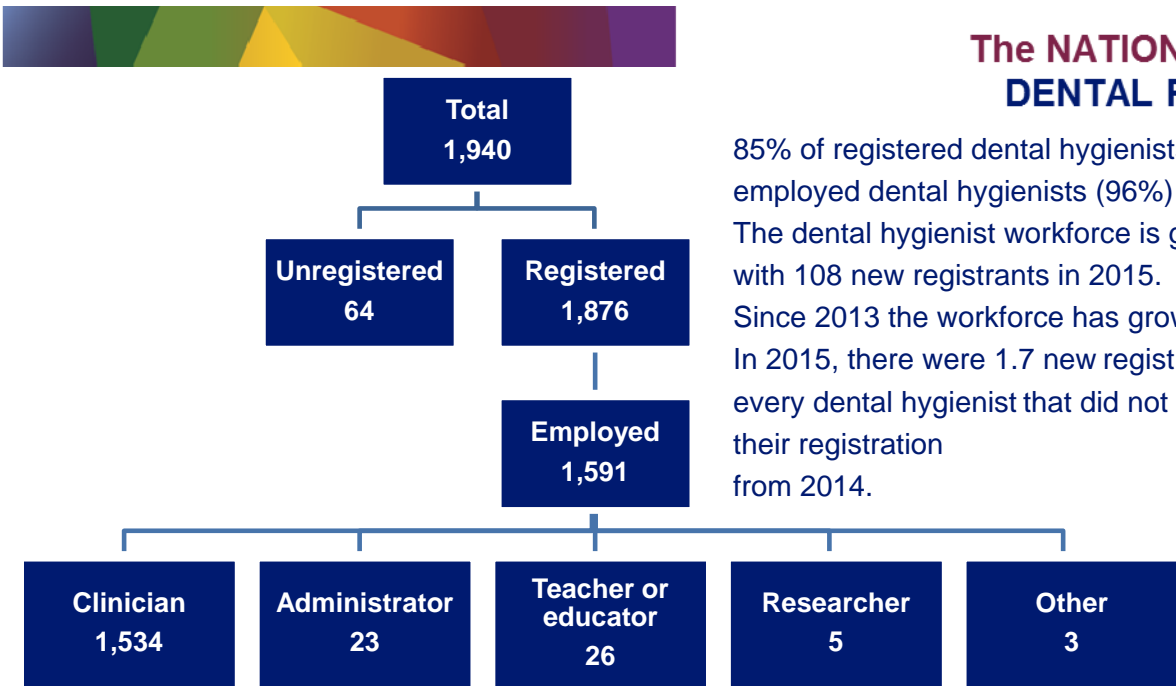
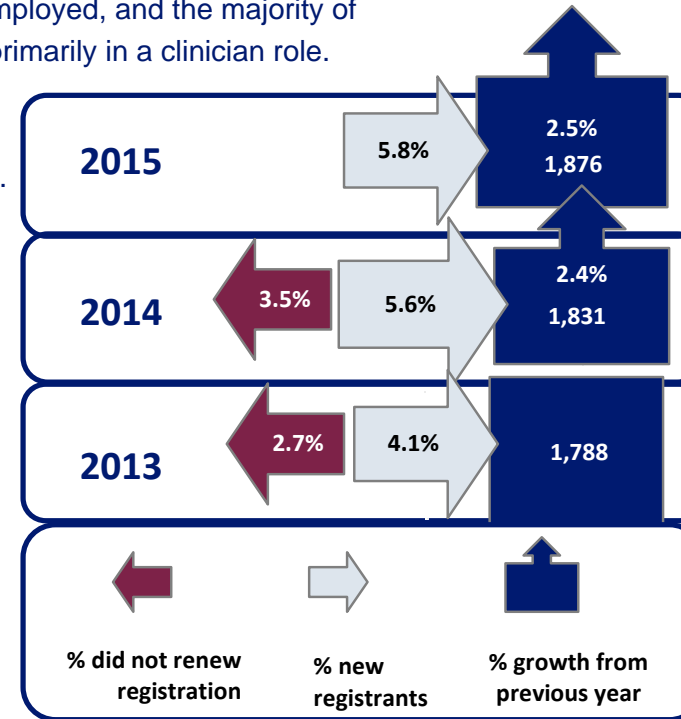


The NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DATASET (NHWDS) DENTAL PRACTITIONERS - DENTAL HYGIENISTS 2015



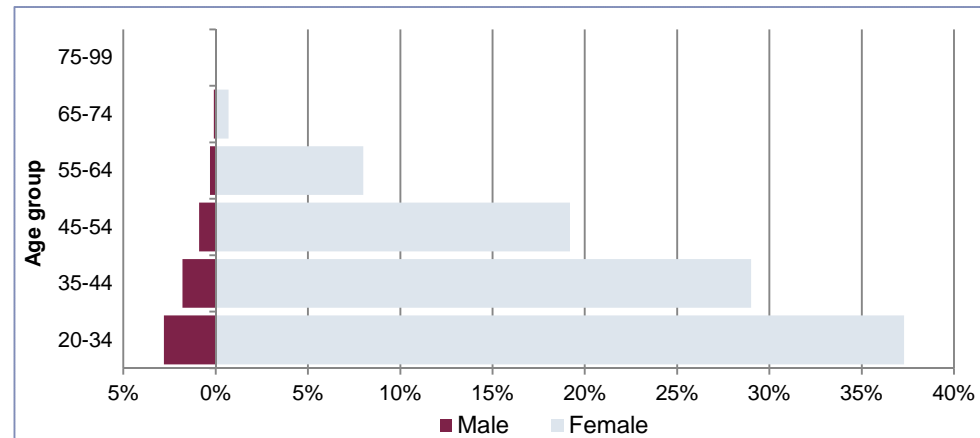
85% of registered dental hygienists were employed, and the majority of employed dental hygienists (96%) worked primarily in a clinician role. The dental hygienist workforce is growing, with 108 new registrants in 2015. Since 2013 the workforce has grown by 5%. In 2015, there were 1.7 new registrants for every dental hygienist that did not renew their registration from 2014.



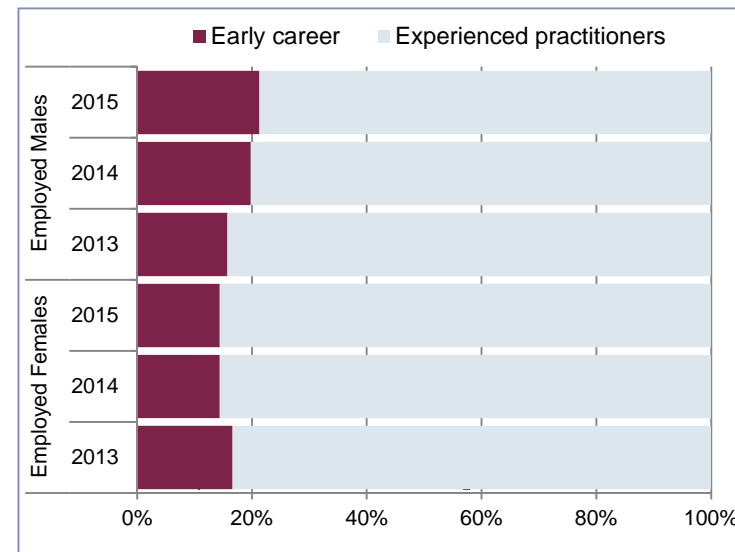
477 dental hygienists were also registered in the Dental Therapist division. 11 dental hygienists were also registered as Oral Health Therapists, 9 were registered in the Dentist division, and 5 as Dental Prosthetists.

Female practitioners outnumbered male practitioners in all age groups, and comprised 93% of the 20-34 years age group. The proportion of male dental hygienists in the workforce has remained at 6% since 2013.

Employed practitioners: Gender (%) by Age Group



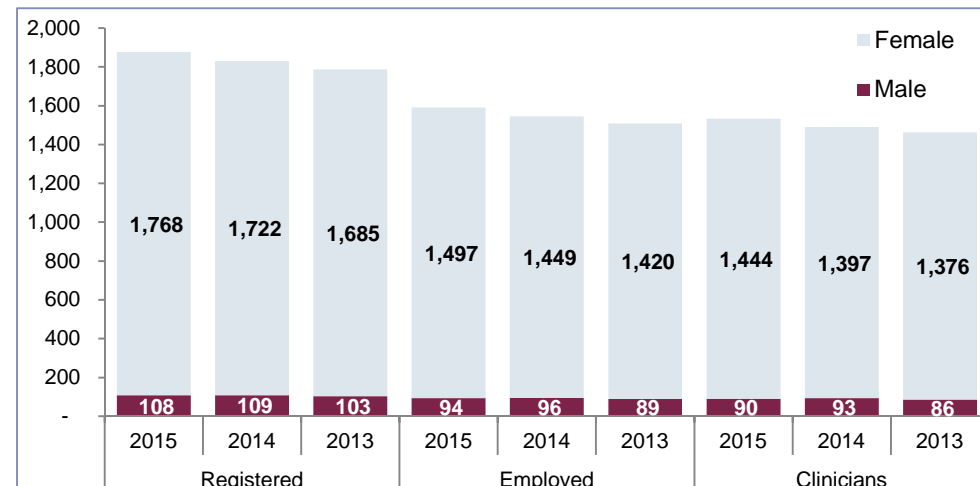
Employed Male and Female practitioners: Early Career (%) by Year



The small number of Researchers worked the longest hours (37.4) while Teachers and educators worked the shortest (26).

Clinician dental hygienists spent an average of 27.2 hours per week performing clinical duties, while non-clinicians spent 12.9 hours per week on clinical work.

Registered practitioners: Gender by Workforce Status



71% of Early Career dental hygienists (registered 3 years or less) were aged 20-34 years.

In 2015, there were 81 Early Career dental hygienists over 30 years of age.

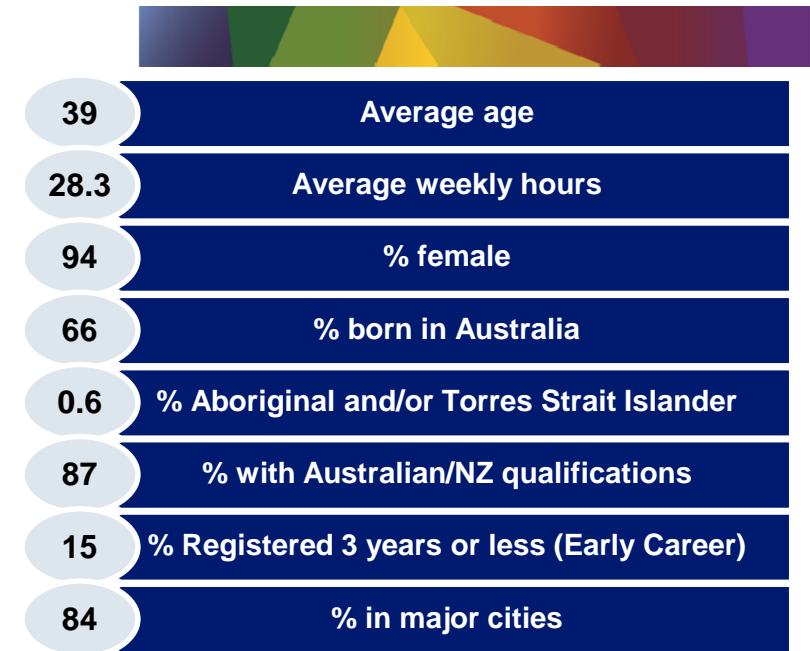
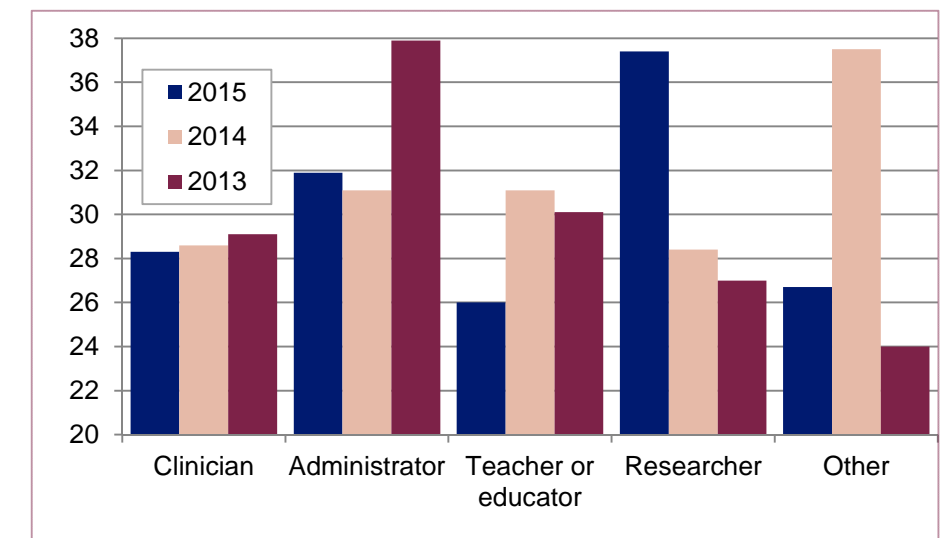
85% of Early Career practitioners and 85% of Experienced practitioners were employed.

Early Career practitioners comprised 14% of female dental hygienists, a decline from 15.6% in 2013. The proportion of Early Career practitioners among male dental hygienists increased from 16% in 2013 to 21% in 2015.

HOURS WORKED

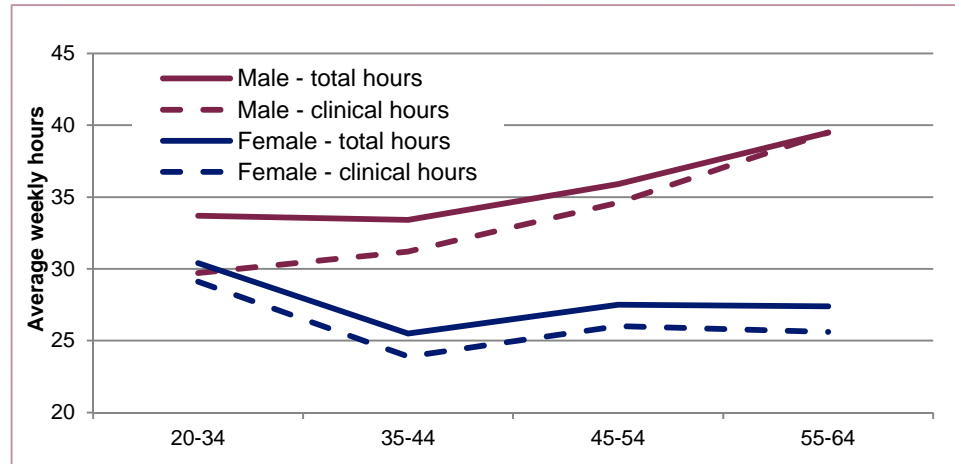
In 2015, clinician dental hygienists worked 28.3 hours per week on average - a decrease of 0.8 hours per week from 2013.

Employed practitioners: Average weekly hours by Job Role and Year



The NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DATASET (NHWDS) DENTAL PRACTITIONERS - DENTAL HYGIENISTS 2015

Employed practitioners: Average Weekly Hours by Age Group and Gender



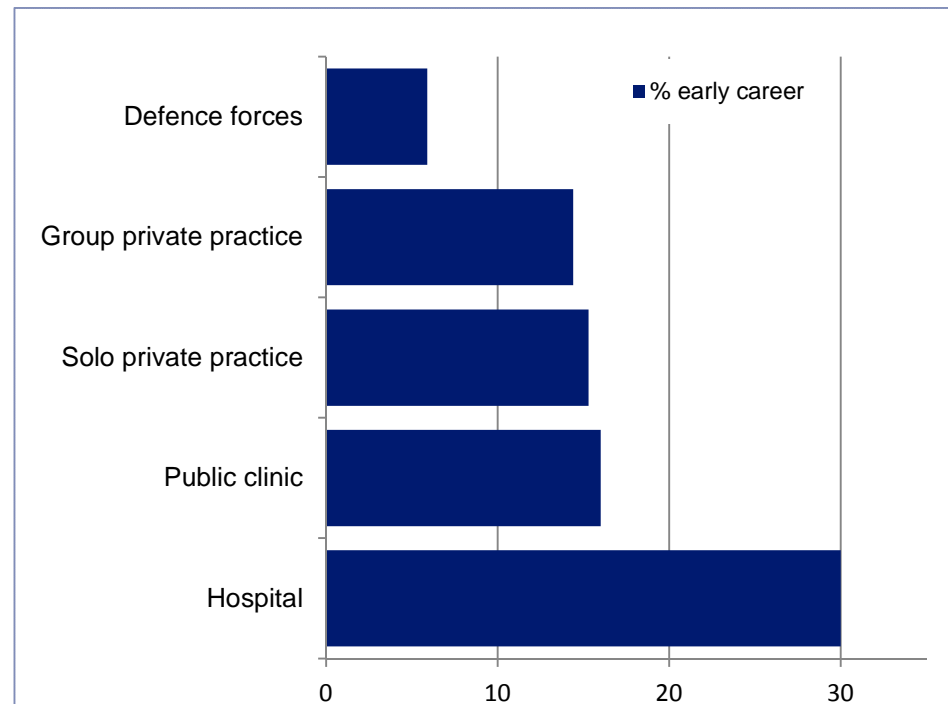
Male practitioners worked 34 total hours per week on average, while female practitioners worked an average of 28 total hours.

Excluding the hours reported by the small number of dental hygienists aged over 65, (2 male and 13 female) the most hours were worked by male practitioners in the 55-64 age group, at 39.5 hours per week on average. Among female practitioners, the most hours were worked by the 20-34 age group at 30.4 hours.

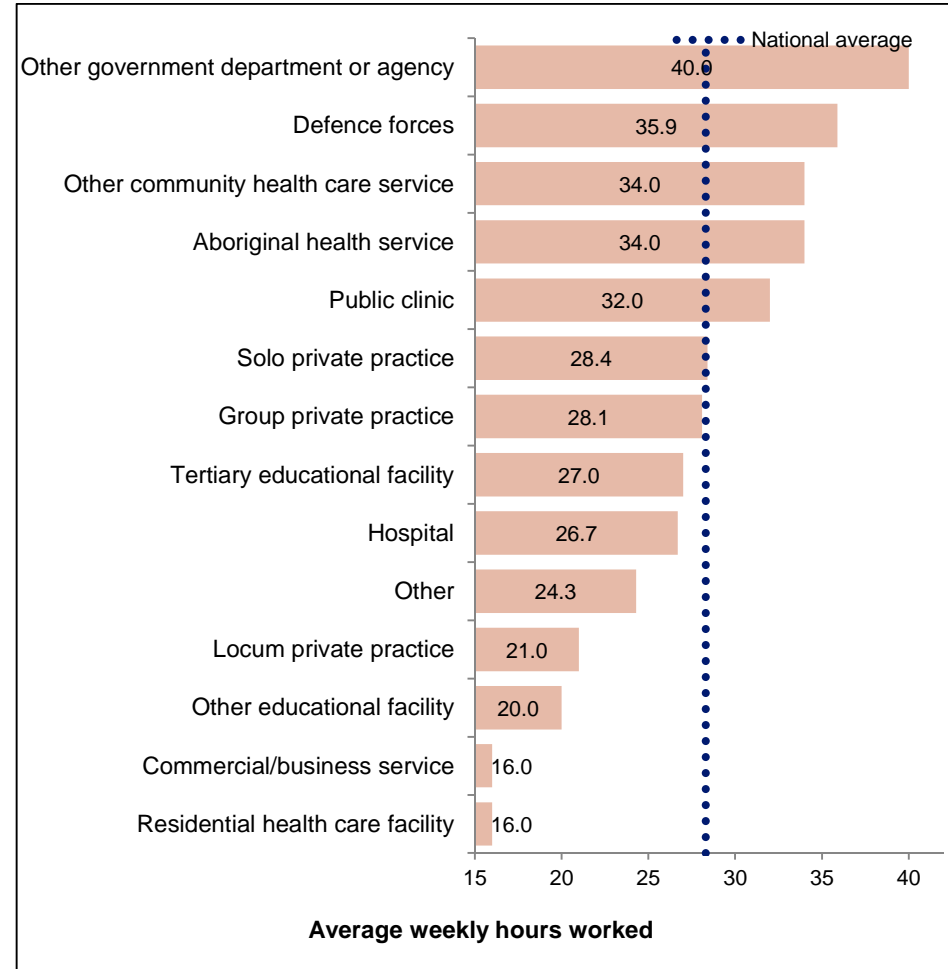
Early Career practitioners worked more total hours per week on average (29.1 hours) than more experienced practitioners (28.2 hours), and also worked more clinical hours per week (27.7 hours) than more experienced practitioners (26.6 hours).

At 15% of the workforce, Early Career practitioners comprised 30% of the small dental hygienist workforce in Hospital settings.

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



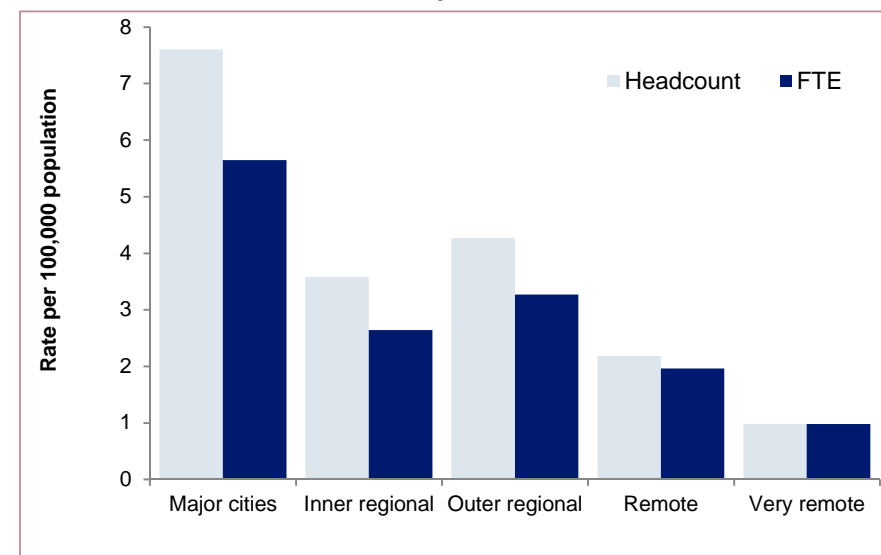
Employed practitioners: Average Weekly Hours by Job Setting



LOCATION

Numbers of full-time equivalent (FTE) clinicians per 100,000 population decreased with remoteness, from 6 FTE clinicians in major cities to 1 FTE in very remote locations. These FTE numbers have remained unchanged across all locations since 2013.

Clinicians: Headcount and FTE by Remoteness Area



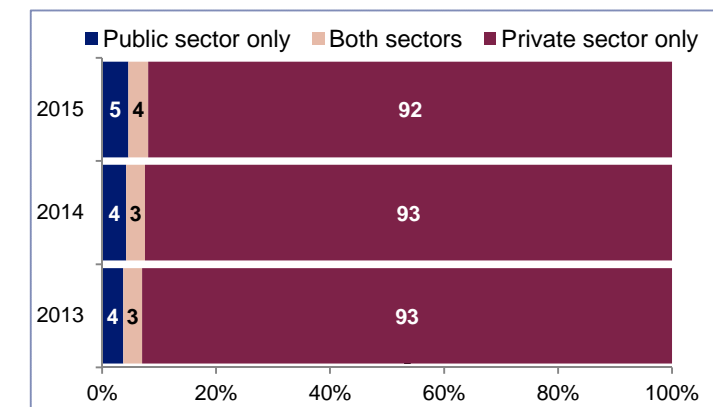
SETTING AND SECTOR

51% of employed dental hygienists worked in Group private practice, and 40% worked in Solo private practice. 3% worked in a Public Clinic setting, and the remaining 105 employed practitioners worked across a range of job settings in the public and private sectors.

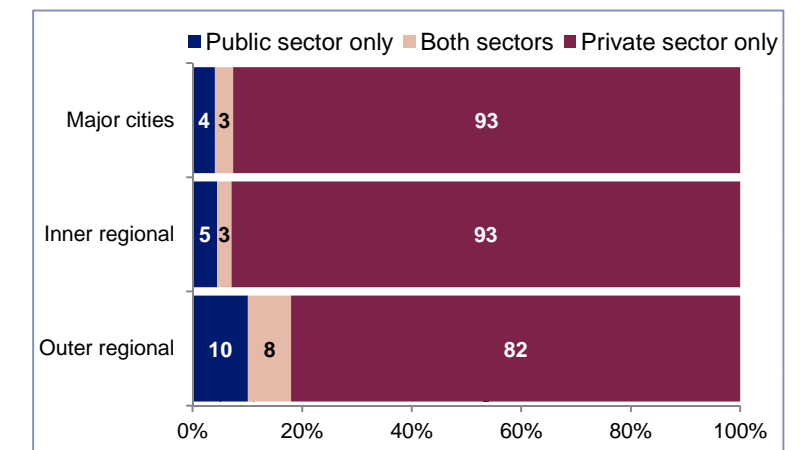
In 2015, 9% of clinician dental hygienists worked some hours in the public sector.

A greater proportion of male clinicians (14%) worked in public sector settings than female clinicians (8%).

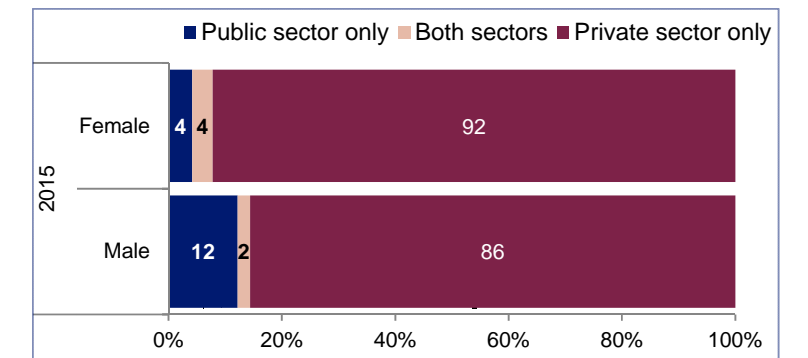
Clinicians (%) by Sector and Year



Clinicians (%) by Sector and Remoteness Areas

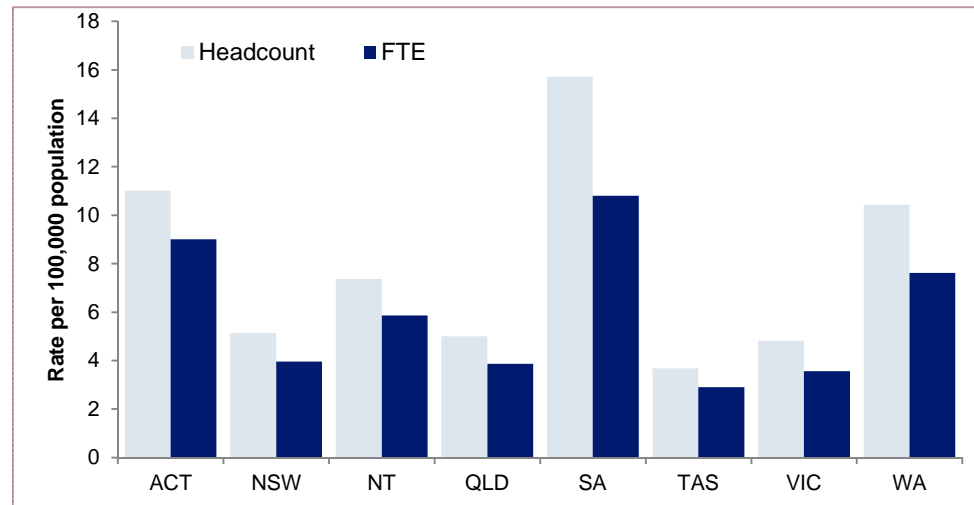


Clinicians: Male and Female (%) by Sector



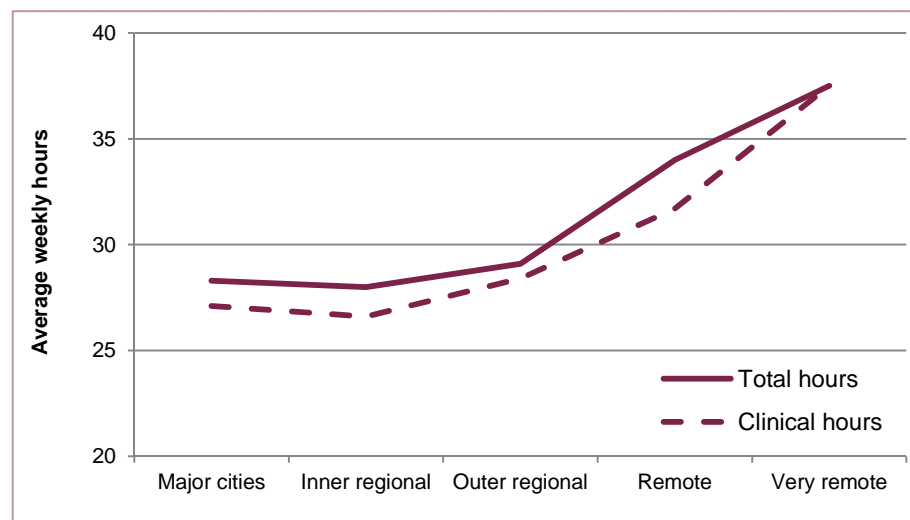
The NATIONAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DATASET (NHWDS) DENTAL PRACTITIONERS - DENTAL HYGIENISTS 2015

Clinicians: Headcount and FTE by State / Territory



The distribution of the workforce across states and territories shows a peak of 11 FTE clinicians per 100,000 population in SA. FTE numbers remained the same across all states and territories since 2013, other than an increase of 1 in the NT and a decrease of 1 in WA. Average total hours for clinicians were highest in the ACT at 31.1 hours per week, and lowest in SA at 26.1 hours per week.

Clinicians: Average Weekly Hours by Remoteness Area



Clinicians' average total hours generally increased with remoteness, from 28.3 hours in Major Cities to 34 hours per week on average for the small number of practitioners in Remote areas (7) and 37.5 hours for the smaller number of Very Remote practitioners.

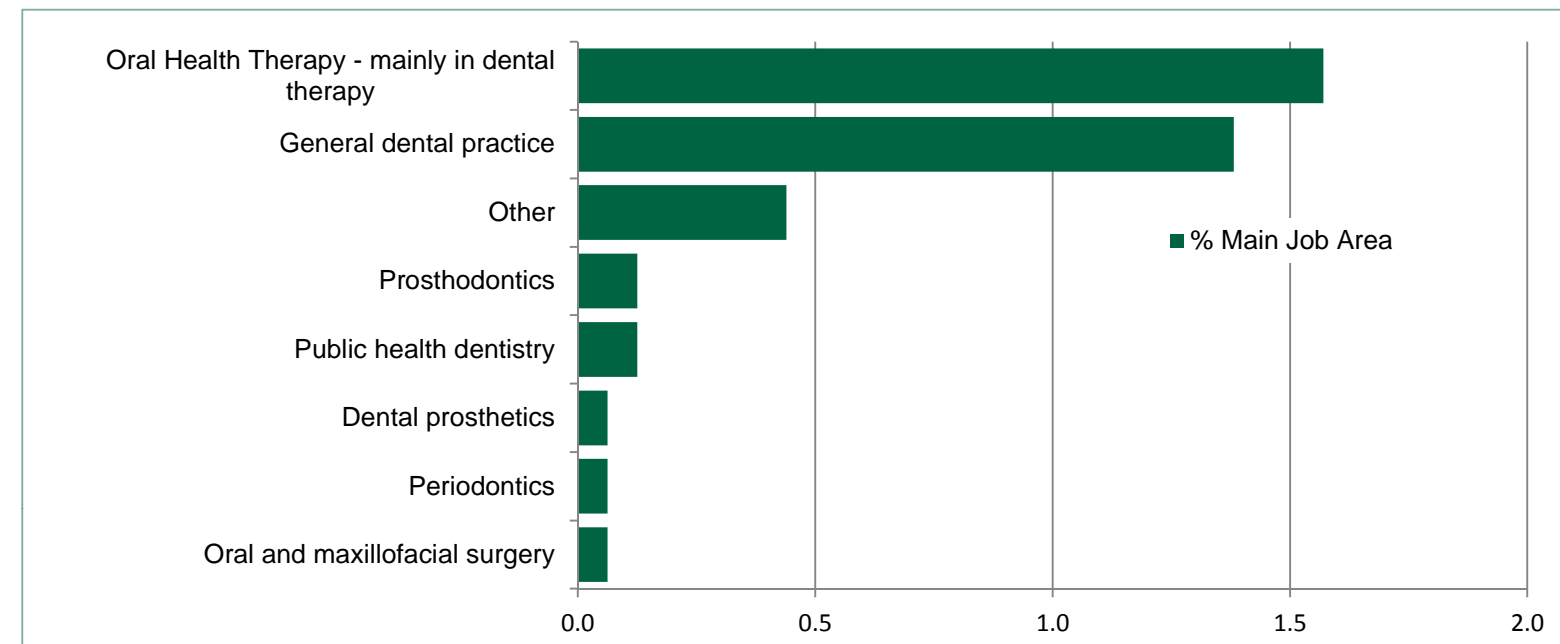
Clinicians' average clinical hours followed a pattern generally similar to total hours across locations. Clinicians in Major Cities worked 28.3 total hours per week on average, and 27.1 clinical hours.

JOB AREA

80% of employed dental hygienists reported 'Dental hygiene' as their main area of practice, 8% reported 'Oral health therapy - mainly in dental hygiene', 5% reported 'Orthodontics' and 3% reported 'Dental therapy'.

The Job Areas in the graph below were reported by the remaining 63 practitioners in the dental hygienist workforce.

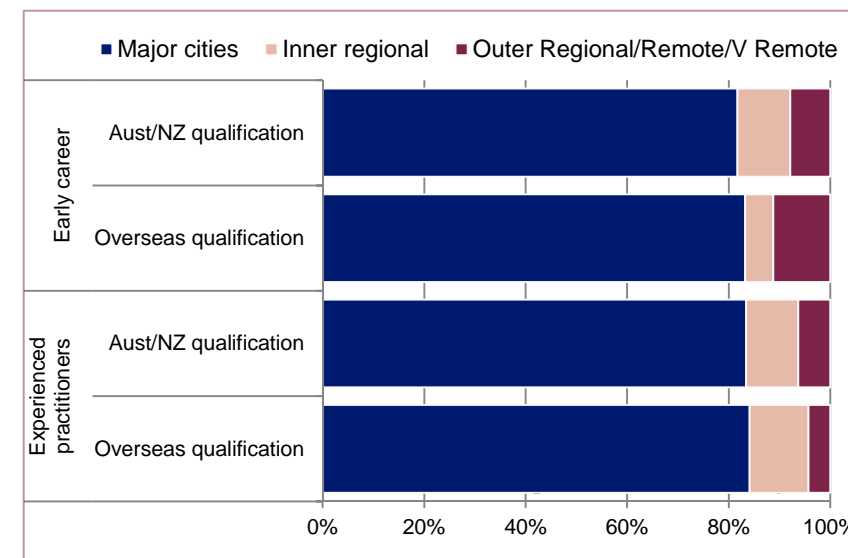
Employed practitioners (%) in selected Job Areas



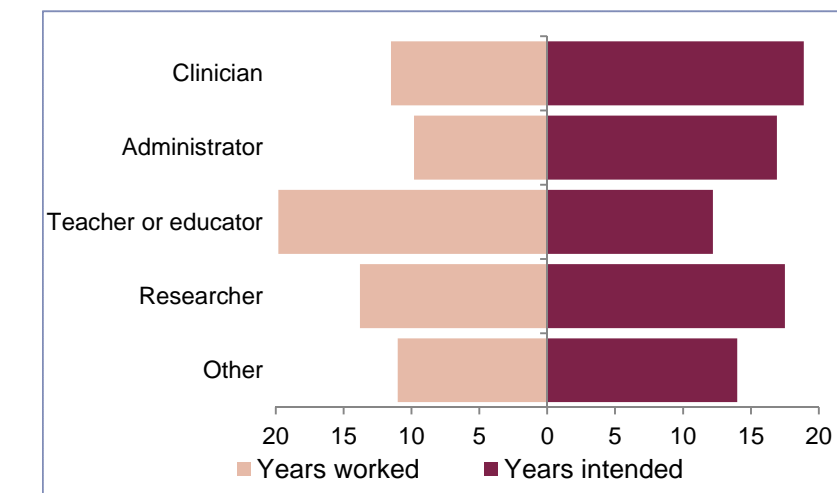
18% of Early Career clinicians and 17% of Experienced clinicians with Australian or New Zealand qualifications worked outside Major Cities.

Amongst Overseas-qualified clinicians, 11% of Early Career clinicians and 4% of Experienced clinicians worked in Outer Regional and remote locations.

Clinicians: Remoteness Area by Career Status



Employed practitioners: Career Length by Job Role



Overall, dental hygienists reported an intended career length of 30.4 years. Teachers and educators had the longest work history (19.8 years) and the longest intended careers (32 years). Administrators reported the shortest work histories (9.8 years) and intended careers of 26.7 years.