

# Dental Prosthetists

## 2016 Factsheet

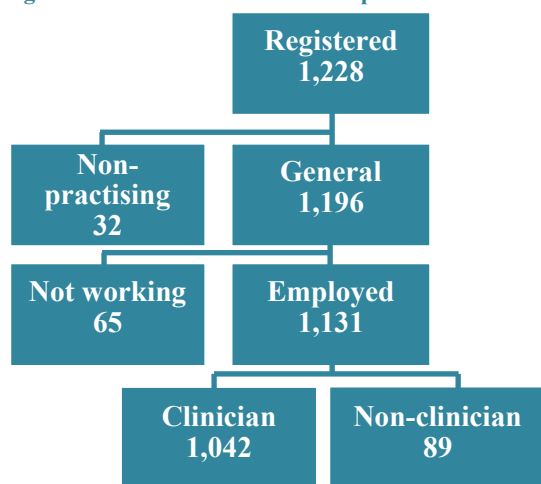


Dental Prosthetists are registered healthcare practitioners who provide education, assessment, treatment, management and provision of removable dentures; and flexible, removable mouthguards used for sporting activities. Dental Prosthetists collaborate with referring dentists and specialist dentists to ensure proper fitting and maintenance of dental prostheses.

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

### Workforce

Figure 1: Breakdown of the dental prosthetist workforce, 2016



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

The registered workforce has increased by 2.8% (33) since 2013, with an average yearly growth rate of 0.9%.

*Note: Analysis of the dental prosthetist workforce contained in this document is based on the number of registered and employed dental prosthetists (1,131 in 2016) unless otherwise stated.*

Table 1: Headcount of the workforce, 2013-2016

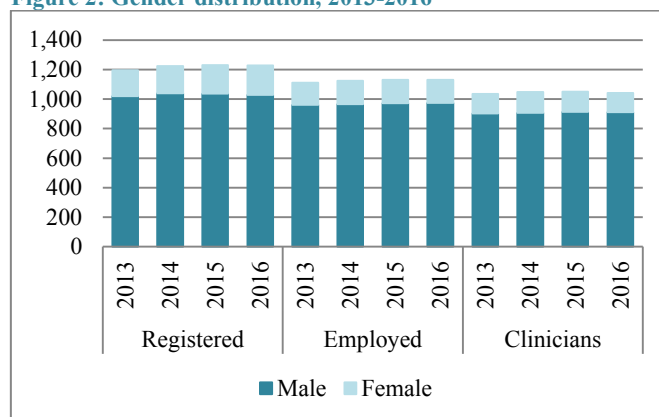
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	1,195	1,223	1,230	1,228
Employed	1,111	1,124	1,130	1,131
Clinicians	1,034	1,047	1,050	1,042

### Demographics

In 2016, 13.9% of registered and employed dental prosthetists were female, up from 13.5% in 2013.

In 2016, the dental prosthetist workforce had an average age of 49.9 years, up from 49.3 in 2013.

Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2013-2016



### Quick Facts - 2016

Figure 3: Summary of the registered and employed workforce



### Hours Worked

Dental prosthetists worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in 2016, a slight decrease from 39.1 in 2013. Clinical hours increased from 28.7 in 2013 to 29.1 hours per week in 2016.

Table 2: Average hours per week worked, 2013-2016

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	28.7	29.6	28.6	29.1
Non-clinical	10.4	9.2	10.1	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.0</b>

In 2016, females worked an average of 35.8 hours per week, up slightly from 35.7 hours per week in 2013. Males worked an average of 39.5 hours per week, down slightly from 39.6 hours per week in 2013.

In 2016, males aged 45-54 worked the longest hours per week on average at 41.8.

**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	38.5	36.4	33.7	35.5
35-44	39.7	40.8	33.4	31.6
45-54	41.0	41.8	37.7	39.8
55-64	41.0	40.6	36.5	36.6
65-74	33.4	31.6	18.0	19.3
75-99	20.2	22.8	np	np
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>35.8</b>

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

### Replacement Rate

In 2016, there were 0.8 new registrants for every dental prosthetist that did not renew their registration from 2015. This replacement rate has decreased 1.0 in 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) and their second job (either for a different employer or in a different area of practice), if applicable.

### Principal Role

In 2016, a total of 92.1% (1,042) of dental prosthetists worked as clinicians in their principal role, slightly down from 93.1% (1,034) in 2013.

**Table 4: Headcounts by principal role, 2013 vs 2016**

Principal role	Total Employed	
	2013	2016
Clinician	1,034	1,042
Administrator	18	31
Teacher or educator	18	np
Researcher	0	np
Other	41	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,131</b>

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

### Second Job

In 2016, 11.4% (129) of the dental prosthetist workforce reported a second job role, down from 13.0% (144) in 2013. 58.1% (75) of this group worked as clinicians in their second job, up from 57.6% (83) in 2013.

**Table 5: Headcount by second job role of, 2013 vs 2016**

Second job role	Total Employed	
	2013	2016
Clinician	83	75
Administrator	21	24
Teacher or educator	24	15
Researcher	np	0
Other	np	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>129</b>

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

### Clinical Hours Worked

In 2016, dental prosthetists worked an average of 28.4 clinical hours per week in their principal role, up slightly from 28.3 in 2013, and 5.4 clinical hours per week in their second job, down from 5.7 in 2013.

**Table 6: Average clinical hours worked by principal role and second job, 2013 vs 2016**

Job role	2013 – Average hours		2016 – Average hours	
	Principal role	Second job	Principal role	Second job
Clinician	29.4	7.7	29.5	7.3
Administrator	14.7	5.8	13.2	2.7
Teacher or educator	9.8	1.2	16.2	2.1
Researcher	-	np	np	-
Other	9.6	2.2	9.9	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>

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

### Principal Work Sector (public/private)

The 2016 workforce survey asks 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) and their second job (either for a different employer or in a different area of practice), if applicable, in either the public or private sector.

### Principal Role

In 2016, 11.9% (135) of dental prosthetists worked clinical hours in the public sector in their principal role, up from 10.0% (111) in 2013. 80.7% (913) worked clinical hours in the private sector, down from 82.4% (916) in 2013.

### Second Job

In 2016, 18.0% (16) of dental prosthetists worked clinical hours in the public sector, down from 22.2% (22) in 2013. 74.2% (66) worked clinical hours in the private sector, down from 76.8% (76) in 2013.

**Table 7: Headcounts by sector for principal role and second job in which clinical hours were worked, 2013 vs 2016**

Employment sector	2013		2016	
	Principal role	Second job	Principal role	Second job
<b>Public sector only</b>	111	22	135	16
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	10.0%	22.2%	11.9%	18.0%
<b>Private sector only</b>	916	76	913	66
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	82.4%	76.8%	80.7%	74.2%
<b>Both</b>	68	np	72	7
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	6.1%	np	6.4%	7.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>89</b>

'Not stated' responses are excluded from this table but included in the principal role totals. 'np' denotes that the counts have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

### Principal Work Setting

In 2016, 69.1% (782) of dental prosthetists worked in a solo private practice setting, down from 70.7% (786) in 2013, followed by group private practice settings at 17.5% (198), up from 16.6% (184) in 2013. Hospital settings followed next at 4.5% (51) in 2016, which was the same proportion as reported in 2013, 4.5% (50).

### Secondary Work Setting

In 2016, 39.2% (56) of the workforce that indicated a secondary work setting mostly worked in a solo private practice, up from 35.3% (54) in 2013.

**Table 8: Headcounts for principal role and second job by work setting, 2013 vs 2016**

Work setting	2013		2016	
	Principal role	Second job	Principal role	Second job
Solo private practice	786	54	782	56
Group private practice	184	29	198	43
Hospital	50	10	51	5
Public clinic	36	15	40	11
Commercial/business	11	5	14	np
Tertiary educational facility	12	15	11	np
Other	9	8	11	12
Independent private practice	9	4	8	5
<i>Remaining settings</i>	14	19	16	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>143</b>

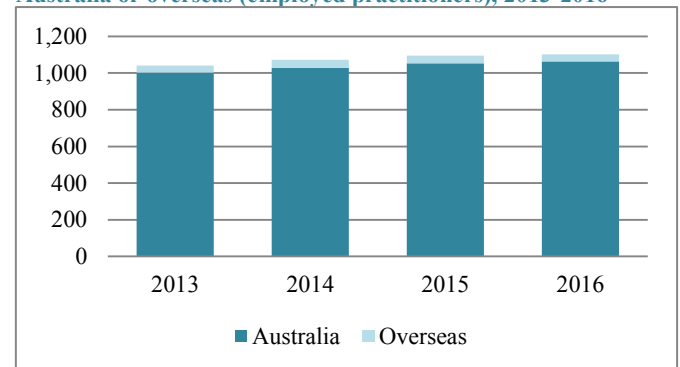
Note: In this instance the principal work setting headcount for the reported second job does not equal the principal role for the reported second job. This occurs when the survey respondent indicates a second job work setting but not a second job principal role.

### Initial Qualification

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

In 2016, 94.0% (1,063) of the workforce indicated that they obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia, up from 90.3% (1,003) in 2013. 3.4% (39) indicated that they had obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas, up slightly from 3.3% (37) in 2013.

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



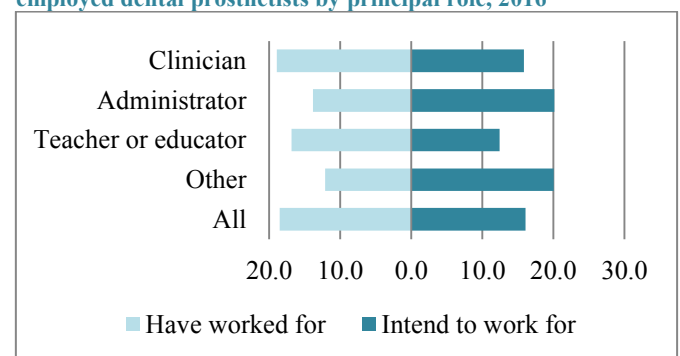
Note: 'Not stated/Unknown' responses are excluded from this graph but included in the total.

### Working Intentions

In 2016, dental prosthetists had worked an average of 18.5 years in the profession and intended to work for another 16.1 years.

In 2013, dental prosthetists had worked an average of 19.2 years, and intended to work for another 16.5 years.

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



Note: Researchers are excluded from this graph for confidentiality reasons but included in the total.

### Distribution

#### State and Territory

In 2016, there was a slight overall decrease in the rate of dental prosthetists per 100,000 population from 4.8 per 100,000 in 2013 to 4.7 per 100,000 population in 2016.

FTE was higher than the headcount nationally, and for each of the states except Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory. This

indicates that some are working more than the standard 38 hours per week.

**Table 9: Distribution by state/territory, 2016**

2016 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	<sup>2</sup> Rate per 100,000 population
NSW	368	376.3	38.9	4.8
VIC	319	315.0	37.5	5.2
QLD	242	264.4	41.5	5.0
SA	60	56.3	35.7	3.5
WA	80	80.5	38.3	3.1
TAS	44	47.1	40.6	8.5
ACT	np	np	44.9	3.7
NT	np	np	np	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,159.8</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>

Note: 'np' denotes that the number has been suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

<sup>2</sup>ABS - 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16

### Remoteness Area

In 2016, 94.5% (1,068) of the workforce worked in major cities or inner regional areas, compared with 94.6% (1,051) in 2013.

**Table 10: Distribution by remoteness area, 2016**

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	<sup>3</sup> Rate per 100,000 population
Major cities	823	827.2	38.2	4.8
Inner regional	245	264.8	41.1	5.6
Outer regional	59	63.6	41.0	2.8
Remote	np	np	np	1.0
Very remote	np	np	np	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,159.8</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>

Note: 'np' denotes that the headcount or FTE has been suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

<sup>3</sup>ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

### Other Work Location Outside of Major Cities

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

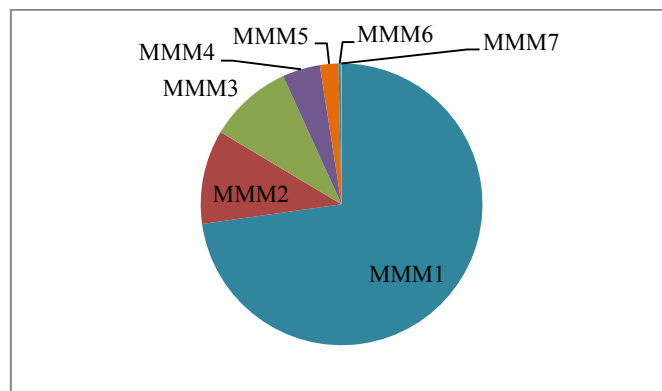
In 2016, 5.8% (66) of the dental prosthetist workforce reported that they had worked in a regional, rural or remote location. 53.0% (35) of respondents indicated that they had worked in inner regional locations and 33.3% (22) had worked in outer regional, remote or very remote locations

### Modified Monash Model

The majority (72.8%) 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, down from

73.9% in 2013 (see [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) for more information on the MMM).

**Figure 6: Proportion of the workforce by MMM location – 2016**



### Tele-Health

A total of 11.3% (128) of the workforce provided a response to the tele-health question. On average the respondents practiced via tele-health for 22.5 hours per week.

In 2016, 82.0% of tele-health services were delivered in a major city.

**Table 11: Tele-health workforce remoteness location – 2016**

Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote
82.0%	11.7%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%

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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