



2019

Dental Prosthetists



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. To gain registration as a dental prosthetist, practitioners must complete a minimum three year undergraduate, or one year postgraduate program of study approved by the Dental Board of Australia.

CONTENTS

Workforce

Quick Facts

Table 1: Dental Prosthetists

Figure 2, 3: Gender and age

Table 2, : Average hours per week

Table 3, 4: Clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector for principal job and second job

Figure 4: Average hours per week by gender and age group

Table 5, 6: Principal role and second job role

Table 7: Principal work setting

Table 8: Initial qualification country

Table 9: Years worked and years intended to work

Table 10: Distribution by state and territory

Table 11 and 12: Distribution of workforce and tele-health by Modified Monash Model (MMM2019)



2019

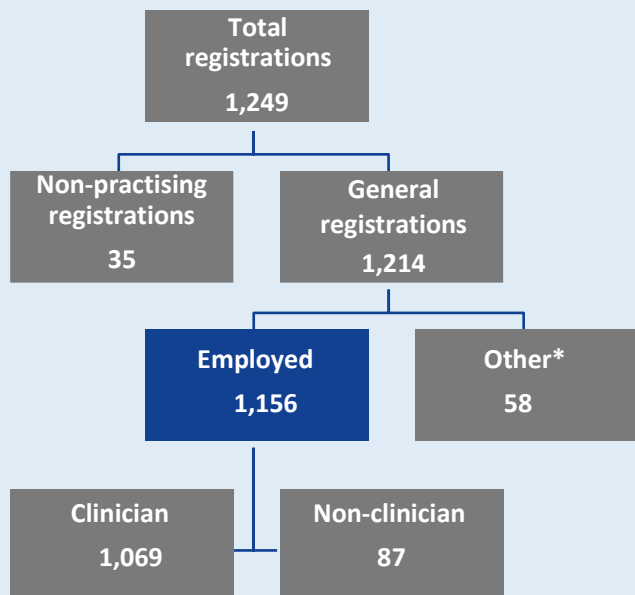
Dental Prosthetists



1

Workforce

Figure 1: Dental Prosthetists: Workforce status, 2019



**Other* includes: working but on long leave, working outside the profession, looking for work, overseas, and retired.*

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Dental Prosthetists

95.3%
With Australia qualification
& **65.9%** born in Australia



73.1%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)



16.5%
female



37.3
Average weekly hours



50.6
Average age



0.6%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Dental Prosthetists with general registration increased by 1.5% from 1,230 to 1,249 (a compound annual growth rate of 0.4%). The number of employed Dental Prosthetists ('workforce') increased 2.3% from 1,130 to 1,156 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 0.6%).

The number of employed Dental Prosthetists who worked as clinicians increased 1.8% from 1,050 to 1,069 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 0.4%). Clinicians are Dental Prosthetists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Dental Prosthetists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

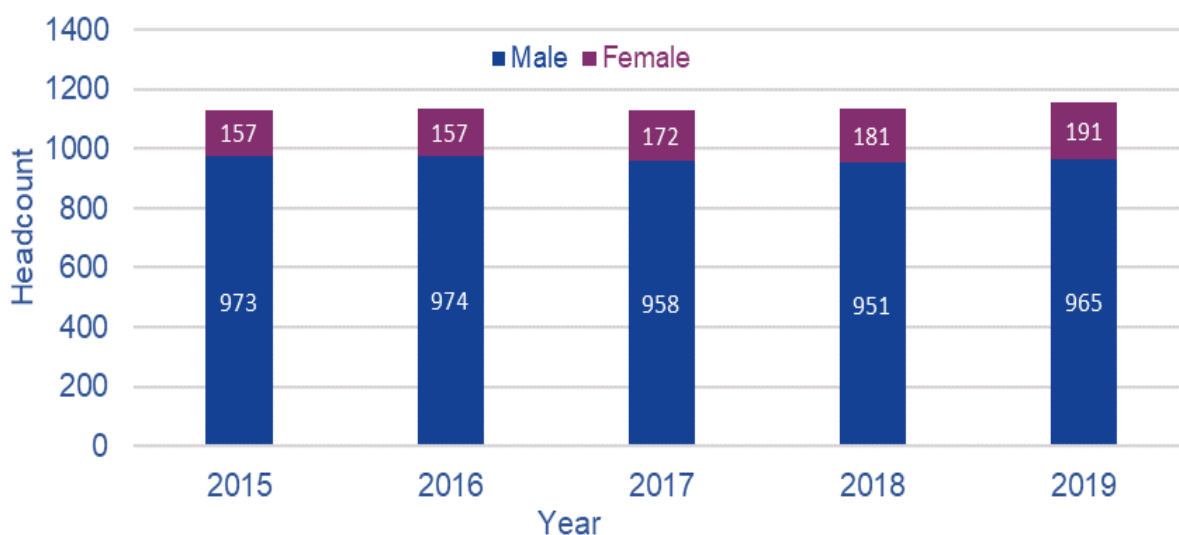
The following analysis of the Dental Prosthetist 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Dental Prosthetists with general registration who were employed (1,156 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Dental Prosthetists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	1,230	1,228	1,228	1,224	1,249	0.4%
Employed	1,130	1,131	1,130	1,132	1,156	0.6%
Clinicians	1,050	1,042	1,062	1,058	1,069	0.4%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

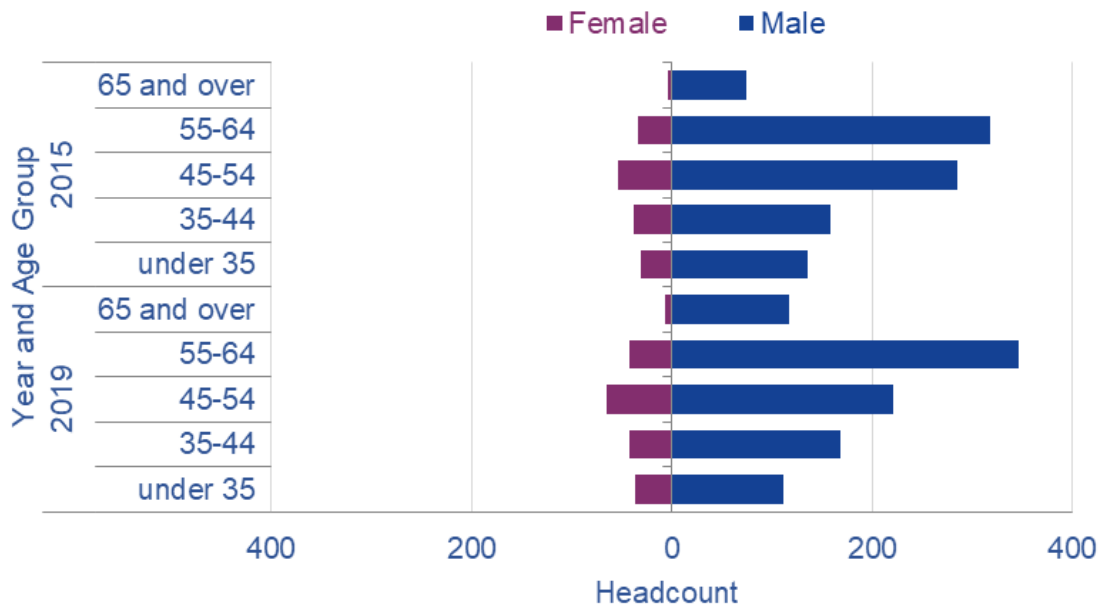
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 - 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	28.6	29.1	29.0	29.1	27.8
Non-clinical hours^	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.6	9.5
Total hours	38.7	39.0	38.9	38.7	37.3

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total

* Clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in clinical roles (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services)

^ Non-clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in non-clinical roles (including teacher, researcher, administrator or other)



Table 3: Principal job clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	711.0	85.2%	696.6	85.3%
Public sector	124.0	14.8%	120.0	14.7%
Total	835.0	100%	816.5	100%

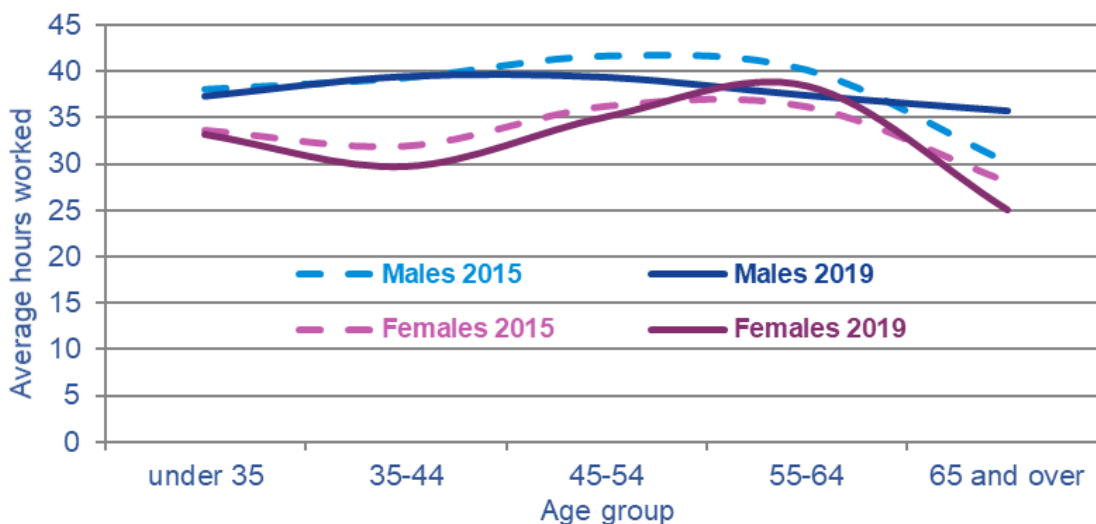
Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019
Includes Dental Prosthetists who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their clinical roles
Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total
Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

Table 4: Second job clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	12.1	82.5%	24.3	82.9%
Public sector	2.6	17.5%	5.0	17.1%
Total	14.6	100%	29.3	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019
Includes Dental Prosthetists who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their clinical roles
Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total
Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

Figure 4: Average hours per week by gender and age group, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 5: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	1,050	92.9%	1,069	92.5%
Administrator	19	1.7%	24	2.1%
Teacher or educator	NP	NP	20	1.7%
Researcher	NP	NP	5	0.4%
Other	41	3.6%	38	3.3%
Total	1,130	100%	1,156	100%

Source: NHWDS, Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019
'NP' denotes figure that are not published (suppressed) for confidentiality purposes

Table 6: Second job by role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	60	48.8%	90	70.3%
Administrator	21	17.1%	12	9.4%
Teacher or educator	20	16.3%	10	7.8%
Other	22	17.9%	16	12.5%
Total	123	100%	128	100%

Source: NHWDS, Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 7: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Principal role	Second job	Principal role	Second job
Solo private practice	786	52	746	59
Group private practice	188	25	209	42
Hospital	54	10	63	9
Public clinic	37	6	44	13
Other	19	21	21	6
Commercial/business service	9	NP	18	5
Medical centre	-	-	13	6
Tertiary educational facility	9	13	11	NP
Other community health care service	8	NP	8	NP
Locum private practice	11	5	7	7
Remaining work settings	9	5	16	NP
Total	1,130	140	1,156	154

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

'NP' denotes figure that are not published (suppressed) for confidentiality purposes

Table 8: International qualification, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	1,052	93.1%	1,102	95.3%
Overseas	43	3.8%	38	3.3%
Unknown / not stated	35	3.1%	16	1.4%
Total	1,095	100%	1,140	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 9: Years worked and years intended to remain in the workforce by principal role, 2019

Principal role	Average years worked	Average years intended to work
Clinician	18.7	16.0
Administrator	19.5	14.7
Teacher or educator	19.1	15.3
Researcher	15.8	19.3
Other	20.3	17.5
Total	18.7	16.0

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

Table 10: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	369	377.9	38.9	8,089,817	4.7
Victoria	332	307.4	35.2	6,596,039	4.7
Queensland	257	259.2	38.3	5,094,510	5.1
South Australia	62	54.5	33.4	1,751,963	3.1
Western Australia	80	79.5	37.8	2,621,509	3.0
Tasmania	42	42.6	38.5	534,457	8.0
Australia Capital Territory	10	10.6	40.1	426,704	2.5
Northern Territory	NP	2.5	31.3	245,929	1.0
Unknown / not stated	NP	0.9	35.0	-	-
Australia	1,156	1,135.0	37.3	25,365,571	4.5

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019

Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

'NP' denotes figure that are not published (suppressed) for confidentiality purposes



Table 11: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	845	817.0	36.7	18,320,373	4.5
MM2 - Regional centres	119	127.1	40.6	2,245,754	5.7
MM3 - Large rural towns	111	113.6	38.9	1,587,466	7.2
MM4 - Medium rural towns	57	55.0	36.7	968,583	5.7
MM5 - Small rural towns	19	18.2	36.5	1,748,340	1.0
MM6 - Remote communities	NP	1.5	28.5	281,794	0.5
MM7 - Very remote communities	NP	1.7	31.5	212,587	0.8
Unknown / not stated	NP	0.9	35.0	-	-
Australia	1,156	1,135.0	37.3	25,365,571	4.5

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modified-monash-model-fact-sheet>

Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019

ABS Estimated Resident Population (unpublished)

'NP' denotes figure that are not published (suppressed) for confidentiality purposes

Table 12: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	85.7%
MM2 - Regional centres	6.0%
MM3 - Large rural towns	4.8%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	3.6%
MM5 - Small rural towns	-
MM6 - Remote communities	-
MM7 - Very remote communities	-

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Dental Prosthetists not the location of the person receiving the service

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modified-monash-model-fact-sheet>

Modified Monash Model (MMM) 2019



Commonwealth of Australia 2020

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce the whole or part of this work in unaltered form for your own personal use or, if you are part of an organisation, for internal use within your organisation, but only if you or your organisation do not use the reproduction for any commercial purpose and retain this copyright notice and all disclaimer notices as part of that reproduction. Apart from rights to use as permitted by the Copyright Act 1968 or allowed by this copyright notice, all other rights are reserved and you are not allowed to reproduce the whole or any part of this work in any way (electronic or otherwise) without first being given the specific written permission from the Commonwealth to do so. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights are to be sent to the Communication Branch, Department of Health, GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, or via e-mail to copyright@health.gov.au.

Enquiries concerning this report and its reproduction should be directed to:

Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601
healthworkforcedata@health.gov.au

References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS) Dental Prosthetists 2015-2019 (<http://hwd.health.gov.au>)
- 2) ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019
- 3) ABS Estimated Resident Population (unpublished)