

2019

Midwives



All nurses and midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and meet the NMBA's registration standards in order to practise in Australia.

A midwife works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures. The qualification requirement is a 3 year Bachelor of Nursing and Graduate Diploma of Midwifery or Masters of Midwifery or 3 year Bachelor of Midwifery.

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Note: There are 4 factsheets in this series: 1 Nurses and Midwives, 2 Registered Nurses, 3 Midwives, 4 Enrolled Nurses.

If a practitioner has a job role or worked hours in more than one profession, they will be counted in each profession's factsheet, but only once in the Nurses and Midwives factsheet. Hence, when the individual factsheets in this series are added together, the total will vary from the Nurses and Midwives factsheet.

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2019

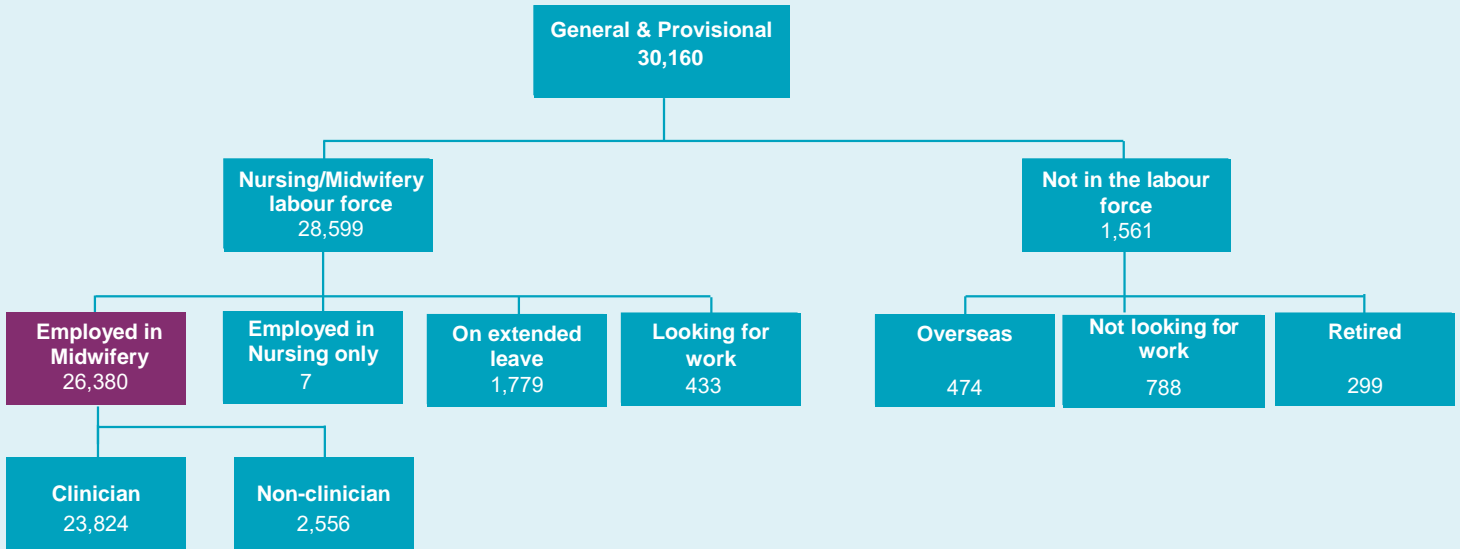
Midwives



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Workforce

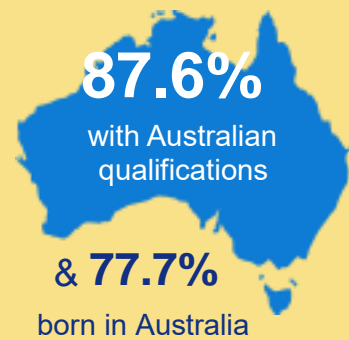
Figure 1: Midwives: workforce status, 2019



Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Midwifery workforce

Figure 2: Summary



70.1% in metropolitan areas (MM1)



98.7%
female



20.0
average weekly hours



47.3
average age



1.3%
identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Between 2016 and 2019, the total number of midwives with general or provisional registration decreased by 0.6% from 30,333 to 30,160 (a compound annual decrease of 0.2%). The number of employed midwives working in midwifery ('workforce') decreased by 1.5% from 26,777 to 26,380 over the same period (a compound annual decrease of 0.5%).

The number of employed midwives who worked as clinicians increased 4.9% from 22,707, to 23,824 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 1.6%). Clinicians are midwives who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (midwives, including managers and supervisors, involved in direct patient care). Non-clinicians are midwives who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator, teacher, educator, research or other. The following analysis of the midwifery 'workforce' is based on the number of midwives working in 2019 (26,380 as indicated by maroon shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Midwives average hours per week, 2016 - 2019

Average Weekly Hours	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	17.4	17.6	17.7	17.9
Non-clinical hours^	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
Total hours	19.6	19.9	19.9	20.0

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 - 2019

Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total

* Clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in clinical roles (midwives, including managers and supervisors, involved in direct patient care).

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

Table 2: Midwives clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by by sector, 2016 - 2019

Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019
Public sector	9,696.4	9,782.4	9,830.7	10,005.9
Private sector	2,560.5	2,456.7	2,416.7	2,408.6
Total*	12,256.9	12,239.1	12,247.3	12,414.5

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019

Includes midwives 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 3: Midwives age and gender, 2016 and 2019

Year	Age group	Female	Male	Total
2016	Under 25	723	4	727
	25-34	3,842	32	3,874
	35-44	4,420	53	4,473
	45-54	7,752	126	7,878
	55-64	8,820	191	8,471
	65-74	1,304	11	1,315
	75-99	36	3	39
2019	Under 25	984	5	989
	25-34	4,701	34	4,735
	35-44	4,562	45	4,607
	45-54	6,315	81	6,396
	55-64	7,896	168	8,064
	65-74	1,511	17	1,528
	75-99	61	-	61

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019

Total excludes unknown age or gender



Table 4: Midwives principal area, 2016 - 2019

Principal area	2016	2017	2018	2019
Antenatal	2,631	2,634	2,710	2,807
Other	2,828	2,637	2,529	1,634
Care during labour and birth	3,795	3,801	3,657	3,680
Antenatal, Intra-partum and Post-partum care	6,653	6,644	7,164	7,961
Midwifery education	1,046	1,017	1,037	990
Midwifery management	1,148	1,203	1,152	1,180
Neonatal care	1,767	1,614	1,530	1,444
Postnatal care	6,434	6,393	6,143	6,271
Midwifery research	272	242	260	245
Policy	203	184	190	167
Total	26,777	26,369	26,372	26,380

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 - 2019

Total includes unknown principal area



Table 5: Midwives principal work setting, 2016 - 2019

Principal work setting	2016	2017	2,018	2019
Hospital	17,958	17,764	17,790	18,376
Specialist (O&G) practice	280	248	256	282
Community health care service	2,488	2,400	2,361	2,290
General practitioner (GP) practice	435	436	381	337
Outpatient service	1,245	1,276	1,358	1,448
Other	1,760	1,447	1,422	791
Independent private practice	-	265	264	279
Group midwifery practice/caseload	937	858	921	1,094
Tertiary educational facility	578	587	579	522
Other government department or agency	470	514	463	426
Correctional service	35	28	32	26
Other educational facility	130	97	96	84
Aboriginal health service	373	370	389	382
Commercial/business service	73	57	43	34
Defence forces	15	22	17	8
Total	26,777	26,369	26,372	26,380

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 - 2019

Total includes unknown principal work setting



Table 6: Midwives principal role, 2016 and 2019

Principal role	2016	2019
Clinician	22,707	23,824
Administrator	1,219	1,124
Teacher or educator	1,147	1,000
Researcher	355	323
Other	1,349	109
Total	26,777	26,380

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019

Table 7: Distribution of full time equivalent (FTE) midwives by Modified Monash Model (MMM 2019), 2019

Modified Monash	Total FTE	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	10,159.4	18,003,544	56.4
MM2 - Regional centres	1,400.8	2,215,430	63.2
MM3 - Large rural towns	1,096.5	1,575,836	69.6
MM4 - Medium rural towns	603.7	962,453	62.7
MM5 - Small rural towns	257.1	1,740,415	14.8
MM6 - Remote communities	225.5	282,646	79.8
MM7 - Very remote communities	145.6	212,536	68.5
Total	13,893.8	24,992,860	55.6

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2019

ABS Estimated resident population by MMM (2018 preliminary unpublished)

Total includes unknown MMM

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

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

Table 8: Midwives distribution by state and territory, 2019

State and territory	2019
New South Wales	6,841
Victoria	7,451
Queensland	5,702
South Australia	2,021
Western Australia	2,728
Tasmania	552
Australian Capital Territory	551
Northern Territory	514
Unknown	20
Australia	26,380

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2019



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References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS) Nurses and Midwives 2016-2019 (<http://hwd.health.gov.au>)
- 2) ABS Estimated resident population by MMM (2018 preliminary - unpublished)