

# 10 Geographic distribution of the nursing workforce, 1996

This section presents 1996 data on the characteristics of employed registered and enrolled nurses by geographical location using the *Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification* (Department of Primary Industries and Energy and the Department of Health and Family Services 1994).

## General

- Of the 218,172 employed registered and enrolled nurses in 1996, 63.2% worked in a capital city, 6.8% in other metropolitan centres, 27.0% in rural areas, and the remaining 3.0% in remote areas. This distribution was almost the same as that of the overall population (63.6% living in capital cities, 7.5% in other metropolitan centres, 25.8% in rural areas and 3.0% in remote areas). This is unlike the distribution of health professions generally, which have workforce numbers skewed toward metropolitan areas.
- Some 42.1% of enrolled nurses worked in rural and remote areas in their main job in 1996 compared with 26.8% of registered nurses.
- Registered nurses comprised 82.9% of employed nurses in capital cities, with enrolled nurses comprising 17.1%. Registered nurses comprised 70.8% of employed nurses in small rural centres, 63.7% in 'other rural areas', and 71.3% in remote areas.

## Nurses per 100,000 population

- There are significant differences in the distribution of employed nurses among States and Territories, and between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the national average of 1,064 FTE nurses per 100,000 population in 1996, Western Australia had 1,236, Victoria 1,178, the Australian Capital Territory 1,142 and Tasmania 1,120, while Queensland with 962 and New South Wales with 984 were below the national average. South Australia (1,097) and the Northern Territory (1,079) were close to the national average.
- Nursing employment in rural areas per 100,000 population is well above that of other health professions. Indeed, in 1996, nurse employment per 100,000 population in large rural centres (1,705), small rural centres (1,363) and remote centres (1,220) exceeded that of capital cities (1,183). However, around 30% of nurses employed in small rural centres and other rural and remote areas except for large centres were enrolled nurses. In capital cities, only 17.1% were enrolled nurses.

## Sex

- Male nurses comprised 7.6% of the national nursing workforce, but were 9.2% of employed nurses in 'Other metropolitan centres' and 9.4% in large rural centres, but only 4.2% in remote centres and 4.7% in 'Other rural areas'.

## Age

- Across geographic locations, the average age of employed registered nurses ranged from 42.6 years in 'Other rural areas' down to 38.5 years in remote centres. For employed enrolled nurses, the average age ranged from 39.7 years in 'Other rural areas' down to 36.8 years in 'Other metropolitan areas'.

## Hours worked

- Employed registered nurses worked an average of 33.2 hours per week. Across geographic areas, they ranged from 35.7 hours in remote centres and 35.8 hours in 'Other remote areas' down to 31.0 hours in 'Other rural areas'.
- The proportion of employed registered nurses working less than 35 hours per week ranged from 58.7% in 'Other rural areas' down to 34.8% in 'Other remote areas' and 35.4% in remote centres.
- For employed enrolled nurses, average weekly hours were 31.6, and varied from 32.6 in remote centres and 32.5 hours in 'Other metropolitan areas' down to 31.0 hours in small rural centres and 30.5 hours in 'Other rural areas'.

## Classification

- The highest percentages of registered nurses who were Level 1 registered nurses (the lowest classification) were in large rural centres (65.1%) and 'Other metropolitan centres' (64.5%), while the lowest were in remote centres (54.9%) and 'Other remote areas' (50.9%). In capital cities, 2.4% of registered nurses were directors of nursing (DONs) while 5.3% of remote registered nurses were DONs.

**Table 61: Employed registered and enrolled nurses: characteristics and geographic location of main job, Australia, 1996**

Characteristics	Geographic location of main job							Total
	Capital city	Other metropolitan centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote centre	Other remote area	
<b>Type of nurse</b>								
Registered nurses	114,236	11,503	14,417	11,534	15,277	1,888	2,831	171,684
Enrolled nurses	23,548	3,328	4,260	4,748	8,702	776	1,125	46,488
<b>Sex</b>								
Males	10,834	1,359	1,753	1,087	1,116	111	231	16,494
Females	126,950	13,471	16,925	15,195	22,862	2,552	3,725	201,680
<b>Age (years)</b>								
Average	33.1	33.1	32.7	32.0	31.1	32.4	34.0	32.9
Under 30	34,802	3,287	4,068	2,823	3,124	713	821	49,094
30–39	48,657	5,835	7,101	6,547	8,557	954	1,422	79,146
40–49	37,871	4,116	5,468	4,991	8,182	728	1,100	62,726
50–59	14,647	1,457	1,862	1,729	3,584	226	474	24,153
60 and over	1,807	136	179	192	532	44	138	3,053
<b>Hours worked per week</b>								
Average	33.1	33.1	32.6	32.1	30.8	34.5	34.8	32.9
Part-time (under 35 hours)	65,200	7,115	9,233	9,024	14,511	1,226	1,531	106,893
Full-time (35 hours or more)	72,854	7,716	9,444	7,259	9,468	1,787	2,425	111,279
<b>Classification of main job (registered nurses)</b>								
L1 registered nurse	70,022	7,423	9,380	7,089	9,309	1,037	1,440	106,769
L2 clinical nurse	15,812	1,633	1,779	1,522	1,846	429	551	24,186
L3 nurse manager	7,399	734	739	705	995	71	89	10,323
L3 clinical nurse	10,668	726	1,339	1,242	1,792	164	407	15,542
L3 staff development/education	1,353	132	132	84	68	28	27	1,858
L4 staff development/education	225	19	11	7	3	5	10	283
L4 assistant director of nursing	2,737	219	291	279	317	27	40	3,693
Director of nursing	2,688	268	273	289	649	48	201	4,186
Lecturer—higher education sector	1,046	105	210	94	19	7	3	1,457
Other	2,285	245	262	224	279	71	62	3,386
<b>Work setting of main job</b>								
Registered nurses								
Acute/psychiatric hospital	74,067	7,226	9,834	7,080	8,766	1,030	1,600	109,841
Nursing home	13,401	1,366	1,511	1,383	2,222	193	154	20,165
Community health centre	5,223	639	724	883	1,710	96	517	9,420
Private medical rooms	3,381	396	468	498	547	109	75	5,296
Other	18,165	1,876	1,879	1,689	2,031	460	485	26,962
Enrolled nurses								
Acute/psychiatric hospital	10,261	1,396	2,250	2,380	4,884	512	838	22,398
Nursing home	3,027	667	834	1,003	1,929	80	109	7,562
Community health centre	391	66	24	115	223	8	39	846
Private medical rooms	1,053	79	87	102	168	17	23	1,438
Other	8,816	1,120	1,065	1,148	1,498	159	116	14,244
<b>Employed nurses per 100,000 population</b>								
Registered nurses	981	836	1,316	966	626	864	842	938
Enrolled nurses	202	242	389	397	356	356	335	254
All nurses	1,183	1,078	1,705	1,363	982	1,220	1,177	1,192
<b>Total all nurses</b>	<b>137,784</b>	<b>14,831</b>	<b>18,677</b>	<b>16,282</b>	<b>23,979</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>3,956</b>	<b>218,172</b>

(continued)

**Table 61 (continued): Employed registered and enrolled nurses: characteristics and geographic location of main job, Australia, 1996**

Characteristics	Geographic location of main job							Total
	Capital city	Other metropolitan centre	Large rural centre	Small rural centre	Other rural area	Remote centre	Other remote area	
	(per cent)							
<b>Type of nurse</b>								
Registered nurses	82.9	77.6	77.2	70.8	63.7	70.9	71.6	78.7
Enrolled nurses	17.1	22.4	22.8	29.2	36.3	29.1	28.4	21.3
<b>Sex</b>								
Males	7.9	9.2	9.4	6.7	4.7	4.2	5.8	7.6
Females	92.1	90.8	90.6	93.3	95.3	95.8	94.2	92.4
<b>Age (years)</b>								
Under 30	25.3	22.2	21.8	17.3	13.0	26.8	20.8	22.5
30–39	35.3	39.3	38.0	40.2	35.7	35.8	35.9	36.3
40–49	27.5	27.8	29.3	30.7	34.1	27.3	27.8	28.8
50–59	10.6	9.8	10.0	10.6	14.9	8.5	12.0	11.1
60 and over	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.2	2.2	1.7	3.5	1.4
<b>Hours worked per week</b>								
Part-time (under 35 hours)	47.3	48.0	49.4	55.4	60.5	46.0	38.7	49.0
Full-time (35 hours or more)	52.9	52.0	50.6	44.6	39.5	67.1	61.3	51.0
<b>Classification of main job (registered nurses)</b>								
L1 registered nurse	61.3	64.5	65.1	61.5	60.9	54.9	50.9	62.2
L2 clinical nurse	13.8	14.2	12.3	13.2	12.1	22.7	19.5	14.1
L3 nurse manager	6.5	6.4	5.1	6.1	6.5	3.8	3.1	6.0
L3 clinical nurse	9.3	6.3	9.3	10.8	11.7	8.7	14.4	9.1
L3 staff development/education	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.5	1.0	1.1
L4 staff development/education	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2
L4 assistant director of nursing	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.1	1.4	1.4	2.2
Director of nursing	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.5	4.2	2.5	7.1	2.4
Lecturer—higher education sector	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.8
Other	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	3.8	2.2	2.0
<b>Work setting of main job</b>								
<b>Registered nurses</b>								
Acute/psychiatric hospital	53.8	48.7	52.7	43.5	36.6	38.7	40.5	50.3
Nursing home	9.7	9.2	8.1	8.5	9.3	7.2	3.9	9.2
Community health centre	3.8	4.3	3.9	5.4	7.1	3.6	13.1	4.3
Private medical rooms	2.5	2.7	2.5	3.1	2.3	4.1	1.9	2.4
Other	13.2	12.7	10.1	10.4	8.5	17.3	12.3	12.4
<b>Enrolled nurses</b>								
Acute/psychiatric hospital	7.4	9.4	12.0	14.6	20.4	19.2	21.2	10.3
Nursing home	2.2	4.5	4.5	6.2	8.0	3.0	2.8	3.5
Community health centre	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.4
Private medical rooms	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Other	6.4	7.5	5.7	7.0	6.2	6.0	2.9	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: AIHW.

**Table 62: Employed registered nurses: geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Males</b>									
Capital city	3,068	2,049	1,464	922	1,260	199	121	77	9,161
Other metropolitan centre	834	112	180	—	—	—	—	—	1,125
Large rural centre	453	379	452	—	34	92	—	—	1,411
Small rural centre	364	289	65	66	50	43	—	—	876
Other rural area	293	254	124	30	52	21	—	4	777
Remote centre	—	—	31	38	—	—	—	25	94
Other remote area	7	3	47	66	17	—	—	56	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>3,086</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,413</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>13,642</b>
<b>Females</b>									
Capital city	31,264	28,325	16,163	11,778	11,779	2,232	2,650	885	105,075
Other metropolitan centre	6,646	1,810	1,921	—	—	—	—	—	10,377
Large rural centre	4,246	3,056	4,331	—	218	1,155	—	—	13,007
Small rural centre	3,821	3,324	1,153	1,113	737	510	—	—	10,658
Other rural area	4,622	4,315	2,251	1,066	1,499	717	—	30	14,499
Remote centre	—	—	701	759	—	—	—	332	1,793
Other remote area	339	94	888	629	168	37	—	479	2,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,938</b>	<b>40,922</b>	<b>27,409</b>	<b>15,345</b>	<b>14,401</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>158,043</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
Capital city	34,332	30,374	17,627	12,700	13,039	2,432	2,771	962	114,236
Other metropolitan centre	7,480	1,922	2,101	—	—	—	—	—	11,503
Large rural centre	4,699	3,435	4,783	—	252	1,248	—	—	14,417
Small rural centre	4,185	3,612	1,219	1,179	787	553	—	—	11,534
Other rural area	4,915	4,568	2,375	1,096	1,551	738	—	33	15,277
Remote centre	—	—	733	797	—	—	—	358	1,888
Other remote area	346	96	936	695	185	37	—	535	2,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,958</b>	<b>44,008</b>	<b>29,772</b>	<b>16,466</b>	<b>15,814</b>	<b>5,007</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>171,684</b>
<b>(per cent—persons)</b>									
Capital city	61.4	69.0	59.2	77.1	82.5	48.6	100.0	50.9	66.5
Other metropolitan centre	13.4	4.4	7.1	—	—	—	—	—	6.7
Large rural centre	8.4	7.8	16.1	—	1.6	24.9	—	—	8.4
Small rural centre	7.5	8.2	4.1	7.2	5.0	11.0	—	—	6.7
Other rural area	8.8	10.4	8.0	6.7	9.8	14.7	—	1.8	8.9
Remote centre	—	—	2.5	4.8	—	—	—	18.9	1.1
Other remote area	0.6	0.2	3.1	4.2	1.2	0.7	—	28.4	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: AIHW.

**Table 63: Employed enrolled nurses: geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Males</b>									
Capital city	465	497	275	156	199	42	27	12	1,673
Other metropolitan centre	179	32	22	—	—	—	—	—	234
Large rural centre	64	173	97	0	1	7	—	—	342
Small rural centre	101	74	18	10	6	2	—	—	211
Other rural area	95	122	78	13	22	9	—	—	339
Remote centre	—	—	5	12	—	—	—	—	17
Other remote area	5	—	15	6	1	—	—	8	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,852</b>
<b>Females</b>									
Capital city	4,190	8,249	2,643	2,710	3,168	283	478	156	21,875
Other metropolitan centre	1,860	909	326	—	—	—	—	—	3,094
Large rural centre	1,183	1,497	983	0	76	178	—	—	3,918
Small rural centre	1,441	1,458	379	712	359	188	—	—	4,537
Other rural area	2,501	2,613	1,156	690	1,099	301	—	2	8,363
Remote centre	—	—	318	351	—	—	—	90	759
Other remote area	220	77	370	269	90	15	—	50	1,090
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,395</b>	<b>14,803</b>	<b>6,174</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>4,792</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>43,636</b>
<b>Persons</b>									
Capital city	4,654	8,746	2,918	2,866	3,367	325	505	168	23,548
Other metropolitan centre	2,039	941	348	—	—	—	—	—	3,328
Large rural centre	1,246	1,670	1,080	—	78	185	—	—	4,260
Small rural centre	1,542	1,532	397	722	365	190	—	—	4,748
Other rural area	2,596	2,736	1,233	703	1,121	310	—	2	8,702
Remote centre	—	—	323	363	—	—	—	90	776
Other remote area	225	77	384	275	91	15	—	58	1,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,303</b>	<b>15,701</b>	<b>6,684</b>	<b>4,929</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>46,488</b>
<b>(per cent—persons)</b>									
Capital city	57.1	65.5	56.4	72.8	78.7	45.7	100.0	51.2	63.2
Other metropolitan centre	13.9	4.8	6.7	—	—	—	—	—	6.8
Large rural centre	8.7	8.6	16.1	—	1.6	23.8	—	—	8.6
Small rural centre	8.4	8.6	4.4	8.9	5.5	12.3	—	—	7.5
Other rural area	11.0	12.2	9.9	8.4	12.8	17.4	—	1.6	11.0
Remote centre	—	—	2.9	5.4	—	—	—	20.3	1.2
Other remote area	0.8	0.3	3.6	4.5	1.3	0.9	—	26.9	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: AIHW.

**Table 64: Employed registered nurses: classification of main job, geographic location, States and Territories, 1996**

Classification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Capital city</b>									
L1 registered nurse	21,561	16,341	11,851	7,234	9,325	1,459	1,511	536	70,022
L2 clinical nurse	6,609	—	3,180	3,592	1,717	553	710	212	15,812
L3 nurse manager	1,917	3,960	431	452	283	77	92	18	7,399
L3 clinical nurse	716	7,019	931	411	743	142	226	109	10,668
L3 staff development/education	648	—	245	274	134	43	46	19	1,353
L4 staff development/education	67	—	46	54	43	8	15	2	225
L4 assistant director of nursing	610	1,451	231	150	129	49	40	16	2,737
Director of nursing	1,065	896	205	167	237	43	21	14	2,688
Lecturer—higher education	357	203	166	114	158	10	24	12	1,046
Other	782	505	341	251	270	47	86	25	2,285
<i>Total</i>	<i>34,332</i>	<i>30,374</i>	<i>17,627</i>	<i>12,700</i>	<i>13,039</i>	<i>2,432</i>	<i>2,771</i>	<i>962</i>	<i>114,236</i>
<b>Other metropolitan centre</b>									
L1 registered nurse	5,023	1,048	1,364	—	—	—	—	—	7,423
L2 clinical nurse	1,252	—	397	—	—	—	—	—	1,633
L3 nurse manager	428	231	68	—	—	—	—	—	734
L3 clinical nurse	109	481	113	—	—	—	—	—	726
L3 staff development/education	106	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	132
L4 staff development/education	11	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	19
L4 assistant director of nursing	111	88	17	—	—	—	—	—	219
Director of nursing	204	44	21	—	—	—	—	—	268
Lecturer—higher education	63	18	24	—	—	—	—	—	105
Other	172	12	62	—	—	—	—	—	245
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,480</i>	<i>1,922</i>	<i>2,101</i>	—	—	—	—	—	<i>11,503</i>
<b>Large rural centre</b>									
L1 registered nurse	3,207	1,975	3,296	—	177	723	—	—	9,380
L2 clinical nurse	719	—	763	—	38	316	—	—	1,779
L3 nurse manager	241	319	122	—	6	39	—	—	739
L3 clinical nurse	128	818	263	—	17	77	—	—	1,339
L3 staff development/education	54	—	70	—	3	6	—	—	132
L4 staff development/education	2	—	8	—	—	2	—	—	11
L4 assistant director of nursing	75	142	47	—	3	18	—	—	291
Director of nursing	126	66	55	—	1	26	—	—	273
Lecturer—higher education	38	67	82	—	6	14	—	—	210
Other	110	48	78	—	1	28	—	—	262
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,699</i>	<i>3,435</i>	<i>4,783</i>	—	<i>252</i>	<i>1,248</i>	—	—	<i>14,417</i>
<b>Small rural centre</b>									
L1 registered nurse	2,927	1,967	770	651	514	259	—	—	7,089
L2 clinical nurse	562	—	259	349	150	202	—	—	1,522
L3 nurse manager	231	344	30	65	12	24	—	—	705
L3 clinical nurse	73	977	69	34	60	29	—	—	1,242
L3 staff development/education	40	—	16	10	9	10	—	—	84
L4 staff development/education	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	7
L4 assistant director of nursing	63	170	19	15	3	8	—	—	279
Director of nursing	138	72	29	19	16	16	—	—	289
Lecturer—higher education	41	30	3	15	4	—	—	—	94
Other	108	52	22	19	17	6	—	—	224
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,185</i>	<i>3,612</i>	<i>1,219</i>	<i>1,179</i>	<i>787</i>	<i>553</i>	—	—	<i>11,534</i>

(continued)

**Table 64 (continued): Employed registered nurses: classification of main job, geographic location, States and Territories, 1996**

Classification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Other rural area</b>									
L1 registered nurse	3,464	2,096	1,565	598	1,107	470	—	8	9,309
L2 clinical nurse	675	—	439	363	248	191	—	4	1,846
L3 nurse manager	276	603	30	24	14	32	—	—	995
L3 clinical nurse	66	1,420	121	26	79	16	—	14	1,792
L3 staff development/education	38	—	16	15	1	—	—	—	68
L4 staff development/education	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
L4 assistant director of nursing	38	234	19	9	6	2	—	2	317
Director of nursing	237	140	134	39	76	22	—	—	649
Lecturer—higher education	6	6	2	—	1	—	—	4	19
Other	115	70	49	19	19	6	—	2	279
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15,277</b>
<b>Remote centre</b>									
L1 registered nurse	—	—	424	424	—	—	—	184	1,037
L2 clinical nurse	—	—	165	209	—	—	—	56	429
L3 nurse manager	—	—	17	35	—	—	—	21	71
L3 clinical nurse	—	—	49	52	—	—	—	66	164
L3 staff development/education	—	—	9	10	—	—	—	10	28
L4 staff development/education	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	2	5
L4 assistant director of nursing	—	—	5	19	—	—	—	4	27
Director of nursing	—	—	25	14	—	—	—	8	48
Lecturer—higher education	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	7
Other	—	—	38	29	—	—	—	2	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1,888</b>
<b>Other remote area</b>									
L1 registered nurse	240	35	515	346	100	16	—	161	1,440
L2 clinical nurse	36	—	179	199	45	14	—	84	551
L3 nurse manager	22	15	6	19	1	2	—	26	89
L3 clinical nurse	5	38	86	53	23	2	—	223	407
L3 staff development/education	—	—	8	6	1	—	—	14	27
L4 staff development/education	—	—	3	4	1	—	—	2	10
L4 assistant director of nursing	8	5	8	9	1	—	—	8	40
Director of nursing	27	2	105	38	10	2	—	10	201
Lecturer—higher education	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Other	6	2	24	21	1	—	—	8	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2,831</b>
<b>Total</b>									
L1 registered nurse	36,651	24,067	19,898	9,482	11,255	2,937	1,578	902	106,769
L2 clinical nurse	9,791	—	5,328	4,578	2,172	1,276	685	356	24,186
L3 nurse manager	3,084	5,263	770	563	309	174	91	68	10,323
L3 clinical nurse	1,070	10,539	1,599	558	916	265	206	388	15,542
L3 staff development/education	862	—	397	304	149	59	42	44	1,858
L4 staff development/education	77	—	65	66	47	10	13	5	283
L4 assistant director of nursing	906	1,984	341	184	144	74	34	27	3,693
Director of nursing	1,753	1,143	542	250	342	105	21	30	4,186
Lecturer—higher education	489	335	245	148	168	23	21	28	1,457
Other	1,274	676	587	333	312	84	81	39	3,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,958</b>	<b>44,008</b>	<b>29,772</b>	<b>16,466</b>	<b>15,814</b>	<b>5,007</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>171,684</b>

Source: AIHW.



**Table 65: Employed registered nurses: average age by geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Capital city									
Males	38.4	37.9	37.1	40.9	39.0	40.7	40.3	39.1	38.5
Females	40.2	39.7	39.1	40.6	39.7	41.3	42.3	39.1	39.9
All nurses	40.1	39.6	38.9	40.6	39.6	41.2	42.2	39.1	39.8
Other metropolitan centre									
Males	39.9	37.2	35.6	—	—	—	—	—	38.8
Females	40.3	39.8	38.5	—	—	—	—	—	39.9
All nurses	40.3	39.6	38.3	—	—	—	—	—	39.8
Large rural centre									
Males	39.9	37.6	38.8	—	36.7	37.3	—	—	38.6
Females	41.1	38.9	40.3	—	36.7	40.5	—	—	40.2
All nurses	41.0	38.8	40.2	—	36.7	40.3	—	—	40.0
Small rural centre									
Males	40.6	36.5	37.7	38.1	40.6	39.5	—	—	38.6
Females	41.5	40.3	42.0	41.8	40.4	42.2	—	—	41.1
All nurses	41.4	40.0	41.8	41.6	40.4	42.0	—	—	40.9
Other rural area									
Males	40.7	41.0	39.9	39.3	38.9	43.9	—	48.5	40.6
Females	43.0	42.6	42.8	42.7	41.9	43.8	—	43.6	42.7
All nurses	42.9	42.5	42.7	42.6	41.8	43.8	—	44.2	42.6
Remote centre									
Males	—	—	33.3	33.7	—	—	—	39.1	35.0
Females	—	—	39.0	38.0	—	—	—	39.1	38.6
All nurses	—	—	38.8	37.8	—	—	—	39.1	38.5
Other remote area									
Males	40.3	36.0	36.4	37.0	33.7	—	—	38.6	37.0
Females	42.7	43.0	40.6	39.4	41.3	47.5	—	38.7	40.5
All nurses	42.6	42.8	40.3	39.2	40.6	47.5	—	38.7	40.3
<b>Total</b>									
<b>Males</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>38.6</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>40.3</b>
<b>All nurses</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>40.1</b>

Source: AIHW.

**Table 66: Employed enrolled nurses: average age by geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location/sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Capital city									
Males	34.5	39.2	39.1	40.4	36.9	41.1	40.3	33.3	37.9
Females	36.4	39.9	40.6	39.7	38.6	38.1	39.9	38.2	39.2
All nurses	36.3	39.9	40.4	39.8	38.5	38.4	40.0	37.9	39.1
Other metropolitan centre									
Males	33.3	37.4	32.8	—	—	—	—	—	33.9
Females	36.1	38.3	37.0	—	—	—	—	—	37.0
All nurses	35.9	38.3	36.7	—	—	—	—	—	36.8
Large rural centre									
Males	33.1	36.0	36.7	—	40.0	48.5	—	—	36.0
Females	36.9	37.8	37.9	—	36.9	39.6	—	—	37.6
All nurses	—	39.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.0
All nurses	36.8	37.6	37.8	—	37.0	39.8	—	—	37.5
Small rural centre									
Males	35.5	37.9	38.3	36.6	33.5	44.0	—	—	36.8
Females	37.5	38.8	40.1	40.6	38.0	40.0	—	—	38.8
All nurses	37.4	38.8	40.0	40.6	38.0	40.1	—	—	38.7
Other rural area									
Males	38.5	37.6	40.2	44.0	35.7	37.3	—	—	38.5
Females	38.6	39.9	38.8	40.5	38.4	41.0	—	42.0	39.3
All nurses	38.0	40.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.7
Remote centre									
Males	—	—	36.0	36.8	—	—	—	—	36.6
Females	—	—	36.8	39.2	—	—	—	39.1	38.0
All nurses	—	—	36.8	39.1	—	—	—	39.1	38.0
Other remote area									
Males	33.5	—	35.2	41.0	33.0	—	—	46.7	37.8
Females	38.5	39.1	38.1	38.0	37.7	48.8	—	40.1	38.4
All nurses	38.4	39.1	38.0	38.1	37.7	48.8	—	40.9	38.4
<b>Total</b>									
<b>Males</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>37.4</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>All nurses</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>

Source: AIHW.

**Table 67: Employed registered nurses: total hours worked per week, geographic location of main job, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location/ hours worked	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Capital city</b>									
1–19	5,251	4,484	2,117	1,623	2,179	375	369	70	16,558
20–34	8,869	10,625	5,456	4,059	4,367	890	1,043	186	35,691
35 and over	20,213	15,265	10,054	7,018	6,492	1,167	1,359	706	61,987
<i>Total</i>	<b>34,332</b>	<b>30,374</b>	<b>17,627</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>13,039</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>114,236</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	34.8	33.0	32.7	34.2	31.4	31.8	33.1	36.6	33.4
<b>Other metropolitan centre</b>									
1–19	1,155	400	147	—	—	—	—	—	1,715
20–34	2,201	725	616	—	—	—	—	—	3,561
35 and over	4,124	797	1,337	—	—	—	—	—	6,226
<i>Total</i>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>2,101</b>	—	—	—	—	—	<b>11,503</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	33.9	30.3	34.3	—	—	—	—	—	33.3
<b>Large rural centre</b>									
1–19	695	504	557	—	48	134	—	—	1,949
20–34	1,369	1,379	1,510	—	77	517	—	—	4,865
35 and over	2,635	1,551	2,717	—	127	597	—	—	7,603
<i>Total</i>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>4,783</b>	—	<b>252</b>	<b>1,248</b>	—	—	<b>14,417</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	34.3	32.0	32.4	—	31.2	32.3	—	—	32.9
<b>Small rural centre</b>									
1–19	693	593	180	155	156	83	—	—	1,870
20–34	1,245	1,555	411	425	311	208	—	—	4,189
35 and over	2,247	1,464	628	598	320	262	—	—	5,476
<i>Total</i>	<b>4,185</b>	<b>3,612</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>553</b>	—	—	<b>11,535</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	33.9	31.6	31.2	33.7	29.9	32.9	—	—	32.5
<b>Other rural area</b>									
1–19	865	933	345	230	391	148	—	2	2,939
20–34	1,561	2,142	799	430	671	386	—	10	6,038
35 and over	2,489	1,493	1,231	436	489	204	—	21	6,300
<i>Total</i>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>738</b>	—	<b>33</b>	<b>15,277</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	33.8	29.5	31.4	32.0	27.6	28.5	—	38.3	31.0
<b>Remote centre</b>									
1–19	—	—	94	103	—	—	—	32	230
20–34	—	—	213	158	—	—	—	63	438
35 and over	—	—	426	537	—	—	—	263	1,220
<i>Total</i>	—	—	<b>733</b>	<b>797</b>	—	—	—	<b>358</b>	<b>1,888</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	—	—	33.2	37.7	—	—	—	36.9	35.7
<b>Other remote area</b>									
1–19	61	13	137	110	25	4	—	21	375
20–34	89	36	210	118	63	19	—	58	609
35 and over	195	47	589	467	97	14	—	456	1,847
<i>Total</i>	<b>346</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>37</b>	—	<b>535</b>	<b>2,831</b>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	34.5	32.5	32.9	38.5	32.3	31.6	—	41.7	35.8
<b>Total</b>									
1–19	8,720	6,928	3,576	2,221	2,799	744	369	125	25,483
20–34	15,334	16,463	9,215	5,191	5,489	2,021	1,043	316	55,071
35 and over	31,902	20,616	16,983	9,055	7,526	2,243	1,359	1,447	91,132
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,958</b>	<b>44,008</b>	<b>29,772</b>	<b>16,466</b>	<b>15,814</b>	<b>5,007</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>171,684</b>
<b>Average weekly hours</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>33.2</b>

(continued)

**Table 67 (continued): Employed registered nurses: total hours worked per week, geographic location of main job, States and Territories, 1996**

Geographic location hours worked	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	(per cent)								
Capital city									
1-19	15.3	14.8	12.0	12.8	16.7	15.4	13.3	7.3	14.5
20-34	25.8	35.0	30.9	32.0	33.5	36.6	37.6	19.3	31.2
35 and over	58.9	50.3	57.0	55.3	49.8	48.0	49.0	73.4	54.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other metropolitan centre									
1-19	15.4	20.8	7.0	—	—	—	—	—	14.9
20-34	29.4	37.7	29.3	—	—	—	—	—	31.0
35 and over	55.1	41.4	63.7	—	—	—	—	—	54.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	100.0
Large rural centre									
1-19	14.8	14.7	11.6	—	18.9	10.7	—	—	13.5
20-34	29.1	40.2	31.6	—	30.5	41.4	—	—	33.7
35 and over	56.1	45.2	56.8	—	50.5	47.8	—	—	52.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0
Small rural centre									
1-19	16.6	16.4	14.7	13.2	19.8	15.1	—	—	16.2
20-34	29.7	43.0	33.7	36.1	39.5	37.5	—	—	36.3
35 and over	53.7	40.5	51.5	50.7	40.7	47.4	—	—	47.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0
Other rural area									
1-19	17.6	20.4	14.5	21.0	25.2	20.0	—	5.9	19.2
20-34	31.8	46.9	33.7	39.3	43.3	52.4	—	29.4	39.5
35 and over	50.6	32.7	51.8	39.7	31.5	27.6	—	64.7	41.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Remote centre									
1-19	—	—	12.8	12.9	—	—	—	9.0	12.2
20-34	—	—	29.1	19.8	—	—	—	17.5	23.2
35 and over	—	—	58.1	67.3	—	—	—	73.5	64.6
Total	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	100.0
Other remote area									
1-19	17.7	13.6	14.6	15.8	13.3	10.5	..	3.9	13.3
20-34	25.8	37.9	22.4	17.0	34.1	52.6	..	10.9	21.5
35 and over	56.5	48.5	63.0	67.2	52.6	36.8	..	85.3	65.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0
Total									
1-19	15.6	15.7	12.0	13.5	17.7	14.9	13.3	6.6	14.8
20-34	27.4	37.4	31.0	31.5	34.7	40.4	37.6	16.7	32.1
35 and over	57.0	46.8	57.0	55.0	47.6	44.8	49.0	76.7	53.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: AIHW.

**Table 68: Employed enrolled nurses: total hours worked per week, geographic location of main job, States and Territories, 1996**

<b>Geographic location hours worked</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>Capital city</b>									
1–19	767	1,680	441	431	751	45	88	25	4,288
20–34	1,241	3,252	1,019	1,168	1,496	151	222	54	8,662
35 and over	2,646	3,814	1,457	1,268	1,119	129	196	89	10,597
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,654</i>	<i>8,746</i>	<i>2,918</i>	<i>2,866</i>	<i>3,367</i>	<i>325</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>23,548</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>36.2</i>	<i>31.4</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>31.6</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>31.7</i>
<b>Other metropolitan centre</b>									
1–19	315	244	46	—	—	—	—	—	618
20–34	622	430	146	—	—	—	—	—	1,220
35 and over	1,102	267	156	—	—	—	—	—	1,490
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,039</i>	<i>941</i>	<i>348</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>3,328</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>35.3</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>32.5</i>
<b>Large rural centre</b>									
1–19	184	294	157	—	18	32	—	—	687
20–34	407	805	366	—	41	99	—	—	1,731
35 and over	655	572	556	—	19	54	—	—	1,841
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,246</i>	<i>1,670</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>4,260</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>29.9</i>	<i>31.3</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>27.4</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>31.7</i>
<b>Small rural centre</b>									
1–19	299	286	47	102	87	31	—	—	858
20–34	511	790	185	335	170	90	—	—	2,107
35 and over	732	457	164	285	108	69	—	—	1,783
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,542</i>	<i>1,532</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>4,748</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>34.3</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>31.0</i>
<b>Other rural area</b>									
1–19	470	566	155	139	370	53	—	—	1,782
20–34	773	1,459	440	313	552	159	—	2	3,752
35 and over	1,353	712	637	251	200	98	—	—	3,168
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,596</i>	<i>2,736</i>	<i>1,233</i>	<i>703</i>	<i>1,121</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8,702</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>30.5</i>
<b>Remote centre</b>									
1–19	—	—	48	35	—	—	—	10	138
20–34	—	—	120	132	—	—	—	39	420
35 and over	—	—	156	196	—	—	—	41	567
<i>Total</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>363</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>1,125</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>30.6</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>32.6</i>
<b>Other remote area</b>									
1–19	41	15	57	35	26	—	—	—	180
20–34	68	36	113	91	34	5	—	17	367
35 and over	115	26	214	149	31	10	—	41	579
<i>Total</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>1,125</i>
<i>Average weekly hours</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>26.9</i>	<i>41.7</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>34.8</i>	<i>32.4</i>
<b>Total</b>									
1–19	2,076	3,084	952	742	1,251	161	88	34	8,387
20–34	3,622	6,770	2,390	2,039	2,294	504	222	112	17,952
35 and over	6,605	5,848	3,341	2,148	1,477	360	196	171	20,147
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,302</b>	<b>15,702</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>4,929</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>46,486</b>
<b>Average weekly hours</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>31.6</b>

(continued)

**Table 68 (continued): Employed enrolled nurses: total hours worked per week, geographic location of main job, States and Territories, 1996**

<b>Geographic location hours worked</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>Vic</b>	<b>Qld</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Tas</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Australia</b>
	(per cent)								
Capital city									
1–19	16.5	19.2	15.1	15.0	22.3	13.8	17.3	14.7	18.2
20–34	26.7	37.2	34.9	40.7	44.4	46.3	43.9	32.4	36.8
35 and over	56.9	43.6	49.9	44.2	33.2	39.8	38.8	52.9	45.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Other metropolitan centre									
1–19	15.4	25.9	13.3	—	—	—	—	—	18.6
20–34	30.5	45.7	41.9	—	—	—	—	—	36.7
35 and over	54.1	28.4	44.8	—	—	—	—	—	44.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	—	—	—	—	<i>100.0</i>
Large rural centre									
1–19	14.7	17.6	14.6	—	22.4	17.4	—	—	16.1
20–34	32.7	48.2	33.9	—	53.1	53.6	—	—	40.6
35 and over	52.6	34.2	51.5	—	24.5	29.0	—	—	43.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	—	<i>100.0</i>
Small rural centre									
1–19	19.4	18.6	11.9	14.1	23.7	16.2	—	—	18.1
20–34	33.1	51.5	46.7	46.4	46.6	47.3	—	—	44.4
35 and over	47.5	29.8	41.4	39.5	29.7	36.5	—	—	37.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	—	<i>100.0</i>
Other rural area									
1–19	18.1	20.7	12.6	19.8	33.0	17.1	—	—	20.5
20–34	29.8	53.3	35.7	44.5	49.2	51.3	—	100.0	43.1
35 and over	52.1	26.0	51.7	35.7	17.8	31.6	—	—	36.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Remote centre									
1–19	—	—	14.8	9.7	—	—	—	10.8	12.3
20–34	—	—	37.0	36.4	—	—	—	43.2	37.3
35 and over	—	—	48.1	53.9	—	—	—	45.9	50.4
<i>Total</i>	—	—	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	—	—	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Other remote area									
1–19	18.3	19.1	14.7	12.9	28.6	—	—	—	16.0
20–34	30.4	46.8	29.5	33.1	37.5	33.3	—	29.2	32.6
35 and over	51.3	34.0	55.8	54.0	33.9	66.7	—	70.8	51.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	—	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total									
1–19	16.9	19.6	14.2	15.1	24.9	15.7	17.3	10.8	18.0
20–34	29.4	43.1	35.8	41.4	45.7	49.1	43.9	35.3	38.6
35 and over	53.7	37.2	50.0	43.6	29.4	35.2	38.8	53.9	43.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: AIHW.