



2019

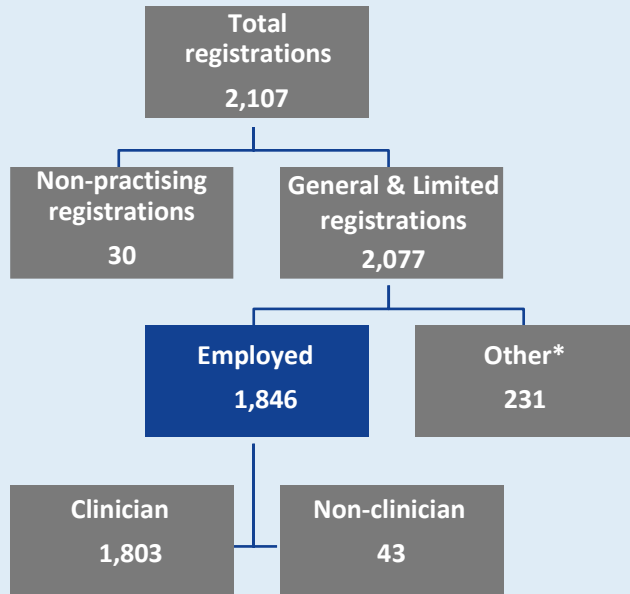
Oral Health Therapists



1

Workforce

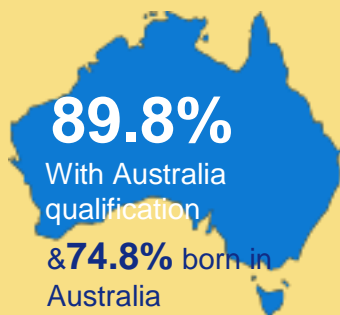
Figure 1: Oral Health Therapists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Oral Health Therapists



76.5%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)



87.2%
female



34.2
Average weekly hours



31.0
Average age



1.1%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Oral Health Therapists with general or limited registration increased by 64.6% from 1,280 to 2,107 (a compound annual growth rate of 13.3%). The number of employed Oral Health Therapists ('workforce') increased 59.7% from 1,156 to 1,846 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 12.4%).

The number of employed Oral Health Therapists who worked as clinicians increased 60.0% from 1,127 to 1,803 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 12.5%). Clinicians are Oral Health Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Oral Health Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

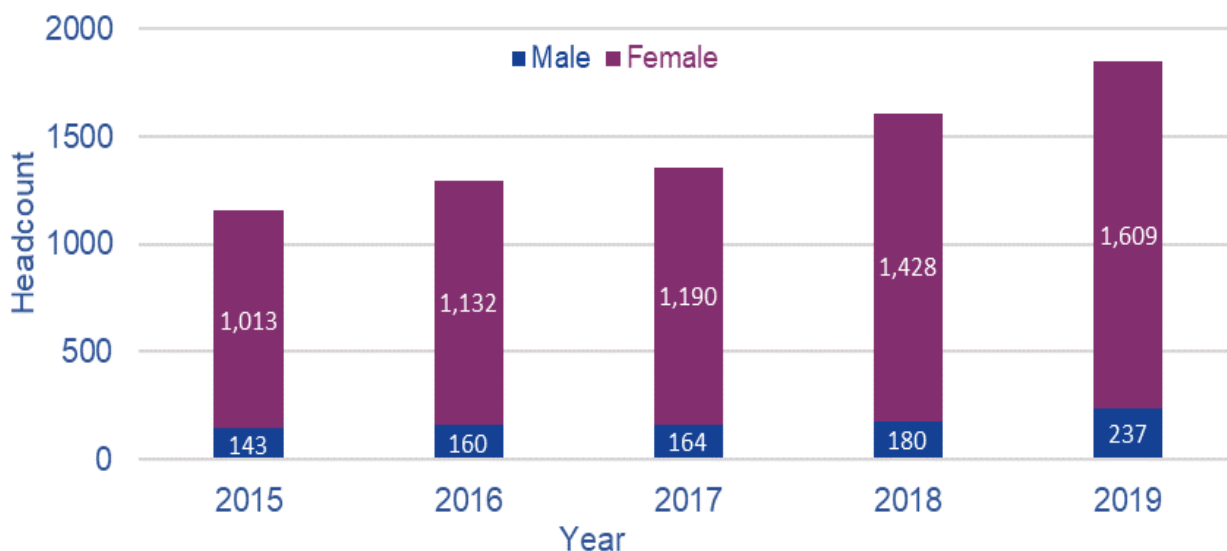
The following analysis of the Oral Health Therapy 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Oral Health Therapists with general or limited registration who were employed (1,846 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Oral Health Therapists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	1,280	1,434	1,511	1,811	2,107	13.3%
Employed	1,156	1,292	1,354	1,608	1,846	12.4%
Clinicians	1,127	1,258	1,315	1,572	1,803	12.5%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015-2019

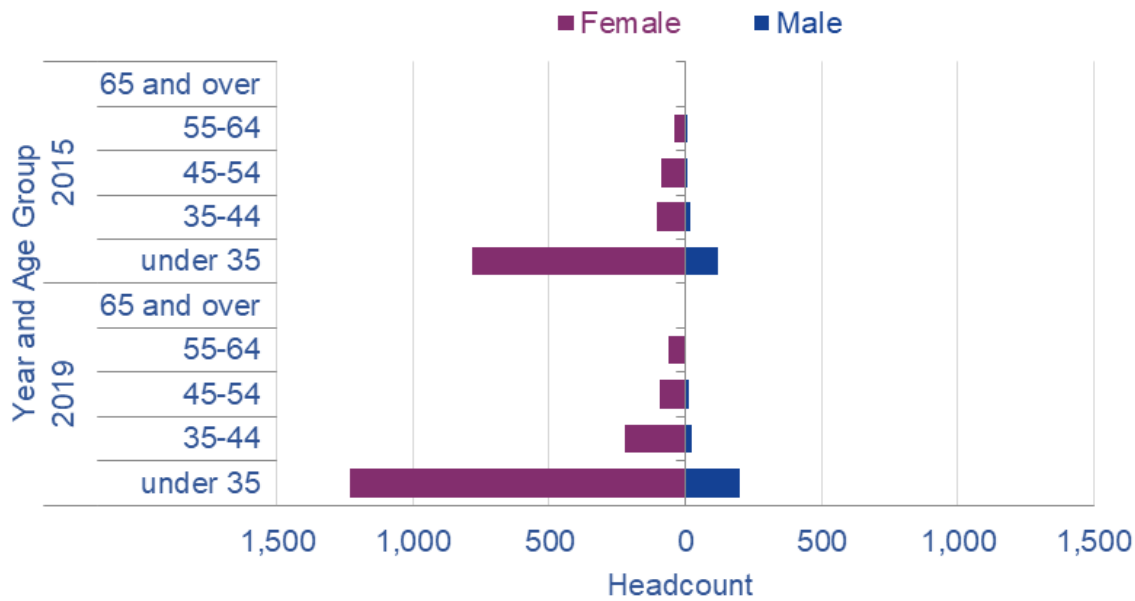
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: 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	32.1	32.5	32.6	32.2
Non-clinical hours^	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.0
Total hours	34.8	34.6	34.8	34.7	34.2

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	603.8	66.3%	1,033.5	72.5%
Public sector	306.6	33.7%	392.3	27.5%
Total	910.4	100%	1,425.8	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Includes Oral Health 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	53.9	78.4%	110.7	80.8%
Public sector	14.9	21.6%	26.3	19.2%
Total	68.8	100%	136.9	100%

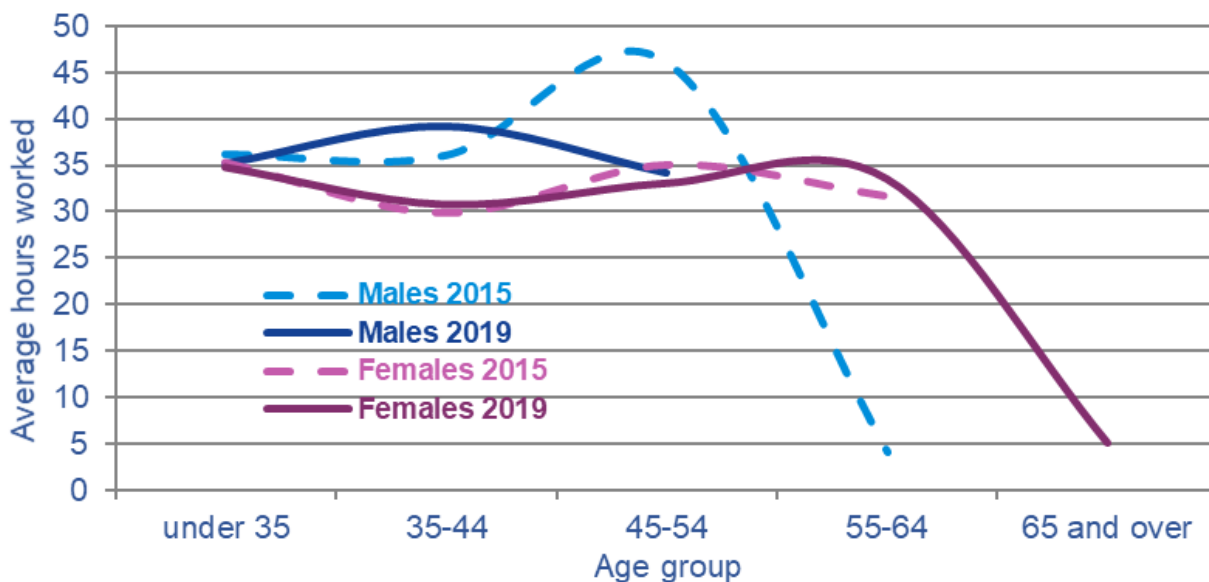
Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Includes Oral Health 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	1,127	97.5%	1,803	97.7%
Administrator	10	0.9%	22	1.2%
Teacher or educator	9	0.8%	14	0.8%
Researcher	5	0.4%	NP	0.2%
Other	5	0.4%	NP	0.2%
Total	1,156	100%	1,846	100%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

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

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

Second job	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	245	85.7%	366	87.1%
Non-clinician	41	14.3%	54	12.9%
Total	286	100%	420	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	418	112	655	152
Solo private practice	345	107	600	223
Public clinic	276	48	383	61
Hospital	59	9	78	15
Medical centre	0	0	29	NP
Other	10	NP	23	14
Commercial/business service	NP	NP	18	4
Tertiary educational facility	14	20	15	25
Locum private practice	NP	5	10	14
Aboriginal health service	10	NP	9	NP
Remaining work settings	18	8	26	7
Total	1,156	310	1,846	517

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

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

Table 8: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	1,005	86.9%	1,658	89.8%
Overseas	20	1.7%	30	1.6%
Unknown / not stated	131	11.3	158	8.6%
Total	1,156	100%	1,846	100%

Source: NHWDS, Oral Health Therapists, 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	6.6	25.4
Administrator	16.8	16.7
Teacher or educator	16.9	18.6
Researcher	10.3	15.0
Other	2.5	26.0
Total	6.8	25.2

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	517	475.0	34.9	8,089,817	5.9
Victoria	454	417.0	34.9	6,596,039	6.3
Queensland	409	345.7	32.1	5,094,510	6.8
South Australia	211	186.4	33.6	1,751,963	10.6
Western Australia	191	174.2	34.7	2,621,509	6.6
Tasmania	21	20.6	37.2	534,457	3.9
Australia Capital Territory	24	23.4	37.0	426,704	5.5
Northern Territory	17	17.4	38.9	245,929	7.1
Unknown / not stated	2	1.2	22.5	-	-
Australia	1,846	1,660.8	34.2	25,365,571	6.5

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	1,412	1,263.5	34.0	18,320,373	6.9
MM2 - Regional centres	182	167.2	34.9	2,245,754	7.4
MM3 - Large rural towns	134	120.3	34.1	1,587,466	7.6
MM4 - Medium rural towns	57	51.9	34.6	968,583	5.4
MM5 - Small rural towns	44	40.3	34.8	1,748,340	2.3
MM6 - Remote communities	11	12.1	41.6	281,794	4.3
MM7 - Very remote communities	4	4.4	41.8	212,587	2.1
Unknown / not stated	2	1.2	22.5	-	-
Australia	1,846	1,660.8	34.2	25,365,571	6.5

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)

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

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	77.6%
MM2 - Regional centres	8.8%
MM3 - Large rural towns	6.1%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	2.7%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.7%
MM6 - Remote communities	1.4%
MM7 - Very remote communities	0.7%

Source: NHWDS Dental Practitioners, 2019

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