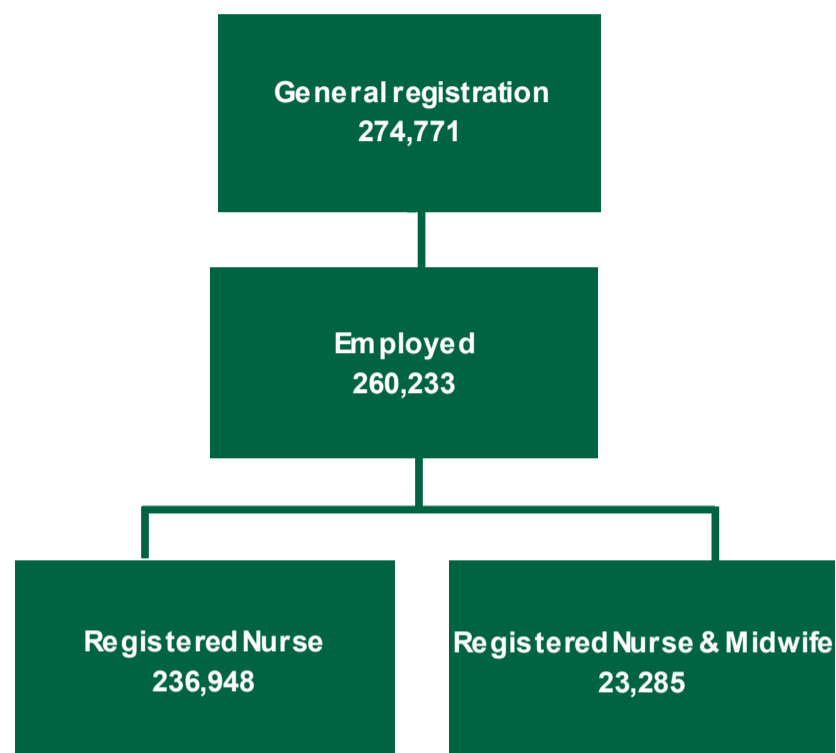


Registered Nurses NHWDS 2016 Fact Sheet



Australian Government
Department of Health

2016 Workforce



The Registered Nurse (RN) 2016 *registered* workforce (**274,771**) has increased by **9.9%** (**24,714**) compared to the workforce in 2013 (**250,057**), with an average annual increase of **3.2%**.

Registered Nurses	2013	2014	2015	2016
Registered	250,057	258,674	265,707	274,771
Employed	242,104	246,539	252,566	260,233
Employed <i>with hours worked</i>	239,045	241,438	248,026	256,013

Note: In 2016, **4,220** RNs with a dual registration reported no hours worked as an RN in the workforce survey period. This proportion of the workforce has been excluded from any further analysis, which reports on the **256,013** *registered and employed* RNs ("Workforce") that recorded hours worked during the survey period.

Hours worked

In 2016, RNs worked an average of **32.7** total hours per week. In comparison, in 2013 the average total hours worked per week was **33.3**, a decrease of **0.6** hours per week.

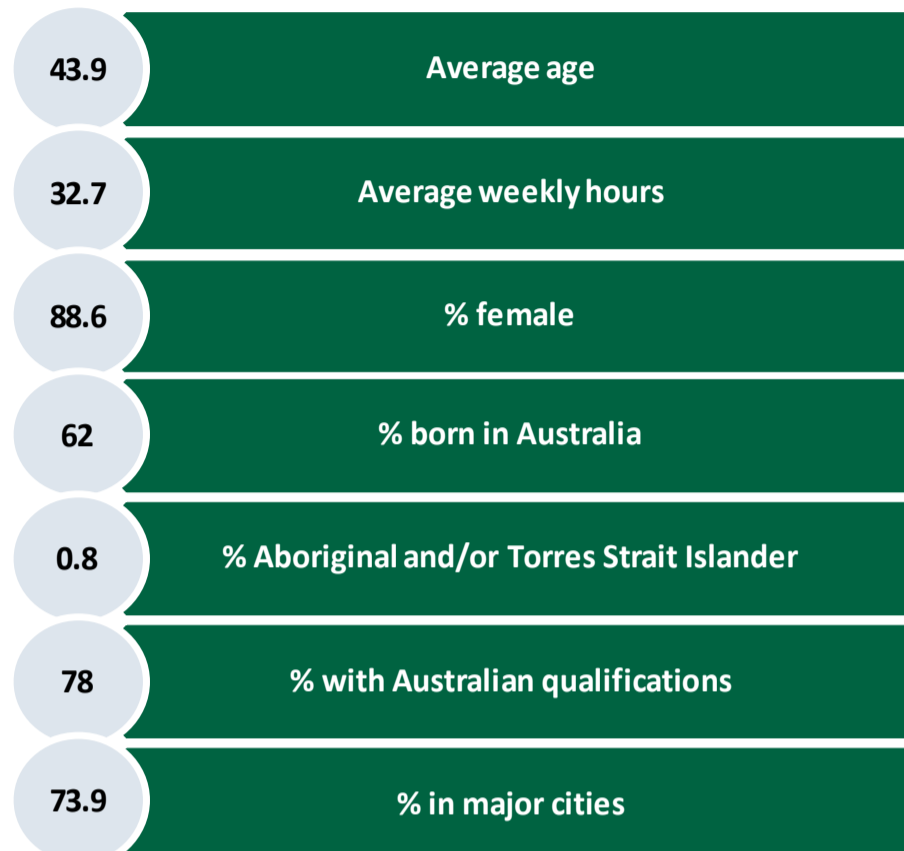
Age Group	Males - average hours		Females - average hours	
	2013	2016	2013	2016
20-34	38.5	38.2	34.8	34.3
35-44	39	38.5	31	31
45-54	38.4	37.9	33	32.2
55-64	37.1	36.5	32.4	31.3
65-74	33	31.7	28.1	26.9
75-99	34.6	23.8	28.2	23.3

Note: Age group 0-19 has been combined with 20-34

In 2016, RNs worked an average of **28.5** clinical hours per week compared to an average of **28.8** clinical hours per week in 2013.

Average hours worked	2013	2014	2015	2016
Clinical	28.8	28.3	28.4	28.5
Non-clinical	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.2
Total	33.3	32.9	32.8	32.7

Quick facts



Quick facts—Registered and employed Registered Nurses

Employment count for **All Nurses and Midwives** is a total headcount, whereas the employed counts by profession (Nursing (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, **88.6%** of the Workforce was female and the average age of the total Workforce was **43.9**. There was a minor decrease in the average age between 2013 and 2016.

24.7% of the Workforce were females aged 20-34 and **22.3%** were females aged 45-54.

From 2013 to 2016 the percentage of male RNs has risen **0.5** percentage points to **11.4%** 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.

8.3% (21,269) of the Workforce responded to the tele-health question. On average this workforce practiced via tele-health **17.1** 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
64.2%	17.7%	11.6%	3.3%	3.1%

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded



Job role

229,071 (89.5%) worked predominantly in a clinician role in 2016. In comparison, **213,321 (89.2%)** worked in a clinician role in 2013.

Job role	Employed Total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Clinician	213,321	229,071
Administrator	11,409	13,814
Teacher or educator	9,235	9,140
Researcher	2,480	2,497
Other	2,575	1,491
Non Respondent/Unknown	25	-
Total	239,045	256,013

Principal area of practice

In 2016, **45.1%** of the Workforce was employed in the five largest principal areas of practice. **11%** worked in *aged care (28,173)* which has increased by just **0.1** percentage points from **10.9%** of the Workforce (**26,071**) in 2013. The number working in *peri-operative care* increased by **3,428** in the same period.

The Workforce working in *management* reported the highest average total hours per week (**37.5**).

Principal area of practice	Employed Total (Headcount)	
	2013	2016
Aged care	26,071	28,173
Medical	20,846	24,161
Peri-operative	20,171	23,599
Surgical	19,900	21,216
Mental health	16,906	18,419
Mixed medical/surgical	16,171	17,535
Critical care	17,379	17,332
Emergency	15,039	17,047
Other	16,828	15,719
Community nursing	10,797	11,028
Practice nursing	9,480	10,647
Management	7,919	8,435
Rehabilitation and disability	6,448	7,042
Paediatrics	7,159	6,590
Maternity care	9,023	5,858
Education	5,796	5,773
Child and family health	5,213	4,766
Neonatal care	-	4,655
Palliative care	2,701	2,886
Research	1,915	1,946
Drug and Alcohol	1,583	1,668
Health promotion	1,255	1,075
Policy	420	443
Non Respondent/Unknown	25	-
Total	239,045	256,013

Principal work sector

In 2016, **57.4%** of the Workforce worked *only in the public sector* compared to **32.1%** *only in private*.

Employment sector	Headcount	
	2013	2016
Public sector only	138,617	146,847
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	58	57.4
Private sector only	74,692	82,142
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	31.2	32.1
Both	8,346	8,182
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	3.5	3.2
Non response	17,390	18,842
<i>Proportion (%)</i>	7.3	7.4
Total	239,045	256,013

Principal work setting

In 2016, **63.9%** (**163,509**) of the Workforce worked in a *hospital* setting. The next most common work setting was in a *residential health care facility* with **9.9%** (**25,225**).

Principal work setting	2013		2016	
	Head-count	Average total hours	Head-count	Average total hours
Hospital	150,884	33.5	163,509	32.9
<i>FTE Clinical hours - public*</i>	91,133.5		97,150.7	
<i>FTE Clinical hours - private*</i>	29,570.7		31,865	
Residential health care facility	23,115	34	25,225	34.3
Community health care service	20,557	33.3	20,650	32.4
General practitioner (GP) practice	8,265	27.8	9,327	28.1
Outpatient service	7,890	32.8	8,864	32.2
Other	9,298	34.1	8,318	32.8
Other private practice	5,659	28.9	6,017	28.7
Tertiary educational facility	3,266	34.3	3,381	33.1
Other government department or agency	2,907	34.9	2,728	33.3
Correctional service	1,232	37.9	1,491	37.5
School	1,299	29.5	1,438	28.2
Commercial/business service	1,410	33.2	1,293	32.8
Aboriginal health service	1,198	37.5	1,288	35.5
Other educational facility	792	31.7	792	31.5
Defence forces	541	36.6	574	36.4
Hospice	559	31	530	31.2
Residential mental health care service	-	-	440	28.4
Locum private practice	148	29.6	148	29.7
Non Respondent/Unknown	25	32	-	-
Total	239,045	33.3	256,013	32.7

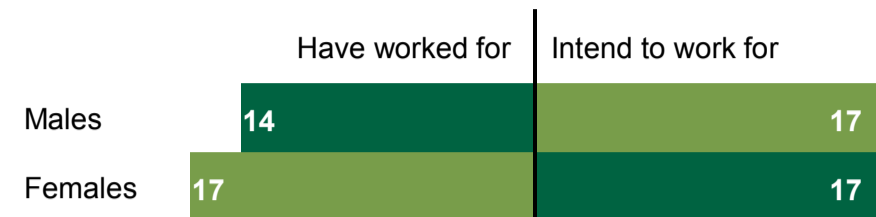
* The *hospital* setting FTE has been calculated based on *clinical* hours worked in either the private or public sector.

In 2013, **63.1%** (**150,884**) of the Workforce worked in a *hospital* setting. The next most common work setting was also in a *residential health care facility* with **9.7%** (**23,115**).



Working Intentions

In 2016 the Workforce had worked on average for **17*** years and intended to work for another **17** years. In 2013 the Workforce worked on average for **18*** years and intended to work for another **16** years.



*May not have worked all years as an RN

Initial qualification

The workforce survey asks the Workforce where they obtained their initial qualification. **78% (199,818)** obtained their initial qualification(s) in Australia and **20.9% (53,469)** obtained their initial qualification(s) overseas. Of these, **13,541** needed to obtain further qualifications or undertake an education program to gain registration.

Distribution

State and Territory

More than half (**55.4%**) of the Workforce was located in **NSW** and **VIC** in 2016.

WA and **NSW** had the lowest number of RNs per Estimated Residential Population (ERP) at **978.1** and **983.1** per 100,000 respectively. **NT** had the largest number per ERP at **1,388.6** per 100,000.

2016 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	² Rate per 100K population
NSW	75,639	67,299.4	33.8	983.1
VIC	66,117	54,969.7	31.6	1,094.7
QLD	52,116	45,538	33.2	1,050.8
SA	20,880	17,149.1	31.2	1,209.3
WA	26,954	22,864.4	32.2	978.1
TAS	6,249	5,241	31.9	1,196.8
ACT	4,473	4,049.8	34.4	1,102.2
NT	3,514	3,409.9	36.9	1,388.6

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

²ABS - 3222.0 - Population Projections, Australia, 2016

Average total hours worked was highest in the **NT (36.9)** and lowest in **SA** at **31.2** hours per week.

2013 State & Territory	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
NSW	70,857	63,891	34.3	956.6
VIC	61,445	52,106.8	32.2	1,071.7
QLD	46,905	41,366.2	33.5	1,008.4
SA	20,578	17,449.3	32.2	1,232
WA	25,672	22,327.8	33	1,020.6
TAS	6,076	5,167.4	32.3	1,184.3
ACT	4,053	3,678.3	34.5	1,064
NT	3,321	3,292.9	37.7	1,369.1

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013

When compared to 2013, the number of the Workforce per 100,000 ERP in most States and Territories increased except in **WA** and **SA** which decreased (**42.5** and **22.7** respectively).

Remoteness area

In 2016, **90.6%** of the Workforce (**231,976**) worked in either **Major Cities** or **Inner Regional** locations. In comparison, in 2013 this distribution was **90.4%** (**216,127**).

The average total hours worked generally increased with remoteness, from **31.7** hours per week in **Inner Regional** areas to **38.7** hours in **Very Remote** areas.

2016 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
Major cities	189,152	163,430.6	32.8	1,121.6
Inner regional	42,824	35,760.6	31.7	995.3
Outer regional	18,845	16,374.4	33	903.6
Remote	3,194	2,990.9	35.6	994.6
Very remote	1,962	1,999.6	38.7	961.7

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2015

2013 Remoteness Area	Headcount	Total FTE	Average total hours	³ Rate per 100K population
Major cities	175,147	153,676	33.3	1,074.2
Inner regional	40,980	34,844.3	32.3	972.5
Outer regional	17,823	15,782.9	33.7	862.4
Remote	3,129	3,014.6	36.6	970.2
Very remote	1,917	2,063.1	40.9	916.8

Note: Not stated/Unknown has been excluded

³ABS - 3218.0 Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2013

In 2016, **22.1%** (**56,682**) of the Workforce was aged 20-34 and worked in **Major cities**. There were **9,365** aged 65 and over (**3.7%** of the Workforce) and **6,721** worked in **Major cities**.

In comparison, **20%** (**47,727**) of the Workforce in 2013 was aged 20-34 and worked in **Major cities**. There were **7,628** aged 65 and over (**3.2%** of the Workforce) and **5,395** worked in **Major cities**.



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Department of Health

GPO Box 9848

Canberra ACT 2601

healthworkforcedata@health.gov.au

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