

Dental Prosthetists



2017 Factsheet

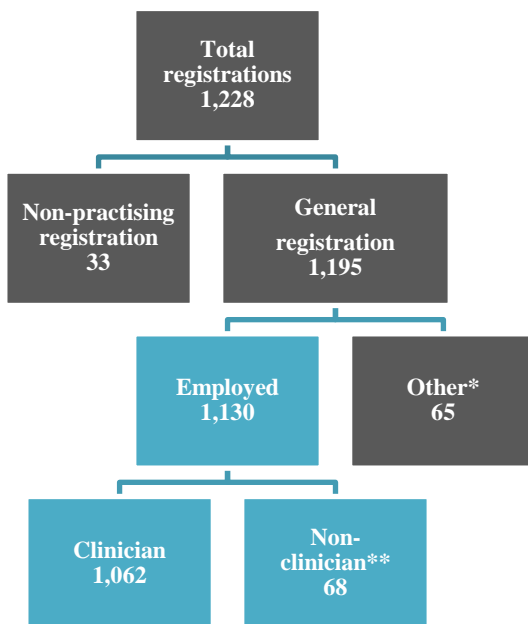
Dental prosthetists are registered healthcare practitioners who provide education, assessment, treatment, management and provision of removable dentures, and flexible, removable mouthguards used for sporting activities. Dental prosthetists collaborate with referring dentists and specialist dentists to ensure proper fitting and maintenance of dental prostheses.

To gain registration as a dental prosthetist, practitioners must complete a minimum three year undergraduate, or one year postgraduate program of study approved by the Dental Board of Australia.

The following analysis is drawn from the number of dental prosthetists with general registration who were employed (1,130 in 2017) unless otherwise stated.

Workforce

Figure 1: Dental prosthetists registrations, 2017



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

**'Non-clinician' includes roles reported by survey respondents that did not fit predefined survey categories.

The number of registered dental prosthetists increased by 0.4% from 1,223 in 2014 to 1,228 in 2017 (average annual increase of 0.1%).

Table 1: Dental prosthetist, 2014-2017

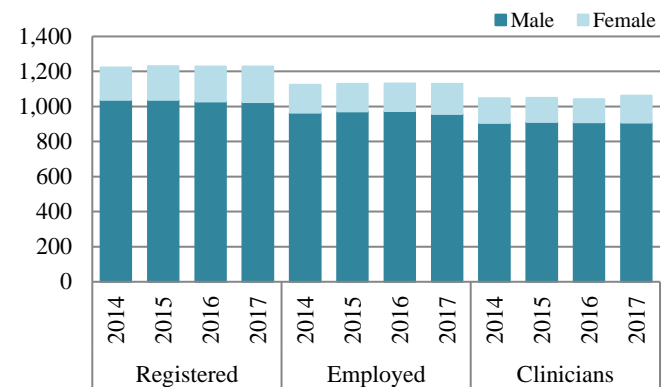
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Avg. annual growth |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| Registered | 1,223 | 1,230 | 1,228 | 1,228 | 0.1% |
| Employed | 1,124 | 1,130 | 1,131 | 1,130 | 0.2% |
| Clinicians | 1,047 | 1,050 | 1,042 | 1,062 | 0.5% |

The number of employed dental prosthetists increased by 0.5% from 1,124 to 1,130 over the same period (an average annual decrease of 0.2%).

Demographics

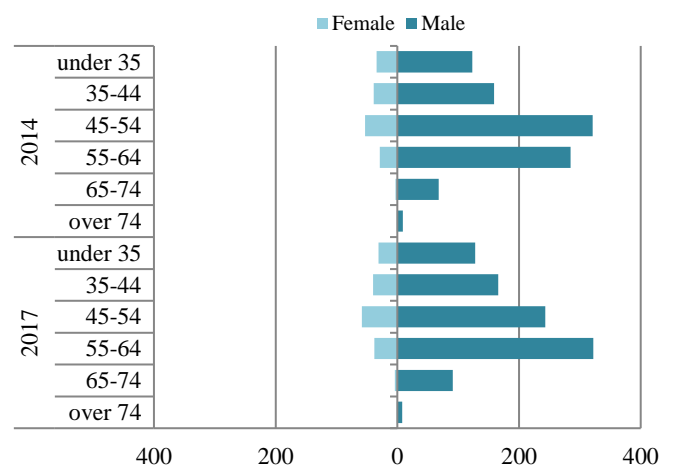
In 2017, 15.2% of dental prosthetists were female, an increase from 14.1% in 2014.

Figure 2: Gender distribution, 2014-2017



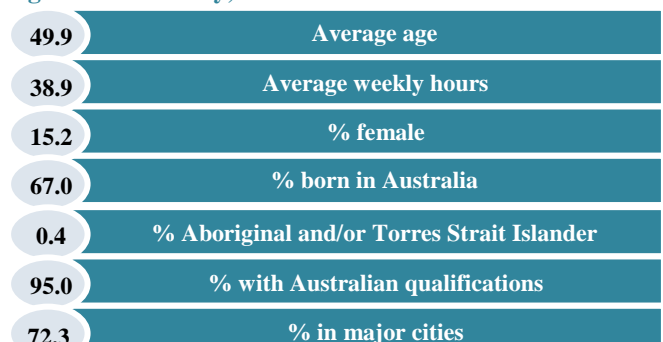
In 2017, the average age of dental prosthetists was 49.9 years, an increase from 49.2 years in 2014. Between 2014 and 2017, the proportion aged over 54 years has increased from 35.1% to 41.4%.

Figure 3: Age and gender distribution, 2014 and 2017



Quick Facts - 2017

Figure 4: Summary, 2017



Hours Worked

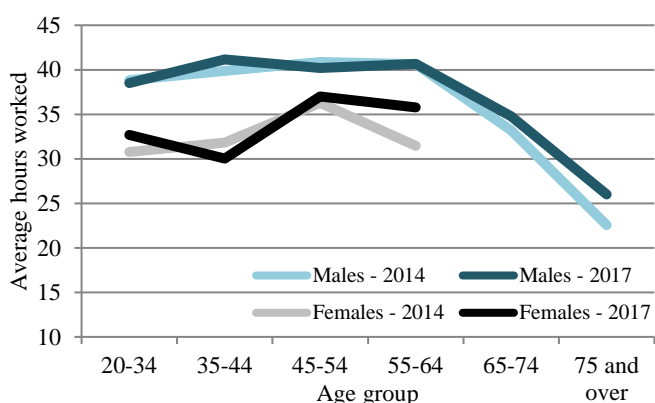
In 2017, dental prosthetists worked an average of 38.9 hours per week in total, with an average of 9.9 hours per week in non-clinical roles.

Table 2: Average hours per week, 2014-2017

| Average hours worked | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Clinical | 29.6 | 28.6 | 29.1 | 29.0 |
| Non-clinical | 9.2 | 10.1 | 9.8 | 9.9 |
| Total | 38.7 | 38.7 | 39.0 | 38.9 |

In 2017, male dental prosthetists worked an average of 39.7 hours per week, remaining unchanged from 2014. Female dental prosthetists worked an average of 34.6 hours per week, increasing from 33.1 hours in 2014. Males aged 35-44 years worked the longest hours per week, at 41.2 hours on average.

Figure 5: Average hours per week by gender and age group, 2014 and 2017



Principal Role

In 2017, 94.0% of dental prosthetists worked as clinicians in their principal role, an increase from 93.1% in 2014.

Table 3: Principal role, 2014 and 2017

| Principal role | 2014 | | 2017 | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Headcount | % | Headcount | % |
| Clinician | 1,047 | 93.1 | 1,062 | 94.0 |
| Non clinician | 77 | 6.9 | 68 | 6.0 |
| Total | 1,124 | 100 | 1,130 | 100 |

Second job

In 2017, 13.2% of dental prosthetists reported a second job role in dental prosthetics, an increase from 12.8% in 2014.

Table 4: Second job role, 2014 and 2017

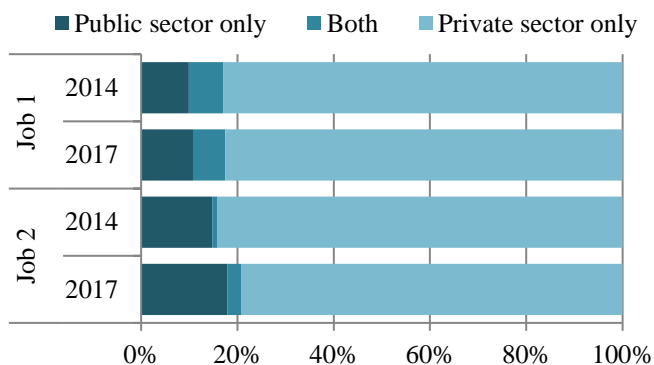
| Principal role | 2014 | | 2017 | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | Headcount | % | Headcount | % |
| Clinician | 88 | 7.8 | 98 | 8.7 |
| Non clinician | 56 | 5.0 | 51 | 4.5 |
| Total | 144 | 12.8 | 149 | 13.2 |

Principal work sector

In 2017, 10.8% of dental prosthetists reported that in their principal role, they worked only in the public sector, an increase from 9.9% in 2014.

Of those dental prosthetists reporting a second job role in 2017, 1.7% reported they worked only in the public sector, an increase from 1.3% in 2014.

Figure 6: Sector in which clinical hours were worked, 2014 and 2017



Note: 'Not applicable' responses are excluded from the chart

Principal Work Setting

In 2017, 67.2% of dental prosthetists worked in a Solo private practice setting in their principal role, a decrease from 70.4% in 2014, and 19.1% worked in a Group private practice setting, an increase from 17.3% in 2014.

In 2017, dental prosthetists working in Commercial/ business service reported the highest average weekly hours (44.2) and those in Other community health care service (included in 'Remaining work settings') reported the lowest average weekly hours (18.0).

Table 5: Principal work setting, 2014 and 2017

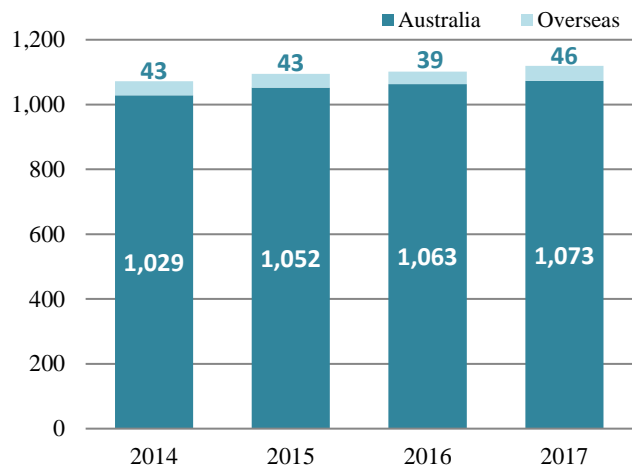
| Principal work setting | 2014 | | 2017 | |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | Principal role | Second job | Principal role | Second job |
| Solo private practice | 791 | 49 | 759 | 61 |
| Group private practice | 195 | 32 | 216 | 55 |
| Public clinic | 29 | 14 | 52 | 15 |
| Hospital | 54 | NP | 52 | 12 |
| Commercial/ business service | 9 | NP | 11 | 0 |
| Tertiary education facility | 16 | 10 | 11 | 5 |
| Remaining work settings | 28 | 26 | 29 | 23 |
| Total | 1,124 | 137 | 1,130 | 171 |

Note: In this instance the principal work setting headcount for the reported second job does not equal the principal role for the reported second job. This occurs when the survey respondent indicates a second job work setting but not a second job principal role.

Initial Qualification

The workforce survey asks dental prosthetists where they obtained their initial qualification. In 2017, 95.0% of dental prosthetists obtained their initial qualification in Australia and 4.1% obtained their initial qualification overseas.

Figure 7: Initial qualification, 2014-2017



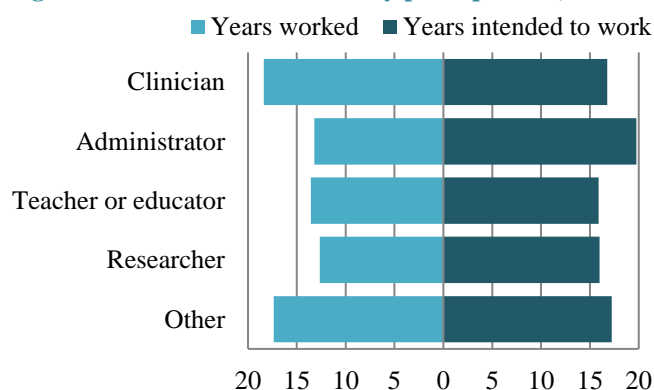
Note: 'Not stated/Unknown' responses are excluded from this chart

Working Intentions

In 2017, dental prosthetists had, on average, worked 18 years in the profession and intended to work for another 17 years. In 2014, dental prosthetists had worked 19 years on average, and had intended to work for another 16 years.

Note: The workforce survey ask how many years have you worked and intend to work as a 'dental practitioner'. Therefore all years reported may not refer to the dental prosthetic division.

Figure 8: Workforce intentions by principal role, 2017



Distribution

State and Territory

In 2017, the jurisdiction with the highest rates of full-time equivalent dental prosthetists per 100,000 population (FTE rate) was TAS. Between 2014 and 2017 the total FTE rate decreased from 4.9 to 4.7 and the ACT had the largest FTE rate decrease (1.0).

In 2017, dental prosthetists in TAS worked the most hours per week on average (42.4 hours) and those in the NT worked the fewest (36.5 hours).

Table 6: Distribution by state/ territory, 2017

| State / Territory | Headcount | Total FTE | Avg. total hours | ² FTE rate per 100,000 population |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| NSW | 363 | 371.0 | 38.8 | 4.7 |
| VIC | 321 | 316.9 | 37.5 | 5.0 |
| QLD | 248 | 257.5 | 39.5 | 5.2 |
| SA | 60 | 61.8 | 39.2 | 3.6 |
| WA | 78 | 83.4 | 40.6 | 3.2 |
| TAS | 44 | 49.1 | 42.4 | 9.4 |
| ACT | 12 | 12.9 | 40.9 | 3.1 |
| NT | 4 | 3.8 | 36.5 | 1.6 |
| Total | 1,130 | 1,156.4 | 38.9 | 4.7 |

Note: 'Not stated/Unknown' are excluded from this table but are included in the total

Remoteness Area

In 2017, 94.1% of dental prosthetists worked in either major cities or inner regional locations, compared with 94.4% in 2014.

Between 2014 and 2017, the largest shift in average hours worked was in outer regional areas, decreasing from 41.0 hours per week in 2014 to 38.8 hours in 2017. However the FTE rate in outer regional areas remained stable due to an increase in the number of dental prosthetists in these areas.

Table 7: Distribution by remoteness area, 2017

| Remoteness Area | Headcount | Total FTE | Avg. total hours | ² FTE rate per 100,000 population |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| Major cities | 817 | 818.4 | 38.1 | 4.6 |
| Inner regional | 246 | 269.1 | 41.6 | 6.1 |
| Outer regional | 64 | 65.3 | 38.8 | 3.2 |
| Remote & very remote | 3 | 3.6 | 46.0 | 0.7 |
| Total | 1,130 | 1,156.4 | 38.9 | 4.7 |

Note: 'Not stated/Unknown' are excluded from this table but are included in the total

Other Work Location Outside of Major Cities

In 2017, 6.6% of dental prosthetists reported that they had worked in a regional, rural or remote location, in addition to their principal or second job location. Of these respondents, 80.0% had worked in an inner regional or outer regional location, and 2.7% had worked in either remote or very remote locations.

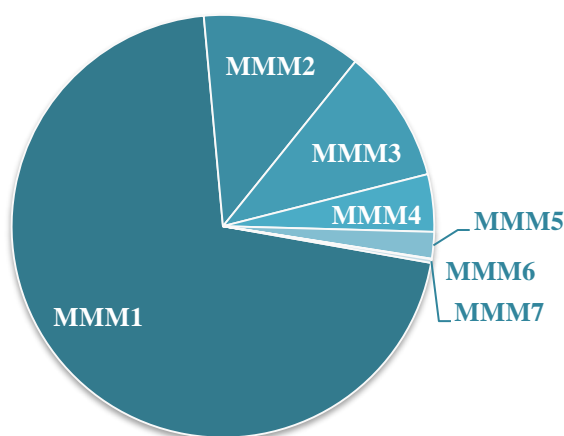
Modified Monash Model

In 2017, the majority (70.8%) of FTE dental prosthetists were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification system, a decrease from 72.4% in 2014.

(See www.doctorconnect.gov.au for more information on the MMM).

MMM3 locations had the highest FTE rate of dental prosthetists (7.6) followed by MMM2 (6.2). The lowest FTE rate was in MMM6 locations (0.2).

Figure 9: FTE Distribution by MMM, 2017



Tele-Health

The workforce survey asks dental prosthetists to report their hours practiced via tele-health in dental prosthetics in the previous year.

Note: Tele-health is the use of telecommunication techniques for the purpose of providing telemedicine, medical education, and health education over a distance.

A total of 94 dental prosthetists (8.3%) provided a response to the Tele-Health question in 2017. On average, these respondents practiced via Tele-Health for 21.8 hours per week, with the majority (83.0%) of Tele-Health services provided by practitioners based in a major city.

Table 8: Tele-health workforce remoteness location, 2017

| Major cities | Inner regional | Outer regional | Remote | Very remote |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------------|
| 83.0% | 11.7% | 5.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Note: The tele-health workforce remoteness location refers to the location of the Practitioner, not the location of the person receiving the service.

References

- 1) National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Allied Health Practitioners 2014-2017.
- 2) ABS - 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016-17, Released 31/08/18.

Notes

- 1) 'NP' denotes figures that are not published (supressed) for confidentiality reasons
- 2) The 2013-2016 NHWDS have been revised due to an error in recoding the missing values for job role. As such the figures may not match those that were previously published.
- 3) FTE number measures the number of standard-hour workloads worked by employed health practitioners. The FTE number provides a useful measure of supply because it takes into account both the number of practitioners who are working and the hours that they work. FTE number is calculated based on the total hours worked in a 'standard working week'. The standard working week is assumed to be 38 hours, equivalent to 1 FTE for all practitioners with the exception of medical practitioners where it is assumed to be 40 hours.

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