



2019

Physiotherapists



Physiotherapists are registered healthcare practitioners whose focus is on structure and movement of the human body. They work with people of all ages to improve physical mobility and movement related to sports injuries, general musculoskeletal conditions neurological and respiratory conditions. They work across the spectrum from health prevention, acute and rehabilitation.

To gain registration as a physiotherapist, practitioners must complete a minimum four-year undergraduate or two-year postgraduate Master program of study approved by the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

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2019

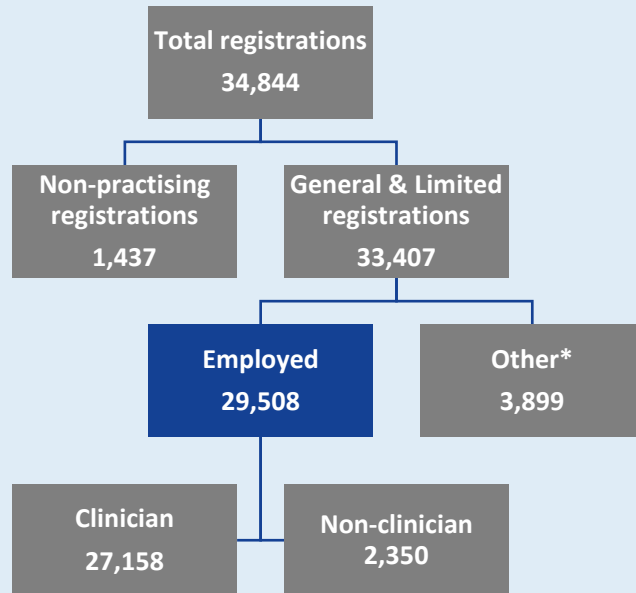
Physiotherapists



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Workforce

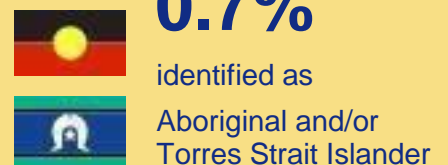
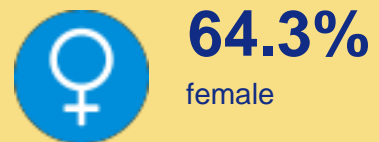
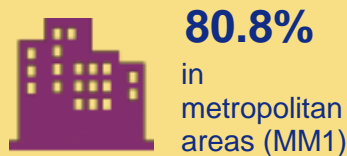
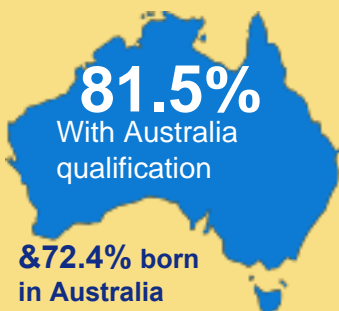
Figure 1: Physiotherapists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Physiotherapists





Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Physiotherapists with general or limited registration increased by 22.9% from 28,354 to 34,844 (a compound annual growth rate of 5.3%). The number of employed Physiotherapists ('workforce') increased 25.2% from 23,577 to 29,508 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 5.8%).

The number of employed Physiotherapists who worked as clinicians increased 26.3% from 21,511 to 27,158 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 6.0%). Clinicians are Physiotherapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (including managers and supervisors also providing clinical services). Non-clinicians are Physiotherapists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing clinical services), teacher, educator, research or other.

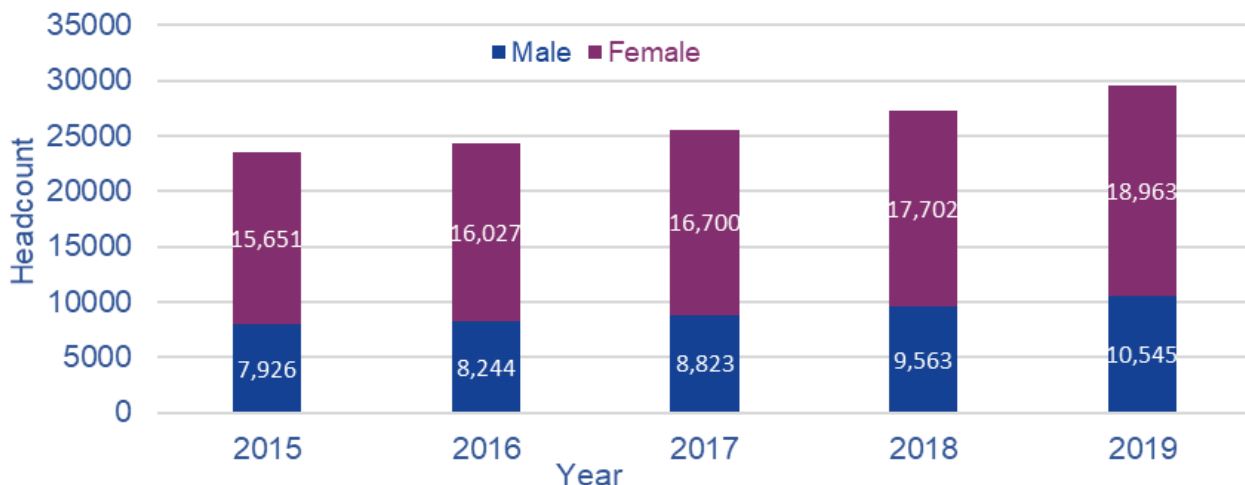
The following analysis of the Physiotherapy 'workforce' is drawn from the number of the Physiotherapists with general or limited registration who were employed (29,508 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Physiotherapists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	28,354	29,591	30,916	32,531	34,844	5.3%
Employed	23,577	24,271	25,523	27,265	29,508	5.8%
Clinicians	21,511	22,221	23,325	25,021	27,158	6.0%

Source: NHWDS Physiotherapists, 2015-2019

Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Physiotherapists, 2015 – 2019

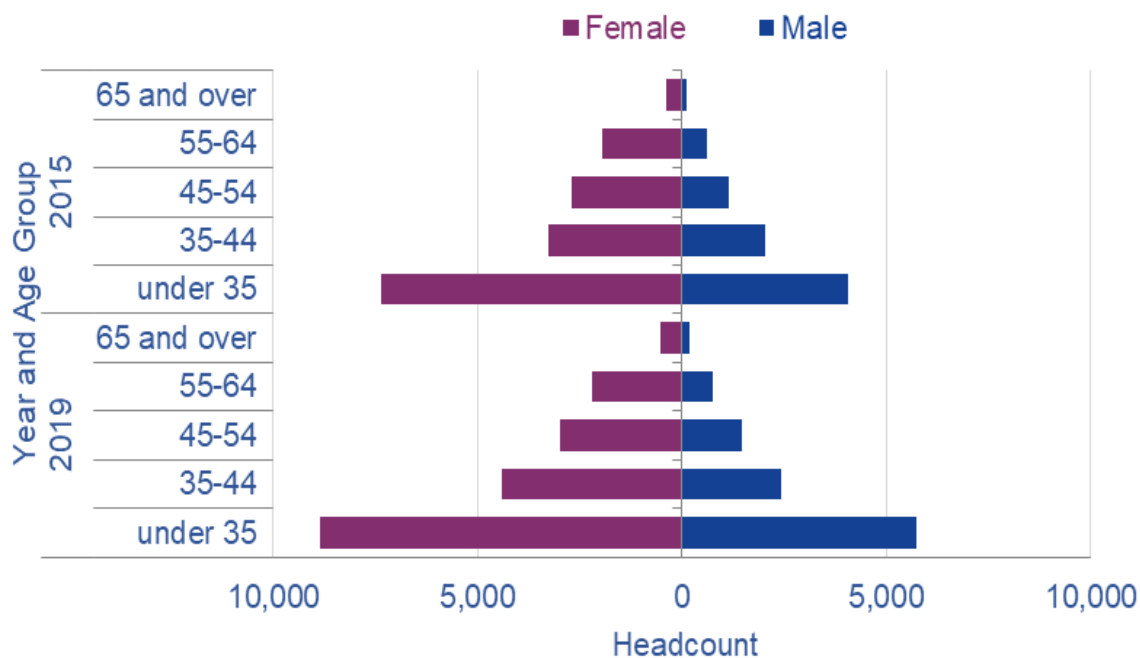


Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	1,920	1,829	1,904	2,452	2,631
Exits	733	761	760	1,008	732
Replacement rate	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.4	3.6

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 - 2019

Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	29.5	29.6	29.8	30.1	30.4
Non-clinical hours^	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.7
Total hours	34.7	34.8	34.9	35.1	35.1

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 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: Principal job clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2015 and 2019

Sector	2015		2019	
	Clinical FTE	%	Clinical FTE	%
Private sector	12,672.7	69.2%	16,996.9	72.0%
Public sector	5,650.0	30.8%	6,621.5	28.0%
Total	18,322.7	100%	23,618.4	100%

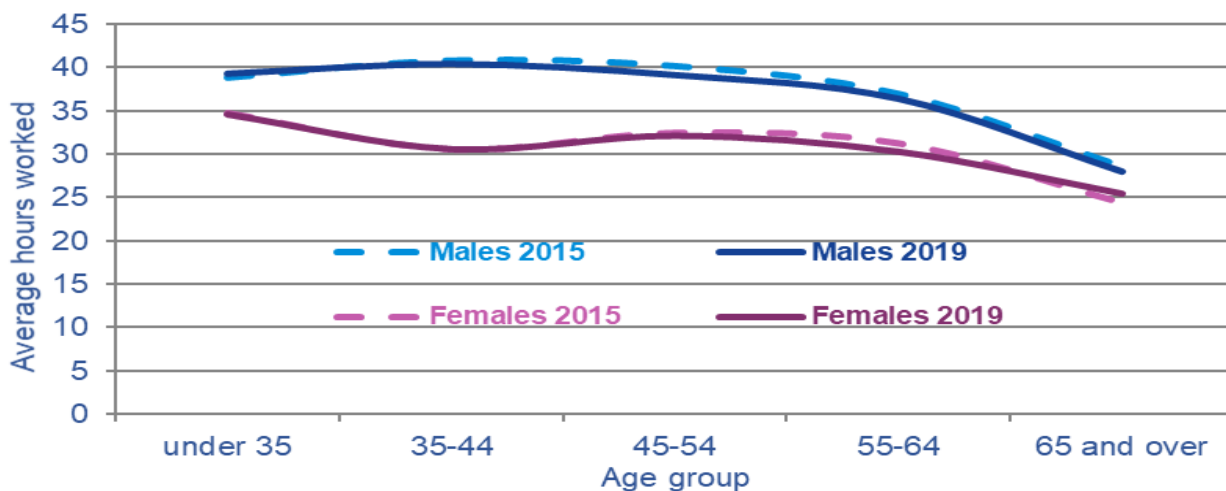
Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Physiotherapists 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 Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 5: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	21,511	91.2%	27,158	92.0%
Administrator	948	4.0%	1,108	3.8%
Teacher or educator	532	2.3%	600	2.0%
Researcher	394	1.7%	451	1.5%
Other	192	0.8%	191	0.6%
Total	23,577	100%	29,508	100%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Avg. hours	Headcount	Avg. hours
Group private practice	6,625	36.5	7,429	36.0
Hospital	4,805	34.6	5,755	34.8
Solo private practice	3,326	34.9	4,215	35.2
Residential aged care facility	1,746	32.4	2,345	34.8
Outpatient service	1,836	33.0	2,221	33.5
Other community health care service	1,139	31.9	1,536	32.6
Medical centre	-	-	1,158	38.3
Rehabilitation/physical development service	866	33.4	916	34.1
Educational facility	677	35.6	781	35.1
Sports centre/clinic	493	40.6	745	39.2
Domiciliary service	453	30.2	517	29.6
Disability service	361	32.3	479	33.3
Other	429	35.3	417	36.0
Other commercial/business	310	34.8	395	36.3
Other government department or agency	244	33.0	287	34.4
Defence forces	121	35.8	136	37.1
Locum private practice	71	29.1	90	31.4
Other residential health care facility	44	34.1	52	34.1
Aboriginal health service	23	30.9	26	33.1
Correctional service	8	37.6	8	35.9
Total	23,577	34.7	29,508	35.1

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019



Table 7: Clinical stream, 2015 and 2019

Clinical stream	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Rehabilitation	8,994	38.1%	11,671	39.6%
Acute care	4,829	20.5%	5,933	20.1%
Community based care	2,961	12.6%	4,468	15.1%
Aged care	2,565	10.9%	3,153	10.7%
Other	3,237	13.7%	3,020	10.2%
Chronic disease management	756	3.2%	980	3.3%
Cancer care	125	0.5%	167	0.6%
Palliative care	72	0.3%	64	0.2%
Mental health	38	0.2%	52	0.2%
Total	23,577	100%	29,508	100%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 8: Principal scope of practice, 2015 and 2019

Principal scope of practice	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Musculoskeletal	12,377	52.5%	15,610	52.9%
Aged care	3,547	15.0%	4,508	15.3%
Neurological	1,555	6.6%	2,118	7.2%
Cardiorespiratory	1,454	6.2%	1,757	6.0%
Other	1,620	6.9%	1,640	5.6%
Paediatrics	1,227	5.2%	1,511	5.1%
Women	596	2.5%	815	2.8%
Sports	709	3.0%	796	2.7%
Unknown / not stated	492	2.1%	753	2.6%
Total	23,577	100%	29,508	100%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019



Table 9: Advanced scope of practice, 2015 – 2019

Advanced scope of practice	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Physiotherapists	2,297	2,376	2,319	2,383	2,368
% of total employed	9.7%	9.8%	9.1%	8.7%	8.0%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 - 2019

Table 10: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	19,104	81.0%	24,042	81.5%
Overseas	3,046	12.9%	3,467	11.7%
Unknown / not stated	1,427	6.1%	1,999	6.8%
Total	23,577	100%	29,508	100%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2015 and 2019

Table 11: 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	12.8	18.6
Administrator	19.6	13.8
Teacher or educator	21.2	15.0
Researcher	18.1	17.0
Other	17.5	15.0
Total	13.4	18.3

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 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	8,856	8,239.7	35.4	8,089,817	101.9
Victoria	7,585	7,020.7	35.2	6,596,039	106.4
Queensland	5,834	5,478.2	35.7	5,094,510	107.5
South Australia	2,470	2,240.3	34.5	1,751,963	127.9
Western Australia	3,468	3,109.5	34.1	2,621,509	118.6
Tasmania	491	431.4	33.4	534,457	80.7
Australia Capital Territory	609	554.8	34.6	426,704	130.0
Northern Territory	184	181.1	37.4	245,929	73.7
Unknown / not stated	11	11.1	40.0	-	-
Australia	29,508	27,266.8	35.1	25,365,571	107.5

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 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	23,827	22,063.7	35.2	18,320,373	120.4
MM2 - Regional centres	2,224	2,031.8	34.7	2,245,754	90.5
MM3 - Large rural towns	1,715	1,591.2	35.3	1,587,466	100.2
MM4 - Medium rural towns	857	780.1	34.6	968,583	80.5
MM5 - Small rural towns	600	521.7	33.0	1,748,340	29.8
MM6 - Remote communities	176	161.9	35.0	281,794	57.4
MM7 - Very remote communities	99	106.5	40.9	212,587	50.1
Unknown / not stated	10	10.0	37.9	-	-
Australia	29,508	27,266.8	35.1	25,365,571	107.5

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

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	77.9%
MM2 - Regional centres	6.4%
MM3 - Large rural towns	6.3%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	4.1%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.3%
MM6 - Remote communities	1.6%
MM7 - Very remote communities	1.5%

Source: NHWDS, Physiotherapists, 2019

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