: 273
 proportion metropolitan-based^(a): 89.5%
 FTE rate^(b) of podiatrist supply^(c): 7.7

Between 1999 and 2003, the number of employed podiatrists grew by 24.1% and podiatrist supply^(c) increased from 6.3 to 7.7 FTE per 100,000 population (tables 3 and A.7).

Table 10: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Queensland, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly hours ^(c)	% part time ^(e)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	264	37.8	41.3	37.6	29.0
Non-clinical podiatrist	9	37.9	41.5	42.8	31.7
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	199	38.2	40.1	37.9	29.7
Hospital	13	32.5	50.9	41.6	16.6
Aged care facility	6	53.5	19.0	10.6	100.0
Community health service	24	32.0	44.0	39.2	13.1
Domiciliary care service	4	40.7	27.8	27.9	49.0
Tertiary education institution	7	41.0	37.1	49.6	18.7
Government (including defence)	n.p.	31.0	33.3	36.7	33.3
Other	n.p.	31.5	100.0	46.4	—
Not stated	14	40.3	48.5	35.1	40.0
Sector of main job					
Private	211	38.0	41.1	37.7	30.1
Public	48	36.1	40.4	38.4	22.0
Not stated	14	40.3	48.5	35.1	40.0
Region of main job^(a)					
Metropolitan	221	37.5	41.0	37.8	29.7
Non-metropolitan	26	37.8	51.2	38.6	28.0
Not stated	26	40.1	33.8	36.1	24.9
Total employed podiatrists	273	37.8	41.3	37.7	29.1

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

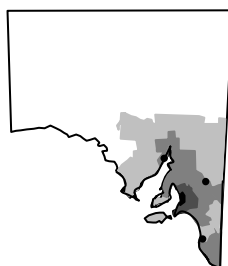
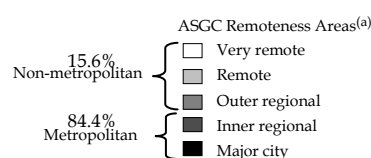
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. ABS population data have been used to calculate rates of supply. See box on page 7 for more detail on FTE.

(c) Based on total hours ('paid' plus 'unpaid'). See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

South Australia

Population in 2003: 1,526,301



In 2003, employed podiatrists in South Australia were, on average, 38.0 years of age and worked 33.5 paid hours per week^(c). This was a change from 1999 when their average age was 36.7 years and their average paid working week was 34.9 hours (tables 11 and A.13). The male proportion was lower in 1999 (39.9%) than in 2003 (42.3%), and the overall proportion of part-time podiatrists increased (43.5% in 1999 and 51.5% in 2003).

Podiatrists in 2003:

number of employed podiatrists: 278
 proportion metropolitan-based^(a): 90.1%
 FTE rate^(b) of podiatrist supply^(c): 17.4

Between 1999 and 2003, the number of employed podiatrists grew by 13.4% and podiatrist supply (based on paid hours)^(c) rose from 16.3 to 17.4 FTE per 100,000 population (tables 3 and A.9).

Table 11: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, South Australia, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(c)	% part time ^(c)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	268	37.8	42.2	33.5	52.3
Non-clinical podiatrist	10	43.9	45.8	33.6	31.3
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	157	39.8	43.6	35.0	51.2
Hospital	31	31.0	33.1	37.4	26.1
Aged care facility	32	39.2	33.5	24.9	81.1
Community health service	29	32.2	41.7	28.7	57.3
Domiciliary care service	15	38.7	47.0	34.0	40.2
Tertiary education institution	n.p.	39.9	—	44.1	—
Government (including defence)	5	47.0	100.0	13.1	100.0
Other	n.p.	35.0	52.6	45.8	47.4
Not stated	n.p.	43.7	70.7	45.9	29.3
Sector of main job					
Private	178	39.6	42.2	34.2	54.1
Public	95	34.7	41.3	31.7	47.8
Not stated	4	43.7	70.7	45.9	29.3
Region of main job^(a)					
Metropolitan	243	38.7	42.8	32.8	54.6
Non-metropolitan	27	31.7	37.8	39.3	25.2
Not stated	8	37.9	41.2	37.5	45.6
Total employed podiatrists	278	38.0	42.3	33.5	51.5

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

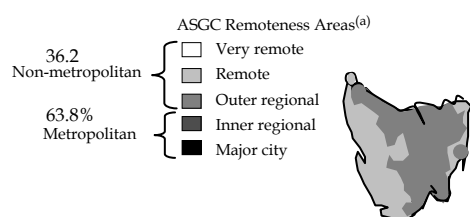
(b) Rate per 100,000 population. ABS population data have been used to calculate rates of supply. See box on page 7 for more detail on FTE.

(c) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for South Australia. See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Tasmania

Population in 2003: 304,624



Podiatrists in 2003:

Number of employed podiatrists: 53

Proportion metropolitan-based^(a): 94.1%

FTE rate^(b) of podiatrist supply^(c): 12.4

In 2003, there were 53 employed podiatrists in Tasmania. They were, on average, 39.8 years of age and they worked an average week of 39.3 paid hours^(c) (Table 12). This was a change from 1999 when they were younger, on average (37.3 years), and worked shorter average paid weeks (34.6 hours). The proportion of male podiatrists was lower in 1999 (28.7%) than in 2003 (41.2%), and the overall proportion of part-time podiatrists decreased (34.5% in 1999 and 28.1% in 2003).

Between 1999 and 2003, the number of employed podiatrists decreased by 18.2% and podiatrist supply (based on paid hours)^(c) also decreased (from 13.5 to 12.4 FTE per 100,000 population) (tables 3 and A.9).

Table 12: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Tasmania, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(c)	% part time ^(c)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	50	39.6	40.6	39.3	29.0
Non-clinical podiatrist	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	39	38.4	40.0	38.6	28.0
Hospital	8	41.2	40.1	42.3	50.1
Aged care facility	—	—	—	—	—
Community health service	n.p.	61.0	—	40.0	—
Domiciliary care service	—	—	—	—	—
Tertiary education institution	—	—	—	—	—
Government (including defence)	n.p.	47.0	100.0	40.0	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	n.p.	37.0	100.0	45.0	—
Sector of main job					
Private	39	38.4	40.0	38.6	28.0
Public	12	44.9	37.5	41.5	33.4
Not stated	n.p.	37.0	100.0	45.0	—
Region of main job^(a)					
Metropolitan	50	39.4	43.8	40.5	26.7
Non-metropolitan	3	45.5	—	22.0	49.8
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—
Total employed podiatrists	53	39.8	41.2	39.3	28.1

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

(b) Rate per 100,000 population. ABS population data have been used to calculate rates of supply. See box on page 7 for more detail on FTE.

(c) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for Tasmania. See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Additional tables

Table A.1: Registered podiatrists: labour force status, 1999

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	Total
Podiatry labour force	426	680	228	247	65	1,645
<i>Working in podiatry</i>	424	665	220	245	65	1,618
Clinical podiatrist	409	636	210	237	60	1,552
Non-clinical podiatrist	15	29	10	8	5	66
<i>Not working in podiatry</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	15	8	<i>n.p.</i>	—	27
On extended leave	<i>n.p.</i>	11	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	—	19
Looking for work in podiatry	<i>n.p.</i>	4	<i>n.p.</i>	—	—	7
Not in podiatry labour force	38	25	17	4	—	84
Overseas	9	4	5	—	—	18
Not looking for work in podiatry	29	21	13	4	—	66
<i>Total registered podiatrists</i>	464	705	245	250	65	1,728
Multiple registrations	32	15	13	5	4	69
Total registrations	496	720	258	255	68	1,797

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Table A.2: Employed podiatrists, sex, 2000 and 2005

	Males	Females	Total
2000	660	695	1,355
2005	686	1,385	2,071

Note: Estimates have relative standard errors greater than 50% and are indicative only. They are considered too unreliable for general use.

Sources: ABS Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2005.

Table A.3: Employed clinical podiatrists, 1999 and 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
1999	409	636	210	237	60
2003	563	610	264	268	50
Change between 1999 and 2003 (%)	37.6	-4.0	25.7	13.1	-16.6

Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003.

Table A.4: Employed podiatrists: age and sex distribution, 1999 and 2003

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
1999					
<i>Males</i>	170	186	82	98	19
< 35	72	87	52	41	10
35–44	67	54	13	39	5
45–54	22	16	10	13	2
55+	10	29	7	5	2
<i>Females</i>	253	479	138	147	46
< 35	113	266	60	76	27
35–44	72	97	36	44	10
45–54	36	41	20	15	5
55+	31	74	22	11	4
Total	424	665	220	245	65
2003					
<i>Males</i>	236	192	113	117	22
< 35	90	86	63	50	9
35–44	89	67	30	28	6
45–54	42	17	14	30	5
55+	15	21	7	9	2
<i>Females</i>	344	444	160	160	31
< 35	145	223	73	70	5
35–44	102	128	48	49	16
45–54	63	24	18	25	5
55+	34	69	22	16	6
Total	580	636	273	278	53

Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003.

Table A.5: Employed podiatrists: total hours worked per week^(a), 2003

Hours worked per week	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
< 20	64	88	30	29	3
20–34	126	99	47	76	6
35–49	260	292	132	122	30
50+	113	138	55	50	11
Not stated	17	19	9	2	3
Total	580	636	273	278	53
Average total weekly hours	37.4	39.3	37.7	38	41.7

(a) Based on 'paid' and 'unpaid' hours. See box on page 5.

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 2003.

Table A.6: Australian citizens and permanent residents completing undergraduate podiatry courses: sex, 1998 to 2004

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number	106	129	135	145	113	135	149
% undergraduate	92.5	96.9	97.8	93.8	88.5	93.3	95.3
% male	37.7	46.5	43.0	42.1	37.2	40.7	40.9

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.

Table A.7: Employed podiatrists: rate, FTE rate and selected features of total weekly hours worked^(a), 1999 and 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas
1999					
Podiatrist rate ^(b)	6.6	n.a.	6.3	n.a.	n.a.
FTE rate ^(c)	6.8	n.a.	6.3	n.a.	n.a.
Average weekly hours	36.0	n.a.	35.2	n.a.	n.a.
Proportion working part time ^(d)	36.4	n.a.	40.3	n.a.	n.a.
Proportion working 50 hours or more per week	18.3	n.a.	18.0	n.a.	n.a.
Population	6,411,370		3,501,421		
2003					
Podiatrist rate ^(b)	8.7	13.0	7.2	18.2	11.1
FTE rate ^(c)	9.3	14.5	7.7	19.7	13.2
Average weekly hours	37.4	39.3	37.7	38.0	41.7
Proportion working part time ^(d)	33.8	30.3	29.1	37.7	18.8
Proportion working 50 hours or more per week	20.0	22.4	20.8	18.2	21.9
Population	6,682,053	4,911,425	3,801,039	1,526,301	477,305

(a) Based on 'paid' and 'unpaid' hours. See box on page 5.

(b) Podiatrists per 100,000 population.

(c) FTE per 100,000 population.

(d) Working less than 35 hours per week.

Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003; ABS 1999 and 2003.

Table A.8: Podiatry Labour Force Survey: estimated response rate for surveyed states, 1999 and 2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	Total
1999 response rate	81.7	52.1	80.2	62.0	60.3	66.0
2003 response rate	81.8	57.8	91.1	69.1	64.4	72.4

Sources: Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003.

Table A.9: Employed podiatrists: rate, FTE rate and selected features of paid weekly hours worked^(a), Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, 1999 and 2003

	Vic	SA	Tas
	1999		
Podiatrist rate ^(b)	14.2	16.3	13.7
FTE rate ^(c)	14.6	16.3	13.5
Average weekly paid hours ^(a)	36.1	34.9	34.6
Proportion working part time ^(d)	34.3	43.5	34.5
Proportion working 50 paid hours or more per week ^(a)	14.0	16.7	15.3
Population	3,501,421	1,497,819	471,430
	2003		
Podiatrist rate ^(b)	13.0	18.2	11.1
FTE rate ^(c)	13.0	17.4	12.4
Average weekly paid hours ^(a)	35.2	33.5	39.3
Proportion working part time ^(d)	37.3	51.5	28.1
Proportion working 50 paid hours or more per week ^(a)	10.4	12.9	21.9
Population	3,801,039	1,526,301	477,305

(a) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003. See box on page 5.

(b) Podiatrists per 100,000 population.

(c) FTE per 100,000 population.

(d) Working less than 35 hours per week.

Sources: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Surveys, 1999 and 2003; ABS 1999 and 2003.

Table A.10: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, New South Wales, 1999

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly total hours	% part time
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	409	38.1	39.8	36.0	36.5
Non-clinical podiatrist	15	40.8	49.5	35.7	33.3
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	284	38.1	40.6	36.9	35.2
Hospital	36	34.2	50.1	35.4	36.0
Aged care facility	8	47.1	—	28.5	49.7
Community health service	11	30.9	65.2	36.2	22.9
Domiciliary care service	17	40.7	6.8	24.8	64.0
Tertiary education institution	12	35.7	40.9	38.3	21.6
Government (including defence)	n.p.	37.7	66.8	40.6	—
Other	n.p.	49.6	44.4	31.1	55.6
Sector of main job					
Private	311	38.5	37.7	35.9	37.6
Public	63	34.7	52.0	36.8	27.3
Region of main job					
Metropolitan	357	37.7	40.8	36.2	35.7
Non-metropolitan	11	41.1	28.9	37.3	37.9
Total employed podiatrists^(a)	424	38.2	40.2	36.0	36.4

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

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Table A.11: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Victoria, 1999

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(a)	% part time ^(a)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	636	38.0	27.4	35.9	34.8
Non-clinical podiatrist	29	35.5	39.8	42.2	22.5
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	346	39.6	30.9	37.8	31.4
Hospital	66	33.6	26.3	38.7	25.3
Aged care facility	25	45.5	8.0	16.4	88.7
Community health service	146	32.4	26.7	36.1	30.5
Domiciliary care service	33	45.5	12.1	24.9	71.8
Tertiary education institution	14	35.2	57.4	44.0	17.0
Government (including defence)	4	24.5	—	37.5	—
Other	11	27.8	32.9	36.5	33.2
Sector of main job					
Private	390	39.6	28.8	36.3	35.8
Public	254	34.3	26.8	36.4	30.7
Region of main job					
Metropolitan	620	37.6	28.1	36.0	34.2
Non-metropolitan	20	39.2	30.6	46.9	9.7
Total employed podiatrists^(b)	665	37.9	28.0	36.1	34.3

(a) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for Victoria. See box on page 5.

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

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Table A.12: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Queensland, 1999

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly total hours	% part time
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	210	38.1	38.1	35.3	39.9
Non-clinical podiatrist	10	48.3	22.9	31.9	50.2
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	182	38.2	39.4	36.0	40.1
Hospital	12	37.7	40.7	32.9	26.4
Aged care facility	7	48.9	—	17.8	100.0
Community health service	8	30.5	32.4	32.0	30.6
Domiciliary care service	n.p.	59.2	—	11.9	100.0
Tertiary education institution	n.p.	40.2	65.2	42.0	34.8
Government (including defence)	n.p.	23.0	—	40.0	—
Sector of main job					
Private	185	38.4	38.7	35.7	41.2
Public	31	38.4	31.8	32.0	36.0
Region of main job					
Metropolitan	169	39.2	40.1	35.7	40.0
Non-metropolitan	18	31.9	35.1	37.8	30.2
Total employed podiatrists^(a)	220	38.5	37.4	35.2	40.3

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

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Table A.13: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, South Australia, 1999

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(a)	% part time ^(a)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	237	36.5	40.6	35.0	43.3
Non-clinical podiatrist	8	43.6	19.9	31.3	50.2
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	151	38.0	44.0	35.8	42.2
Hospital	21	31.7	30.4	33.9	45.6
Aged care facility	7	35.0	—	19.7	100.0
Community health service	26	33.4	36.7	33.3	50.3
Domiciliary care service	14	36.9	55.8	36.2	32.4
Tertiary education institution	n.p.	41.1	33.1	43.4	—
Government (including defence)	n.p.	26.0	—	40.0	—
Other	10	33.1	33.9	38.8	33.8
Sector of main job					
Private	158	37.5	43.8	36.0	42.0
Public	75	34.6	33.7	34.0	43.3
Region of main job					
Metropolitan	221	36.9	41.4	35.4	41.7
Non-metropolitan	15	34.7	33.6	36.0	44.1
Total employed podiatrists^(b)	245	36.7	39.9	34.9	43.5

(a) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for South Australia. See box on page 5.

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

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Table A.14: Employed podiatrists: summary characteristics, Tasmania, 1999

Characteristic	Number	Average age	% male	Average weekly paid hours ^(a)	% part time ^(a)
Field of podiatry					
Clinical podiatrist	60	37.5	25.6	34.3	37.4
Non-clinical podiatrist	5	35.4	66.3	39.0	—
Principal work setting					
Own/group practice	43	38.7	35.0	34.7	32.4
Hospital	8	36.7	20.4	30.3	59.1
Aged care facility	n.p.	41.5	—	23.0	100.0
Community health service	5	28.6	—	43.6	—
Domiciliary care service	—	—	—	—	—
Tertiary education institution	—	—	—	—	—
Government (including defence)	n.p.	29.5	50.3	38.0	—
Sector of main job					
Private	47	38.9	32.5	33.9	37.2
Public	16	32.9	20.3	35.8	30.0
Region of main job					
Metropolitan	59	36.3	27.8	35.4	31.5
Non-metropolitan	5	49.4	38.7	25.5	69.2
Total employed podiatrists^(b)	65	37.3	28.7	34.6	34.5

(a) Based on 'paid hours' only. Paid hours are shown to enable comparisons between 1999 and 2003 for Tasmania. See box on page 5.

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

Source: AIHW Podiatry Labour Force Survey, 1999.

Explanatory notes

Method and collection timing

The AIHW labour force data in this publication were obtained from the Labour Force Surveys conducted by the podiatrists registration boards in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. A survey questionnaire was sent to all podiatrists in those states 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 state that conducted the survey.

Scope and coverage

The scope of the Podiatry Labour Force Survey was intended to be all podiatrists registered with the podiatrists board in each state/territory, and eligible to practise, but the survey was conducted in five states only (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania). Coverage may exclude podiatrists who registered for the first time during the survey year. These podiatrists 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.

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 podiatrists were registered in more than one jurisdiction but may have completed a questionnaire in just one state or territory, resulting in a possible undercount for individual states and territories. It is not known how often this occurred, because it is not possible to match survey records between states and territories. Response was varied across the surveyed states, ranging from 91.1% in Queensland to 57.8% in Victoria. The overall rate for 2003 was 72.4% which was an increase from 1999 (66.0%) (Table A.8). The number of registered podiatrists in these jurisdictions constituted around 87% of podiatrists registered nationally (excluding the Northern Territory, for which registration data are unavailable) (Table 1).

Notes on the AIHW labour force estimates

The figures produced from the Podiatry Labour Force Survey are estimates only. Not all podiatrists who were sent a questionnaire responded to the survey. Estimates of the whole podiatry 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 Tasmania, 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. Age and sex were imputed, based on the sex distribution of the registration data. If labour force status was not reported, the individual survey responses were checked for information, such as hours worked, to help determine whether the respondent had worked.

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 podiatrist numbers in the labour force in each state if non-respondents are more likely to be those with multiple registration or there is a bias in the labour force status of this group.

Glossary of AIHW survey terms

Employed podiatrist

A podiatrist who reported working in podiatry in the 4 weeks before completing the survey. Podiatrists registered in more than one state/territory, were assigned to the jurisdiction in which they mainly worked (i.e. worked the most hours). Registered podiatrists 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 podiatry labour force (see below). However, in most tables for employed podiatrists, those on extended leave have not been included.

Field of podiatry

A description of the job function of the podiatry work undertaken. The fields are:

Clinical podiatry: A registered podiatrist who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including diagnosis, therapy and preventive action. In this publication, a podiatrist who spends most of his/her work hours engaged in clinical practice is classified as being in the field of clinical podiatry.

Non-clinical podiatry:

- Administration/management: a registered podiatrist who administers or manages a podiatry care unit in a health care facility, or supervises podiatry staff.
- Teaching/education: a person who teaches or trains persons in podiatry for their initial qualification or in advanced skills after initial qualification.
- Research: a person engaged in podiatry research.
- Other: a job function in podiatry which is not one of the above.

Geographical 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.

The Remoteness Area Structure of the 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
 - Very remote Australia.
- } Described as 'metropolitan' in this report
- } Described as 'non-metropolitan' in this report

Hours worked

In the 2003 survey, the total number of weekly hours worked ('paid' plus 'unpaid' hours) was self-reported by podiatrists and relates to the number of hours worked in all podiatry-related jobs. In the 2003 survey, hours related to the week before the survey, whereas earlier surveys

referred to hours 'usually' worked. In the 1999 survey, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania collected 'paid hours' only, whereas New South Wales and Queensland collected 'total hours 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

Metropolitan and non-metropolitan can be defined in different ways. For consistency across the jurisdictions, in this report the split is based on the ASGC Remoteness Areas as follows:

- Metropolitan areas include Major cities of Australia and Inner regional Australia.
- Non-metropolitan areas include Outer regional Australia, Remote Australia and Very remote Australia.

Note: ASGC is based on 'remoteness', rather than population density (see 'Geographical classification' above).

Podiatrist

A podiatrist who is on the register maintained by the state or territory podiatrists board and eligible to practise podiatry in that state or territory. The minimum educational requirement for a registered podiatrist is a 4-year undergraduate degree leading to a bachelor of applied science (podiatry) from an approved Australian school of podiatry.

Podiatry labour force

The podiatry labour force includes registered podiatrists currently employed in podiatry and those who are not employed in podiatry but are looking for work in podiatry. Registered podiatrists who, at the time of the survey, were on maternity or other extended leave for more than 3 months are regarded as employed, and thus part of the podiatry labour force. However, in most tables for employed podiatrists, those on extended leave have not been included.

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