2019 Registered Nurse

All nurses and midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and meet the NMBA's registration standards in order to practise in Australia.

Registered Nurse (RN) practice is person-centred and evidence-based with preventative, curative, formative, supportive, restorative and palliative elements. RNs work in therapeutic and professional relationships with individuals, as well as with families, groups and communities. The qualification requirement is a Bachelor of Nursing or Graduate Entry Masters in Nursing (where another degree is already held).

CONTENTS

Note: There are 4 factsheets in this series: 1 Nurses and Midwives, 2 Registered Nurses, 3 Midwives, 4 Enrolled Nurses.
If a practitioner has a job role or worked hours in more than one profession, they will be counted in each profession's factsheet, but only once in the Nurses and Midwives factsheet. Hence, when the individual factsheets in this series are added together, the total will vary from the Nurses and Midwives factsheet.
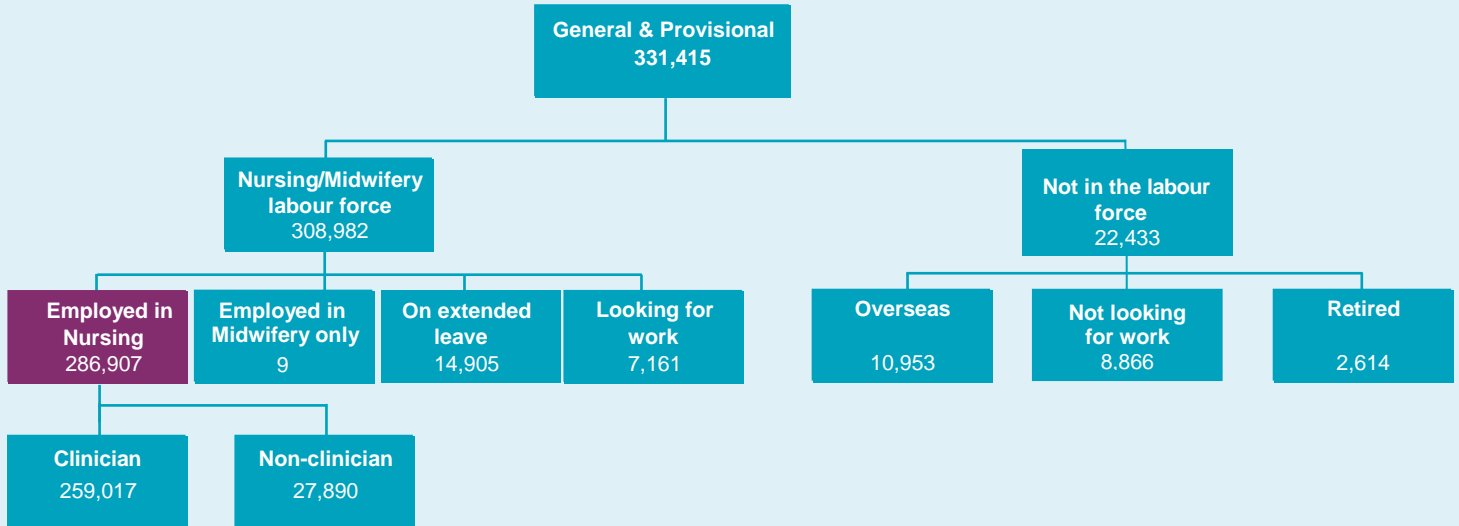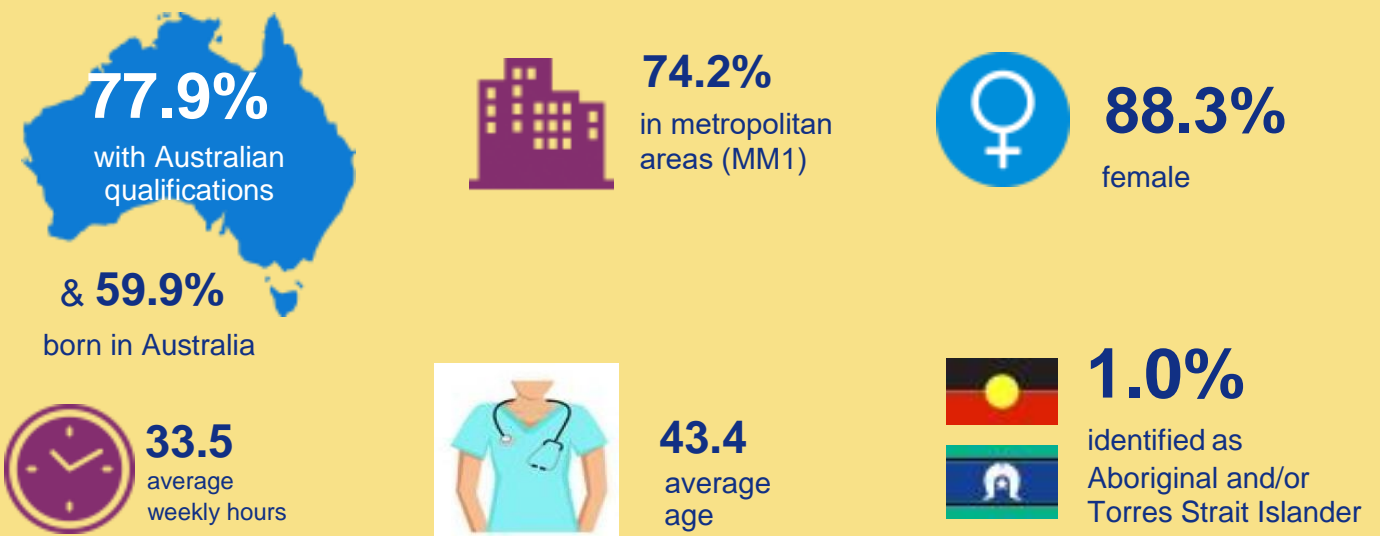
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1 **Workforce**

Figure 1: Registered Nurse: workforce status, 2019

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                        General & Provisional
                              331,415
              ┌───────────────────────┴───────────────────────┐
      Nursing/Midwifery                              Not in the labour
        labour force                                      force
          308,982                                        22,433
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| Employed in Nursing 286,907 | Employed in Midwifery only 9 | On extended leave 14,905 | Looking for work 7,161 | Overseas 10,953 | Not looking for work 8.866 | Retired 2,614 |

| Clinician 259,017 | Non-clinician 27,890 |

Quick Facts - 2019

Quick facts for the Registered Nurse workforce

Figure 2: Summary

77.9% with Australian qualifications

74.2% in metropolitan areas (MM1)

88.3% female

& **59.9%** born in Australia

33.5 average weekly hours

43.4 average age

1.0% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Between 2016 and 2019, the total number of Registered Nurses with general or provisional registration increased by 10.1% from 300,997 to 331,415 (a compound annual growth rate of 3.3%). The number of employed Registered Nurses ('workforce') increased 10.2% from 260,263 to 286,907 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 3.3%).

The number of employed Registered Nurses who worked as clinicians increased 12.1% from 231,011 to 259,017 over the same period (a compound annual growth rate of 3.9%). Clinicians are Registered Nurses who indicated that the principal role of their main job was clinician (nurses, including managers and supervisors, involved in direct patient care). Non-clinicians are Registered Nurses who indicated that the principal role of their main job was administrator, teacher, educator, research or other.

The following analysis of the Registered Nurse 'workforce' is drawn from the number of employed Registered Nurses who were working in nursing (286,907 in 2019 as indicated by maroon shading in figure 1) unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Registered Nurse average hours per week, 2016 - 2019

Average Weekly Hours	2016	2017	2018	2019
Clinical hours*	28.1	28.1	28.4	28.7
Non-clinical hours^	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8
Total hours	**32.2**	**32.3**	**32.4**	**32.5**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 – 2019
Due to rounding figures may not sum to the expected total
* Clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in clinical roles (nurses, including managers and supervisors, involved in direct patient care)
^ Non-clinical hours are the reported weekly hours worked in non-clinical roles (including teacher, researcher, administrator or other)

Table 2: Registered Nurse clinical full time equivalent (FTE) by sector, 2016 - 2019

Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019
Public sector	125,192.3	129,252.4	134,985.3	140,954.9
Private sector	66,900.3	69,080.8	72,051.2	75,921.1
Total	**192,092.6**	**198,333.2**	**207,036.6**	**216,875.9**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019
Includes nurses 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 3: Registered Nurses age and gender, 2016 and 2019

	Age Group	Female	Male	Total
2016	Under 25	11,685	951	12,636
	25-34	52,248	7,768	60,016
	35-44	51,078	7,508	58,586
	45-54	58,313	6,993	65,306
	55-64	48,906	5,276	54,182
	65-74	8,497	728	9,225
	75-99	290	22	312
2019	Under 25	13,810	1,283	15,094
	25-34	63,860	9,823	73,686
	35-44	54,834	8,311	63,146
	45-54	58,737	7,742	66,479
	55-64	51,335	5,297	56,632
	65-74	10,357	1,037	11,394
	75-99	442	34	476

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019
Total excludes unknown age or gender

Table 4: Registered Nurse principal area, 2016 - 2019

Principal area	2016	2017	2018	2019
Aged Care	28,147	29,005	29,820	31,613
Medical	24,170	25,307	26,623	27,922
Peri-operative	23,622	24,655	25,714	26,894
Surgical	21,338	21,625	21,966	22,726
Mental health	18,414	18,948	19,658	20,520
Mixed medical/surgical	17,631	17,906	18,739	19,171
Emergency	17,103	18,015	19,068	20,273
Other	15,855	16,313	16,946	17,780
Critical care	17,363	17,883	18,523	19,256
Practice nursing	10,676	11,215	11,584	12,044
Community nursing	11,109	11,414	11,949	12,389
Rehabilitation and disability	7,060	7,247	7,377	7,495
Management	8,492	8,580	8,389	8,199
Paediatrics	6,620	6,781	7,005	7,353
Education	5,816	6,037	6,262	6,299
Neonatal care	4,977	5,148	5,439	5,694
Child and family health	5,068	5,187	5,252	5,590
Palliative care	2,897	2,878	2,951	3,075
Maternity care	8,747	8,409	8,246	7,197
Research	1,963	1,969	1,945	2,037
Drug and Alcohol	1,665	1,734	1,759	1,869
Health promotion	1,088	1,044	1,048	1,026
Policy	442	483	447	485
Total	**260,263**	**267,783**	**276,710**	**286,907**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 – 2019

Total includes unknown principal area

Table 5: Registered Nurse principal work setting, 2016 - 2019

Principal work setting	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hospital	166,765	170,861	177,222	182,721
Residential health care facility	25,659	26,321	27,002	28,630
Community health care service	21,033	21,081	21,710	22,572
General practitioner (GP) practice	9,376	9,809	10,183	10,613
Outpatient service	9,059	9,632	10,069	10,776
Other	8,484	8,320	8,227	8,189
Independent private practice	-	4,589	4,778	5,121
Other private practice	6,089	3,199	3,383	3,587
Tertiary educational facility	3,410	3,530	3,503	3,607
Other government department or agency	2,787	2,835	2,844	2,953
Correctional service	1,495	1,586	1,698	1,855
School	1,439	1,486	1,549	1,567
Aboriginal health service	1,295	1,371	1,399	1,455
Commercial/business service	1,315	1,208	1,233	1,270
Defence forces	571	590	577	619
Other educational facility	795	817	836	882
Hospice	539	548	497	490
Total	**260,263**	**267,783**	**276,710**	**286,907**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 – 2019

Total includes unknown principal work settings

Table 6: Registered Nurse principal role, 2016 and 2019

Principal role	2016	2019
Clinician	231,011	259,017
Administrator	13,168	13,665
Teacher or educator	9,228	9,819
Researcher	2,517	2,436
Other	4,339	1,970
Total	**260,263**	**286,907**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2016 and 2019

Table 7: Distribution of full time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurses by Modified Monash Model (MMM 2019), 2019

Modified Monash	Total FTE	Population	FTE per 100,000 population
MM1 - Metropolitan	182,475.6	18,003,544	1013.6
MM2 - Regional centres	23,987.2	2,215,430	1082.7
MM3 - Large rural towns	18,560.0	1,575,836	1177.8
MM4 - Medium rural towns	7,667.0	962,453	796.6
MM5 - Small rural towns	7,424.9	1,740,415	426.6
MM6 - Remote communities	3,039.0	282,646	1075.2
MM7 - Very remote communities	2,342.4	212,536	1102.1
Total	**245,590.2**	**24,992,860**	**982.6**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2019
ABS Estimated resident population by MMM (2018 preliminary unpublished)
Total includes unknown MMM
Full time equivalent (FTE) based on 38 hours per week
https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/modified-monash-model-fact-sheet

Table 8: Registered Nurse distribution by state and territory, 2019

State and territory	2019
New South Wales	83,078
Victoria	75,754
Queensland	59,883
South Australia	22,530
Western Australia	29,405
Tasmiana	7,124
Australian Capital Territory	5,119
Northern Territory	3,895
Unknown	119
Australia	**286,907**

Source: NHWDS Nurses and Midwives, 2019

Enquiries concerning this report and its reproduction should be directed to:
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601
healthworkforcedata@health.gov.au

References

1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS) Nurses and Midwives 2016-2019 (http://hwd.health.gov.au)
2) ABS Estimated resident population by MMM (2018 preliminary - unpublished)