



2019

Occupational Therapists



Occupational therapists are registered health practitioners who work with people to improve their health and wellbeing, with a focus on physical and mental health that may be related to a person's injury or illness, or to an accident or developmental impairment. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in everyday life.

To gain registration as an occupational therapist, practitioners must complete a minimum four-year undergraduate, or two-year postgraduate Master program of study approved by the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

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2019

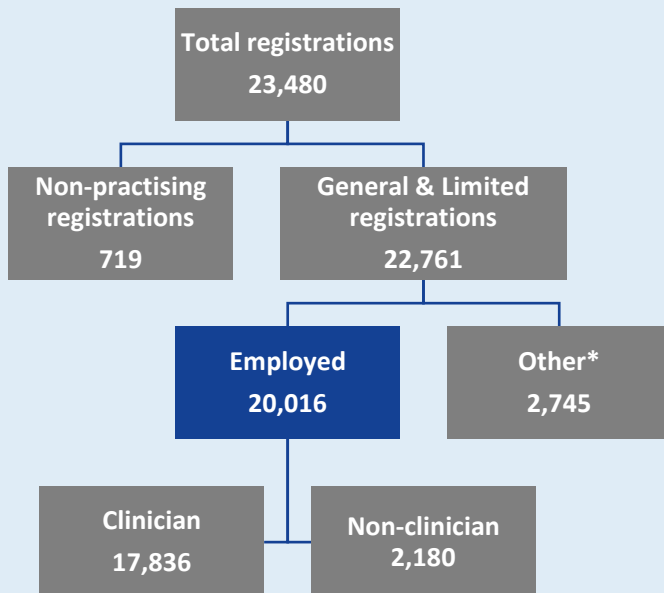
Occupational
Therapists



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Workforce

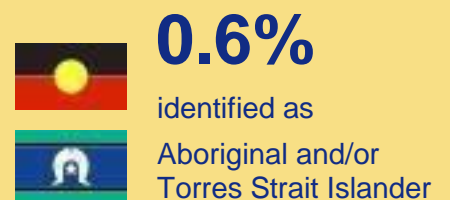
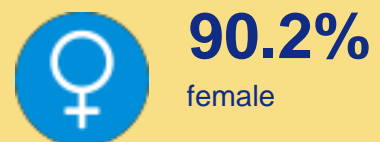
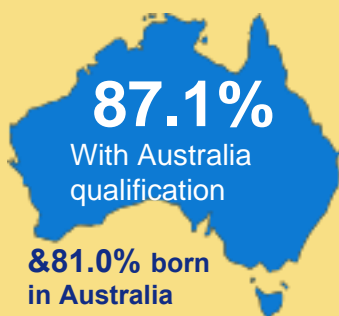
Figure 1: Occupational Therapists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Occupational Therapists





Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Occupational Therapists with general or limited registration increased by 31.0% from 17,929 to 23,480 (a compound annual growth rate of 7.0%). The number of employed Occupational Therapists ('workforce') increased 33.2% from 15,022 to 20,016 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 7.4%).

The number of employed Occupational Therapists who worked as clinicians increased 34.1% from 13,298 to 17,836 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 7.6%). Clinicians are Occupational Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Occupational Therapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

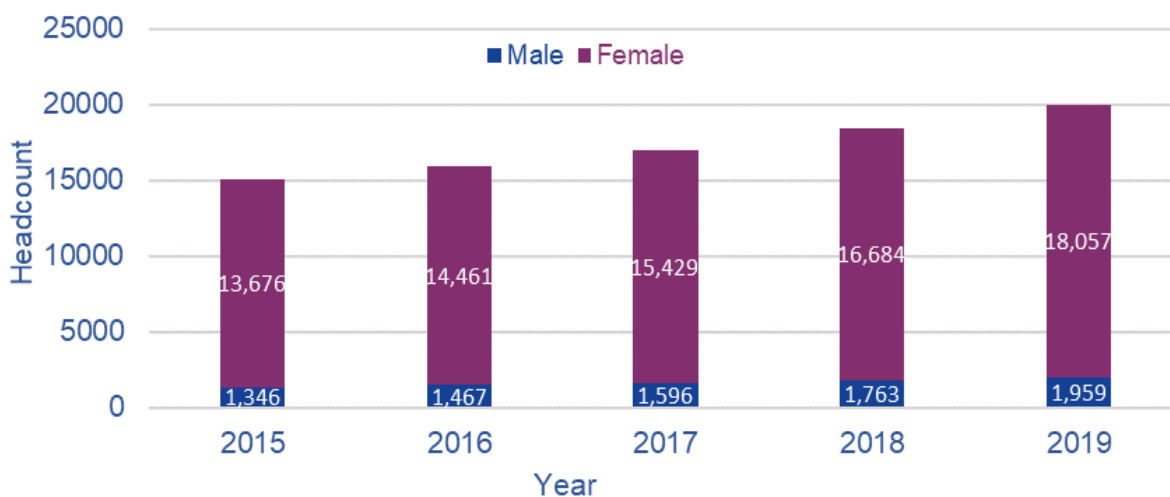
The following analysis of the Occupational Therapy 'workforce' is drawn from the number of the Occupational therapist with general or limited registration who were employed (20,016 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Occupational Therapists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	17,929	19,001	20,145	21,569	23,480	7.0%
Employed	15,022	15,928	17,025	18,447	20,016	7.4%
Clinicians	13,298	14,126	15,077	16,434	17,836	7.6%

Source: NHWDS Occupational Therapists, 2015-2019

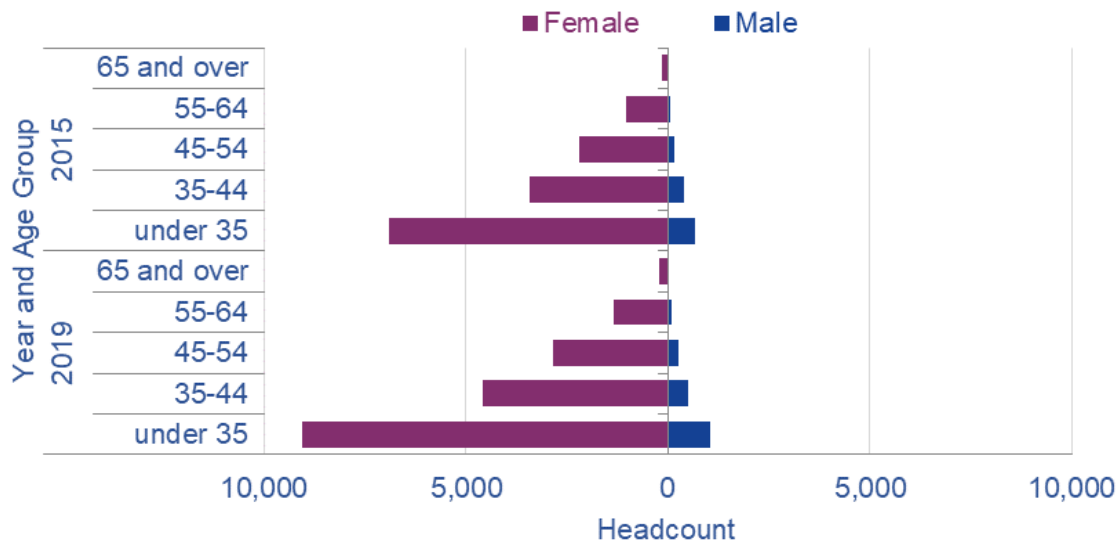
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Occupational Therapists, 2015 – 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	1,474	1,413	1,416	1,940	1,919
Exits	447	453	446	662	376
Replacement rate	3.3	3.1	3.2	2.9	5.1

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 - 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	27.7	27.9	27.8	28.3	28.8
Non-clinical hours^	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.9
Total hours	33.0	33.3	33.2	33.5	33.7

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 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	4,854.2	44.3%	8,422.6	55.5%
Public sector	6,105.3	55.7%	6,740.7	44.5%
Total	10,959.5	100%	15,163.2	100%

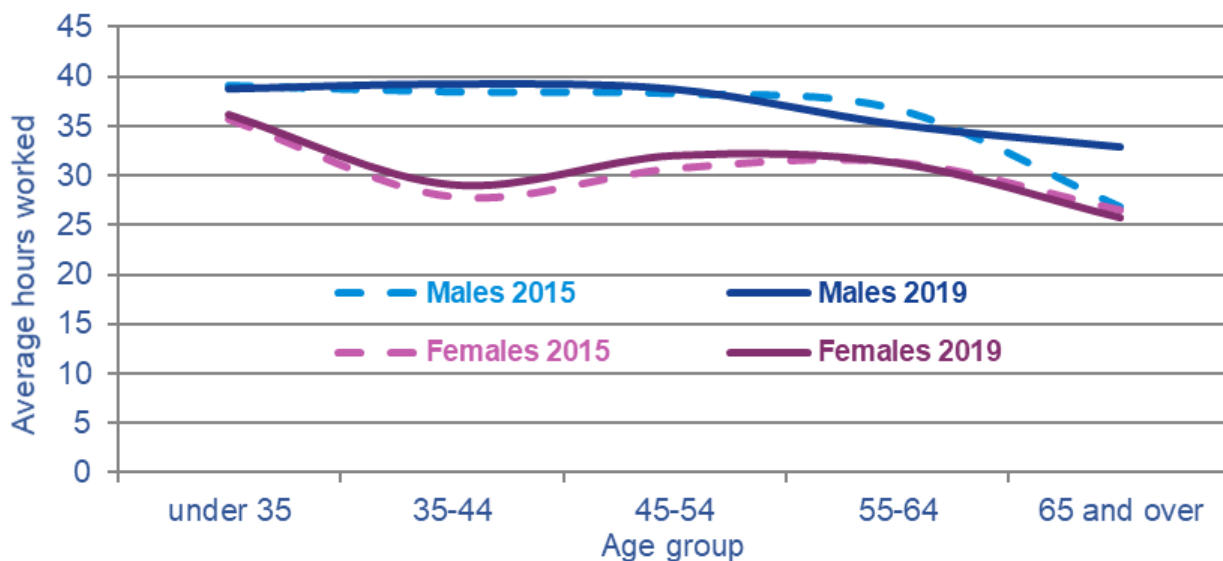
Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Occupational 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 Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 5: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	13,298	88.5%	17,836	89.1%
Administrator	885	5.9%	1,144	5.7%
Teacher or educator	407	2.7%	507	2.5%
Researcher	197	1.3%	221	1.1%
Other	235	1.6%	308	1.5%
Total	15,022	100%	20,016	100%

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Avg. hours	Headcount	Avg. hours
Hospital	3,130	34.5	3,725	34.8
Other community health care service	2,525	33.2	3,047	33.4
Group private practice	1,326	32.5	2,134	33.3
Disability service	1,070	32.2	1,700	34.2
Solo private practice	1,124	29.1	1,604	31.1
Outpatient service	1,199	32.4	1,439	33.3
Residential aged care facility	495	32.3	1,289	35.4
Educational facility	784	32.1	990	32.1
Rehabilitation/physical development service	891	35.2	940	34.0
Other private practice	409	32.3	935	34.3
Other government department or agency	562	32.5	683	34.0
Other	519	34.2	529	34.5
Other commercial/business service	363	36.0	298	35.6
Domiciliary service	302	30.6	268	30.9
Other residential health care facility	96	37.7	92	34.2
Medical centre	-	-	61	32.8
Defence forces	53	38.2	58	34.8
Health promotion service	62	31.8	55	34.2
Aboriginal health service	32	36.7	42	33.5
Locum private practice	21	24.5	38	35.0
Community drug and alcohol service	17	31.4	35	33.5
Correctional service	22	35.4	34	38.0
Hospice	15	34.1	12	30.7
Sports centre/clinic	5	35.6	8	29.8
Total	15,022	33.0	20,016	33.7

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019

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



Table 7: Principal scope of practice, 2015 – 2019

Principal scope of practice	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Paediatrics	2,765	18.4%	4,068	20.3%
Rehabilitation	3,006	20.0%	3,433	17.2%
Aged care	2,521	16.8%	3,364	16.8%
Disability	1,118	7.4%	2,470	12.3%
Mental health	1,806	12.0%	2,377	11.9%
Occupational health	1,132	7.5%	1,103	5.5%
Hand therapy	507	3.4%	643	3.2%
Neurological	452	3.0%	578	2.9%
Driving assessment	62	0.4%	87	0.4%
Other	1441	9.6%	1556	7.8%
Unknown / not stated	212	1.4%	337	1.7%
Total	15,022	100%	20,016	100%

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 8: Advanced scope of practice, 2015 – 2019

Advanced scope of practice	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Occupational Therapists	1,990	2,143	2,219	2,178	2,217
% of total employed	13.2%	13.5%	13.0%	11.8%	11.1%

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2015 - 2019

Table 9: International qualification, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	12,936	86.1%	17,428	87.1%
Overseas	1,176	7.8%	1,437	7.2%
Unknown / not stated	910	6.1%	1,151	5.8%
Total	15,022	100%	20,016	100%

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 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	10.9	22.1
Administrator	17.7	17.3
Teacher or educator	18.7	17.2
Researcher	16.4	20.3
Other	12.6	19.6
Total	11.6	21.6

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 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	5,703	5,058.3	33.7	8,089,817	62.5
Victoria	5,241	4,667.4	33.8	6,596,039	70.8
Queensland	4,049	3,686.5	34.6	5,094,510	72.4
South Australia	1,541	1,347.6	33.2	1,751,963	76.9
Western Australia	2,663	2,278.7	32.5	2,621,509	86.9
Tasmania	305	252.2	31.4	534,457	47.2
Australia Capital Territory	324	291.0	34.1	426,704	68.2
Northern Territory	182	175.8	36.7	245,929	71.5
Unknown / not stated	8	8.8	41.9	-	-
Australia	20,016	17,766.2	33.7	25,365,571	70.0

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 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	15,508	13,806.4	33.8	18,320,373	75.4
MM2 - Regional centres	1,930	1,731.5	34.1	2,245,754	77.1
MM3 - Large rural towns	1,396	1,203.8	32.8	1,587,466	75.8
MM4 - Medium rural towns	582	499.3	32.6	968,583	51.6
MM5 - Small rural towns	396	333.3	32.0	1,748,340	19.1
MM6 - Remote communities	136	126.2	35.3	281,794	44.8
MM7 - Very remote communities	60	56.8	36.0	212,587	26.7
Unknown / not stated	8	8.8	41.9	-	-
Australia	20,016	17,766.2	33.7	25,365,571	70.0

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 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	65.4%
MM2 - Regional centres	12.9%
MM3 - Large rural towns	9.9%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	5.7%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.8%
MM6 - Remote communities	2.1%
MM7 - Very remote communities	1.2%

Source: NHWDS, Occupational Therapists, 2019

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