





# 2019

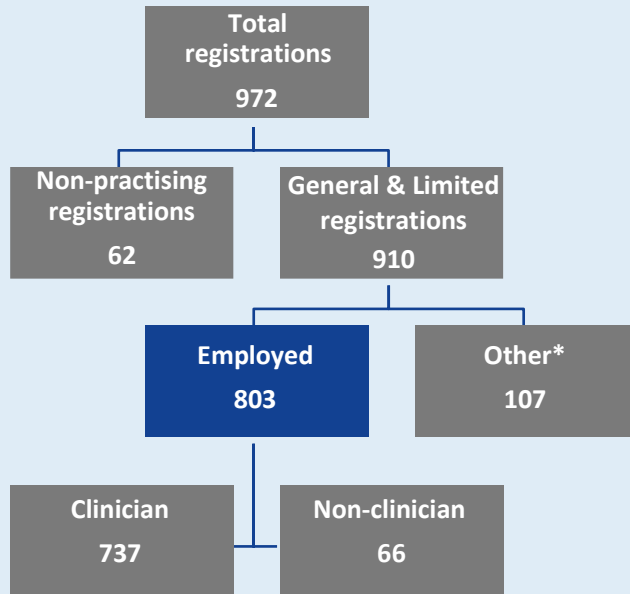
## Dental Therapists



# 1

## Workforce

Figure 1: Dental Therapists: 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 Therapists

**91.4%**  
With Australia  
qualification



**63.6%**  
in  
metropolitan  
areas (MM1)



**96.0%**  
female

ERUQ LQ  
\$XVWUDOLD

**30.2**

Average  
weekly hours

**51.7**

Average  
age



**0.4%**

identified as  
Aboriginal and/or  
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Dental Therapists with general or limited registration decreased by 15.6% from 1,152 to 972 (a compound annual rate decrease of 4.2%). The number of employed Dental Therapists ('workforce') decreased 16.4% from 960 to 803 over the same period (a compound annual decrease rate of 4.4%).

The number of employed Dental Therapists who worked as clinicians decreased 17.5% from 893 to 737 over the same period (a compound annual rate decrease of 4.7%). Clinicians are Dental Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Dental Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

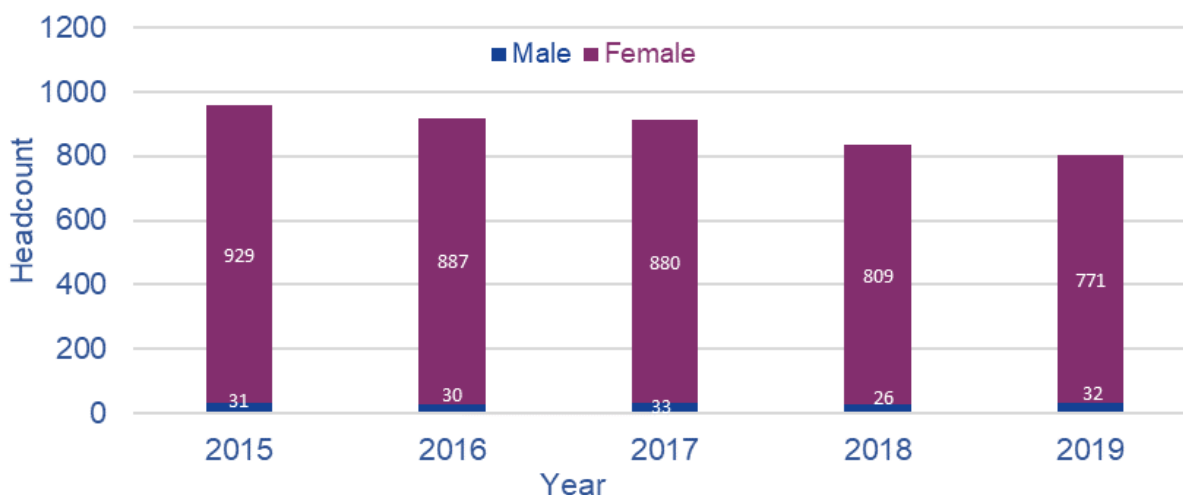
The following analysis of the Dental therapy 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Dental therapists with general or limited registration who were employed (803 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

**Table 1: Dental Therapists, 2015 – 2019**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	1,152	1,091	1,074	1,002	972	-4.2%
Employed	960	917	913	835	803	-4.4%
Clinicians	893	846	838	769	737	-4.7%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

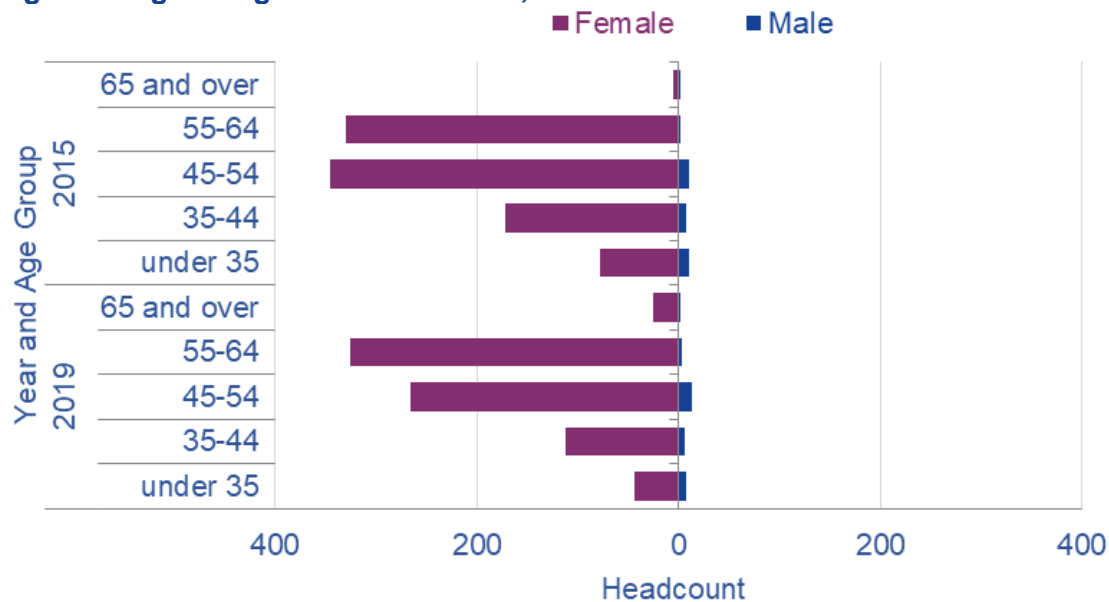
**Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019**



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*	25.1	25.0	25.2	25.4	26.1
Non-clinical hours^	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.1
Total hours	29.7	29.6	29.4	29.8	30.2

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	145.2	23.6%	133.5	24.9%
Public sector	471.4	76.4%	402.5	75.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>616.6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>535.9</b>	<b>100%</b>

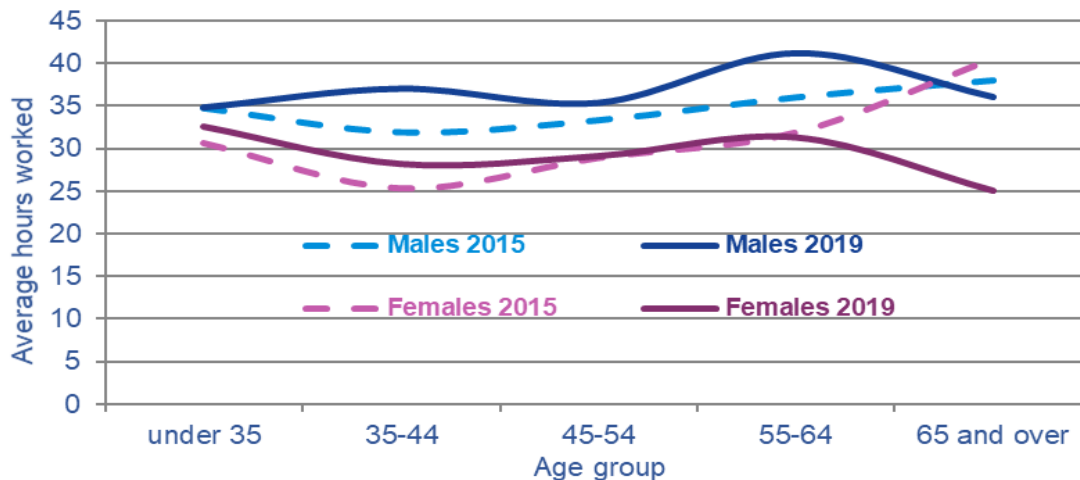
Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019  
Includes Dental Therapists who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their clinical roles  
Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total  
Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

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

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	13.8	74.2%	10.6	66.4%
Public sector	4.8	25.8%	5.4	33.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019  
Includes Dental Therapists 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	893	93.0%	737	91.8%
Administrator	37	3.9%	25	3.1%
Teacher or educator	26	2.7%	32	4.0%
Researcher	NP	NP	5	0.6%
Other	NP	NP	4	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

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

**Table 6: Second job role, 2015 and 2019**

Second job	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	85	80.2%	53	79.1%
Non-clinician	21	19.8%	14	20.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100%</b>

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
Public clinic	605	18	467	13
Group private practice	154	35	131	23
Solo private practice	86	32	79	22
Hospital	54	9	41	7
Tertiary educational facility	24	12	32	7
Other community health care service	9	0	19	0
Aboriginal health service	8	NP	9	0
Other	NP	NP	7	NP
Medical centre	NP	0	6	NP
Other government department or	7	NP	6	0
Remaining work settings	10	NP	6	NP
<b>Total</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>79</b>

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Total includes unknown work setting

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

**Table 8: International qualification, 2015 and 2019**

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	876	91.3%	734	91.4%
Overseas	74	7.7%	68	8.5%
Unknown / not stated	10	1.0%	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>100%</b>

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	26.8	10.6
Administrator	31.0	7.4
Teacher or educator	28.7	11.0
Researcher	30.6	5.0
Other	20.0	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>

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	147	120.8	31.2	8,089,817	1.5
Victoria	130	102.5	30.0	6,596,039	1.6
Queensland	149	125.5	32.0	5,094,510	2.5
South Australia	78	58.4	28.5	1,751,963	3.3
Western Australia	239	178.9	28.5	2,621,509	6.8
Tasmania	38	33.6	33.6	534,457	6.3
Australia Capital Territory	9	7.3	31.0	426,704	1.7
Northern Territory	12	10.0	31.6	245,929	4.1
Unknown / not stated	1	1.0	38	-	-
<b>Australia</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>638.0</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>25,365,571</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019

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





**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	511	396.8	29.5	18,320,373	2.2
MM2 - Regional centres	86	71.4	31.6	2,245,754	3.2
MM3 - Large rural towns	105	83.6	30.2	1,587,466	5.3
MM4 - Medium rural towns	46	36.5	30.1	968,583	3.8
MM5 - Small rural towns	32	29.0	34.4	1,748,340	1.7
MM6 - Remote communities	13	11.3	33.0	281,794	4.0
MM7 - Very remote communities	9	8.5	36.0	212,587	4.0
Unknown / not stated	1	1.0	38.0	-	-
<b>Australia</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>638.0</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>25,365,571</b>	<b>2.5</b>

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)

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

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	70.0%
MM2 - Regional centres	8.0%
MM3 - Large rural towns	6.0%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	12.0%
MM5 - Small rural towns	4.0%
MM6 - Remote communities	-
MM7 - Very remote communities	-

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Dental Therapists 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



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## References

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