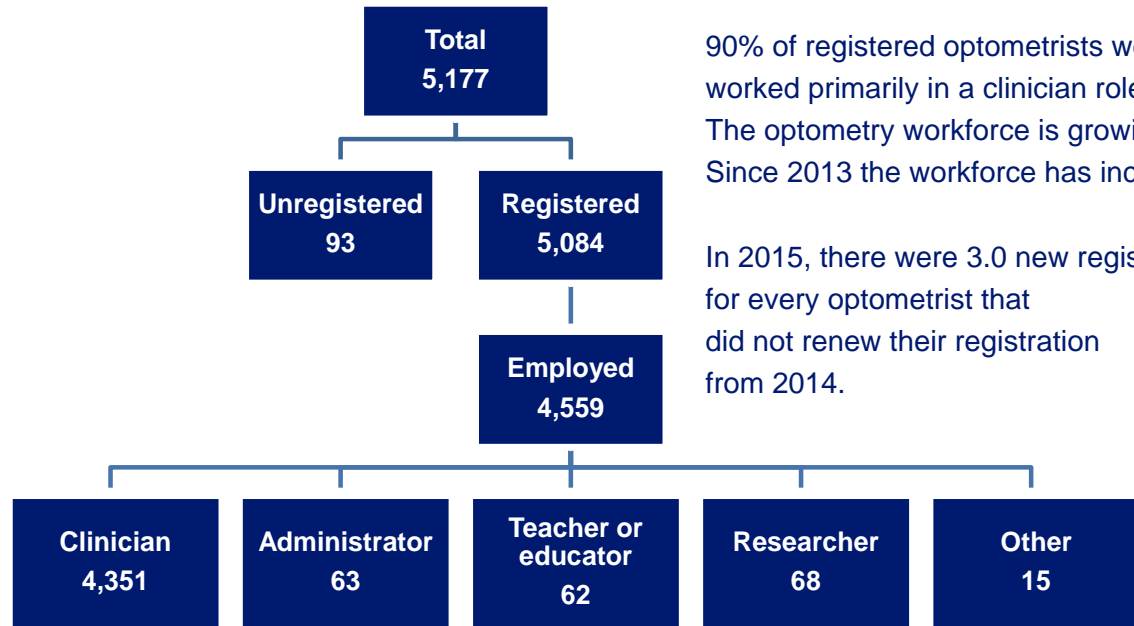
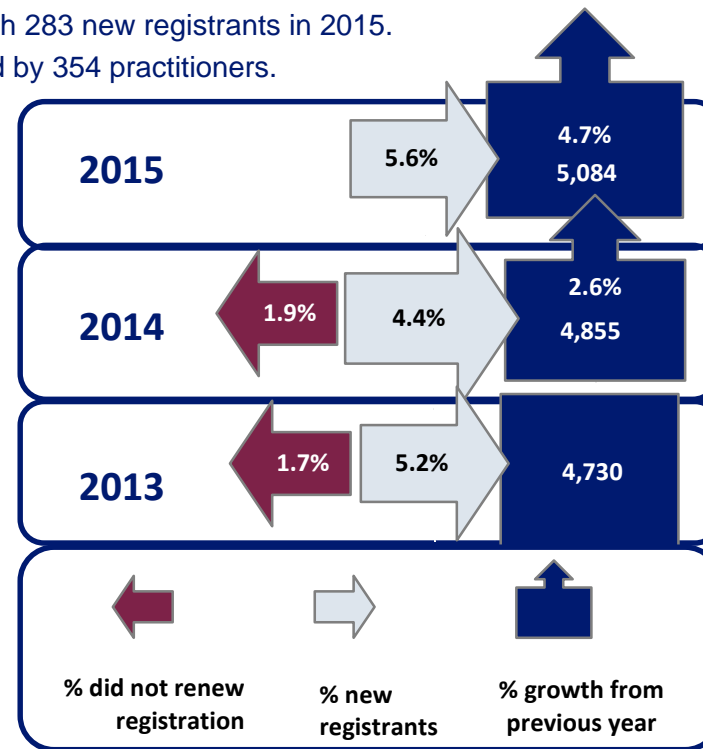


The NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DATASET (NHWDS) OPTOMETRY 2015



90% of registered optometrists were employed, and the majority of employed optometrists (95%) worked primarily in a clinician role. The optometry workforce is growing, with 283 new registrants in 2015. Since 2013 the workforce has increased by 354 practitioners.

In 2015, there were 3.0 new registrants for every optometrist that did not renew their registration from 2014.

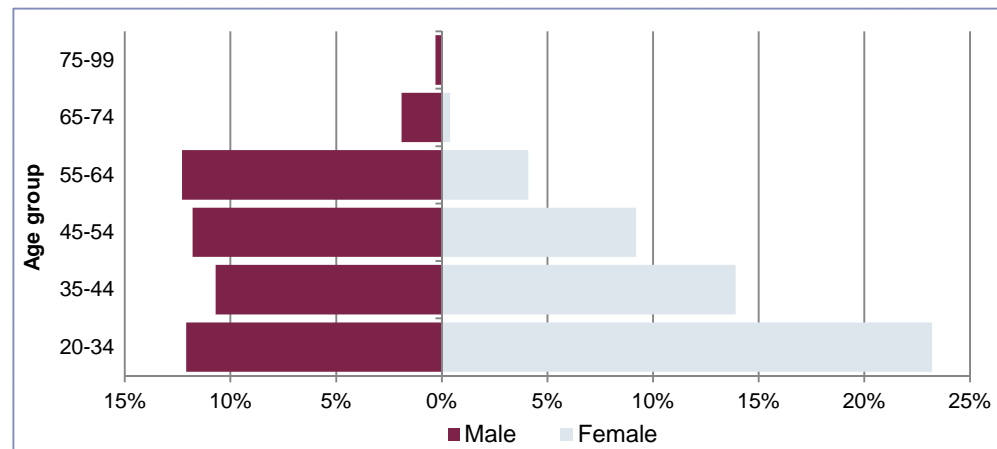


2171 optometrists (48% of all employed) held a scheduled medicines endorsement.

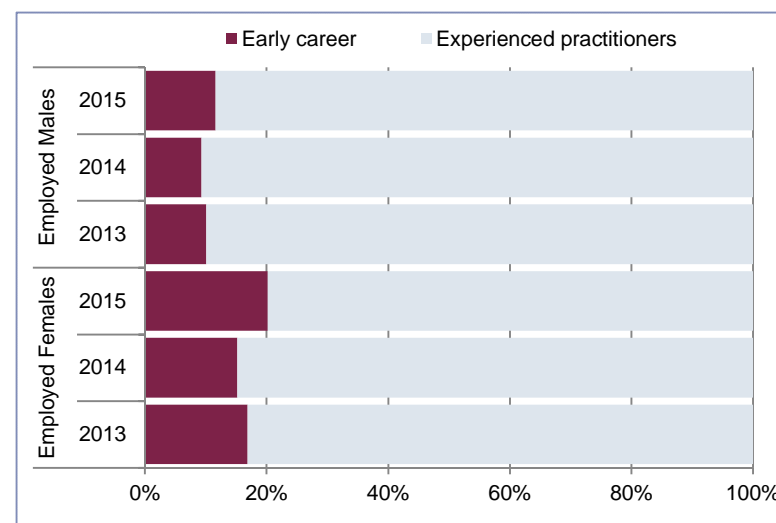
60% of optometrists were aged 44 years or younger. Female practitioners comprised over two-thirds (67%) of the 20-34 years age group.

The proportion of male optometrists in the workforce has decreased from 51% in 2013 to 49% in 2015.

Employed practitioners: Gender (%) by Age Group



Employed Male and Female practitioners: Early Career (%) by Year



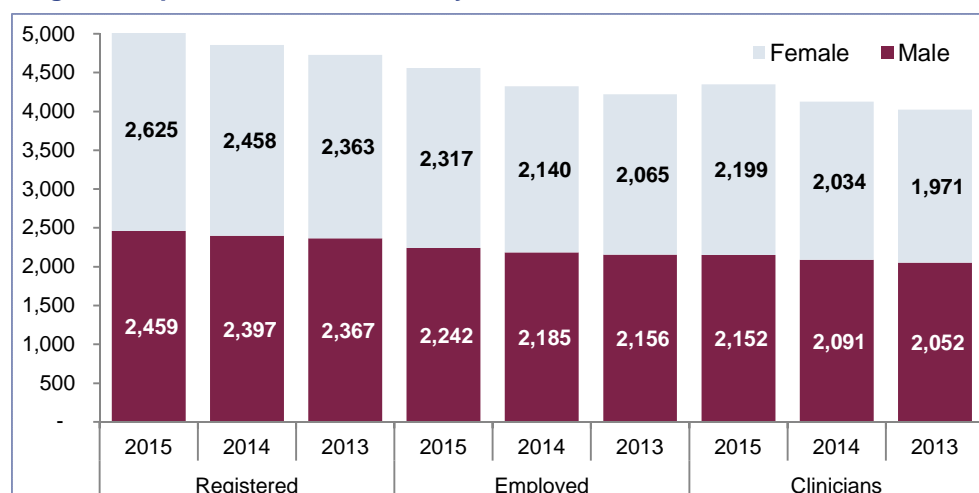
93% of Early Career optometrists (registered 3 years or less) were aged 20-34 years.

In 2015, there were 53 Early Career optometrists over 34 years of age. 93% of Early Career practitioners and 89% of Experienced practitioners were employed in the optometry workforce.

Early Career practitioners comprised 19% of female optometrists in 2015, an increase from 16% in 2013.

The proportion of Early Career practitioners among male optometrists increased from 10% in 2013 to 12% in 2015.

Registered practitioners: Gender by Workforce Status



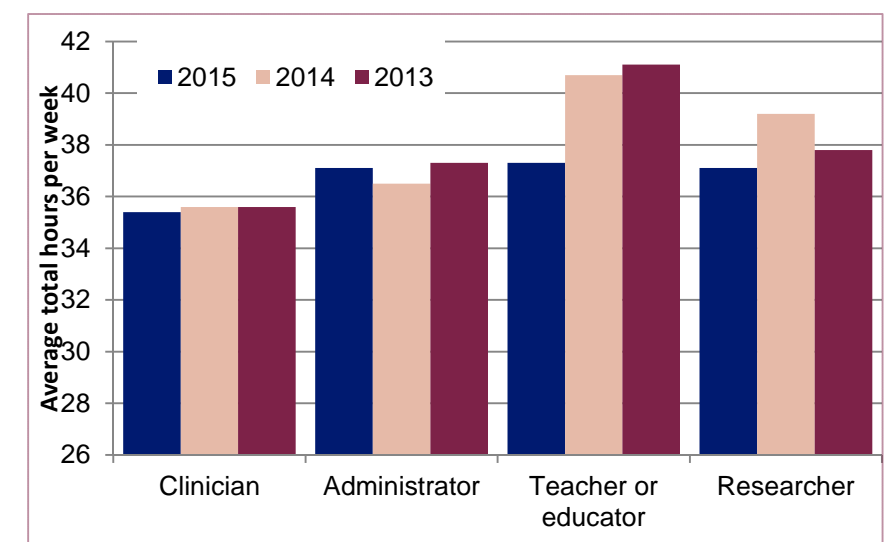
HOURS WORKED

In 2015, clinician optometrists worked 35.4 hours per week on average, and this average has remained steady for the last 3 years.

Teachers and educators worked the longest hours per week on average (37.3). Researchers worked the fewest clinical hours per week, at 9 hours on average.

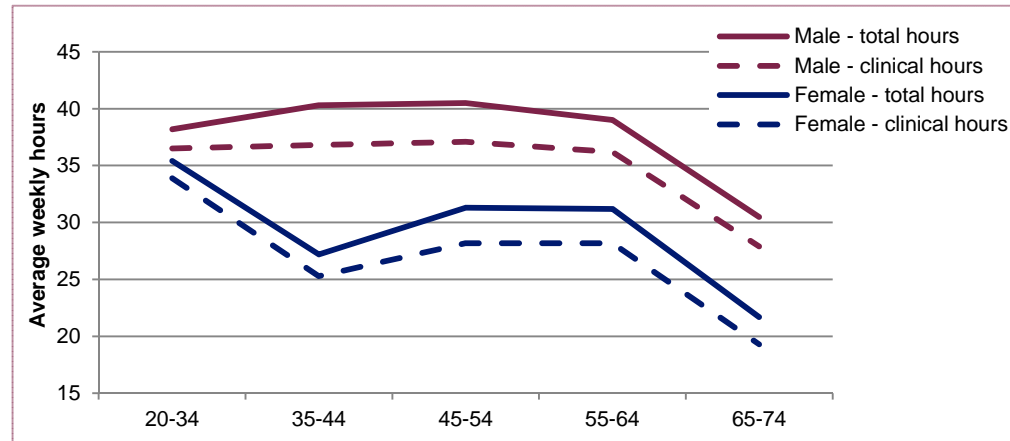
Clinician optometrists spent an average of 33.6 hours per week performing clinical duties, while non-clinicians spent 13.3 hours per week on clinical work.

Employed practitioners: Average weekly hours by Job Role and Year



41	Average age
35.4	Average weekly hours
51	% female
58	% born in Australia
0.3	% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
87	% with Australian/NZ qualifications
16	% Registered 3 years or less (Early Career)
78	% in major cities

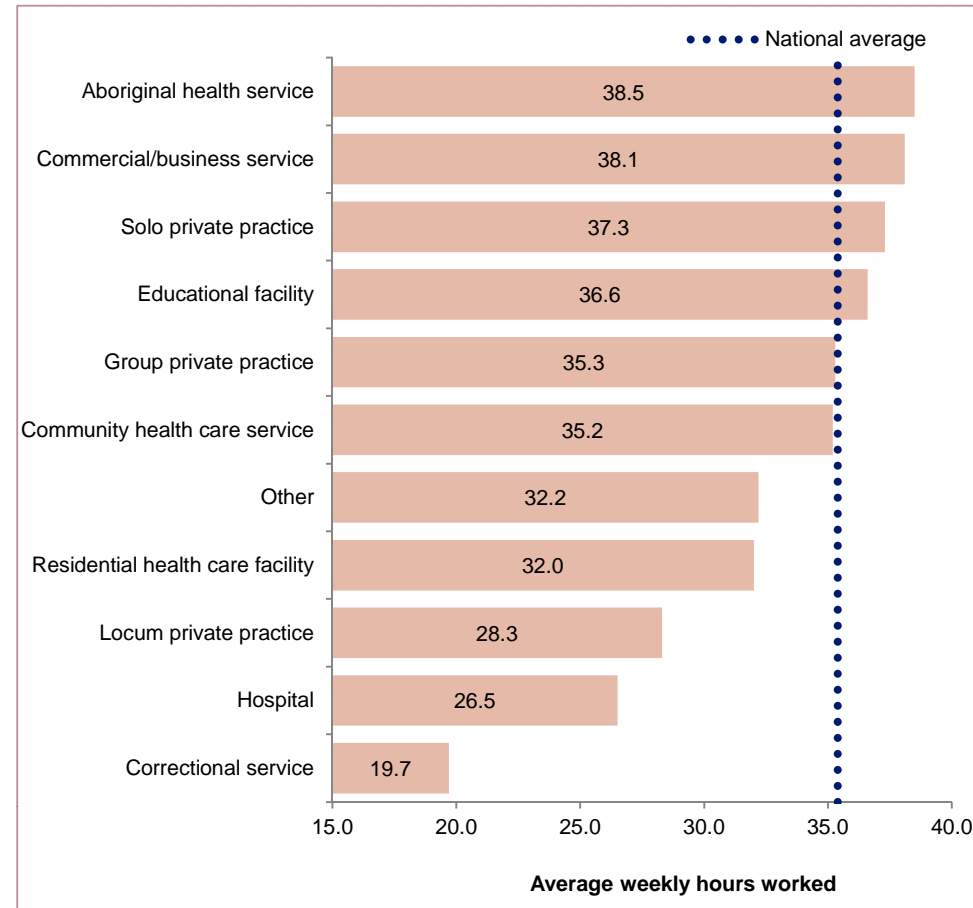
Employed practitioners: Average Weekly Hours by Age Group and Gender



Male optometrists worked 39 total hours per week on average, while female optometrists worked 32 total hours.

The most hours were worked by male optometrists in the 45-54 years age group, at 40.5 hours per week. Among female optometrists, the most hours were worked by the 20-34 years age group, at 35.4 hours.

Employed practitioners: Average Weekly Hours by Job Setting



SETTING AND SECTOR

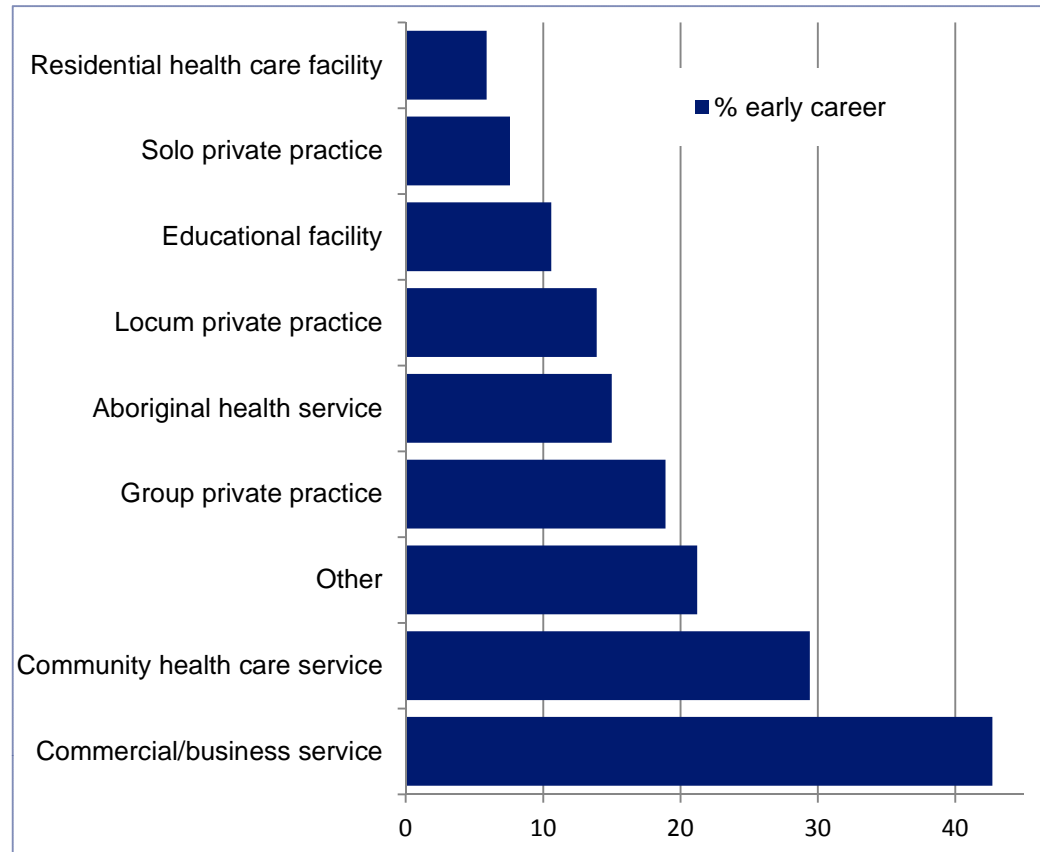
46% of employed optometrists worked in Group private practice, 32% worked in Solo private practice, and 9% worked in Locum private practice.

6% of optometrists worked in a Commercial / Business Service, and 3% reported working in an educational facility. The remaining 187 employed practitioners (4% of the workforce) worked in a range of public and private sector settings.

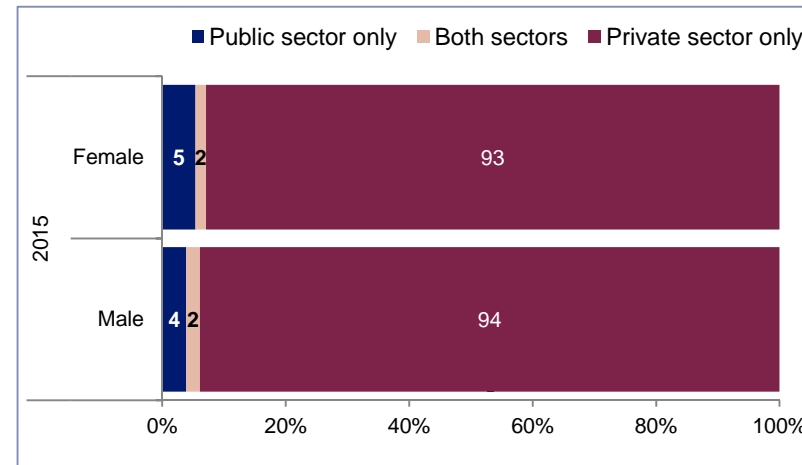
7% of clinician optometrists worked some clinical hours in the public sector. The proportions of both male and female optometrists working only in the private sector have remained unchanged since 2013.

At 16% of the overall workforce, Early Career optometrists comprised 43% of the Commercial / Business Service workforce.

Employed practitioners: Early Career practitioners (%) in selected Job Settings



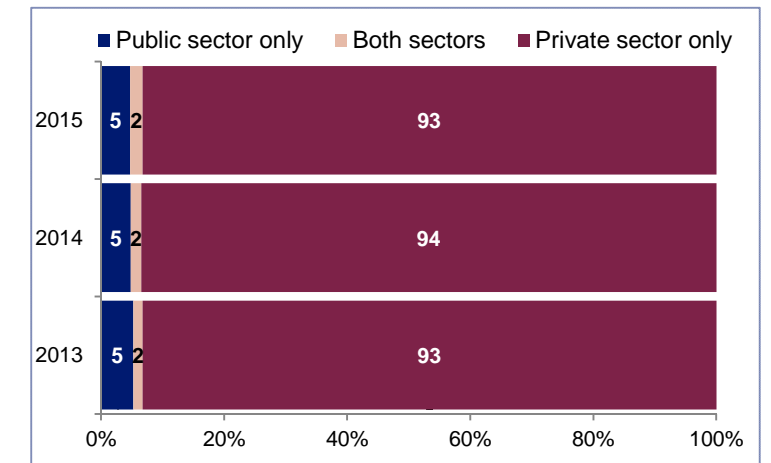
Clinicians: Male and Female (%) by Sector



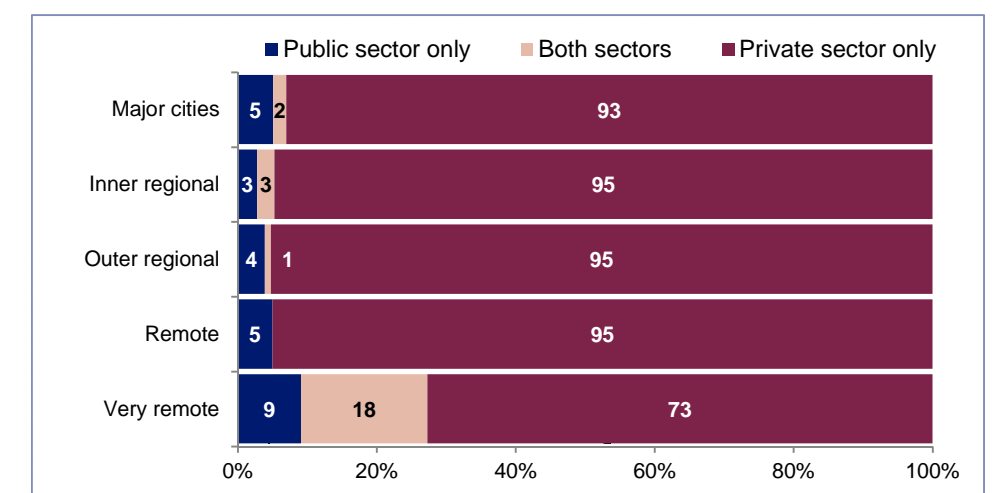
Since 2013, the proportion of clinicians working only in the public sector has decreased across all areas other than Remote, where there was an increase from 4%.

The largest decrease occurred in Outer Regional areas, where 6% of clinicians worked only the public sector in 2013, compared to 4% in 2015.

Clinicians (%) by Sector and Year



Clinicians (%) by Sector and Remoteness Areas

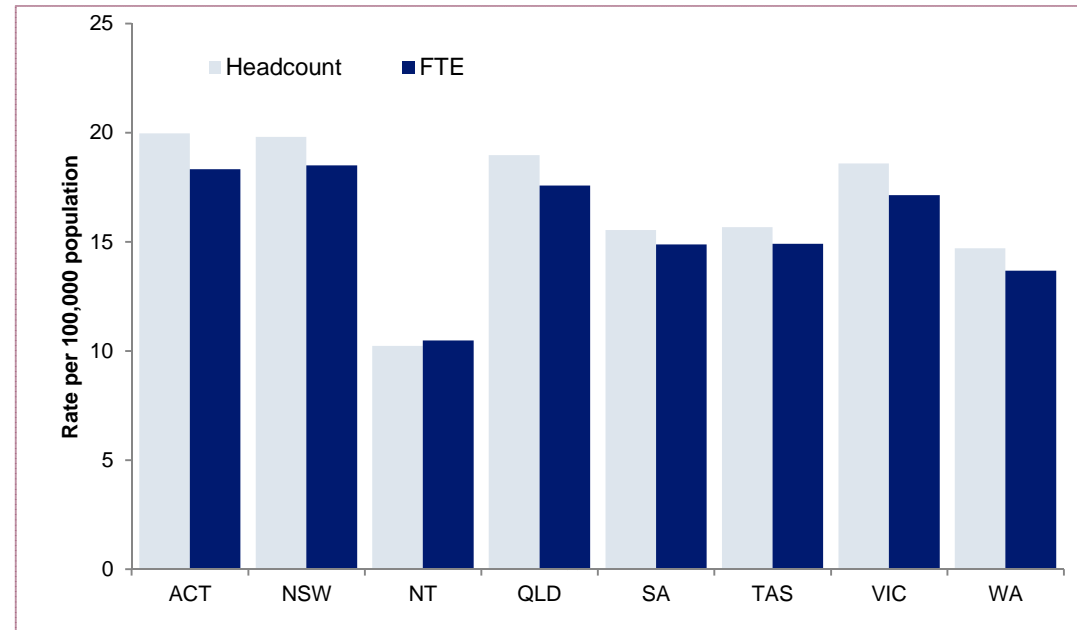


LOCATION

Numbers of full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians per 100,000 population decreased with remoteness, from 19 FTE clinicians in Major Cities to 5 FTE in Very Remote locations.

Since 2013, the number of FTE clinicians per 100,000 population increased by 1 FTE in Major Cities, Inner and Outer Regional areas and Very Remote areas, and decreased by 1 FTE in Remote areas.

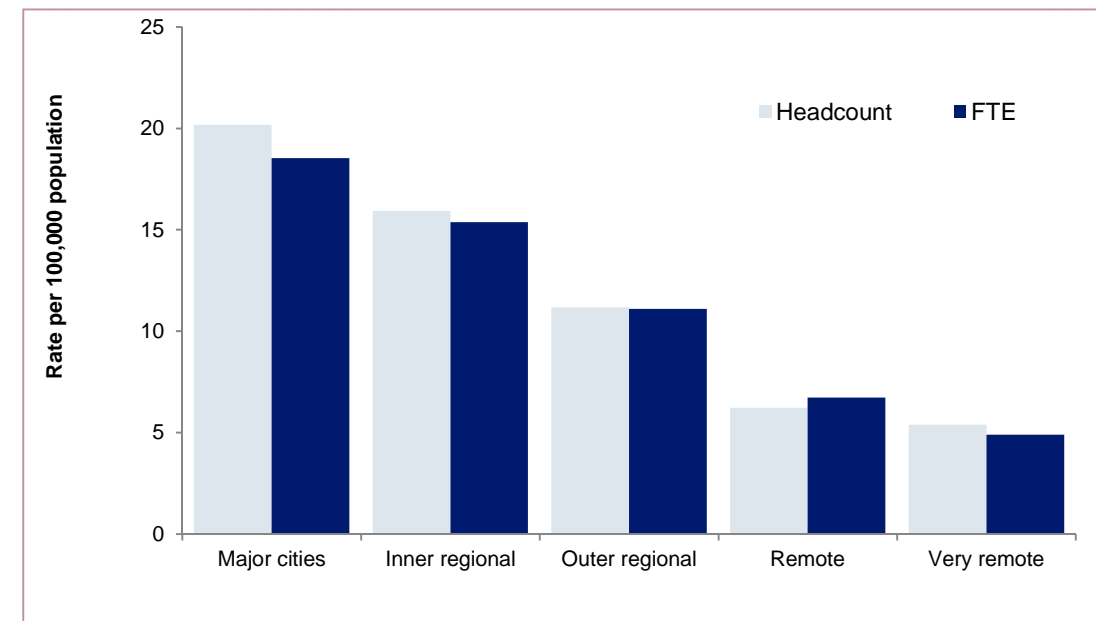
Clinicians: Headcount and FTE by State / Territory



The distribution of the workforce across states and territories shows a peak of 19 FTE clinicians per 100,000 population in NSW.

Since 2013, FTE numbers increased by 1 in NSW, Qld, SA, Victoria and WA, and increased by 2 in ACT. FTE decreased by 3 in NT and remained unchanged in Victoria.

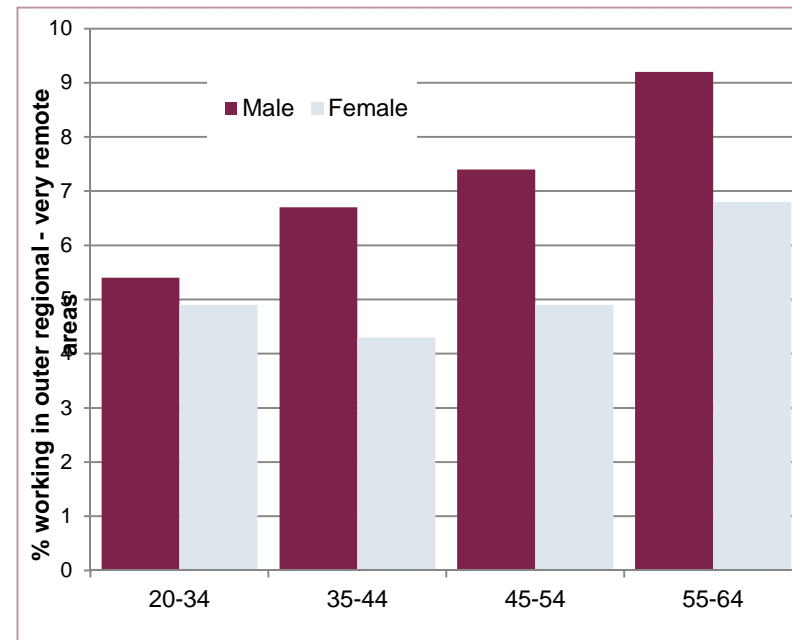
Clinicians: Headcount and FTE by Remoteness Area



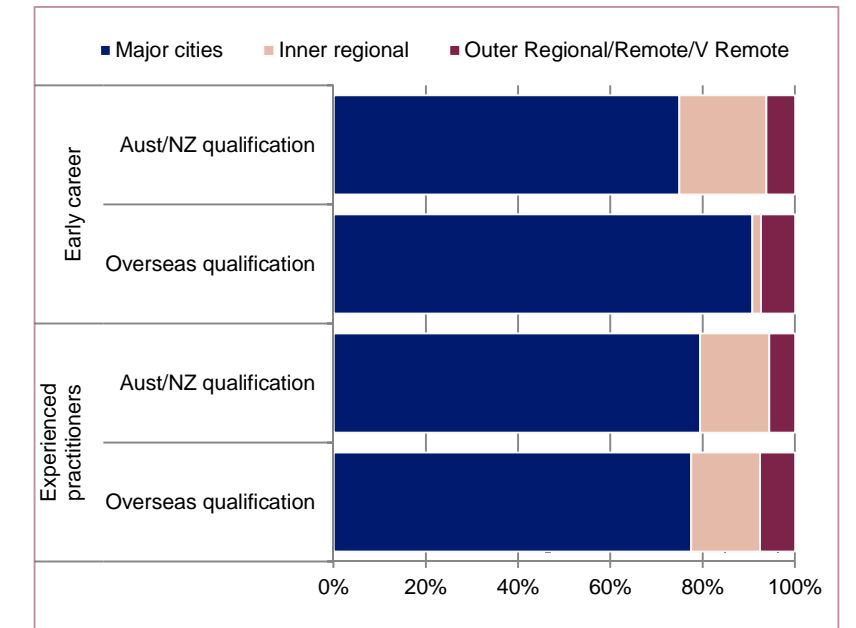
Male clinicians in all age groups to 65 years were more likely than their female counterparts to work in Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote locations. In 2015, there were 18 male clinicians and 13 female clinicians working in Remote and Very Remote locations around Australia.

25% of Early Career clinicians with Australian or New Zealand qualifications worked outside Major Cities in regional and remote areas. The small number of overseas-qualified Early Career clinicians (54) were the group most inclined to work in Major Cities (91%).

Clinicians: % in Outer Regional and Remote Areas by Sex and Age Group



Clinicians: Remoteness Area by Career Status

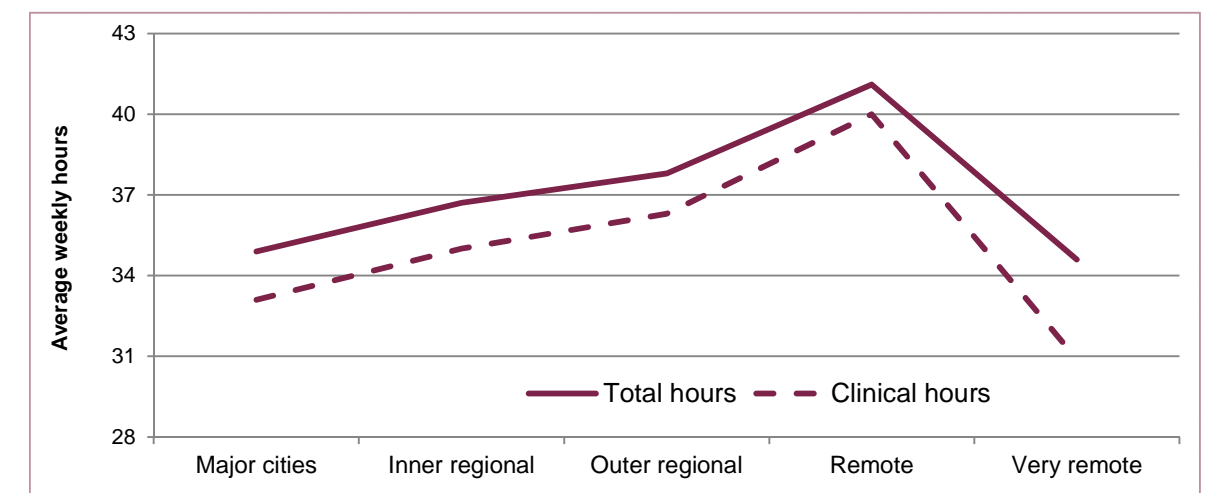


Average total hours for clinicians were highest in NT (39 hours per week) and SA (36.4 hours) and lowest in ACT (34.9 hours).

Clinicians' average total hours increased from 34.9 hours in Major Cities to 41.1 hours in Remote areas, yet decreased to 34.6 hours in Very Remote areas.

Clinicians' average clinical hours relative to total hours per week followed a similar pattern between Major Cities and Remote areas, yet decreased to 30.9 clinical hours in Very Remote areas.

Clinicians: Average Weekly Hours by Remoteness Area

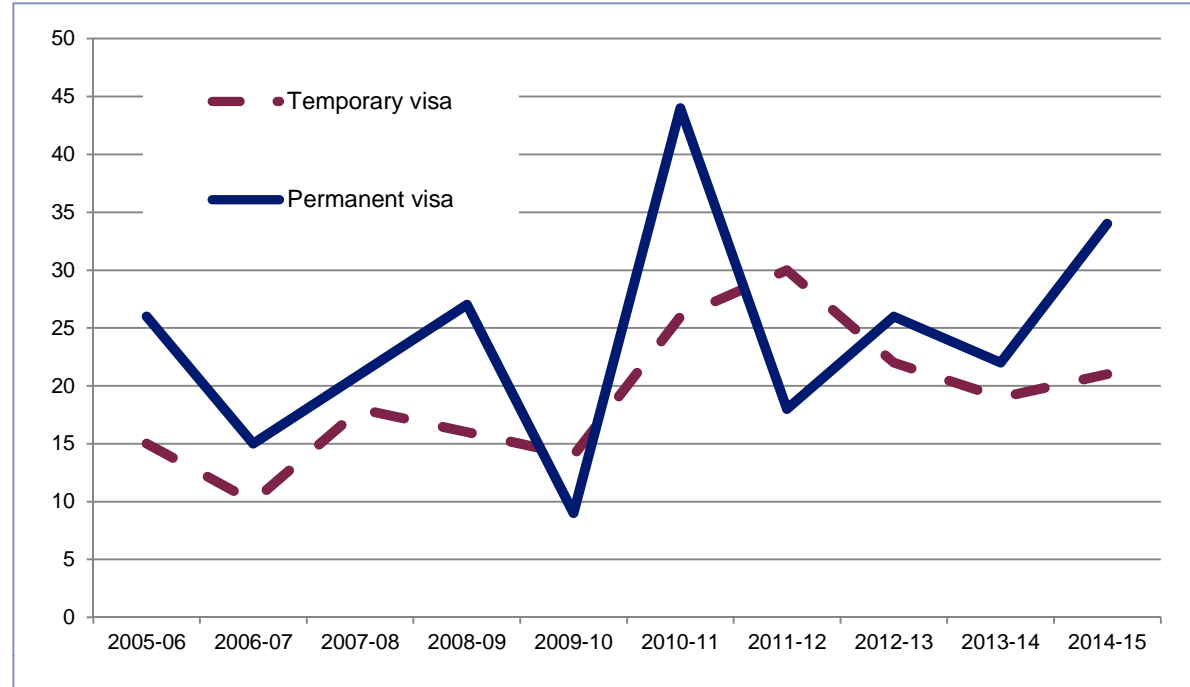


WORKFORCE TRENDS

From 2005 to 2015, an average of 19.1 temporary visas and 24.2 permanent visas were granted to optometrists each year.

Temporary and Permanent Visas issued, 2005-2015

Source: DIBP Administrative data, 2015

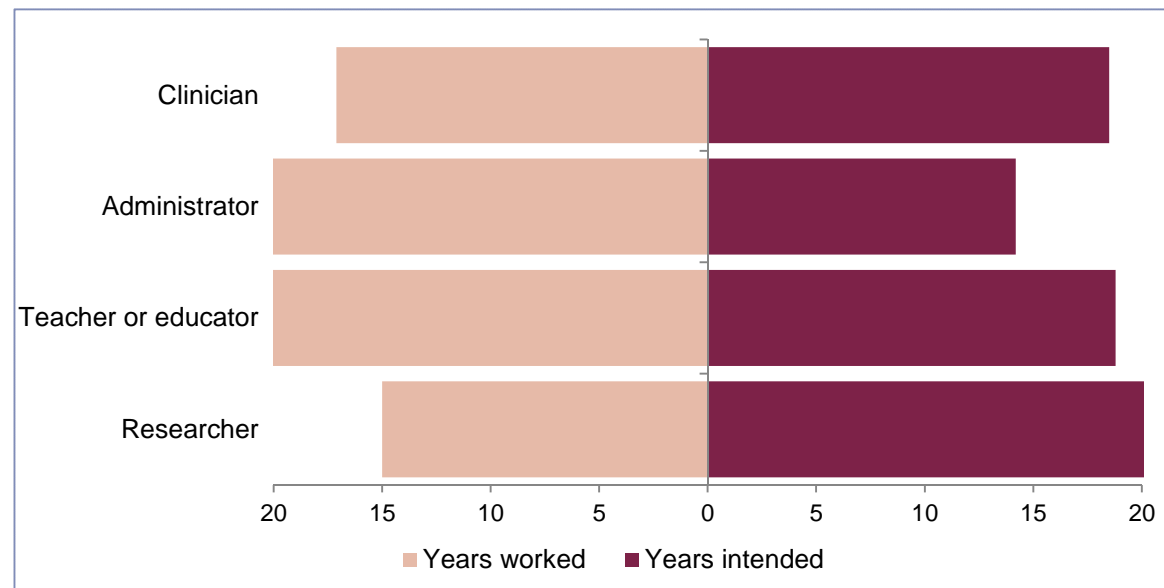


Overall, optometrists reported an intended career length of 35.7 years.

Administrators had the longest work history (22.5 years) while Teachers and educators had the longest intended careers (39.2 years).

Clinicians reported the shortest intended careers (35.6 years).

Employed practitioners: Career Length by Job Role



SCHEDULED MEDICINES ENDORSEMENT

48% of employed optometrists held a scheduled medicines endorsement.

The proportion of clinicians with a scheduled medicines endorsement within each of the states and territories ranged from 36% of clinicians in NSW to 69% in Tasmania.

The total number of endorsements has grown from 1,550 in 2013 to 2,171 in 2015.

Employed practitioners with Scheduled Medicines endorsement (%) by State / Territory

