

Appendix A: Detailed tables

Table A1: Australian citizens and permanent residents completing occupational therapy courses at Australian universities: sex and level, 1998–2004

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number	598	694	677	665	698	679	774
% undergraduate	89.0	85.9	87.7	88.4	89.8	85.6	82.0
% male	11.5	12.4	13.0	9.8	12.0	11.8	9.7

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

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

Table A2: Employed occupational therapists and all health workers, selected characteristics, 2000 and 2005 (ABS Labour Force Survey)

	Estimated number	Number employed per 100,000 population	% distribution by age			% male	Average weekly hours worked
			<35	35–44	45+		
Employed occupational therapists							
2000	5,400	28	63.4	24.8	11.8	12.9	34.3
2005	7,800	38	46.0	30.4	23.6	16.4	29.1
All employed health workers							
2000	451,800	2,359	31.8	31.2	37.0	26.7	32.7
2005	569,700	2,802	30.6	26.2	43.1	25.8	31.4

Notes

1. Figures for 2000 and 2005 are an average of the four quarters in each year. Estimates are based on a survey of a sample of households (ABS 2006a).
2. 'Employed' is defined according to the ABS standards (i.e. includes worked for 1 hour or more for pay; or without pay in a family business or on a farm) (ABS 2006a).
3. 'Hours worked' refers to all jobs.
4. Due to the small numbers of occupational therapists in the survey samples, estimates are subject to relatively large standard errors and should be treated with caution.

Source: ABS Labour Force Surveys, 2000 and 2005, unpublished data.

Table A3: Occupational therapist respondents: labour force status and role, selected states and territories, 1998 and 2002–2003, and all states and territories, 2002–2003

Labour force status	1998	2002–2003	2002–2003 all states	1998	2002–2003	2002–2003 all states
	selected states	selected states		selected states	selected states	
	Number			Per cent		
In occupational therapy labour force	1,934	2,042	3,277	87.4	88.0	90.5
<i>Employed in occupational therapy</i>	1,821	1,928	3,107	82.3	83.1	85.8
Clinical	1,596	1,649	2,684	72.2	71.1	74.1
Non-clinical						
Administration/management	117	129	201	5.3	5.6	5.5
Training/education	61	75	120	2.8	3.2	3.3
Research	18	17	32	0.8	0.7	0.9
Other	29	58	70	1.3	2.5	1.9
<i>On extended leave</i>	56	75	117	2.5	3.2	3.2
<i>Looking for work in occupational therapy</i>	57	39	53	2.6	1.7	1.5
Employed elsewhere	25	12	18	1.1	0.5	0.5
Not employed	32	27	35	1.4	1.2	1.0
Not in occupational therapy labour force	278	278	345	12.6	12.0	9.5
<i>Working in occupational therapy overseas</i>	46	59	67	2.1	2.5	1.8
<i>Not looking for work in occupational therapy</i>	232	219	278	10.5	9.4	7.7
Employed elsewhere	122	119	158	5.5	5.1	4.4
Not employed	110	100	120	5.0	4.3	3.3
Total respondents	2,212	2,320	3,622	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Employed mainly or only in state other than that of registration/membership</i>	60	57	147			
Total	2,272	2,377	3,769			

Notes

1. Only Vic, Qld, WA, NT and ACT participated in the 1998 survey. Numbers and proportions for that year are based on responses to the survey in those states/territories only. The 1998 numbers differ from those published earlier (AIHW 2001) as they are unweighted.
2. '2002–2003 selected states' refers to Vic, Qld, WA, NT and ACT and is provided for comparison with 1998 figures.
3. '2002–2003 all states' includes responses from all states and territories.
4. The table excludes respondents who did not answer the labour force questions.

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 1998 and 2002–2003.

Table A4: Employed occupational therapist respondents: characteristics, selected states and territories, 1998 and 2002–2003, and all states and territories, 2002–2003

Characteristics	1998 selected states	2002–2003 selected states	2002–2003 all states
Average age	35.8	37.2	37.0
Average paid hours worked per week	29.0	32.3	32.7
Average total hours worked per week	32.2	36.3	36.2
% male	5.2	6.4	6.4
% Australian citizens	97.0	96.7	96.9
% born in Australia	83.4	84.4	83.9
% working in metropolitan region	88.8	88.6	91.1

Notes

1. Only Vic, Qld, WA, NT and ACT participated in the 1998 survey. Numbers and proportions for that year are based on responses to the survey in those states/territories only. The 1998 numbers differ from those published earlier (AIHW 2001) as they are unweighted.
2. '2002–2003 selected states' refers to Vic, Qld, WA, NT and ACT and is provided for comparison with 1998 figures.
3. '2002–2003 all states' includes responses from all states and territories.

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 1998 and 2002–2003.

Table A5: Employed occupational therapist respondents: field of main job by states and territories, 1998 and 2002–2003

Field of occupational therapy	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1998									
Clinical	n.a.	583	566	381	n.a.	n.a.	37	29	n.a.
Non-clinical	n.a.	60	96	57	n.a.	n.a.	6	6	n.a.
Total	n.a.	643	662	438	n.a.	n.a.	43	35	n.a.
2002–2003									
Clinical	723	516	674	415	269	43	15	29	2,684
Non-clinical	102	66	114	81	38	4	11	7	423
Total	825	582	788	496	307	47	26	36	3,107

Note: Only Vic, Qld, WA, NT and ACT participated in the 1998 survey. Numbers for that year are based on responses to the survey in those states/territories only. The 1998 numbers differ from those published earlier (AIHW 2001) as they are unweighted.

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 1998 and 2002–2003.

Table A6: Employed occupational therapist respondents: average age, field of main job, states and territories, 2002–2003

Field of occupational therapy	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average age (years)									
Clinical	35.5	36.6	36.8	36.3	36.4	40.9	38.6	34.4	36.4
Non-clinical	41.4	41.6	40.3	40.5	41.6	35.3	42.7	31.0	40.8
Total	36.2	37.2	37.3	37.0	37.1	40.4	40.3	33.8	37.0

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 2002–2003.

Table A7: Employed occupational therapist respondents: field and time spent overseas working as an occupational therapist, 2002–2003 (per cent)

Field of occupational therapy	Time spent working overseas in occupational therapy			Total
	Not worked overseas	Less than 2 years	2 years or more	
Clinical	66.6	20.5	12.9	100.0
Non-clinical				
Administration/management	59.9	25.4	14.7	100.0
Training/education	50.0	27.1	22.9	100.0
Research	48.4	29.0	22.6	100.0
Other	47.1	28.6	24.3	100.0
Total	64.9	21.3	13.8	100.0

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 2002–2003.

Table A8: Employed clinical occupational therapist respondents: hours worked, proportion working 50 hours or more and proportion part-time, states and territories, 2002–2003

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average paid hours worked	32.7	32.4	32.7	31.1	33.4	37.0	31.5	38.2	32.6
Average total hours worked	35.8	36.2	35.6	35.6	34.7	39.4	37.7	43.7	35.8
% working 50 hours or more	8.4	10.1	8.6	10.0	9.8	12.2	6.7	20.7	9.4
% part-time	35.0	40.7	34.1	37.4	40.5	19.5	33.3	17.2	36.4

Note: In the 2002–2003 survey Qld collected data on hours worked using a different format to other jurisdictions. As a result, care should be taken when comparing across jurisdictions.

Source: Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey, 2002–2003.

Table A9: Persons consulting an occupational therapist in the 2 weeks before the survey: age (years) and sex, 2001 and 2004–05

	Client age (years)			Client sex		
	0–24	25–64	65+	Males	Females	Total
2001						
Number	20,100	20,300	*4,500	28,200	16,700	44,900
Rate per 100,000	303	196	185	293	171	231
2004–05						
Number	17,200	23,300	*9,500	28,700	21,300	50,000
Rate per 100,000	254	216	361	286	210	247

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

Source: Unpublished data from the ABS National Health Survey 2001 and 2004–05 (see ABS 2002, 2006b); ABS Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2001 and 31 December 2004 (see ABS 2003).

Appendix B: Explanatory notes

Method

The AIHW is responsible for the collation, analyses and dissemination of data from a number of health labour force surveys conducted in each state and territory (the two annual collections being the nursing and midwifery labour force and the medical labour force). In the absence of centralised national lists for each profession, the surveys largely rely on the various state and territory registration boards to administer survey questionnaires as part of the registration renewal process. For example, the medical labour force survey relies on each state and territory medical board to distribute the survey as part of the annual renewal of practitioner registration (AIHW 2005a).

However, as not all states and territories require occupational therapists to be registered to practise, a different approach was required for the survey of occupational therapists. As a result, the occupational therapy surveys were distributed by state and territory registration boards in some jurisdictions; by OT Australia national office in other jurisdictions; and by the state branches of OT Australia in Victoria and New South Wales (in 2002–2003 only in New South Wales).

The 1998 survey was conducted in late 1998 to early 1999 in five jurisdictions (AIHW 2001). All states and territories participated in the 2002–2003 survey, with the mail-out conducted at various times over the period from January 2002 to December 2003.

Scope and coverage

As outlined above, the administration of the Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey varied across jurisdictions, and between the 1998 and 2002–2003 surveys, resulting in variations in scope and coverage both across time and jurisdictions.

In 1998 registration boards in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory surveyed people that they identified as occupational therapists **registered** within their state/territory. OT Australia and some of its state offices surveyed **members** of their organisation in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. The other jurisdictions did not participate in the 1998 survey.

The 2002–2003 survey was also administered by the state registration boards in Queensland and the Northern Territory (to occupational therapists registered in the relevant state/territory). Unlike the 1998 survey, however, the 2002–2003 survey in Western Australia was conducted by OT Australia (of its members), not by the registration board. In South Australia the situation was reversed and the registration board in that state conducted the 2002–2003 survey of registered occupational therapists. In 2002–2003, the national office of OT Australia sent surveys to members in Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory; the New South Wales office of OT Australia distributed the survey to its members in New South Wales; and the Victorian office of OT Australia distributed the survey to its members in Victoria.

Response rate

It is difficult to accurately estimate the response rate to the AIHW Occupational Therapy Labour Force Surveys due to the variability in the scope and timing of the survey. In addition, some occupational therapists may be registered, or members of OT Australia, in more than one state or territory and may have completed a questionnaire in just one state or territory or in more than one. It is not known how often this occurred because it is not possible to match survey records across jurisdictions.

The number of registrations is provided in Table 1, the number of members of OT Australia in Table 2 and the actual number of responses obtained from the survey in Table 3.

It should be noted that while Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory have occupational therapy registration boards, not all of these boards administered the survey in 1998 or 2002–2003. Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory boards surveyed registered occupational therapists in the 1998 survey while Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory boards conducted the 2002–2003 survey. Care should therefore be taken in comparing the number of responses to the number of registrations in South Australia and Western Australia.

Similarly care should be taken in comparing the number of survey responses to the number of OT members. This comparison is only relevant for those jurisdictions where members of OT Australia were surveyed (see ‘Scope and coverage’ above).

Representativeness of the data

The figures for both 1998 and 2002–2003 provided in this publication relate to **responses** to the Occupational Therapy Labour Force Survey. As not all occupational therapists were surveyed (as not all could be identified) and not all those surveyed responded, this represents only a proportion of the actual occupational therapy labour force. This differs from the approach taken in the previous publication on the 1998 occupational therapy labour force (AIHW 2001), where estimates of the total occupational therapy labour force in the five participating states and territories were calculated by weighting responses using registration data or estimated registration numbers.

The decision to provide data on responses only in this publication, for both the 1998 and 2002–2003 surveys, was made due to the incomplete knowledge of the actual size and characteristics of the total occupational therapy labour force, and the variability in the survey scope and coverage across jurisdictions. As a result it was not possible to accurately adjust the responses (through weighting) to reflect the total population of occupational therapists (as has been done for medical practitioners and nurses (AIHW 2005a, 2005b)).

There is the potential for some bias in the data as the representativeness of the respondents to the total population of occupational therapists is unknown. Care should be taken in interpreting the data in this publication, therefore, particularly in comparing across jurisdictions and time. In particular it is important to note that New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania did not participate in the 1998 survey. As a result, the total number of responses in that survey is much lower and the data probably less representative of the total Australian occupational therapy labour force than that collected in the 2002–2003 survey.

Glossary

Employed occupational therapists

For the purposes of this publication, employed occupational therapists are respondents who stated that they were working in occupational therapy, mainly or only in the state or territory in which they were registered or a member of OT Australia, at the time of the survey.

Respondents who reported working mainly or only in another state or territory (147 in total in the 2002–2003 survey) are not included in the state/territory count of ‘employed occupational therapists’ as they are assumed to be either registered in another state/territory or a member of OT Australia in another state/territory. Occupational therapists on extended leave for more than 3 months (117 in 2002–2003) and respondents who did not give details about their labour force status (12 in 2002–2003) are also excluded for the purposes of this publication.

Field of occupational therapy

A description of the job function of employed occupational therapists. The fields are:

Clinical: an occupational therapist mainly involved in the area of clinical practice; that is, diagnosis, care and treatment, including recommending preventative action to patients. In this publication, an occupational therapist who spends **most** of his/her work hours engaged in clinical practice is classified as being in the clinical field of occupational therapy.

Non-clinical:

- administration/management: an occupational therapist who spends most hours engaged in administration or management work
- teaching/education: a person teaching or training persons in occupational therapy
- research: a person primarily engaged in occupational therapy research
- other: any other job function in occupational therapy, for example, industrial relations.

Geographic classification

While the previous analysis of the 1998 occupational therapy survey used the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification of regions (AIHW 2001), the Remoteness Area Structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, has been used in this publication to present regional data (see AIHW 2004).

The Remoteness Area Structure of the ASGC is based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+) where the remoteness index value of a specific location 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

The ASGC accorded to the respondent is based on the postcode of the respondent’s main job.

Hours worked

The total number of weekly hours worked is self-reported by occupational therapists and relates to the numbers of hours worked in **all** occupational therapy-related jobs. In the 2002–2003 survey respondents were asked to record their ‘hours per week usually worked in occupational therapy job(s)’.

Information on ‘**paid hours**’ and ‘**unpaid hours**’ was collected separately and combined to give ‘**total hours**’.

Unpaid hours includes after-hours research and administration, voluntary unpaid patient care and unpaid overtime.

The question relating to hours was phrased differently in the Queensland questionnaire from that in other states and territories and therefore care should be taken in interpreting any variation between that jurisdiction and others.

In this publication the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition has been used for the cut-off for full-time and part-time work:

- full-time work: 35 hours or more total hours worked per week
- part-time work: less than 35 hours per week total hours.

Average hours are calculated excluding respondents who have no hours recorded. For example, average paid hours are calculated only for those respondents who have at least one hour of paid work recorded.

Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan

Because of the relatively small numbers of occupational therapists, particularly in the more remote regions of Australia, it has been necessary in this publication to collapse the five ASGC categories (outlined in ‘Geographic classification’) into the following two:

- Metropolitan area: includes Major cities and Inner regional Australia
- Non-metropolitan area: includes Outer regional, Remote Australia and Very remote Australia.

Occupational therapy labour force

The occupational therapy labour force in this publication includes:

- occupational therapist respondents who stated that they were ‘currently working in occupational therapy’ (employed as occupational therapists)
- occupational therapists who stated that they were ‘not employed in occupational therapy but looking for work in occupational therapy’
- occupational therapists who stated that they were ‘on maternity or other extended leave for more than 3 months’.

Respondents who reported working mainly or only in another state or territory (147 in total in the 2002–2003 survey) are not included in the state/territory labour force numbers as they are assumed to be either registered in another state/territory or a member of OT Australia in another state/territory. Respondents who did not give details about their labour force status (12 in 2002–2003) are also excluded.

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