



2019

Chiropractors



Chiropractors diagnose and treat back pain and disorders of the musculoskeletal system. Chiropractic treatments may include manipulation, massage or advice about movement.

To gain registration as a chiropractor, practitioners must complete a minimum five-year undergraduate or three-year postgraduate Master program of study approved by the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

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2019

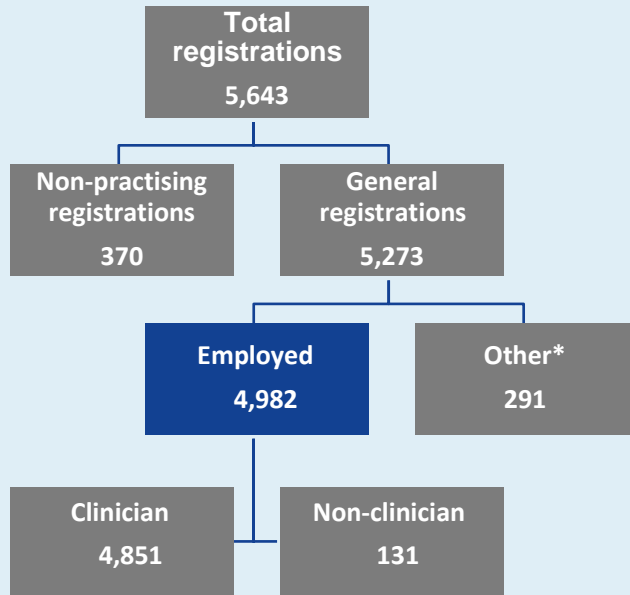
Chiropractors



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Workforce

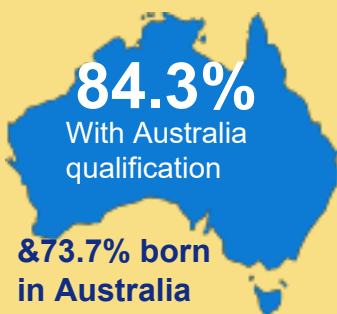
Figure 1: Chiropractors: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Chiropractors



75.8%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)



39.3%
female



32.5
Average weekly hours



42.0
Average age



0.4%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Chiropractors with general or limited registration increased by 11.5% from 5,059 to 5,643 (a compound annual growth rate of 2.8%). The number of employed Chiropractors ('workforce') increased 11.2% from 4,480 to 4,982 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.7%).

The number of employed Chiropractors who worked as clinicians increased 11.6% from 4,348 to 4,851 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.5%). Clinicians are Chiropractors who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Chiropractors who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

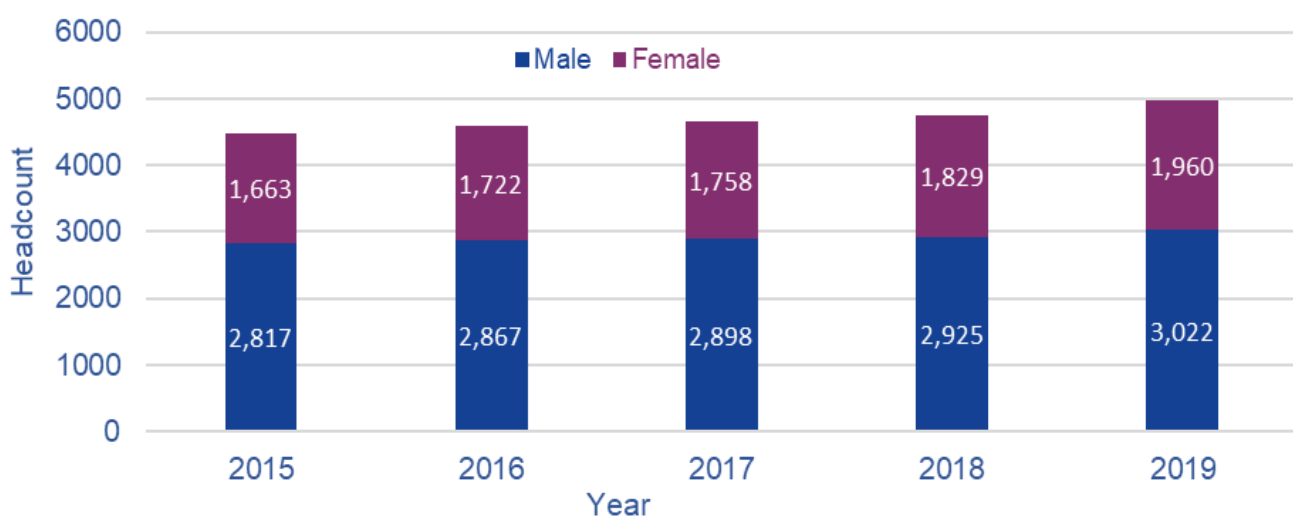
The following analysis of the Chiropractic 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Chiropractors with general registration who were employed (4,982 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Chiropractors, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	5,059	5,162	5,273	5,348	5,643	2.8%
Employed	4,480	4,589	4,656	4,754	4,982	2.7%
Clinicians	4,348	4,485	4,540	4,640	4,851	2.8%

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015-2019

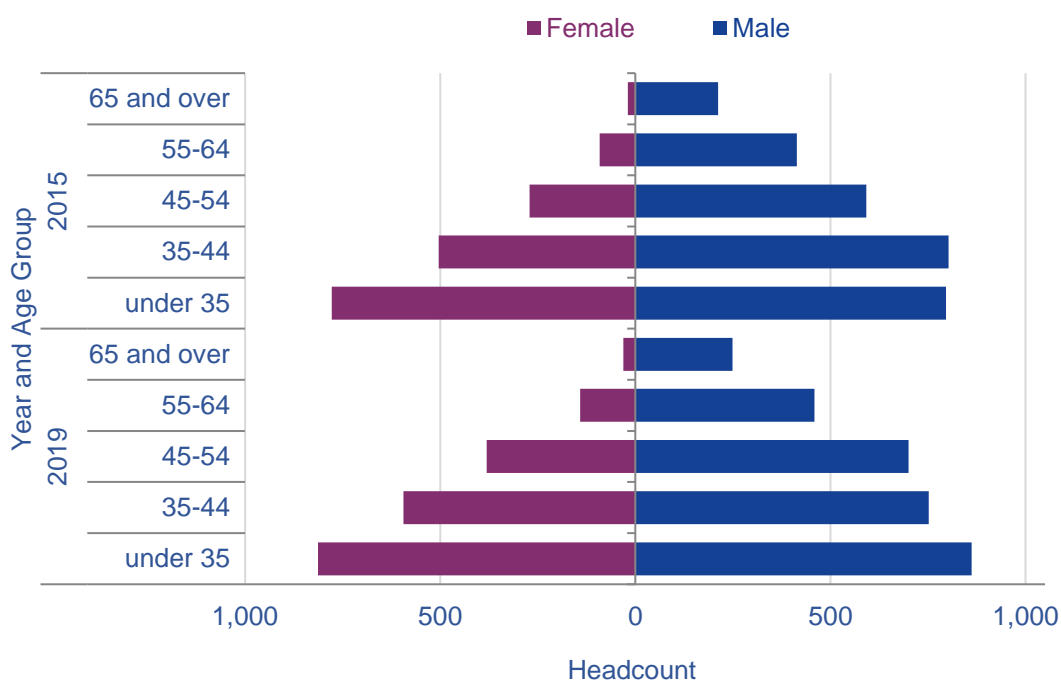
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 – 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	260	220	221	236	324
Exits	131	155	141	203	97
Replacement rate	2.0	1.4	1.6	1.2	3.3

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 – 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	28.3	28.8	28.8	28.6	28.4
Non-clinical hours^	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1
Total hours	32.5	33.2	33.0	32.8	32.5

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 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)

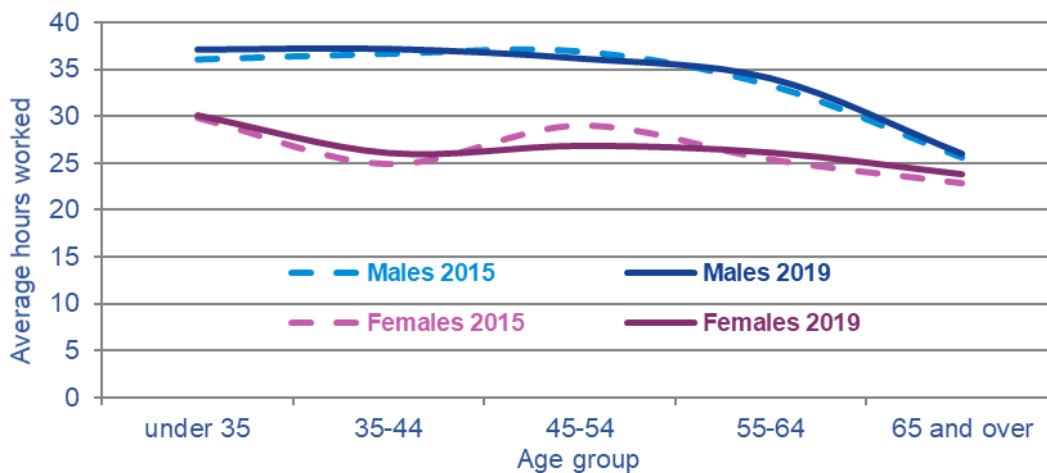


Table 4: Clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	3,150.5	94.3%	3,575.9	95.9%
Public sector	190.8	5.7%	152.8	4.1%
Total	3,341.3	100%	3,728.7	100%

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019
Includes Chiropractors 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 Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019

Table 5: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	4,348	97.1%	4,851	97.4%
Administrator	44	1.0%	53	1.1%
Teacher or educator	54	1.2%	47	0.9%
Researcher	18	0.4%	19	0.4%
Other	16	0.4%	12	0.2%
Total	4480	100%	4982	100%

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Endorsements, 2015 - 2019

Type of endorsement	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Acupuncture	31	30	28	27	27
% of employed	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

Source: NHWDS, Chiropractors, 2015 - 2019

Table 7: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Avg. hours	Headcount	Avg. hours
Group private practice	2,336	32.6	2,595	32.4
Solo private practice	1,953	32.9	2,075	32.8
Medical centre	0	0.0	118	31.3
Educational facility	54	32.8	59	36.8
Locum private practice	64	24.1	58	24.4
Commercial/business service	30	32.5	31	36.1
Other	17	31.9	29	28.8
Residential health care facility	9	26.0	10	29.0
Community health care service	10	27.2	NP	11.7
Remaining work settings	7	35.3	NP	35.7
Total	4,480	32.5	4,982	32.5

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019



Table 8: Principal scope of practice, 2015 and 2019

Principal scope of practice	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Chronic condition management	1,114	24.90%	1,645	33.00%
Acute care	914	20.40%	1,125	22.60%
Wellness care	1,375	30.70%	1,059	21.30%
Primary care	602	13.40%	588	11.80%
Rehabilitation	150	3.30%	172	3.50%
Sports	117	2.60%	156	3.10%
Other	65	1.50%	68	1.36%
Paediatrics	62	1.40%	60	1.20%
Aged care	18	0.40%	35	0.70%
Unknown / not stated	63	1.40%	74	1.43%
Total	4,480	100%	4,982	100%

Source: NHWDS, Chiropractors, 2015 and 2019

Table 9: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	3,695	82.5%	4,201	84.3%
Overseas	596	13.3%	597	12.0%
Unknown / not stated	189	4.2%	184	3.7%
Total	4,480	100%	4,982	100%

Source: NHWDS Chiropractors, 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	15.2	21.7
Administrator	14.5	21.4
Teacher or educator	20.9	13.7
Researcher	18.1	19.9
Other	15.3	16.8
Total	15.3	21.6

Source: NHWDS, Chiropractors, 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	1,694	1,523.3	34.2	8,089,817	18.8
Victoria	1,365	1,114.2	31.0	6,596,039	16.9
Queensland	818	709.1	32.9	5,094,510	13.9
South Australia	345	280.0	30.8	1,751,963	16.0
Western Australia	618	505.8	31.1	2,621,509	19.3
Tasmania	54	46.3	32.6	534,457	8.7
Australia Capital Territory	63	55.7	33.6	426,704	13.1
Northern Territory	20	21.8	41.5	245,929	8.9
Unknown / not stated	5	6.39	48.6	-	-
Australia	4,982	4,262.6	32.5	25,365,571	16.8

Source: NHWDS, Chiropractors, 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	3,778	3,262.5	32.8	18,320,373	17.8
MM2 - Regional centres	391	331.9	32.3	2,245,754	14.8
MM3 - Large rural towns	367	305.9	31.7	1,587,466	19.3
MM4 - Medium rural towns	248	203.4	31.2	968,583	21.0
MM5 - Small rural towns	139	106.1	29.0	1,748,340	6.1
MM6 - Remote communities	35	31.0	33.7	281,794	11.0
MM7 - Very remote communities	19	15.3	30.7	212,587	7.2
Unknown / not stated	5	6.39	48.6	-	-
Australia	4,982	4,262.6	32.5	25,365,571	16.8

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

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	86.7%
MM2 - Regional centres	5.7%
MM3 - Large rural towns	2.5%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	2.5%
MM5 - Small rural towns	1.9%
MM6 - Remote communities	0.6%
MM7 - Very remote communities	-

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