

Response to Correspondence from Senator Ruston to Secretary Comely dated 20 October 2023 regarding Senate Estimates

Question: A breakdown of the current care workforce numbers across Australia, including registered nurses, enrolled nurses, general practitioners, disability care workers and aged care workers

Table 1: Estimated Workforce Supply (Headcount)

Residential Aged Care	FY2023-24	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29	FY2029-30	FY2030-31	FY2031-32
RNs+NPs	28,382	28,783	29,178	29,572	29,965	30,357	30,750	31,143	31,536
ENs	14,148	14,378	14,603	14,826	15,049	15,272	15,494	15,716	15,939
PCWs	126,078	127,838	129,567	131,287	133,004	134,720	136,437	138,153	139,869
Home Care	FY2023-24	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29	FY2029-30	FY2030-31	FY2031-32
RNs+NPs	6,750	6,996	7,243	7,490	7,737	7,983	8,230	8,477	8,724
ENs	1,998	2,069	2,141	2,213	2,285	2,357	2,428	2,500	2,572
PCWs	99,200	102,895	106,590	110,284	113,979	117,673	121,368	125,063	128,757

1. Figures in the table are projected workforce supply from the Department's Aged Care Workforce Model.
2. This model was developed based on the Aged Care 2020 Census data, which will be updated once data from the 2023 Aged Care provider Workforce Survey become available in late 2023.
3. Figures include all workers in the aged care sector, including agency staff

Question: The forecast gap of registered nurses required in residential aged care homes from now until 1 October 2024 when the next care minutes requirements come into effect.

The Department's estimated workforce gap is:

- 5,122 RNs in 2023-24; and
- 5,962 RNs in 2024-25

The Department does not model specifically on a quarterly or monthly basis, so we cannot give estimates precisely to 1 October 2024. Estimates are done by financial year and are updated for the latest available data as it arises. These forecasts are based on data from the Aged Care Quarterly Financial Report, Quarter 4 2022-23.