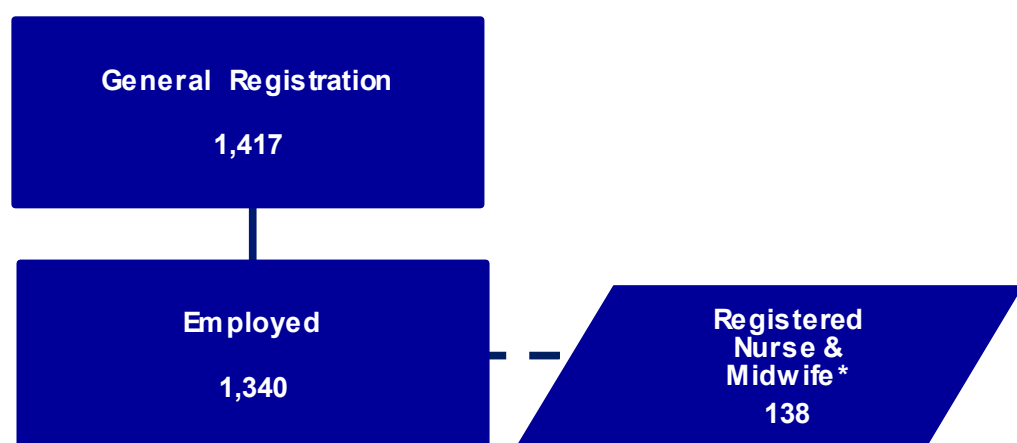


Nurse Practitioners NHWDS 2016 Fact Sheet



Australian Government
Department of Health

2016 Workforce



The Nurse Practitioner 2016 *registered* workforce (**1,417**) has increased by **54.2%** (**498**) compared with the workforce in 2013 (**919**), with an average annual increase of **15.5%**.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	919	1,085	1,240	1,417
Employed	873	1,035	1,177	1,340

* **Note:** Of the **1,340** *employed* Nurse Practitioners, **138** held a dual registration and worked an average of **8.7** hours per week in midwifery.

Year	Nurse Practitioners			Total Nurses and Midwives	
	Registered	Employed	% Employed	Employed	% Employed Nurse Practitioners
2013	919	873	95.0%	295,177	0.3%
2014	1,085	1,035	95.4%	300,000	0.3%
2015	1,240	1,177	94.9%	306,472	0.4%
2016	1,417	1,340	94.6%	315,137	0.4%

Hours worked

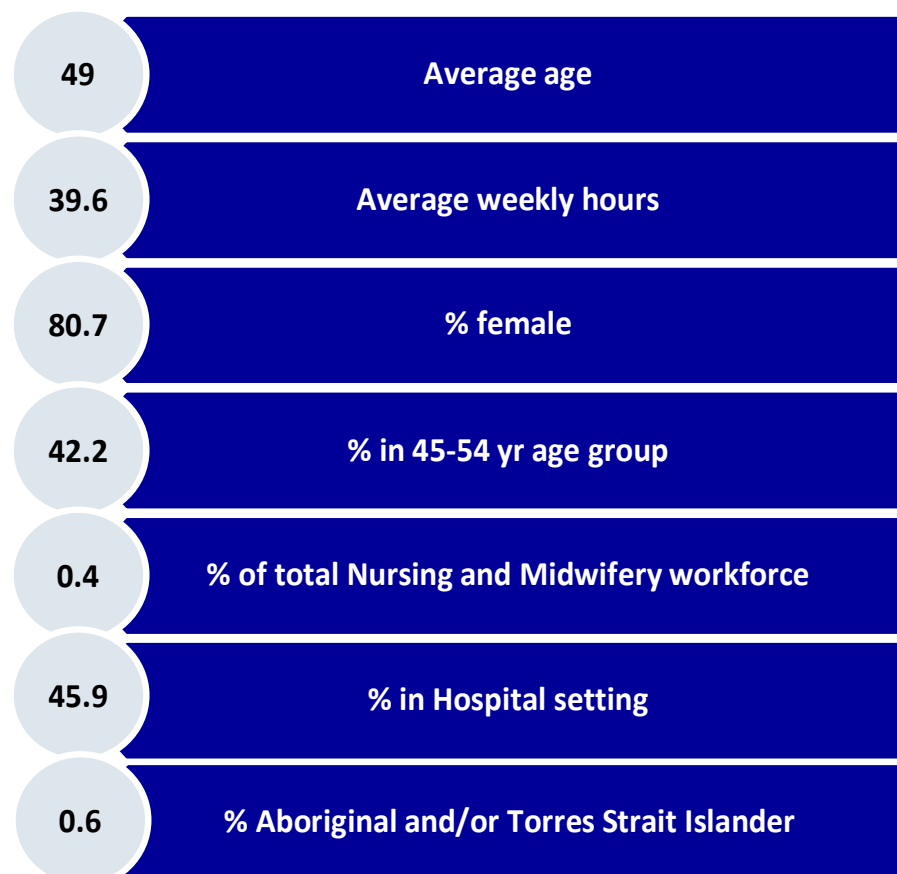
In 2016, *registered and employed* Nurse Practitioners (“Workforce”) worked an average of **39.6** total hours per week. In comparison, in 2013 the average total hours worked per week was **40.8**, a decrease of **1.2** hours per week.

Age Group	Males - average hours		Females - average hours	
	2013	2016	2013	2016
20-34	39.1	44.5	41.9	40.2
35-44	42.1	41.4	37.5	38.3
45-54	44.3	41	42	39.3
55-64	40.8	39.1	40.3	40.2
65-74	40	32.8	33.8	36.9

In 2016, the Workforce worked an average of **32.8** clinical hours per week compared to an average of **32.9** clinical hours per week in 2013.

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	32.9	32.6	32.0	32.8
Non-clinical	7.8	7.8	7.3	6.8
Total	40.8	40.4	39.3	39.6

Quick facts



Quick facts—Registered and employed Nurse Practitioners

Demographics

In 2016, **80.7%** of the Workforce was female and the average age of the total Workforce was **49**. There was a minor increase in the average age between 2013 and 2016.

42.2% of the Workforce were aged 45-54 years. In comparison, in 2013 this same age group was **44.4%**.

The proportion of the Workforce aged between 55-64 increased from **19.9%** in 2013 to **25.1%** in 2016.

From 2013 to 2016, the male proportion of the Workforce remained around **19%** of the workforce.

Tele-Health

A question was added in the 2016 workforce survey to determine the average hours per week practiced via tele-health in the previous year. Tele-health is the use of telecommunication techniques for the purpose of providing telemedicine and education, and health education over a distance.

19.2% (**257**) of the Workforce responded to the tele-health question. On average this workforce practiced via tele-health **7.5** hours per week.

Remoteness area breakdown for the Workforce that responded to the tele-health question; this shows the location of the person in the Workforce, not the location of the person receiving the service.

Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote
43.2%	26.1%	16%	7%	7.8%



Job Role

1,256 (93.7%) worked predominantly in a clinician role in 2016. In comparison, **815 (93.4%)** worked in a clinician role in 2013.

Job Role	Employed total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Clinician	815	1,256
Administrator	16	27
Teacher or educator	26	38
Researcher	11	11
Other	5	8
Total	873	1,340

Principal area of practice

61.9% of the Workforce was employed in the five largest principal areas of practice. *Emergency* had the most employed with **303 (22.6%)** which has increased from a headcount of **185** in 2013.

The Workforce working in *policy* and *management* reported the highest average total hours per week.

Principal area of practice	Employed total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Emergency	185	303
Nursing other	135	187
Medical	83	125
Mental health	79	117
Aged care	60	98
Community nursing	54	89
Practice nursing	36	52
Palliative care	25	52
Surgical	32	38
Paediatrics	35	35
Critical care	31	32
Mixed medical/surgical	18	31
Nursing Education	25	31
Nursing neonatal care	-	27
Nursing Management	14	24
Drug and Alcohol	9	22
Peri-operative	5	18
Child and family health	10	17
Rehabilitation and disability	14	9
Nursing research	na	9
Health promotion	na	5
Nursing Policy	na	5
Antenatal care	-	na
Maternity care	11	na
Antenatal, Intra-partum and Post-partum care	-	na
Midwifery education	-	na
Midwifery policy	-	na
Postnatal care	na	-
Total	873	1,340

Note: Records have been set to not available (na) due to data confidentiality

Principal work sector

In 2016, **857** of the Workforce worked in the *public sector only* and **332** worked *only in private*.

Employment sector	Headcount	
	2013	2016
Public sector only	615	857
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	70.4	64
Private sector only	179	332
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	20.5	24.8
Both	42	92
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	4.8	6.9
Non response	37	59
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	4.2	4.4
Total	873	1,340

Principal work setting

In 2016, **45.9% (615)** of the Workforce worked in a *hospital* setting. The next most common work setting was in *community health care services* with **12.9% (173)**.

In 2013, **48.2% (421)** of the Workforce worked in a *hospital* setting. In 2013 the next most common work setting was also in *community health care services* with **13.5% (118)**.

Principal work setting	2013		2016	
	Head-count	Average total hours	Head-count	Average total hours
Hospital	421	39.7	615	38.6
<i>FTE Clinical hours - public*</i>	335.9		477.3	
<i>FTE Clinical hours - private*</i>	35.4		58.6	
Community health care service	118	42.8	173	39.6
Outpatient service	111	40.4	166	40
General practitioner (GP) practice	43	35.6	73	40.1
Other private practice	27	44.5	72	41.4
Residential health care facility	35	39.7	72	39.2
Other	50	46.4	61	47.2
Tertiary educational facility	25	42.3	33	40.4
Aboriginal health service	9	45.2	22	39
Correctional service	9	46	19	40
Other government department or agency	9	43.9	16	41.3
Commercial/business service	na	na	na	na
Defence forces	na	na	na	na
Locum private practice	na	na	na	na
Hospice	na	na	na	na
Other educational facility	na	na	na	na
Private midwifery practice	-	-	na	na
Residential mental health care service	-	-	na	na
School	na	na	-	-
Total	873	40.8	1,340	39.6

Note: Records have been set to not available (na) due to data confidentiality

* The *hospital* setting FTE has been calculated based on *clinical* hours worked in either the *private* or *public* sector.



Working Intentions

On average the Workforce has worked for **28*** years and intends to stay in the workforce for another **13** years.



*May not have worked all years as a Nurse Practitioner

Initial qualification

The workforce surveys ask the Workforce where they obtained their initial qualification. **78.4% (1,051)** of Nurse Practitioners obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia and **21.4% (287)** obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas.

Distribution

State and Territory

49% of the Workforce was located in **QLD** and **NSW** in 2016.

NT had the largest number of Nurse Practitioners per Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at **9.9** per 100,000. **ACT** had the second highest at **8.6** per 100,000.

Although **NSW** had the second highest headcount in 2016, it had the lowest number per ERP at **3.9** per 100,000.

2016 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	² Rate per 100K population
NSW	300	315.1	39.9	3.9
VIC	260	263.7	38.5	4.3
QLD	357	386	41.1	7.2
SA	118	116.2	37.4	6.8
WA	216	219.9	38.7	7.8
TAS	27	30.9	43.6	5.2
ACT	35	36.5	39.6	8.6
NT	25	26.8	40.8	9.9

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

²ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

In 2016, **TAS** had the highest average total hours worked per week at **43.6** and **SA** had the lowest at **37.4** hours per week.

2013 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
NSW	212	222.1	39.8	2.9
VIC	143	148.4	39.4	2.5
QLD	234	255.6	41.5	5.0
SA	69	74	40.8	4.1
WA	149	164.4	41.9	5.9
TAS	21	22.7	41	4.1
ACT	29	31.4	41.2	7.6
NT	15	16.4	41.5	6.2

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013

In 2013, **WA** had the highest average total hours worked per week at **41.9** and **VIC** had the lowest at **39.4** hours per week.

When compared to 2013 the number of Nurse Practitioners per ERP in all States and Territories has increased, most noticeably in **NT** and **SA**.

Remoteness area

In 2016, **84.6% (1,134)** of the Workforce worked in either **Major Cities** or **Inner Regional** locations. In comparison, in 2013 this distribution was **85.1% (743)**.

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
Major cities	882	903.1	38.9	5.2
Inner regional	252	262.7	39.6	5.9
Outer regional	134	146.1	41.4	6.4
Remote	30	35.9	45.5	9.3
Very remote	42	49.6	44.9	20.6

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015

The average total hours worked across all remoteness areas (except **Outer regional**) has decreased when compared to 2013. In 2013, the average total hours worked per week by the Workforce in **Major Cities** was **39.4**, in **Remote** areas was **47.8** and in **Very Remote** areas was **59.1**.

When compared to 2013, the number of the Workforce per 100,000 ERP has increased across all remoteness areas, most noticeably in **Very Remote** areas with an increase of **10.1** Nurse Practitioners per 100,000.

2013 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
Major cities	587	609	39.4	3.6
Inner regional	156	171	41.7	3.7
Outer regional	81	88	41.4	3.9
Remote	27	34	47.8	8.4
Very remote	22	34	59.1	10.5

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013



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References

- 1) Registered and employed workforce data, National Health Workforce Dataset 2013—2016 (<http://data.hwa.gov.au/datasets.html>)
- 2) ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia (<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3222.0>), released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 26/11/2013
- 3) ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia (<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3218.0>), released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 30/03/2016