

Chiropractors

2016 Factsheet

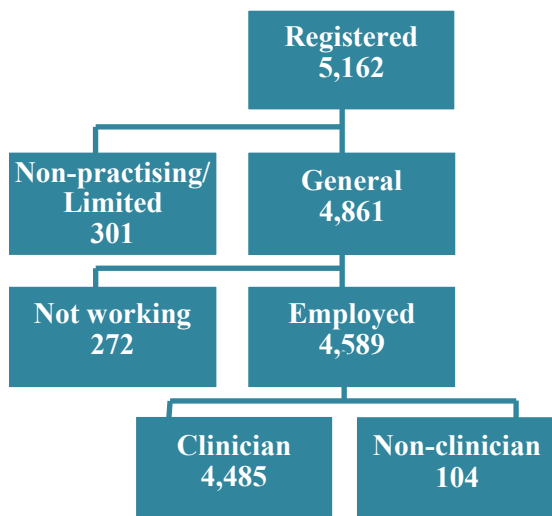


Chiropractors are registered healthcare practitioners who diagnose and treat back pain and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. The treatment may include manipulation, massage or ergonomic advice.

Persons seeking to gain registration must complete a minimum five year undergraduate, or three year postgraduate master program of study approved by the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

Workforce

Figure 1: Breakdown of the chiropractor workforce, 2016



'Non-clinician' includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

In 2016, the registered workforce has increased by 9.0% (426) since 2013, with an average yearly growth rate of 2.9%.

Note: Analysis of the chiropractor workforce contained in this document is based on the number of registered and employed chiropractors (4,589 in 2016) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Headcount 2013-2016

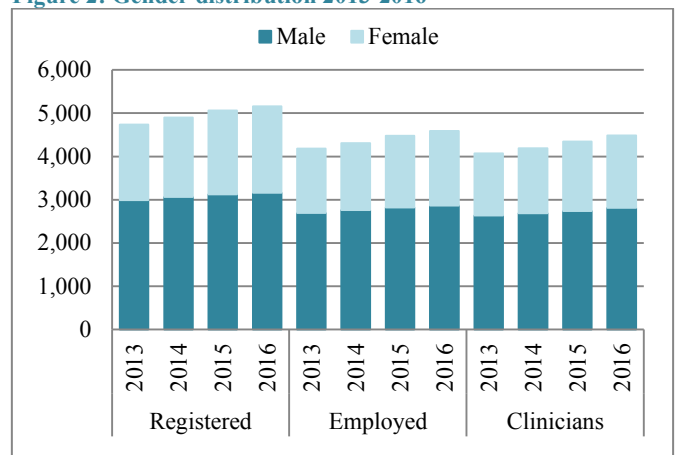
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	4,736	4,902	5,059	5,162
Employed	4,185	4,307	4,480	4,589
Clinicians	4,071	4,187	4,348	4,485

Demographics

In 2016, 37.5% of the workforce was female, compared with 35.6% in 2013.

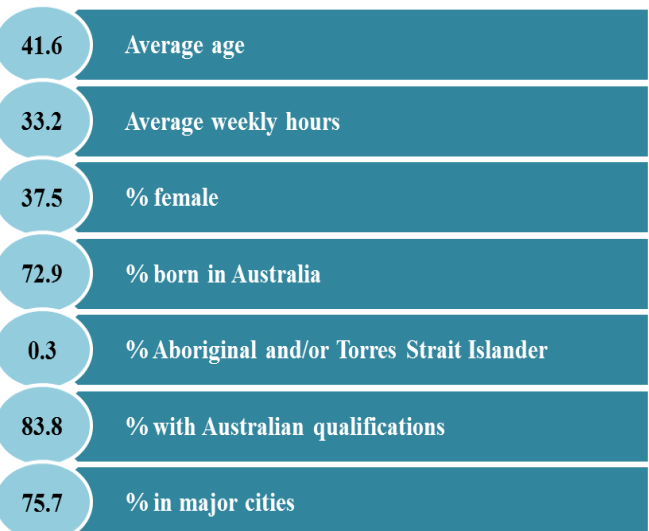
In 2016, the chiropractor workforce had an average age of 41.6 years, up from 41.0 in 2013.

Figure 2: Gender distribution 2013-2016



Quick Facts - 2016

Figure 3: Summary



Hours Worked

Chiropractors worked an average of 33.2 hours per week in 2016, slightly down from 33.3 in 2013. The amount of clinical hours worked reduced slightly from 29.0 in 2013 to 28.8 in 2016.

Table 2: Average hours per week worked by registered and employed chiropractors, 2013-2016

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	29.0	28.6	28.3	28.8
Non-clinical	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.4
Total	33.3	32.8	32.5	33.2

In 2016, females worked an average of 28.7 hours per week, down slightly from 28.8 in 2013. Males worked an average of 35.8 hours per week in both 2013 and 2016.

In 2016, males aged 20-34 worked the longest hours per week on average, at 37.2.

Table 3: Average hours worked per week by gender and age group, 2013 vs 2016

Age Group	Males – Average hours		Females – Average hours	
	2013	2016	2013	2016
20-34	36.6	37.2	31.3	30.3
35-44	36.8	36.9	25.2	26.9
45-54	37.3	36.9	28.9	29.4
55-64	34.0	33.6	27.0	24.9
65-74	27.9	28.4	23.8	25.4
75-99	20.9	24.2	16.3	np
All	35.8	35.8	28.8	28.7

Note: Note: 'np' denotes that the hours have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

Replacement Rate

In 2016, there were 1.4 new registrants for every chiropractor that did not renew their registration from 2015.

Job Role

The 2016 workforce survey asked respondents to report their principal role (the main job in which they worked the most hours in the last week).

Principal Role

In 2016, 97.7% (4,485) of the workforce worked as clinicians in their principal role. In 2013, 97.3% (4,071) worked in clinician roles.

Table 4: Headcounts by principal role 2013 vs 2016

Principal role	Total Employed	
	2013	2016
Clinician	4,071	4,485
Administrator	38	29
Teacher or educator	47	47
Researcher	19	19
Other	10	9
Total	4,185	4,589

Endorsement

In 2016, 30 chiropractors (0.7% of the workforce) held an acupuncture endorsement, down from 32 (0.8%) in 2013.

Principal Work Sector (public/private)

The 2016 workforce survey asked respondents to report the clinical hours worked in their principal role (the main job in which they worked the most hours in the last week) in either the public or private sector.

In 2016, 5.1% (236) of the workforce worked clinical hours in the public sector, down from 5.9% (245) in 2013, and 92.9% (4,264) worked clinical hours in the private sector, up from 91.8% (3,842) in 2013.

Table 5: Headcounts by sector 2013 vs 2016

Employment sector	Headcount	
	2013	2016
Public sector only	245	236
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	5.9%	5.1%
Private sector only	3,842	4,264
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	91.8%	92.9%
Both	66	64
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	1.6%	1.4%
Total	4,185	4,589

Note: 'Not applicable' responses are excluded from this table but are included in the total.

Principal Work Setting

In 2016, the most common principal work setting was in a group private practice setting at 54.1% (2,483). The next most common setting for chiropractors was solo private practice at 42.3% (1,942).

Table 6: Headcounts by principal work settings and average hours worked, 2013 vs 2016

Principal work setting	2013		2016	
	Headcount	Avg. total hours	Headcount	Avg. total hours
Group private practice	2,184	33.0	2,483	33.0
Solo private practice	1,834	33.8	1,942	33.3
Independent private practice	49	26.1	58	29.8
Educational facility	51	34.9	43	38.3
Commercial/business service	26	35.1	22	36.2
Other	18	23.1	21	30.1
Residential health care facility	10	28.5	12	38.7
<i>Remaining work settings</i>	13	np	8	np
Total	4,185	29.0	4,589	28.8

Note: 'np' indicates that the average total hours are not available for this combined category.

Principal Scope of Practice

In 2016, 29.9% (1,374) of chiropractors reported chronic condition management as the principal scope of practice in their principal role, followed by 23.6% (1,084) in acute care, and 20.9% (957) in wellness care.

In 2013, 21.2% (887) of chiropractors worked in chronic condition management, 19.1% (801) in acute care, and 36.2% (1,514) in wellness care.

Table 7: Principal scope of chiropractic practice, 2013-2016

Principal scope of practice	2013	2014	2015	2016
Chronic condition management	887	947	1,114	1,374
Acute care	801	795	914	1,084
Wellness care	1,514	1,477	1,375	957
Primary care	578	616	602	670
Rehabilitation	120	118	150	170
Sports	81	105	117	154
Other	68	97	65	71
Paediatrics	45	57	62	53
Aged care	18	18	18	19
Not stated/Non Respondent/Unknown	73	77	63	37
Total	4,185	4,307	4,480	4,589

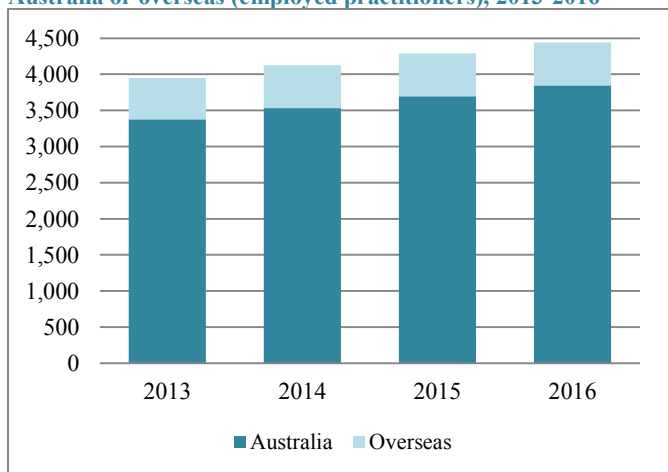
Initial Qualification

The workforce survey asked health professionals where they obtained their initial qualification.

In 2016, 83.8% (3,845) of chiropractors obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia, up from 80.7% (3,377) in 2013.

13.0% (598) of chiropractors responded that they had obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas in 2016, down from 13.7% (572) in 2013.

Figure 4: Country where the initial qualification was obtained – Australia or overseas (employed practitioners), 2013-2016

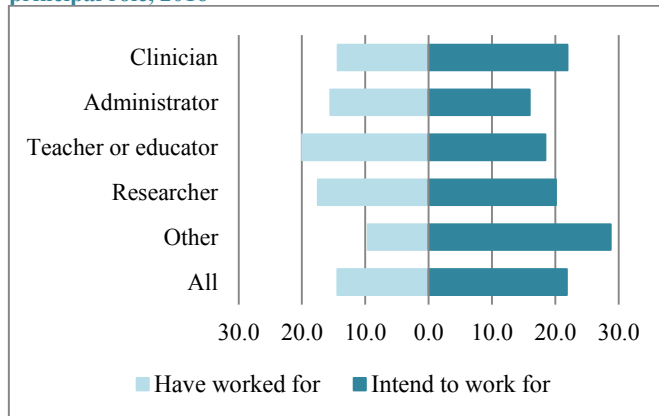


Working Intentions

In 2016, chiropractors had worked an average of 14.4 years in the profession and intended to work for another 21.8 years.

In 2013, chiropractors had worked for 13.8 years, and intended to work for another 22.2 years.

Figure 5: Years worked, and years intended to work for by principal role, 2016



Distribution

State and Territory

In 2013, Western Australia had the highest rate of chiropractors with 20.3 per 100,000 population, and the Northern Territory had the lowest rate at 8.7 per 100,000 population. By 2016 Western Australia still had the highest rate of chiropractors with 21.5 per 100,000 population. The Northern Territory still had the lowest rate at 9.8 per 100,000 population.

The average total hours worked was highest in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory at 34.4 hours per week and lowest in Victoria at 31.9 hours per week.

In 2016, there was a slight overall increase in the rate of chiropractors per 100,000 population from 18.1 per 100,000 in 2013 to 19.0 per 100,000 in 2016.

Table 8: Distribution by state/territory, 2016

State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	² Rate per 100,000 population
NSW	1,579	1,435.7	34.6	20.4
VIC	1,205	1,010.4	31.9	19.5
QLD	773	690.6	34.0	15.9
SA	341	283.0	31.5	19.9
WA	550	463.1	32.0	21.5
TAS	53	44.1	31.6	10.2
ACT	64	53.6	31.8	15.9
NT	24	23.4	37.0	9.8
Total	4,589	4,003.8	33.2	19.0

²ABS - 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16

Remoteness Area

In 2016, 93.2% of the chiropractor workforce (4,273) worked in either major cities or inner regional locations. This was equal to the proportion reported in 2013 of 93.2% (3,899).

Between 2013 and 2016, the rate of chiropractors per 100,000 population increased slightly overall from 18.1 per 100,000 to 19.0 per 100,000.

Table 9: Distribution by remoteness area, 2016

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	³ Rate per 100,000 population
Major cities	3,472	3,056.5	33.5	20.1
Inner regional	801	674.7	32.0	18.3
Outer regional	268	231.6	32.8	12.8
Remote	39	34.5	33.6	12.7
Very remote	9	6.6	27.9	4.6
Total	4,589	4,003.8	33.2	19.0

³ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

Other Work Location Outside of Major Cities

The 2016 workforce survey asked respondents who had noted their principal and second job location as a major city if they had also worked in either a regional, rural or remote location.

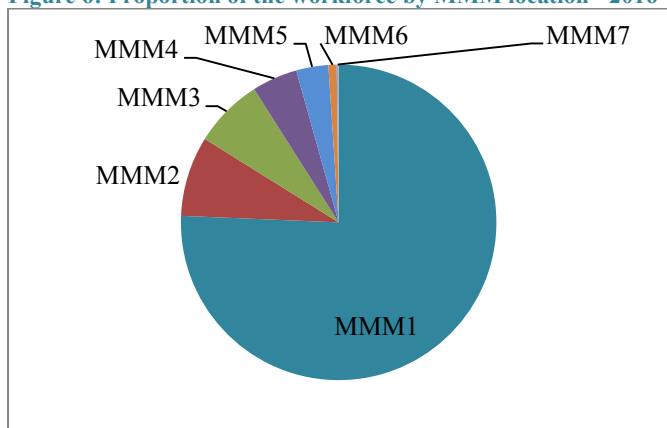
In 2016, 6.5% (299) of the workforce reported that they had, in addition to their principal and second job location, worked in a regional, rural or remote location: 50.2% (150) of respondents had worked in inner regional location, 30.8% (92) had worked in an outer regional location, and 8.4% (25) worked in remote or very remote locations.

Modified Monash Model

The majority (75.7%) of the workforce were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification system in 2016, up from 75.4% in 2013 (see www.doctorconnect.gov.au for more information on the MMM).

MMM4 locations had the highest rate of chiropractors with 24.5 per 100,000 population, followed by MMM3 with 21.2 per 100,000 population. The lowest rate was in MMM7 locations with 4.1 per 100,000 population.

Figure 6: Proportion of the workforce by MMM location - 2016



Tele-Health

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

A total of 5.2% (240) of the workforce provided a response to the tele-health question. On average the respondents practiced via tele-health for 16.6 hours per week.

In 2016, 84.6% of tele-health services were provided by a chiropractor in a major city.

Table 10: Tele-health workforce remoteness location – 2016

Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote
84.6%	9.2%	4.6%	1.2%	0.4%

Note: The tele-health workforce remoteness location refers to the location of the person in the workforce, not the location of the person receiving the service.

References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Allied Health Practitioners 2013-2016.
- 2) ABS - 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16, Released 30/06/17.
- 3) ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

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