



2019

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Workforce



The workforce survey asks practitioners in all professions if they identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person. These practitioners are collectively presented in this factsheet as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health practitioners. All allied health professions are included other than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, who are presented in a separate Factsheet.

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2019

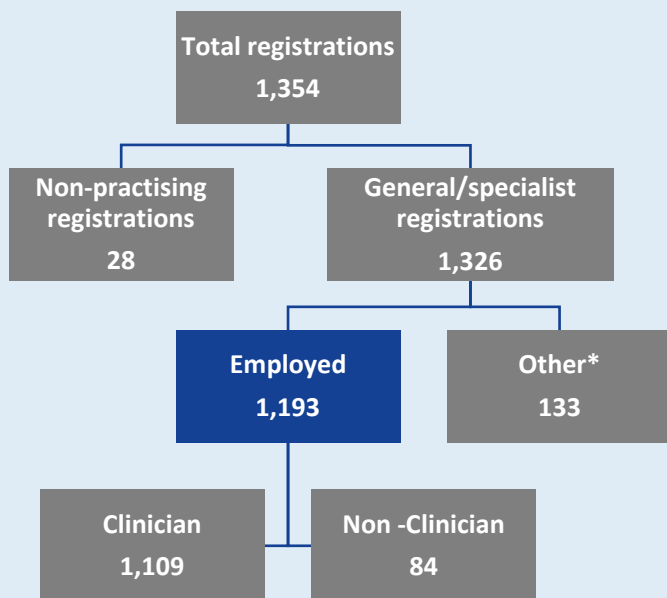
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Allied Health
Practitioners



1

Workforce

Figure 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners: 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners

99.3%
With Australia
qualification

&100% born
in Australia

64.1%
in
metropolitan
areas (MM1)

61.6%
female

37.0
Average
weekly hours

38.9
Average
age

100%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners with general/specialist registration increased by 96.8% from 688 to 1,354 (a compound annual growth rate of 18.4%). The number of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners ('workforce') increased 96.9% from 606 to 1,193 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 18.5%).

The number of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners who worked as clinicians increased 102.4% from 548 to 1,109 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 19.3%). Clinicians are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health practitioners with general or specialist registration who were employed (1,193 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

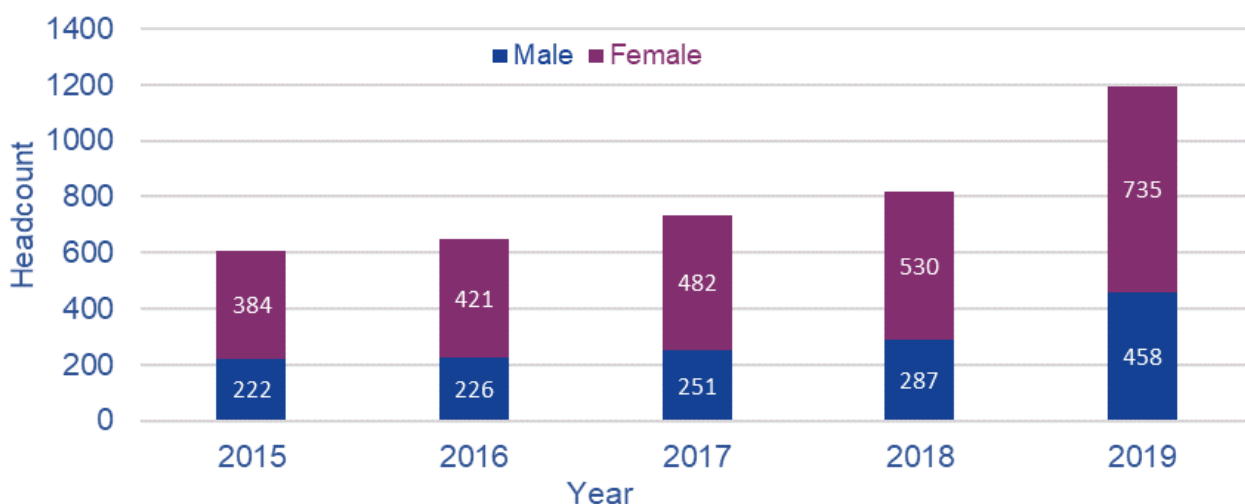
Paramedicine became a newly registered profession in December 2018. Paramedics completed the workforce survey for the first time in 2019 and are included in 2019 data in this factsheet.

Table 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	688	737	834	922	1,354	18.4%
Employed	606	647	733	817	1,193	18.5%
Clinicians	548	592	668	748	1,109	19.3%

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015-2019

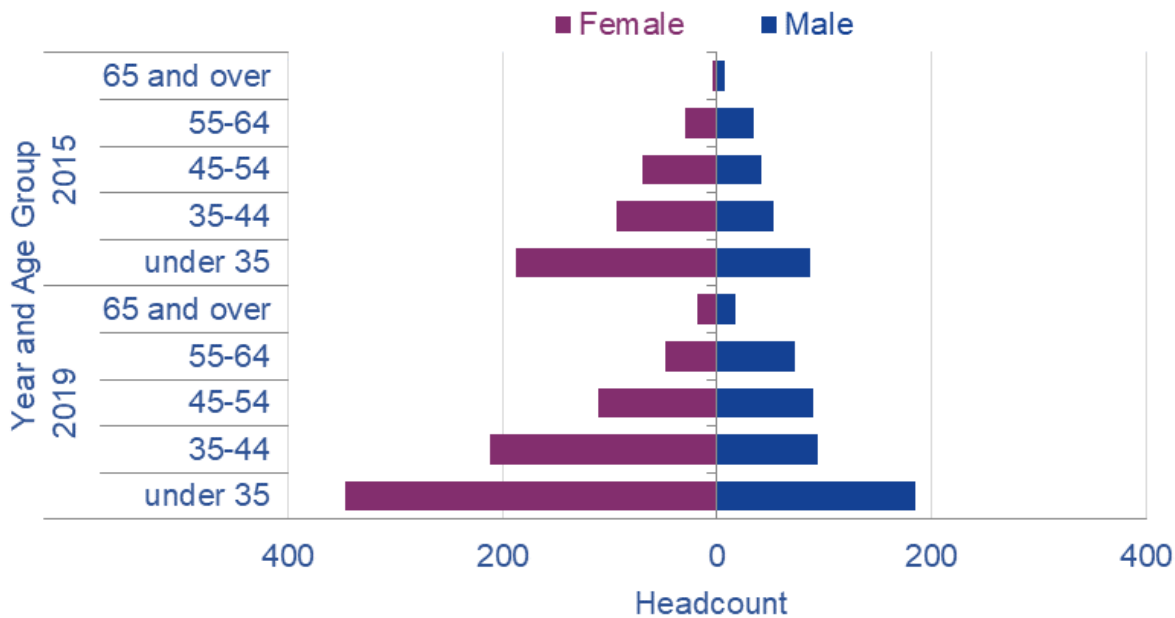
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 – 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	30.0	30.1	29.8	29.4	32.2
Non-clinical hours^	5.5	6.3	5.6	5.6	4.8
Total hours	35.5	36.4	35.4	35.0	37.0

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health 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: Clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	80.5	40.9%	107.6	38.5%
Public sector	116.4	59.1%	171.8	61.5%
Total	196.9	100%	279.4	100%

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

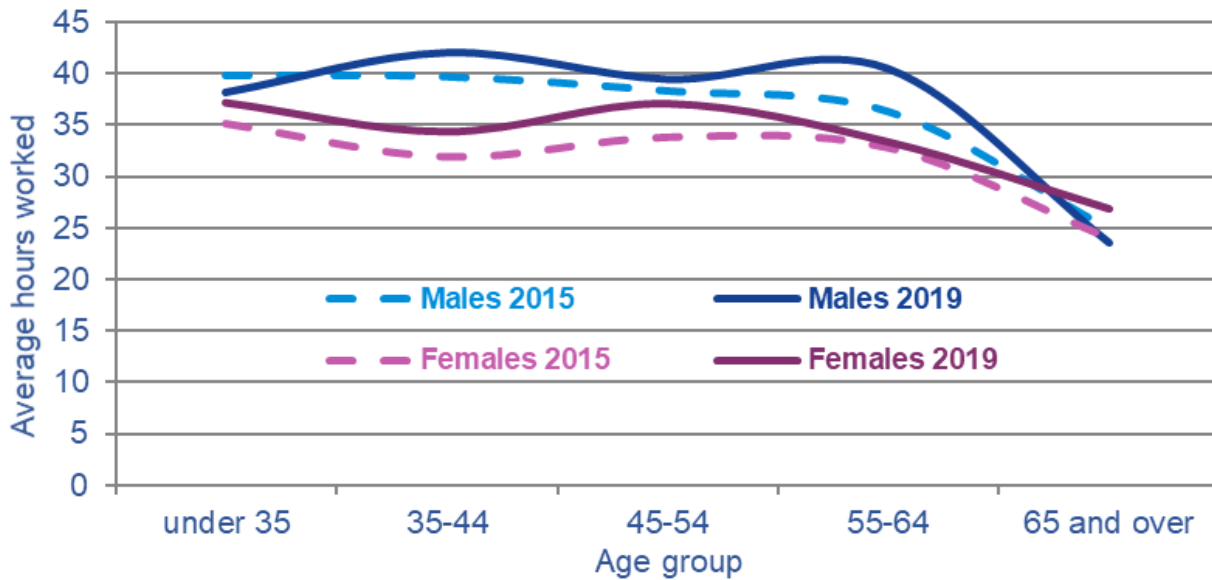
Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their clinical roles

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, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 4: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	548	90.4%	1,109	93.0%
Administrator	16	2.6%	30	2.5%
Teacher or educator	19	3.1%	22	1.8%
Researcher	18	3.0%	21	1.8%
Other	5	0.8%	11	0.9%
Total	606	100%	1,193	100%

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 5: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Average hours	Headcount	Average hours
State / territory ambulance service	-	-	233	45.7
Group private practice	144	36.1	205	34.0
Hospital	97	34.5	175	34.3
Solo private practice	101	35.4	150	35.7
Community pharmacy	32	39.9	48	32.9
Other community health care service	19	37.9	39	34.7
Residential aged care facility	12	30.1	29	30.5
School	20	37.9	26	34.1
Other government department or agency	24	38.2	26	35.1
Outpatient service	13	35.3	25	39.3
Aboriginal health service	22	31.1	24	32.8
Community mental health service	13	35.1	23	39.0
Other	8	34.8	20	36.5
Other private practice	7	36.7	19	38.6
Tertiary educational facility	8	33.0	17	35.3
Medical centre	-	.	15	36.2
Disability service	12	34.7	13	32.7
Educational facility	10	36.1	13	28.8
Commercial/business service	6	33.0	10	29.6
Defence forces	3	30.7	9	42.9
Public clinic	11	32.4	8	36.4
Correctional service	10	36.5	8	39.1
Domiciliary service	NP	39.0	7	34.6
Rehabilitation/physical development service	7	35.9	7	36.4
Sports centre/clinic	6	38.5	7	37.9
Non-emergency patient transport	-	-	6	38.2
Mining / offshore / industrial sector	-	-	5	75.4
Locum private practice	NP	50.0	4	24.3
Community drug and alcohol service	NP	43.0	4	35.8
Community health care service	NP	26.0	4	32.8
Other educational facility	NP	37.0	4	36.0
Remaining work settings	13	33.1	10	36.7
Total	606	35.5	1,193	37.0369

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Total includes unknown work setting

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



Table 6: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	604	99.7%	1,185	99.3%
Overseas	2	0.3%	8	0.7%
Total	606	100%	1,193	100%

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 7: 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	11.7	21.2
Administrator	16.0	15.0
Teacher or educator	19.3	12.3
Researcher	14.6	17.3
Other	14.5	15.6
Total	12.1	20.8

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2019



Table 8: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	474	478.4	38.4	8,089,817	5.9
Victoria	155	145.8	35.7	6,596,039	2.2
Queensland	335	331.1	37.6	5,094,510	6.5
South Australia	65	58.7	34.3	1,751,963	3.4
Western Australia	81	71.1	33.4	2,621,509	2.7
Tasmania	40	38.6	36.7	534,457	7.2
Australia Capital Territory	19	15.9	31.8	426,704	3.7
Northern Territory	21	20.1	36.4	245,929	8.2
Unknown / not stated	3	3.0	38.3	-	-
Australia	1,193	1,162.8	37.0	25,365,571	4.6

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2019
ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019
Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week

Table 9: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	765	719.2	35.7	18,320,373	3.9
MM2 - Regional centres	148	143.7	36.9	2,245,754	6.4
MM3 - Large rural towns	113	106.6	35.8	1,587,466	6.7
MM4 - Medium rural towns	66	76.6	44.1	968,583	7.9
MM5 - Small rural towns	57	64.4	42.9	1,748,340	3.7
MM6 - Remote communities	28	34.8	47.3	281,794	12.4
MM7 - Very remote communities	13	14.6	42.5	212,587	6.8
Unknown / not stated	3	3.0	38.3	-	-
Australia	1,193	1,162.8	37.0	25,365,571	4.6

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health 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 Population (unpublished)



Table 10: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	59.3%
MM2 - Regional centres	12.9%
MM3 - Large rural towns	10.2%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	7.1%
MM5 - Small rural towns	5.8%
MM6 - Remote communities	3.4%
MM7 - Very remote communities	1.4%

Source: NHWDS, Allied Health Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners 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) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Allied Health Practitioners 2015-2019 (<http://hwd.health.gov.au>)
- 2) ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019
- 3) ABS Estimated Population (unpublished)