Nurses in Primary Health Care
2016 factsheet

Primary health care is the first level of contact that individuals, families and communities have with the health care system. Nurses working in primary health care are employed in a variety of roles including health promotion and education, treatment and prevention of illness, community development and in a range of settings including community health care, general practice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health services and drug and alcohol services. Evidence demonstrates that health systems with strong primary health care are more efficient, have lower rates of hospitalisation, fewer health inequalities and better health outcomes, including lower mortality.

Workforce

The primary health care nursing workforce in 2016 (43,271) has increased by 4.3% (1,795) compared to the workforce in 2013 (41,476), with an average annual increase of 1.4%. This compares to the total nursing workforce in 2016 (311,697) which has increased by 6.4% since 2013, with an annual average increase of 2.1%. Of the primary health care nursing workforce in 2016 (43,271) has increased by 4.3% (1,795) compared to the workforce in 2013 (41,476), with an average annual increase of 1.4%. This compares to the total nursing workforce in 2016 (311,697) which has increased by 6.4% since 2013, with an annual average increase of 2.1%. Of the primary health care nursing workforce in 2016 (43,271) which has increased by 4.3% (1,795) compared to the workforce in 2013 (41,476), with an average annual increase of 1.4%. This compares to the total nursing workforce in 2016 (311,697) which has increased by 6.4% since 2013, with an annual average increase of 2.1%. Of the primary health care nursing workforce in 2016 (43,271), 67.4% were located in a major city.

Quick facts

- Number of nurses in primary health care: 43,271
- Average age: 47.2
- Average hours per week: 29.9
- % Female: 93.3
- % Located in a major city: 67.4

Distribution

Most primary health care nurses (67.4%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system.

Modified Monash Model (MMM)

The MMM is a new classification system that categorises metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas according to both geographical remoteness and town size. The MMM uses two key indicators for the classification of “rurality”, that being the ABS measure of remoteness; the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS-RA) which is based on population Census data from 2011 and the local town size.

![Modified Monash Model (MMM) diagram](image_url)

- MM1: Major City
- MM2: Inner and Outer Regional Australia: population >50,000.
- MM3: Population between 15,000 and 50,000
- MM4: Population between 5,000 and 15,000
- MM5: All other areas in Inner and Outer Regional Australia.
- MM6: All areas determined as being Remote Australia.
- MM7: All areas determined as being Very Remote Australia.

The contact information is as follows:

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References
Registered and employed workforce data, National Health Workforce Dataset 2013-16.