



2019

Pharmacists



Pharmacists are registered healthcare practitioners who prepare and dispense medicines, consult with patients and other practitioners on drug selection and administration, and work in the research, development and manufacture of medicines. In a community setting, pharmacists also advise patients on over the counter medicines and medical aids (such as blood glucose monitoring equipment). To gain registration as a pharmacist, practitioners must complete a minimum four-year undergraduate, or two-year postgraduate Master program of study approved by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

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2019

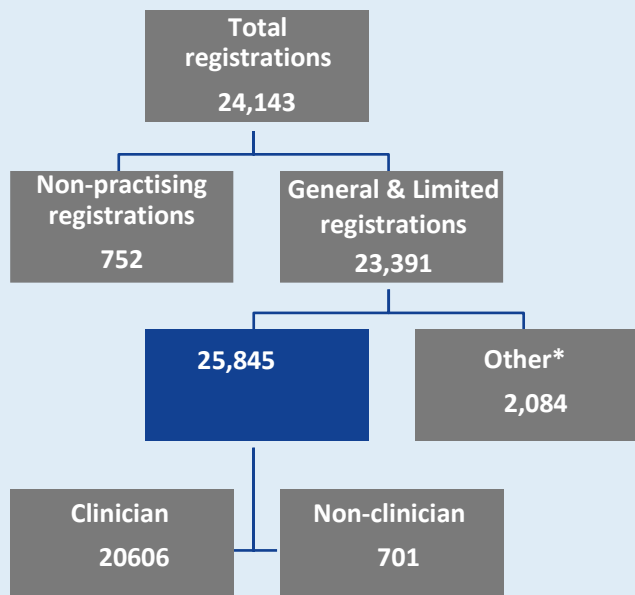
Pharmacists



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Workforce

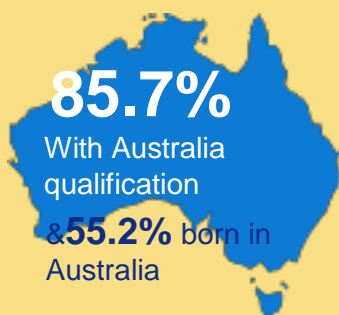
Figure 1: Pharmacists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Pharmacists



77.6%
in metropolitan areas (MM1)



61.7%
female



35.3
Average weekly hours



39.7
Average age



0.3%
identified as
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait Islander



Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Pharmacists with general or limited registration increased by 9.7% from 29,414 to 32,258 (a compound annual growth rate of 2.3%). The number of employed Pharmacists ('workforce') increased 11.7% from 23,134 to 25,845 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.8%).

The number of employed Pharmacists who worked as clinicians increased 11.4% from 20,281 to 22,599 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 2.7%). Clinicians are Pharmacists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including pharmacists conducting medication reviews and managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Pharmacists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

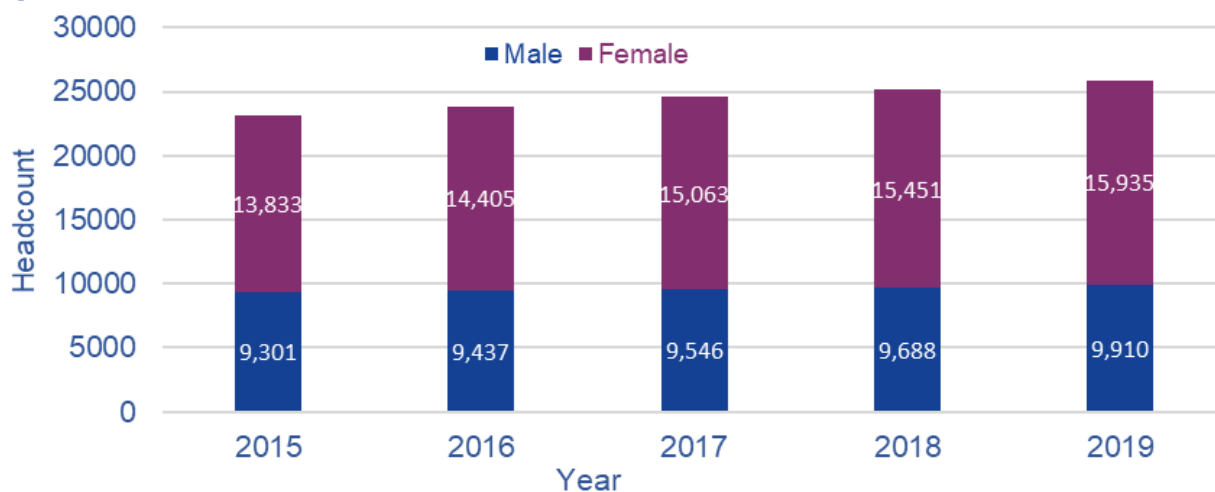
The following analysis of the Pharmacy 'workforce' is drawn from the number of the Pharmacists with general or limited registration who were employed (25,845 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Pharmacists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	29,414	29,995	30,622	31,148	32,258	2.3%
Employed	23,134	23,842	24,609	25,139	25,845	2.8%
Clinicians	20,281	20,960	21,656	22,063	22,599	2.7%

Source: NHWDS Pharmacists, 2015-2019

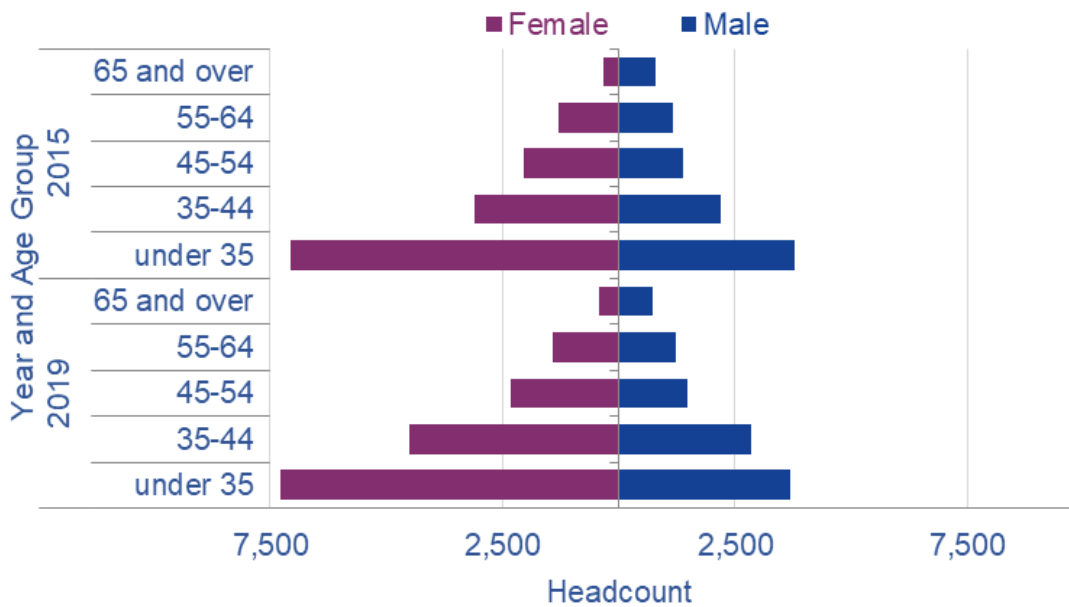
Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Pharmacists, 2015 – 2019



Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019

Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	1,452	1,429	1,411	1,364	1,556
Exits	896	955	922	961	694
Replacement rate	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	2.2

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 - 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	30.5	30.6	30.5	30.4	30.2
Non-clinical hours^	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.0
Total hours	35.8	35.9	35.7	35.7	35.3

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 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 pharmacists conducting medication reviews and 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: Principal job clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	12,149.2	68.1%	13,306.0	67.1%
Public sector	5,678.2	31.9%	6,531.6	32.9%
Total	17,827.4	100%	19,837.6	100%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Pharmacists 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 5: Second job clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	566.5	79.4%	586.3	82.2%
Public sector	147.2	20.6%	127.2	17.8%
Total	713.7	100%	713.5	100%

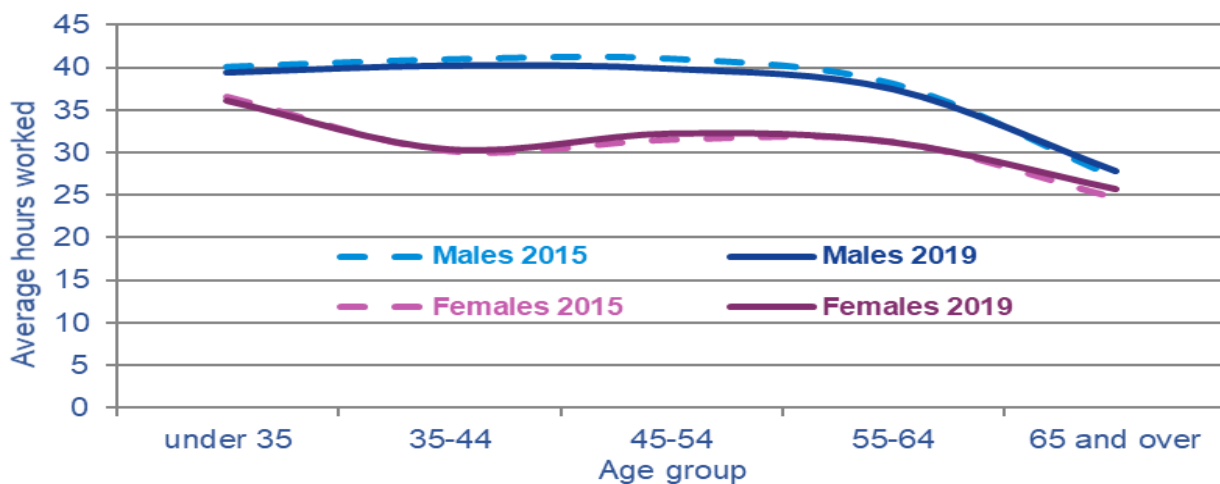
Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Pharmacists 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 Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	20,281	87.7%	22,599	87.4%
Administrator	1,637	7.1%	1,792	6.9%
Teacher or educator	287	1.2%	391	1.5%
Researcher	256	1.1%	325	1.3%
Independent consultant	223	1.0%	234	0.9%
Other	450	1.9%	504	2.0%
Total	23,134	100%	25,845	100%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019

Table 7: Second job by job role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	2,490	10.8%	2,404	9.3%
Administrator	262	1.1%	251	1.0%
Teacher or educator	196	0.8%	224	0.9%
Researcher	78	0.3%	88	0.3%
Independent consultant	126	0.5%	139	0.5%
Other	157	0.7%	180	0.7%
Total	3,309	14.3%	3,286	12.7%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019



Table 8: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Principal role	Second Job	Principal role	Second Job
Community pharmacy	15,257	2,379	16,336	2,372
Hospital	4,627	238	5,824	291
Community health care service	559	99	706	137
Pharmaceutical manufacturing	314	28	586	116
Other government department or agency	306	80	418	87
Medical centre	438	68	351	81
Educational facility	302	211	335	227
Other private practice	351	132	255	85
Other	332	220	219	145
Work from home	-	-	212	200
Residential health care facility	181	47	203	61
Other commercial/business service	270	81	162	48
Defence forces	91	11	103	9
Correctional service	30	13	52	NP
Wholesale pharmacy	43	16	43	NP
Aboriginal health service	33	4	40	13
Total	23,134	3,627	25,845	3,879

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019

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



Table 9: No. of Pharmacists extended scope of practice, 2015 – 2019

Extended scope of practice	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Pharmacists	2,172	2,460	2,721	3,043	3,449
% of employed	9.4%	10.3%	11.1%	12.1%	13.3%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 - 2019

Table only includes pharmacists who reported that their principal job included an extended scope of practice role

Table 10: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	19,517	84.4%	22,147	85.7%
Overseas	2,822	12.2%	3,092	12.0%
Unknown / not stated	795	3.4%	606	2.3%
Total	23,134	100%	25,845	100%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2015 and 2019



Table 11: Years worked and years intended to remain in the workforce by principal role, 2019

Role	Average years worked	Average years intended to work
Clinician	14.9	18.2
Administrator	20.9	15.3
Teacher or educator	19.4	17.4
Researcher	16.7	19.3
Independent consultant	23.2	14.9
Other	15.4	17.5
Total	15.5	17.9

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2019

Table 12: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	7,756	7,170.2	35.1	8,089,817	88.6
Victoria	6,805	6,271.7	35.0	6,596,039	95.1
Queensland	5,199	4,888.4	35.7	5,094,510	96.0
South Australia	1,856	1,729.3	35.4	1,751,963	98.7
Western Australia	2,861	2,639.0	35.1	2,621,509	100.7
Tasmania	647	579.7	34.0	534,457	108.5
Australia Capital Territory	490	462.9	35.9	426,704	108.5
Northern Territory	214	217.1	38.6	245,929	88.3
Unknown / not stated	17	17.0	36.6	-	-
Australia	25,845	23,975.3	35.3	25,365,571	94.5

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2019

ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019

Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week



Table 13: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	20,064	18,507.2	35.1	18,320,373	101.0
MM2 - Regional centres	2,144	2,001.2	35.5	2,245,754	89.1
MM3 - Large rural towns	1,480	1,389.1	35.7	1,587,466	87.5
MM4 - Medium rural towns	824	760.4	35.1	968,583	78.5
MM5 - Small rural towns	1,005	981.5	37.1	1,748,340	56.1
MM6 - Remote communities	217	218.0	38.2	281,794	77.4
MM7 - Very remote communities	95	102.5	41.0	212,587	48.2
Unknown / not stated	16	15.4	36.6	-	-
Australia	25,845	23,975.3	35.3	25,365,571	94.5

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 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 14: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	80.3%
MM2 - Regional centres	7.0%
MM3 - Large rural towns	5.0%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	3.2%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.5%
MM6 - Remote communities	1.2%
MM7 - Very remote communities	0.8%

Source: NHWDS, Pharmacists, 2019

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