

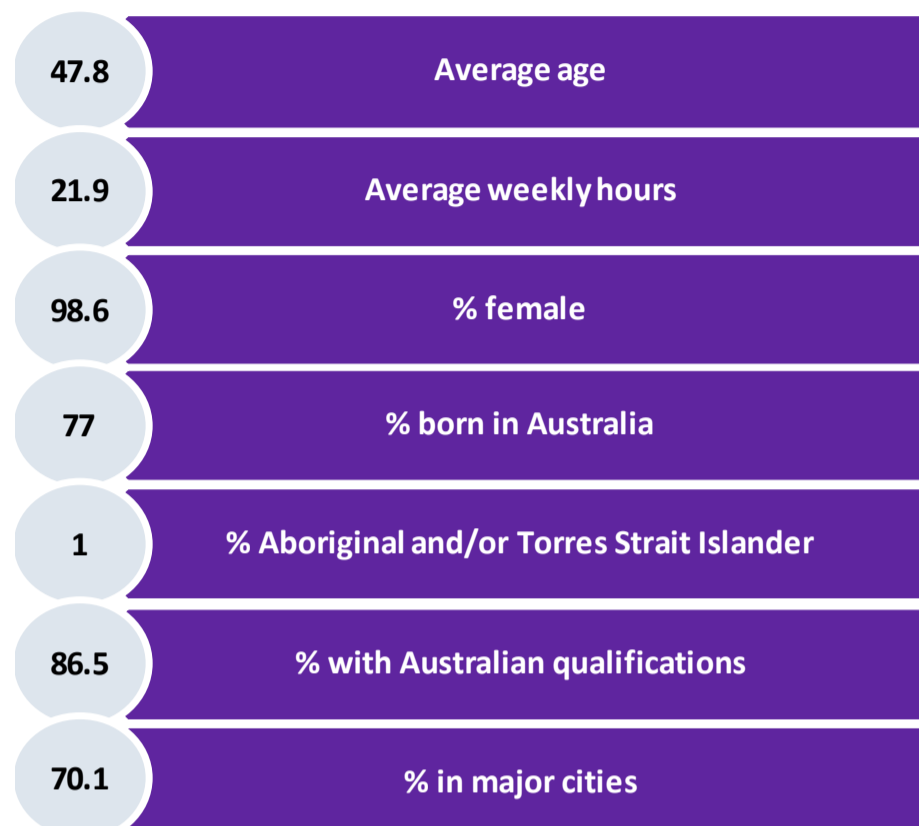
# Midwives NHWDS 2016 Fact Sheet

2016 Workforce

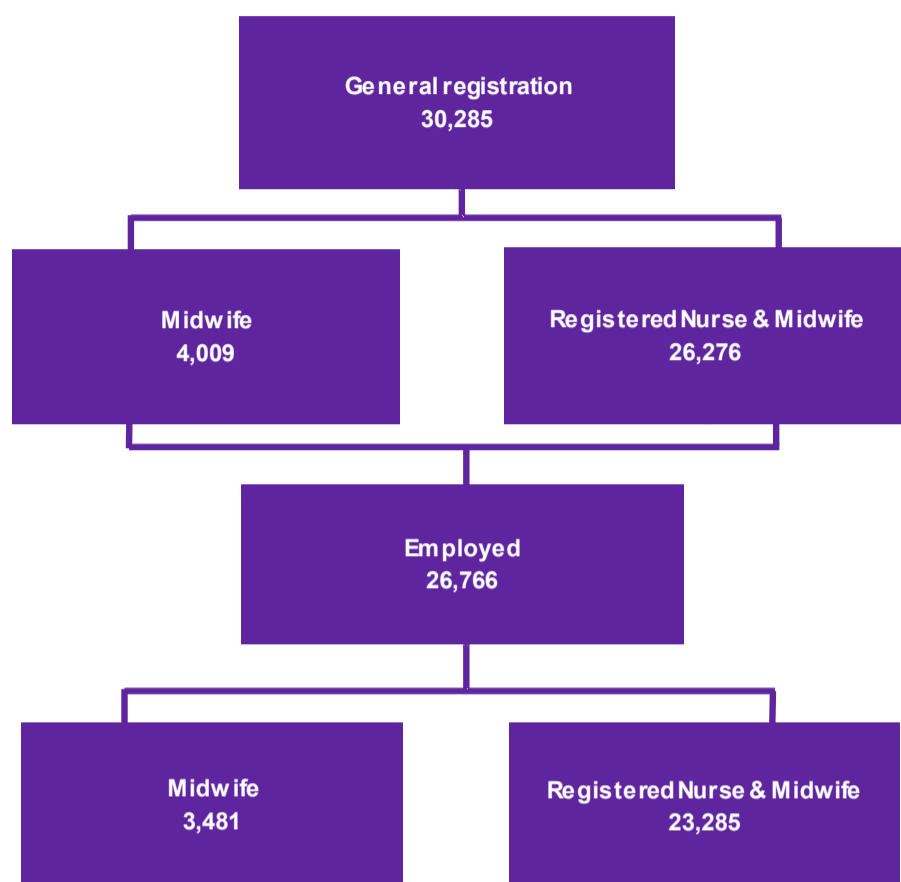


Australian Government  
Department of Health

## Quick facts



Quick facts—Registered and employed Midwives



The Midwifery 2016 *registered* workforce (**30,285**) has decreased by **6.9%** (**2,243**) compared with the *registered* workforce in 2013 (**32,528**), with an average annual decrease of **2.4%**.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	32,528	31,417	30,786	30,285
Employed	28,980	27,786	27,110	26,766
Employed with hours worked	23,567	23,874	23,763	23,918

**Note:** In 2016, **2,848** Midwives with a dual registration reported no hours worked as a Midwife in the workforce survey period. This proportion of the workforce has been excluded from any further analysis, which reports on the **23,918** *registered and employed* Midwives (“Workforce”) that recorded hours worked during the survey period.

## Hours worked

In 2016, Midwives worked an average of **21.9** total hours per week. In comparison, in 2013 the average total hours worked per week was **24.6**, a decrease of **2.7** hours per week.

Age Group	Males - average hours		Females - average hours	
	2013	2016	2013	2016
20-34	28	23.5	29.3	27.1
35-44	25.2	18.4	23.7	21.9
45-54	20.8	20.3	24.1	21.5
55-64	18.5	15	24	20.2
65-74	13.1	14.9	20.8	17
75-99	8	8	15	16.8

In 2016, Midwives worked an average of **19.5** clinical hours per week compared to an average of **21.3** clinical hours per week in 2013.

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	21.3	20.3	19.3	19.5
Non-clinical	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>21.9</b>

Employment count for **All Nurses and Midwives** is a total headcount, whereas the employed counts by profession (Nursing (Registered Nurse (RN), Enrolled Nurse (EN)) and Midwifery) are calculated based on working hours in each division and/or profession.

That is, if a person records hours in more than one profession (Nursing (RN/EN) and/or Midwifery), they will be counted as employed in each of those professions. For example, someone who reports hours worked as an RN and a Midwife will be reported in both employed counts.

## Demographics

In 2016, **98.6%** of the Workforce was female and the average age of the Workforce was **47.8**. There was a minor decrease in the average age between 2013 and 2016.

**18.1%** of the Workforce were females aged 20-34 years and **30.5%** were females aged 54-64 years.

From 2013 to 2016 the proportion of male Midwives has remained around **1.4%-1.5%** of the total 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.

**7.4%** (**1,763**) of the Workforce responded to the tele-health question. On average these Midwives practiced via tele-health **10.1** 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
61.8%	18%	12.8%	3.2%	4.1%

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded



## Job Role

**23,713 (99.1%)** worked predominantly in a clinician role in 2016. In comparison, **23,255 (98.7)** worked in a clinician role in 2013.

Job Role	Employed Total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Clinician	23,255	23,713
Administrator	96	58
Teacher or educator	na	na
Researcher	na	na
Other	209	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>23,918</b>

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

## Principal area of practice

In 2016, **76.3%** of the Workforce was employed in the four largest principal areas of practice.

\* A change was made to the principal area of practice question in the 2016 Nursing and Midwifery surveys to remove *Continuity of Care* and include *Antenatal care*, *Neonatal* and *Postnatal Care* from the options list. This is evident in the data when comparing the principal area of practice for Midwives in 2016 to previous years.

The Workforce working in *care during labour and birth* reported the highest average total hours per week (**26.1**). *Policy* had the lowest average total hour per week (**15.8**).

Principal area of practice	Employed Total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Antenatal, Intra-partum and Post-partum care *	3,285	6,276
Postnatal care *	6,565	5,924
Care during labour and birth	4,773	3,621
Antenatal care *	2,641	2,439
Other	1,915	1,645
Neonatal care *	1,851	1,564
Midwifery management	1,161	1,074
Midwifery education	969	949
Midwifery research	256	256
Policy	151	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>23,918</b>

## Principal work sector

In 2016, **68%** of the Workforce worked *only in the public sector* compared to **19%** *only in private*.

Employment Sector	Headcount	
	2013	2016
<b>Public sector only</b>	15,567	16,269
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	66.1	68
<b>Private sector only</b>	4,565	4,549
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	19.4	19
<b>Both</b>	1,822	1,435
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	7.7	6
<b>Non response</b>	1,613	1,665
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	6.8	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>23,918</b>

## Principal work setting

In 2016, **69.4% (16,596)** of the Workforce worked in a *Hospital setting*. The next most common work setting was in *Community health care services* with **9.2% (2,211)**.

Principal work setting	2013		2016	
	Head-count	Average Total Hours	Head-count	Average total hours
Hospital	16,602	26.1	16,596	23.2
<i>FTE Clinical hours - public*</i>	8,049.5		7,257.9	
<i>FTE Clinical hours - private*</i>	2,285.9		2,025.9	
Community health care service	2,368	20.6	2,211	16
Outpatient service	1,076	24.3	1,158	21.8
Other	1,032	21.4	952	15.8
Group midwifery practice / caseload	313	27.1	896	33.4
Tertiary educational facility	529	23.4	528	21
Other government department or agency	393	22.9	409	17.1
General practitioner (GP) practice	413	8.5	364	8
Aboriginal health service	359	19.7	340	17.9
Specialist (O&G) practice	239	20.9	265	19.1
Other educational facility	127	14.6	105	12.1
Commercial/business service	71	18.5	58	16.9
Correctional service	38	13.9	26	9.8
Defence forces	7	17.1	10	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>23,918</b>	<b>21.9</b>

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

In 2013, **70.4% (16,602)** of the Workforce worked in a *Hospital setting*. The next most common work setting was also in *Community health care services* with **10% (2,368)**.

## Births as Primary Midwife

In 2016, of the Workforce which attended births, **47.3% (11,307)** attended a birth in a hospital setting, **1% (238)** attended a home birth, with a total of **1,662** home births reported.

In comparison, in 2013 **45.9% (10,824)** attended a birth in a hospital setting and **1.2% (291)** attended home births.



## Working Intentions

On average the Workforce has worked for **17\*** years in Midwifery and intends to work for another **14** years. This has remained the same since 2013.

	Have worked for	Intend to work for
Males	17	12
Females	17	14

\*May not have worked all years as a Midwife

## Initial qualification

The workforce survey asks the Workforce where they obtained their initial qualification. **86.5% (20,687)** obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia and **12.9% (3,086)** obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas. Of these, **234** needed to obtain further qualifications or undertake an education program to gain registration in Australia.

## Distribution

### State and Territory

More than half (**53.8%**) of the Workforce was located in **NSW** and **VIC** in 2016.

**NT** had the largest number of Midwives per Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at **192.8** per 100,000. **ACT** had the second highest ERP at **122.2** per 100,000.

Although **NSW** had the second highest headcount in 2016, it had the lowest number per ERP at **81.3** per 100,000.

2016 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100K population
NSW	6,253	3,696	22.5	81.3
VIC	6,616	3,833	22.0	109.5
QLD	4,994	2,822	21.5	100.7
SA	1,969	1,070	20.7	114
WA	2,590	1,509	22.1	94
TAS	500	289	22	95.8
ACT	496	309	23.7	122.2
NT	488	278	21.7	192.8

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

<sup>2</sup>ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

Average total hours worked in 2016 was highest in the **ACT** (**23.7**) and lowest in **SA** at **20.7** hours per week.

2013 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100K population
NSW	6,249	4,141	25.2	84.4
VIC	6,462	4,241	24.9	112.7
QLD	4,689	2,902	23.5	100.8
SA	2,066	1,306	24	123.7
WA	2,621	1,677	24.3	104.2
TAS	507	306	23	98.8
ACT	477	339	27	125.2
NT	483	332	26.1	199.1

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

<sup>3</sup>ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013

When compared to 2013 the number of the Workforce per ERP in all States and Territories had decreased, most noticeably in **WA** and **SA**.

## Remoteness area

In 2016, **87.8% (20,991)** of the Workforce worked in either **Major Cities** or **Inner Regional** locations. In 2013 this distribution was **87.4% (20,593)**.

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100K population
Major cities	16,766	10,074	22.8	99.4
Inner regional	4,225	2,250	20.2	98.2
Outer regional	2,169	1,110	19.4	104
Remote	445	245	20.9	138.6
Very remote	307	129	16	150.5

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

<sup>3</sup>ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015

The average total hours worked across all remoteness areas has decreased since 2013. In 2013, the average total hours worked in **Major Cities** was **25.5**, in **Remote** areas was **24** and in **Very Remote** areas was **19.6**.

When compared to 2013, the number of the Workforce per ERP by remoteness area has decreased (Highest decreases: **Outer Regional** by **3.1** and **Remote** by **5.9**) except in **Very Remote** areas where the Workforce per 100,000 had increased by **10.9** from 2013 to 2016.

2013 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100K population
Major cities	16,375	10,990	25.5	100.4
Inner regional	4,218	2,523	22.7	100.1
Outer regional	2,213	1,288	22.1	107.1
Remote	466	295	24	144.5
Very remote	292	150	19.6	139.6

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

<sup>3</sup>ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013

In 2016, **20.5% (4,912)** of the Workforce was aged 45-54 and worked in **Major cities**. There were **1,041** Midwives aged 65 and over (**4.4%** of the Workforce) and **750** worked in **Major cities**.

In comparison, **24.7% (5,811)** of the Workforce in 2013 was aged 45-54 and worked in **Major cities**. There were **787** Midwives aged 65 and over (**3.3%** of the Workforce) and **557** worked in **Major cities**.



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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