



2019

Dentists



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.

To gain registration as a dentist, a practitioner 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.

CONTENTS

Workforce

Quick Facts

Table 1: Dentists

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, 8: Principal work setting and principal scope of practice

Table 9: Initial qualification country

Table 10: Years worked and years intended to work

Table 11: Distribution by state and territory

Table 12 and 13: Distribution of workforce and tele-health by Modified Monash Model (MMM2019)



2019

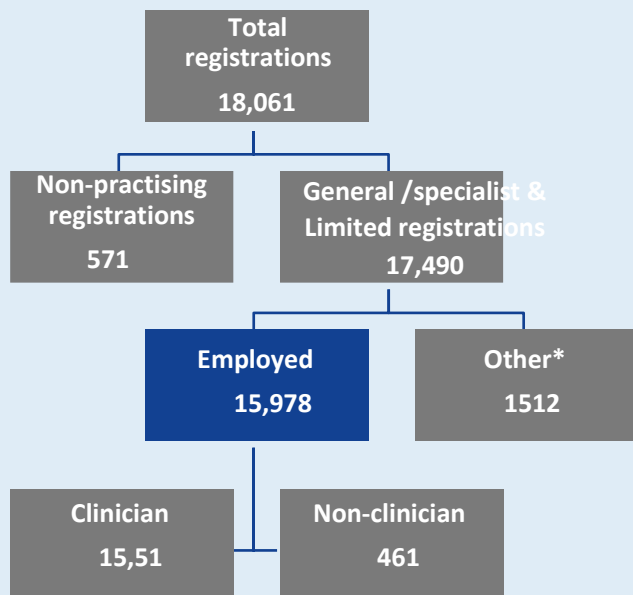
Dentists



1

Workforce

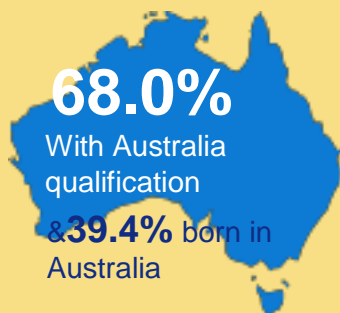
Figure 1: Dentists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Dentists



80.6%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)



43.7%
female



35.4
Average weekly hours



42.8
Average age



0.4%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Dentists with general/specialist or limited registration increased by 12.0% from 16,123 to 18,061 (a compound annual growth rate of 2.9%). The number of employed Dentists ('workforce') increased 11.6% from 14,311 to 15,978 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.8%).

The number of employed Dentists who worked as clinicians increased 12.1% from 13,843 to 15,517 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.9%). Clinicians are Dentists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Dentists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

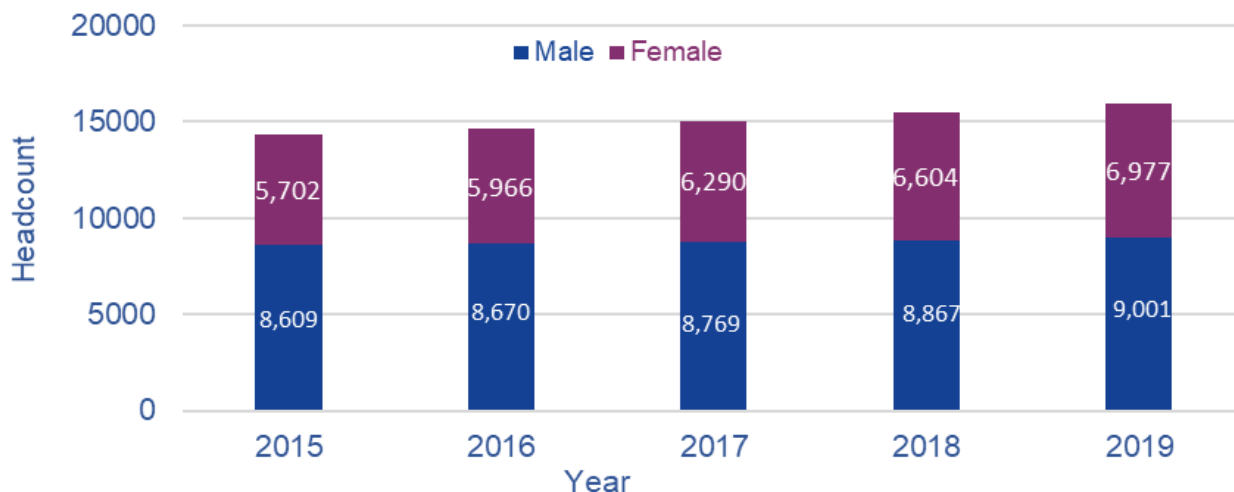
The following analysis of the Dentist 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Dentists with general, specialist or limited registration who were employed (15,978 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Dentists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	16,123	16,549	16,987	17,405	18,061	2.9%
Employed	14,311	14,636	15,059	15,471	15,978	2.8%
Clinicians	13,843	14,205	14,620	14,981	15,517	2.9%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 - 2019

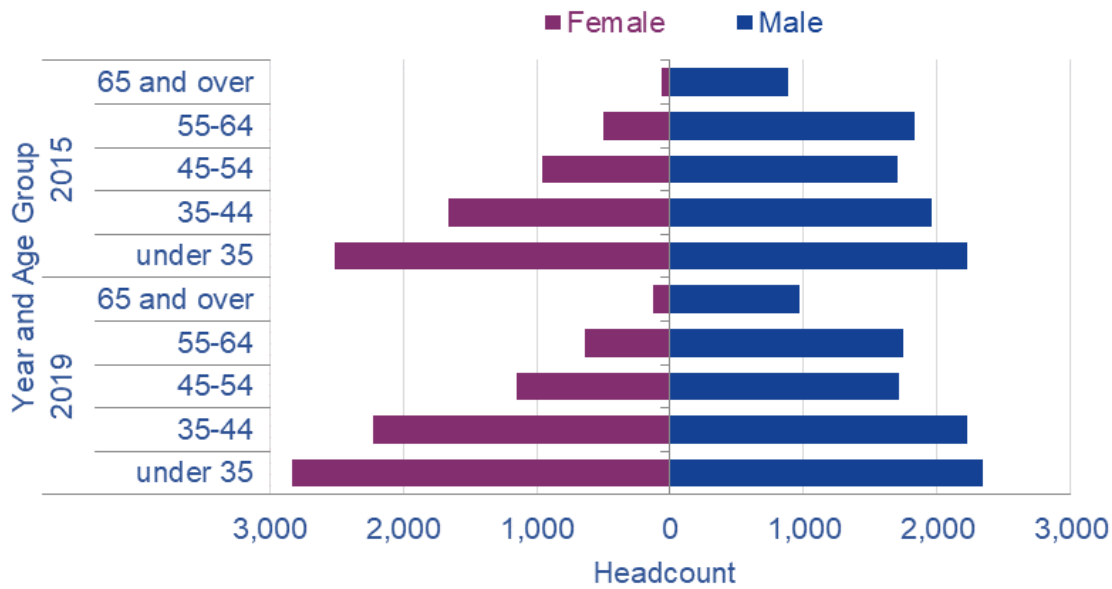
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



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*	32.2	32.5	32.4	32.3	32.0
Non-clinical hours^	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4
Total hours	36.0	36.2	36.1	35.9	35.4

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	%	Headcount	%
Private sector	10,032.3	87.4%	11,159.5	89.3%
Public sector	1,442.9	12.6%	1,343.9	10.7%
Total	11,475.2	100%	12,503.4	100%

Source: NHWDS, Dentists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Dentists 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	%	Headcount	%
Private sector	561.0	87.1%	834.5	88.1%
Public sector	83.0	12.9%	113.1	11.9%
Total	644.0	100%	947.5	100%

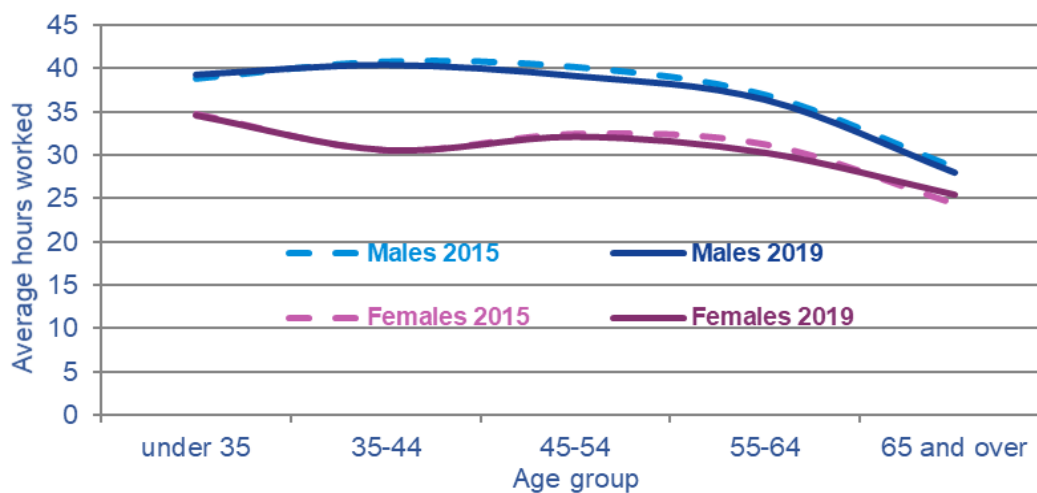
Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Includes Dentists 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	13,843	96.7%	15,517	97.1%
Administrator	183	1.3%	195	1.2%
Teacher or educator	194	1.4%	189	1.2%
Researcher	37	0.3%	31	0.2%
Other	54	0.4%	46	0.3%
Total	14,311	100%	15,978	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 6: Second job role, 2015 and 2019

Second job	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	2,126	77.4%	2,630	82.3%
Administrator	168	6.1%	159	5.0%
Teacher or educator	339	12.3%	312	9.8%
Researcher	50	1.8%	42	1.3%
Other	62	2.3%	53	1.7%
Total	2,745	100%	3,196	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
Group private practice	7,872	1,503	8,996	1,889
Solo private practice	3,955	498	4,209	731
Public clinic	904	194	836	195
Hospital	670	261	716	280
Medical centre	0	0	360	88
Tertiary educational facility	224	244	192	194
Defence forces	136	23	134	20
Other	143	70	126	52
Locum private practice	131	87	122	78
Aboriginal health service	66	12	70	11
Commercial/business service	67	16	63	30
Other community health care service	64	15	61	30
Other government department or agency	29	21	33	32
Correctional service	16	NP	19	NP
Other educational facility	17	19	17	20
Residential health care facility	8	13	14	7
Health promotion service	9	NP	10	NP
Total	14,311	2,985	15,978	3,665

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

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



Table 8: Principal speciality, 2015 and 2019

Principal speciality	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Orthodontics	540	36.7%	552	35.4%
Periodontics	202	13.7%	218	14.0%
Prosthodontics	198	13.5%	201	12.9%
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	159	10.8%	179	11.5%
Endodontics	148	10.1%	157	10.1%
Paediatric dentistry	110	7.5%	135	8.7%
Oral medicine	27	1.8%	28	1.8%
Oral surgery	24	1.6%	27	1.7%
Forensic odontology	23	1.6%	21	1.3%
Special needs dentistry	13	0.9%	15	1.0%
Public health dentistry (Community dentistry)	12	0.8%	11	0.7%
Dento-maxillofacial radiology	9	0.6%	9	0.6%
Oral pathology	7	0.5%	5	0.3%
Total	1,472	100%	1,558	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 9: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	9,565	66.8%	10,866	68.0%
Overseas	4,115	28.8%	4,501	28.2%
Unknown / not stated	631	4.4%	611	3.8%
Total	14,311	100%	15,978	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 10: 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	15.9	19.6
Administrator	20.8	13.6
Teacher or educator	25.1	13.1
Researcher	24.6	13.6
Other	23.7	16.5
Total	16.1	19.4

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

Table 11: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	5,077	4,785.7	35.8	8,089,817	59.2
Victoria	3,952	3,648.1	35.1	6,596,039	55.3
Queensland	3,402	3,207.9	35.8	5,094,510	63.0
South Australia	1,153	1,039.9	34.3	1,751,963	59.4
Western Australia	1,726	1,573.6	34.7	2,621,509	60.0
Tasmania	255	237.2	35.4	534,457	44.4
Australia Capital Territory	300	283.6	35.9	426,704	66.5
Northern Territory	96	90.8	36.0	245,929	36.9
Unknown / not stated	16	17.6	41.9	-	-
Australia	15,978	14,885.5	35.4	25,365,571	58.7

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019

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



Table 12: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	12,871	11,933.1	35.2	18,320,373	65.1
MM2 - Regional centres	1,206	1,155.1	36.4	2,245,754	51.4
MM3 - Large rural towns	909	856.2	35.8	1,587,466	53.9
MM4 - Medium rural towns	530	511.9	36.7	968,583	52.9
MM5 - Small rural towns	307	273.5	33.9	1,748,340	15.6
MM6 - Remote communities	89	85.1	36.3	281,794	30.2
MM7 - Very remote communities	50	53.0	40.2	212,587	24.9
Unknown / not stated	16	17.6	41.9	-	-
Australia	15,978	14,885.5	35.4	25,365,571	58.7

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 13: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	82.3%
MM2 - Regional centres	6.4%
MM3 - Large rural towns	4.6%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	3.3%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.0%
MM6 - Remote communities	0.9%
MM7 - Very remote communities	0.5%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Dentists 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) Dentists 2015-2019 (<http://hwd.health.gov.au>)
- 2) ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019
- 3) ABS Estimated Resident Population (unpublished)