

Dentists

2016 Factsheet

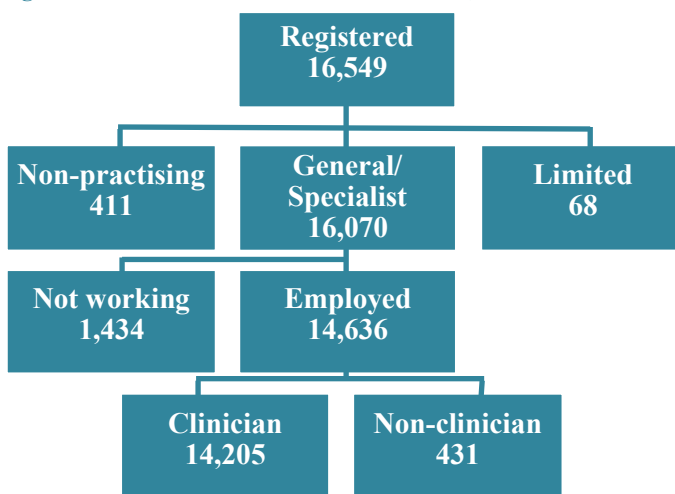


Dentists are registered healthcare practitioners who may practise all parts of dentistry within their competency and training. They provide assessment, diagnosis, treatment, management and preventive services to patients of all ages.

Persons seeking to gain registration must complete a minimum four year undergraduate, or four year postgraduate master program of study approved by the Dental Board of Australia. Further training is required for specialisation.

Workforce

Figure 1: Breakdown of the dentist workforce, 2016



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

The registered workforce has increased by 6.9% (1,070) since 2013, with an average yearly growth rate of 2.3%.

Note: Analysis of the dentist workforce contained in this document is based on the number of registered and employed dentists (14,636 in 2016) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Headcount of the dentist workforce, 2013-2016

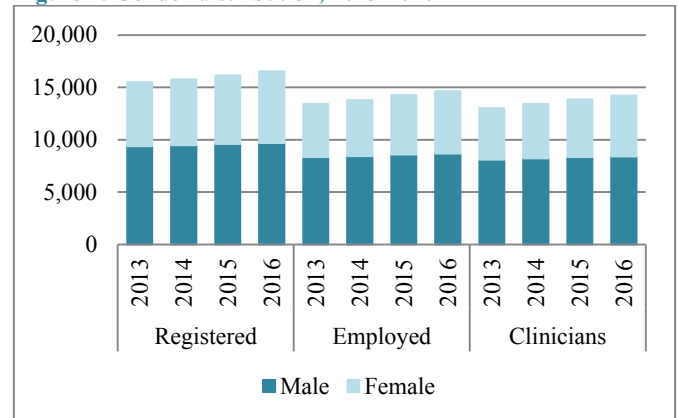
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	15,479	15,764	16,123	16,549
Employed	13,472	13,794	14,263	14,636
Clinicians	13,049	13,417	13,834	14,205

Demographics

In 2016, 40.8% of the registered and employed dentists were female, up from 37.9% in 2013.

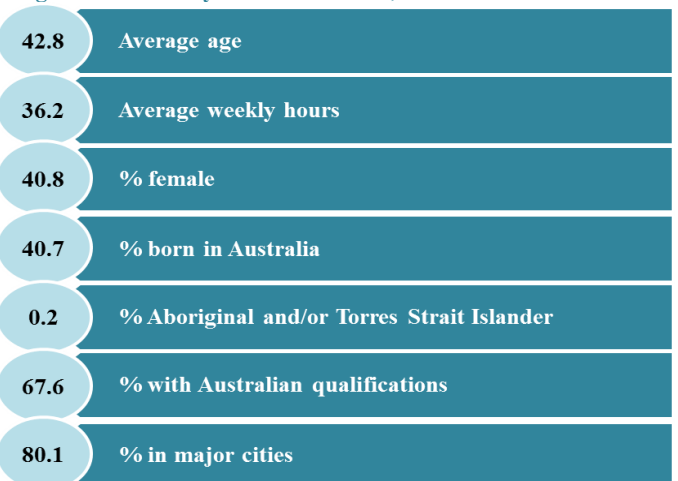
In 2016, the dentist workforce had an average age of 42.8 years, down from 43.1 in 2013.

Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2013-2016



Quick Facts - 2016

Figure 3: Summary of the workforce, 2016



Hours Worked

Dentists worked an average of 36.2 hours per week in both 2013 and 2016. The average clinical hours worked remained stable over 2013 to 2016 period only increasing by 0.3 hours per week from 32.2 to 32.5, and non-clinical hours decreased by 0.1 from 3.9 to 3.8.

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

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	32.2	32.3	32.2	32.5
Non-clinical	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8
Total	36.2	36.2	36.0	36.2

In 2016, females worked an average of 32.9 hours per week, up from 32.5 in 2013. Males worked an average of 38.5 hours per week, up slightly from 38.4 in 2013.

In 2016, males aged 35-44 worked the longest hours per week on average at 41.3.

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

Age Group	Males – Ave. hours		Females – Ave. hours	
	2013	2016	2013	2016
20-34	38.7	39.4	34.1	34.9
35-44	40.4	41.3	30.8	31.0
45-54	41.0	40.4	32.5	32.6
55-64	37.4	37.5	30.5	31.3
65-74	30.7	29.3	24.4	26.1
75-99	23.6	21.9	np	np
Total	38.4	38.5	32.5	32.9

Note: For confidentiality reasons the under 20 age group has been excluded, and females in the 75-99 year old age group have been denoted by 'np'.

Replacement Rate

In 2016, there were 1.7 new registrants for every dentist that did not renew their registration from 2015. This replacement rate has increased from the rate of 1.5 in 2015.

Job Role

The workforce survey asked respondents to report their principal role and their second job, if applicable.

Principal Role

In 2016, a total of 97.1% (14,205) of dentists worked as a clinician in their principal role, up from 96.9% (13,049) in 2013.

Table 4: Headcount by principal role, 2013 vs 2016

Principal role	Total Employed	
	2013	2016
Clinician	13,049	14,205
Administrator	171	169
Teacher or educator	166	164
Researcher	42	32
Other	44	66
Total	13,472	14,636

Second Job

In 2016, 20.3% (2,973) of dentists reported a second job in dentistry, up from 17.9% (2,412) in 2013.

In 2016, 79.8% (2,373) of dentists that reported a second job indicated that this was in a clinician role, up from 73.6% (1,776) in 2013.

Table 5: Headcount by second job, 2013 vs 2016

Second job	Total Employed	
	2013	2016
Clinician	1,776	2,373
Administrator	124	163
Teacher or educator	397	353
Researcher	76	38
Other	39	46
Total	2,412	2,973

Clinical Hours Worked

In 2013 and 2016, dentists worked an average of 30.8 clinical hours per week in their principal role,

and 8.8 clinical hours per week in their second job, slightly down from 8.7 in 2013.

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

Job role	2013		2016	
	Principal role	Second job	Principal role	Second job
Clinician	31.1	10.6	31.1	10.3
Administrator	17.8	4.4	20.3	2.9
Teacher or educator	12.0	3.1	12.8	2.3
Researcher	19.5	2.9	20.8	2.7
Other	24.4	3.4	23.2	2.1
Total	30.8	8.7	30.8	8.8

Principal Work Sector (public/private)

The 2016 workforce survey asks respondents to report the clinical hours worked in their principal role and in their second job, if applicable, in either the public or private sector.

Principal Role

In 2016, 11.2% (1,643) of dentists worked clinical hours in the public sector, down from 11.8% (1,595) in 2013.

In 2016, 85.1% (12,455) of dentists worked clinical hours in the private sector, up from 83.9% (11,309).

Second Job

In 2016, 14.3% (367) of dentists who reported a second job worked in the public sector, down from 19.0% (421) in 2013, and 84.6% (2,168) worked in the private sector, up from 80.3% (1,784) 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
Public sector only	1,595	421	1,643	367
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>11.8%</i>	<i>19.0%</i>	<i>11.2%</i>	<i>14.3%</i>
Private sector only	11,309	1,784	12,455	2,168
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>83.9%</i>	<i>80.3%</i>	<i>85.1%</i>	<i>84.6%</i>
Both	419	16	395	27
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>3.1%</i>	<i>0.7%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>1.1%</i>
Total	13,472	2,221	14,636	2,562

Note: 'Not stated' responses are excluded from this table but included in the principal role totals

Principal Work Setting (public/private)

In 2016, 56.4% (8,262) of dentists worked in a group private practice setting, up from 54.9% (7,395) in 2013.

Secondary Work Setting

In 2016, 52.3% (1,645) of the dentists that reported

a secondary work setting worked in a group private practice, up from 51.3% (1,311) 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
Group private practice	7,395	1,311	8,262	1,645
Solo private practice	3,716	346	3,986	540
Public clinic	802	245	836	267
Hospital	708	159	681	190
Tertiary educational facility	210	268	212	238
Defence forces	131	19	136	22
Independent private practice	126	63	132	69
Other	128	59	121	59
Commercial/business service	67	14	76	27
Aboriginal health service	62	15	58	16
Other community health care service	49	13	54	20
Remaining job settings	78	46	82	51
Total	13,472	2,558	14,636	3,144

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.

Job Area (Speciality)

In 2016, of the 1,465 dentists that reported a primary speciality, 36.1% (529) reported orthodontics as their primary speciality, down from 37.9% (533) in 2013

Table 9: Headcounts by primary speciality 2013 vs 2016

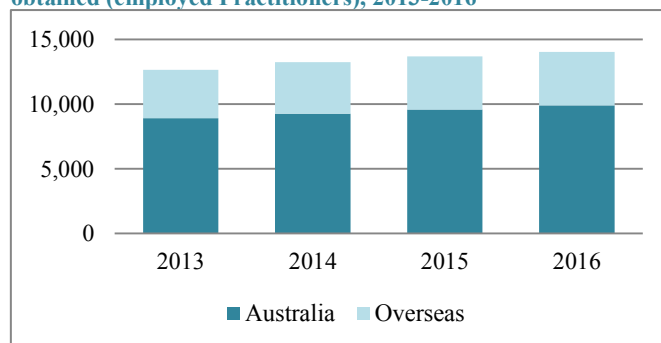
Primary Speciality	Headcount	
	2013	2016
Orthodontics	533	529
Periodontics	190	201
Prosthodontics	184	191
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	153	159
Endodontics	140	152
Paediatric dentistry	96	119
Oral medicine	24	29
Oral surgery	25	26
Forensic odontology	24	22
Special needs dentistry	14	12
Public health (Community dentistry)	12	11
Dento-maxillofacial radiology	8	9
Oral pathology	5	5
Total	1,408	1,465

Initial Qualification

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

In 2016, 67.6% (9,895) of dentists responded that they obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia, up from 66.1% (8,904) in 2013. 28.2% (4,123) of dentists responded that they had obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas, up from 27.8% (3,746) in 2013.

Figure 4: Country where the initial dentist qualification was obtained (employed Practitioners), 2013-2016



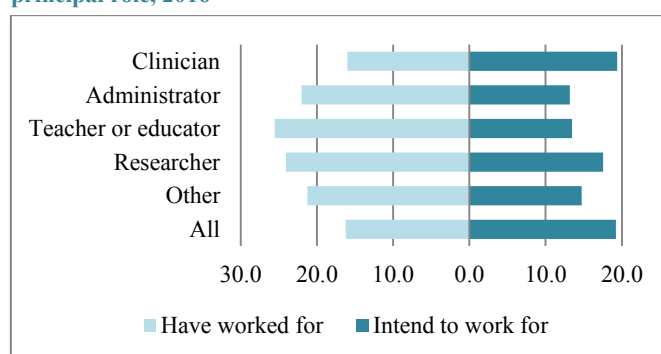
Note: 'Not stated/Unknown' responses are excluded from this graph, but included in the total.

Working Intentions

In 2016, dentists had worked in the profession for an average of 16.2 years and intended to work for another 19.2 years.

In 2013, dentists had worked for 16.6 years on average and intended to work for another 18.5 years.

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



Distribution

State and Territory

In 2016, there was an overall increase in the rate of dentists per 100,000 population from 58.2 per 100,000 in 2013 to 60.5 per 100,000 population in 2016.

The Australian Capital Territory has the highest rate of dentists with 66.2 per 100,000, down by 0.8 per 100,000 from 2013.

New South Wales was listed as the principal place of practice for 32.4% (4,746) of the workforce followed by Victoria with 24.2% (3,541).

Table 10: Distribution by state/territory, 2016

2016 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	² Rate per 100,000 population
NSW	4,746	4,602.1	36.9	61.3
VIC	3,541	3,302.8	35.4	57.3
QLD	3,072	2,992.9	37.0	63.4
SA	1,070	963.3	34.2	62.5
WA	1,610	1,501.7	35.4	62.9
TAS	230	232.5	38.4	44.4
ACT	267	263.7	37.5	66.2
NT	94	96.6	39.1	38.3
Total	14,636	13,960.8	36.3	60.5

Note: Not stated/Unknown are excluded from this table but are included in the total. ²ABS - 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015-16

Remoteness Area

Between 2013 and 2016, the overall rate of dentists increased from 58.2 to 60.5 per 100,000. The greatest increase occurred in remote locations, up by 5.2 per 100,000 population from 26.0 to 31.2.

Table 11: Distribution of employed dentists by remoteness area, 2016

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Avg. total hours	³ Rate per 100,000 population
Major cities	11,720	11,124.8	36.1	68.0
Inner regional	1,943	1,890.2	37.0	44.3
Outer regional	839	816.0	37.0	40.2
Remote	96	94.7	37.5	31.2
Very remote	33	31.0	35.7	17.0
Total	14,636	13,960.8	36.3	60.5

³ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

Other Work Location Outside of Major Cities

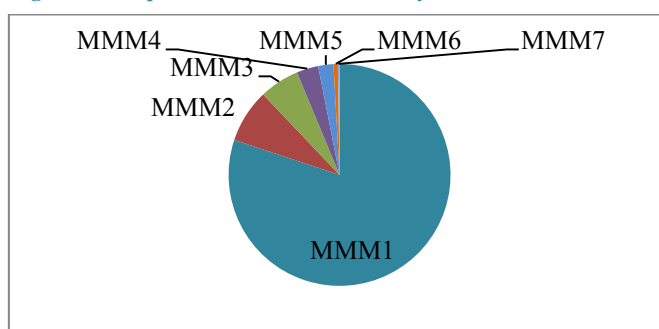
The 2016 workforce survey asked respondents if they also worked in a regional, rural or remote location other than in their principal and second job location (if applicable).

In 2016, 4.7% (686) of the workforce reported that they had, in addition to their principal and second work location, worked in a regional, rural or remote locations: 49.9% (342) had worked in inner regional, 27.8% (191) had worked in outer regional locations; and 10.7% (73) had worked in remote or very remote locations.

Modified Monash Model

The majority (80.1%) 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 80.4% in 2013 (see www.doctorconnect.gov.au for more information on the MMM).

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 8.8% (1,284) of the workforce provided a response, on average these respondents practiced via tele-health for 23.4 hours per week.

Table 12: Tele-health workforce remoteness location – 2016

Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote
82.2%	12.1%	5.1%	0.5%	0.1%

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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