



2019

Psychologists



Psychologists are registered healthcare practitioners trained in human behaviour and study the brain, memory, learning and processes around human development. Psychological treatments can be used to help individuals, families, groups and organisations.

To gain general registration as a psychologist, practitioners must complete a minimum four year program of study approved by the Psychology Board of Australia, followed by two years of further Board approved postgraduate study, supervised practice program and/or internship. Generally registered psychologists can then choose to complete a registrar program leading to an area of practice endorsement.

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2019

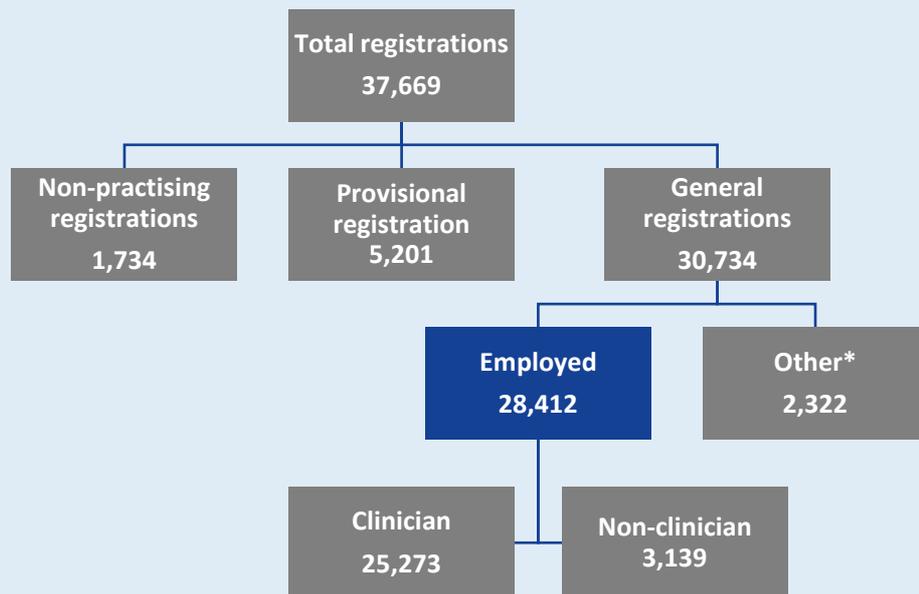
Psychologists



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Workforce

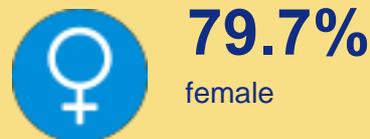
Figure 1: Psychologists: Workforce status, 2019



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

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for Psychologists





Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of Psychologists with general registration increased by 15.5% from 32,602 to 37,669 (a compound annual growth rate of 3.7%). The number of employed Psychologists ('workforce') increased 16.1% from 24,474 to 28,412 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 3.8%).

The number of employed Psychologists who worked as clinicians increased 17.0% from 21,596 to 25,273 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 4.0%). Clinicians are Psychologists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was a direct client service role (including managers and supervisors also providing psychological services). Non-clinicians are Psychologists who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator (including managers not providing psychological services), teacher, educator, research or other.

The following analysis of the Psychology 'workforce' is drawn from the number of Psychologists with general registration who were employed (28,412 in 2019 as indicated by blue shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Psychologists, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Annual growth
Registered	32,602	33,546	34,752	35,762	37,669	3.7%
Employed	24,474	25,219	26,311	27,027	28,412	3.8%
Clinicians	21,596	22,269	23,303	23,950	25,273	4.0%

Source: NHWDS Psychologists, 2015-2019

Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2015-2019



Source: NHWDS Psychologists, 2015 – 2019

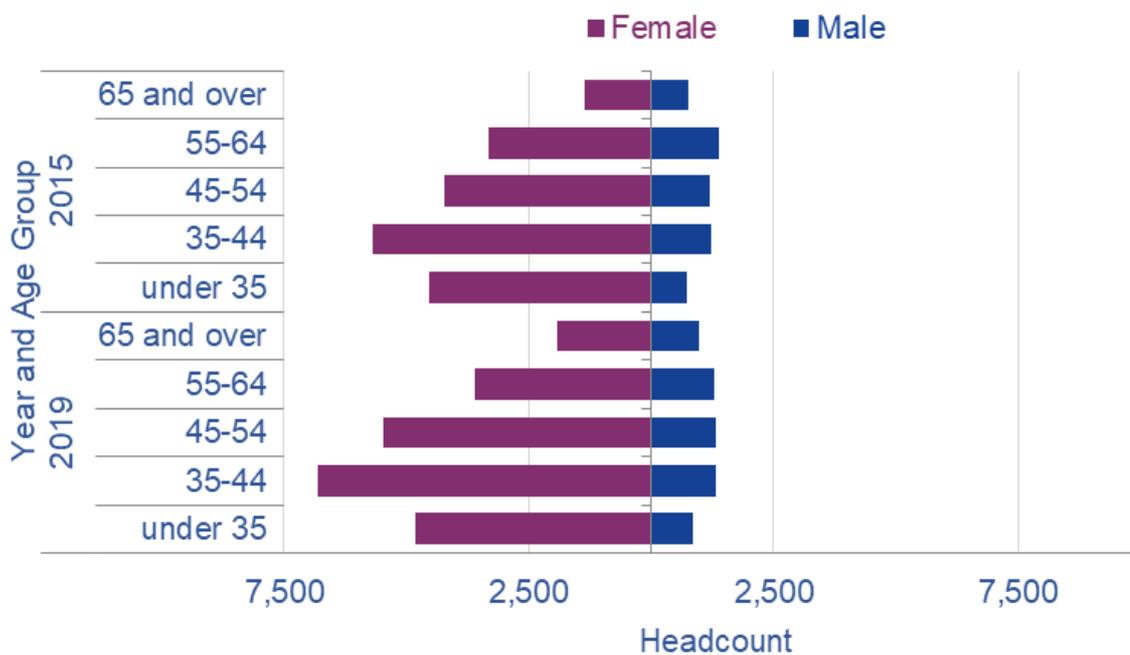


Table 2: Replacement rate, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New entrants	1,649	1,622	1,809	2,001	2,144
Exits	832	948	924	1,261	857
Replacement rate	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.6	2.5

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 - 2019

Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2015 and 2019



Source: NHWDS Psychologists, 2015 and 2019

Table 3: Average hours per week, 2015 – 2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	23.6	23.6	23.6	23.8	23.9
Non-clinical hours^	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.6	8.4
Total hours	32.4	32.6	32.4	32.4	32.3

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 - 2019

Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total

* Clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in direct client service roles (including managers and supervisors also providing psychological services)

^ Non-clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in non-direct client service roles (including teacher, researcher, manager not providing psychological services 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	8,679.5	60.5%	10,825.9	64.3%
Public sector	5,658.8	39.5%	6,014.7	35.7%
Total	14,338.3	100%	16,840.6	100%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Psychologists who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their direct client service 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	665.7	78.8%	837.3	80.5%
Public sector	179.3	21.2%	202.2	19.5%
Total	845.1	100%	1,039.5	100%

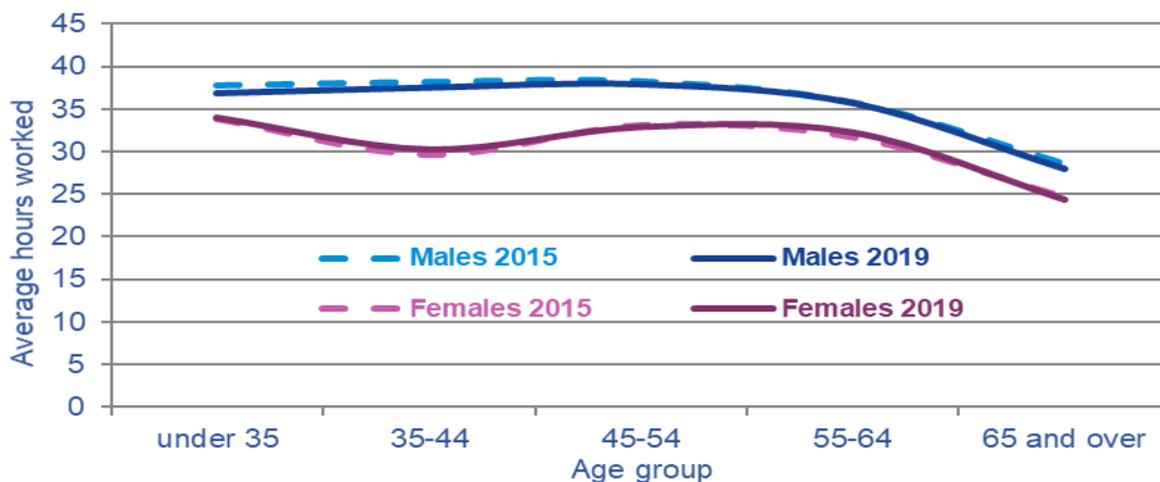
Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019

Includes Psychologists who reported working hours in public and / or private sectors in their direct client service 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 Psychologists, 2015 and 2019



Table 6: Principal role, 2015 and 2019

Principal role	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	21,596	88.2%	25,273	89.0%
Administrator	959	3.9%	1,197	4.2%
Teacher or educator	756	3.1%	781	2.7%
Researcher	891	3.6%	907	3.2%
Other	272	1.1%	254	0.9%
Total	24,474	100%	28,412	100%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019

Table 7: Second job role, 2015 and 2019

Second job	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinician	3,674	15.0%	4,036	14.2%
Administrator	350	1.4%	298	1.0%
Teacher or educator	647	2.6%	609	2.1%
Researcher	531	2.2%	467	1.6%
Other	215	0.9%	231	0.8%
Total	5,417	22%	5,641	20%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019



Table 8: Area of practice endorsement, 2015 and 2019

Area of practice endorsement	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Clinical psychology	6,724	27.5%	8,684	30.6%
Community psychology	52	0.2%	52	0.2%
Clinical neuropsychology	541	2.2%	652	2.3%
Counselling psychology	892	3.6%	952	3.4%
Educational and developmental psychology	554	2.3%	643	2.3%
Forensic psychology	-	-	581	2.0%
Health psychology	288	1.2%	300	1.1%
Organisational psychology	438	1.8%	513	1.8%
Sport and exercise psychology	82	0.3%	90	0.3%
Total	9,571	39.1%	12,467	43.9%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019



Table 9: Principal work setting, 2015 and 2019

Principal work setting	2015		2019	
	Headcount	Second job	Headcount	Second job
Solo private practice	5,705	1,622	5,831	1,518
Group private practice	3,713	1,210	5,277	1,478
School	2,572	254	2,972	286
Community mental health service	2,009	242	2,340	311
Hospital	1,649	406	1,882	455
Tertiary educational facility	1,465	823	1,561	791
Other government department or agency	1,362	175	1,425	172
Commercial/business service	996	140	1,128	177
Medical centre	-	-	1,074	400
Other community health care service	885	179	923	184
Other	762	232	862	284
Other private practice	553	240	814	372
Correctional service	533	31	627	46
Disability service	505	53	392	61
Community drug and alcohol service	297	47	309	45
Other educational facility	263	82	287	88
Defence forces	210	40	209	53
Rehabilitation/physical development service	236	35	204	43
General practitioner (GP) practice	627	268	136	100
Aboriginal health service	73	31	107	25
Other residential health care facility	59	14	52	16
Total	24,474	6,124	28,412	6,905

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019



Table 10: Principal job area, 2015 and 2019

Principal job area	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Counselling	10,535	43.0%	11,772	41.4%
Mental health intervention	6,059	24.8%	8,127	28.6%
Neuropsychological/cognitive assessment	1,133	4.6%	1,285	4.5%
Psychology management/administration	987	4.0%	1,091	3.8%
Consulting/advising for work purposes	892	3.6%	991	3.5%
Organisation practices	719	2.9%	842	3.0%
Research and projects	783	3.2%	804	2.8%
Teaching/supervision	667	2.7%	785	2.8%
Behavioural assessment	773	3.2%	782	2.8%
Other	740	3.0%	752	2.6%
Physical health/rehabilitation	318	1.3%	305	1.1%
Medico-legal assessment	245	1.0%	288	1.0%
Personal development/coaching	206	0.8%	202	0.7%
Training for work purposes	125	0.5%	141	0.5%
Recruitment	135	0.6%	115	0.4%
Community engagement	108	0.4%	80	0.3%
Health promotion	49	0.2%	50	0.2%
Total	24,474	100%	28,412	100%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019



Table 11: Initial qualification country, 2015 and 2019

Country	2015		2019	
	Headcount	%	Headcount	%
Australia	22,153	90.5%	25,818	90.9%
Overseas	1,943	8.1%	2,154	7.6%
Unknown / not stated	378	1.5%	440	1.5%
Total	24,474	100%	28,412	100%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2015 and 2019

Table 12: 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	14.6	18.9
Administrator	17.5	16.1
Teacher or educator	19.2	15.6
Researcher	16.4	18.9
Other	16.1	16.9
Total	14.9	18.7

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2019



Table 13: Distribution by State/Territory, 2019

State/Territory	Headcount	Full time equivalent (FTE)	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
New South Wales	9,280	7,831.1	32.1	8,089,817	96.8
Victoria	8,006	6,663.5	31.6	6,596,039	101.0
Queensland	5,211	4,637.9	33.8	5,094,510	91.0
South Australia	1,431	1,205.9	32.0	1,751,963	68.8
Western Australia	3,001	2,537.0	32.1	2,621,509	96.8
Tasmania	496	403.5	30.9	534,457	75.5
Australia Capital Territory	786	689.7	33.3	426,704	161.6
Northern Territory	176	171.7	37.1	245,929	69.8
Unknown / not stated	25	24.1	36.1	-	-
Australia	28,412	24,164.4	32.3	25,365,571	95.3

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2019

ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, June 2019

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



Table 14: Distribution by Modified Monash Model (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash	Headcount	Full time equivalent	Average weekly hours	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	23,659	20,076.5	32.3	18,320,373	109.6
MM2 - Regional centres	2,008	1,756.9	33.3	2,245,754	78.2
MM3 - Large rural towns	1,473	1,268.6	32.7	1,587,466	79.9
MM4 - Medium rural towns	591	493.8	31.8	968,583	51.0
MM5 - Small rural towns	456	357.4	29.8	1,748,340	20.4
MM6 - Remote communities	135	126.7	35.7	281,794	45.0
MM7 - Very remote communities	69	64.6	35.6	212,587	30.4
Unknown / not stated	21	20.0	36.1	-	-
Australia	28,412	24,164.4	32.3	25,365,571	95.3

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 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 15: Telehealth practitioners by Modified Monash (MMM), 2019

Modified Monash Model	Percentage
MM1 - Metropolitan	79.3%
MM2 - Regional centres	8.2%
MM3 - Large rural towns	5.9%
MM4 - Medium rural towns	2.9%
MM5 - Small rural towns	2.3%
MM6 - Remote communities	0.7%
MM7 - Very remote communities	0.4%

Source: NHWDS, Psychologists, 2019

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