



2019

Chinese Medicine Practitioners



Chinese Medicine Practitioners are registered healthcare practitioners who may practise in one or more divisions of acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine or Chinese herbal dispensing.

Persons seeking to gain registration must complete a minimum four year undergraduate, or three year postgraduate master program of study approved by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

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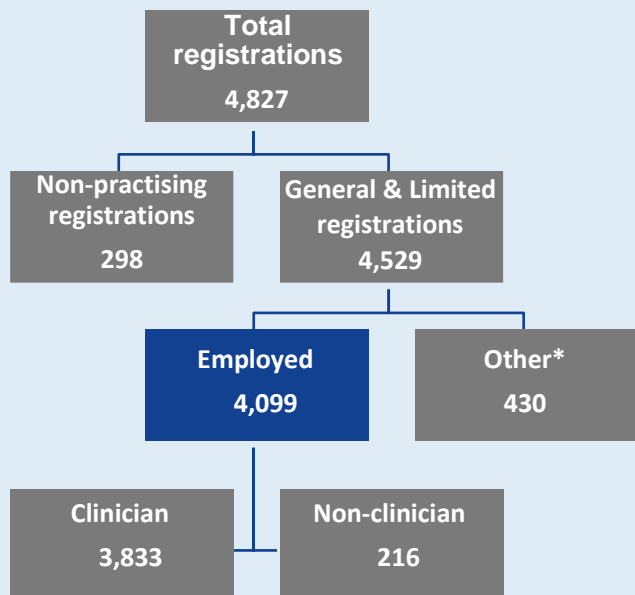
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Workforce

Figure 1: Chinese Medicine 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 Chinese Medicine Practitioners

70.9%
With Australia qualification

&39.5% born in Australia

87.0%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)

56.0%
female

28.5
Average weekly hours

50.0
Average age

0.4%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Chinese Medicine Practitioners with general or limited registration increased by 5.6% from 4,570 to 4,827 (a compound annual growth rate of 1.4%). The number of employed Chinese Medicine Practitioners ('workforce') increased 4.2% from 3,933 to 4,099 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 1.0%).

The number of employed Chinese Medicine Practitioners who worked as clinicians increased 3.4% from 3,757 to 3,883 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 0.8%). Clinicians are Chinese Medicine Practitioners who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Chinese Medicine Practitioners who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

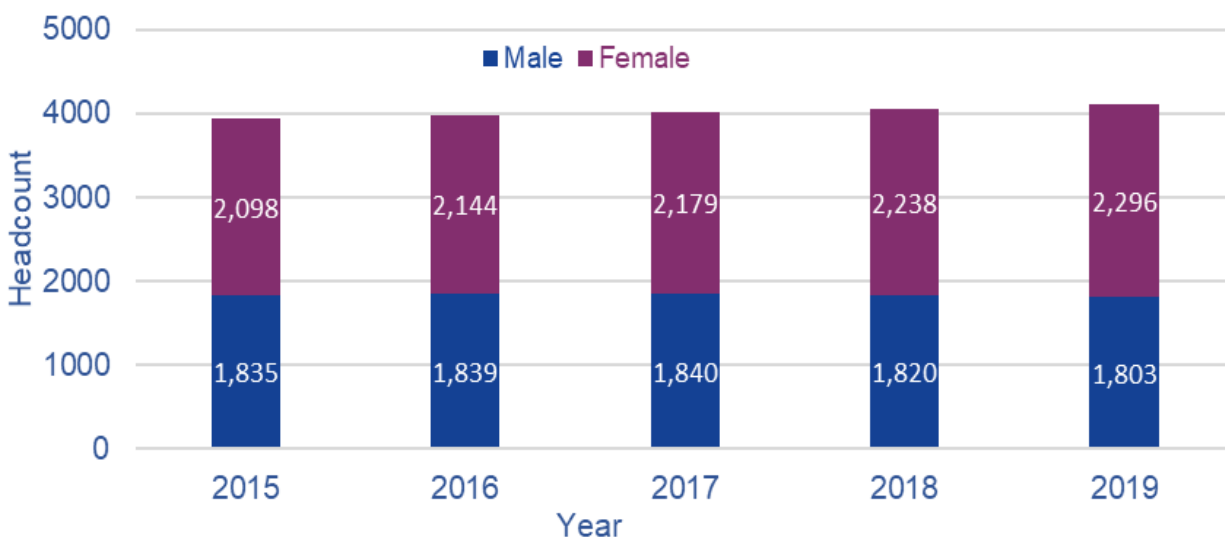
The following analysis of the Chinese Medicine Practitioner 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Chinese Medicine Practitioners with general or limited registration who were employed (4,099 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	4,570	4,717	4,746	4,733	4,827	1.4%
Employed	3,933	3,983	4,019	4,058	4,099	1.0%
Clinicians	3,757	3,770	3,809	3,858	3,883	0.8%

Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015-2019

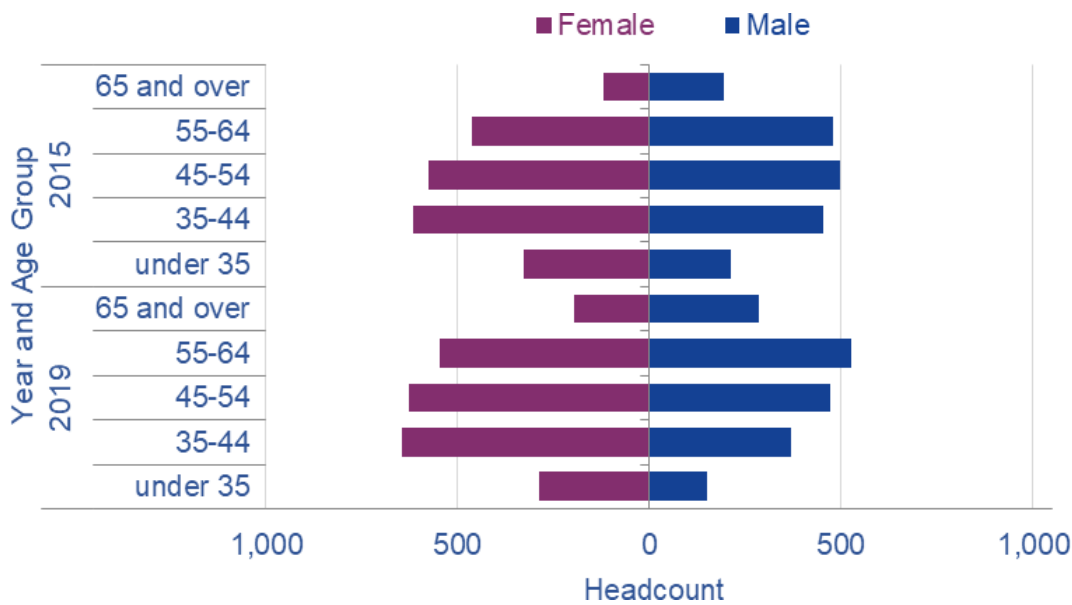
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 – 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	400	278	160	187	167
Exits	164	158	177	227	146
Replacement rate	2.4	1.8	0.9	0.8	1.1

Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 – 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	26.1	25.2	25.1	24.6	24.2
Non-clinical hours^	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Total hours	30.4	29.5	29.4	28.9	28.5

Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine 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 4: Clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	2,305.7	85.5%	2,299.0	88.0%
Public sector	392.1	14.5%	314.1	12.0%
Total	2,697.8	100%	2,613.1	100%

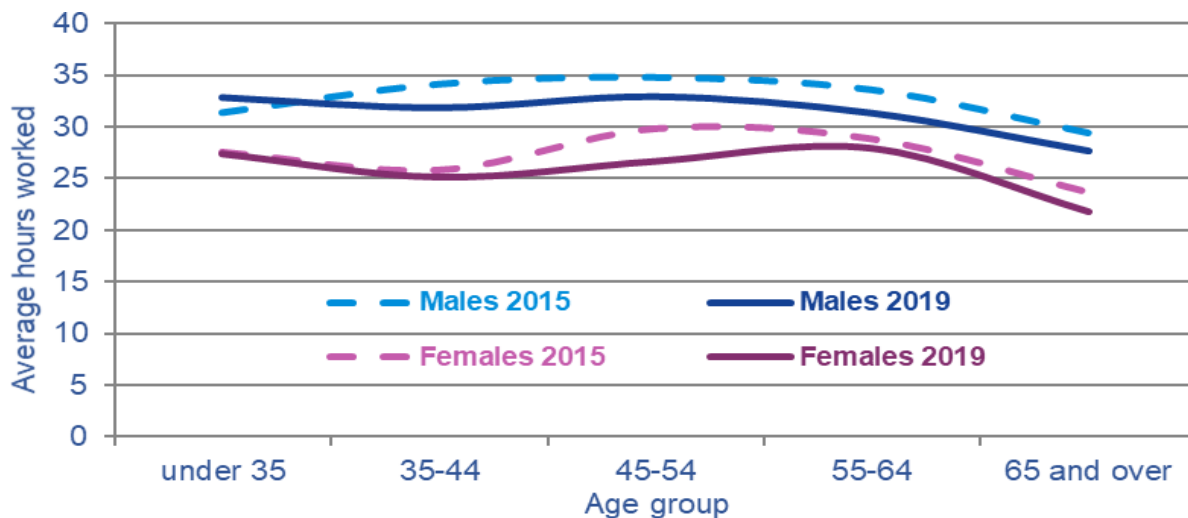
Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Includes Chinese Medicine 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 Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Table 5: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	3,757	95.5%	3,883	94.7%
Administrator	44	1.1%	55	1.3%
Teacher or educator	58	1.5%	67	1.6%
Researcher	57	1.4%	57	1.4%
Other	17	0.4%	37	0.9%
Total	3,933	100%	4,099	100%

Source: NHWDS Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Avg. hours	Headcount 2019	Avg. hours
Solo private practice	2,547	30.2	2,492	28.7
Group private practice	1,049	31.0	1,037	29.3
Other private practice	108	28.0	192	25.1
Medical centre	-	-	138	25.8
Educational facility	90	36.6	90	32.9
Other	29	29.0	61	24.1
Sports centre/clinic	30	32.6	29	26.3
Community health care service	28	27.4	24	16.0
Locum private practice	28	23.8	22	24.9
Hospital	NP	17.7	7	27.7
Residential health care facility	12	21.3	NP	32.5
Other government department or agency	NP	36.0	NP	27.3
Total	3,933	30.4	4,099	28.5

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

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



Table 7: Main language spoken in patient/client encounters, 2015 and 2019

Main language used in patient or client encounters	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
English	3,057	77.7%	3,176	77.5%
Mandarin	316	8.0%	315	7.7%
Cantonese	100	2.5%	94	2.3%
Vietnamese	22	0.6%	13	0.3%
Korean	46	1.2%	46	1.1%
Other	7	0.2%	7	0.2%
Non Respondent/Unknown	385	9.8%	448	10.9%
Total	3,933	100.0%	4,099	100.0%

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2015 and 2019

Total includes unknown Main language used in patient or client encounters

Table 8: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	2,619	66.6%	2,905	70.9%
Overseas	1,147	29.2%	1,124	27.4%
Unknown / not stated	167	4.2%	70	1.7%
Total	3,933	100%	4,099	100%

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine 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	14.5	18.4
Administrator	13.1	19.2
Teacher or educator	17.8	18.9
Researcher	15.3	18.0
Other	12.5	13.1
Total	14.6	18.4

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine 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	1,690	1,284.1	28.9	8,089,817	15.9
Victoria	1,138	833.5	27.8	6,596,039	12.6
Queensland	775	585.3	28.7	5,094,510	11.5
South Australia	157	109.8	28.7	1,751,963	6.3
Western Australia	230	176.0	29.1	2,621,509	6.7
Tasmania	32	22.7	27.0	534,457	4.3
Australia Capital Territory	66	51.4	29.6	426,704	12.0
Northern Territory	10	8.9	33.8	245,929	3.6
Unknown / not stated	1	1.05	40	-	-
Australia	4,099	3,072.9	28.5	25,365,571	12.1

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine 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	3,565	2,694.8	28.7	18,320,373	14.7
MM2 - Regional centres	154	110.8	27.3	2,245,754	4.9
MM3 - Large rural towns	155	113.1	27.7	1,587,466	7.1
MM4 - Medium rural towns	94	68.6	27.7	968,583	7.1
MM5 - Small rural towns	118	76.5	24.6	1,748,340	4.4
MM6 - Remote communities	7	5.7	31.1	281,794	2.0
MM7 - Very remote communities	5	2.4	18.0	212,587	1.1
Unknown / not stated	1	1.05	40	-	-
Australia	4,099	3,072.9	28.5	25,365,571	12.1

Source: NHWDS, Chiropractors, 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	91.7%
MM2 - Regional centres	2.8%
MM3 - Large rural towns	1.8%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	1.7%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.1%
MM6 - Remote communities	-
MM7 - Very remote communities	-

Source: NHWDS, Chinese Medicine Practitioners, 2019

MMM breakdown for tele-health refers to the location of the Chinese Medicine Practitioners not the location of the person receiving the service

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



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References

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