

A breakdown of care workforce numbers across Australia by aged care and disability

Table 1. Health Workforce by Profession and Area, 2015 to 2022

Nurse Division / Area / Setting	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
Total Registered Nurses	252,587	214,147.8	260,263	220,624.3	267,783	227,508.9	276,710	235,933.9	286,907	245,590.2	292,184	248,971.3	303,440	267,509.4	309,851	279,347.1
Registered Nurses in Aged Care & Disability *	34,016	30,508.5	35,207	31,635.8	36,252	32,597.5	37,197	33,538.0	39,108	35,389.9	40,408	36,574.6	36,549	34,154.3	36,767	35,954.6
Aged Care	27,138	24,345.8	28,147	25,313.2	29,005	26,138.2	29,820	26,971.8	31,613	28,671.1	33,302	30,329.1	35,055	32,810.6	35,191	34,554.3
Residential Aged Care Setting	21,334	19,153.4	22,392	20,136.1	23,146	20,866.4	24,013	21,746.9	25,619	23,261.6	27,396	25,027.4	27,078	25,462.5	26,452	26,275.3
Other settings	5,804	5,192.4	5,755	5,177.1	5,859	5,271.8	5,807	5,224.9	5,994	5,409.5	5,906	5,301.7	7,977	7,348.1	8,739	8,279.0
Rehabilitation & Disability	6,878	6,162.7	7,060	6,322.6	7,247	6,459.3	7,377	6,566.2	7,495	6,718.9	7,106	6,245.4				
Residential Aged Care Setting	675	607.3	657	594.3	574	525.7	537	493.7	517	473.2	469	419.7				
Other settings	6,203	5,555.4	6,403	5,728.3	6,673	5,933.6	6,840	6,072.4	6,978	6,245.7	6,637	5,825.8				
Disability													1,494	1,343.7	1,576	1,400.3
Residential Aged Care Setting													391	378.7	354	336.8
Other settings													1,103	965.0	1,222	1,063.5
Rehabilitation													7,091	6,404.3	7,232	6,731.2
Total Enrolled Nurses	50,848	42,557.8	51,497	42,913.7	51,529	42,802.8	53,007	43,990.9	53,293	44,238.6	52,420	43,041.9	54,234	45,372.0	53,654	46,058.1
Enrolled Nurses in Aged Care & Disability *	20,362	16,694.6	20,487	16,746.3	20,125	16,425.3	20,564	16,729.2	20,605	16,840.6	20,222	16,395.7	18,439	15,155.6	17,415	14,955.6
Aged Care	17,287	14,083.7	17,337	14,115.6	16,969	13,768.0	17,331	14,003.5	17,382	14,119.2	17,319	14,022.2	17,600	14,472.7	16,541	14,219.2
Residential Aged Care Setting	13,916	11,359.4	14,133	11,483.9	13,843	11,203.9	14,061	11,345.8	14,241	11,555.6	14,404	11,615.9	13,374	10,943.9	12,304	10,516.9
Other settings	3,371	2,724.3	3,204	2,631.7	3,126	2,564.1	3,270	2,657.7	3,141	2,563.7	2,915	2,406.2	4,226	3,528.8	4,237	3,702.3
Rehabilitation & Disability	3,075	2,610.9	3,150	2,630.7	3,156	2,657.3	3,233	2,725.7	3,223	2,721.3	2,903	2,373.6				
Residential Aged Care Setting	396	344.8	334	291.2	339	309.7	307	279.8	318	280.2	298	262.8				
Other settings	2,679	2,266.1	2,816	2,339.5	2,817	2,347.6	2,926	2,445.9	2,905	2,441.1	2,605	2,110.8				
Disability													839	682.9	874	736.3
Residential Aged Care Setting													260	222.3	212	196.4
Other settings													579	460.6	662	539.9
Rehabilitation													2,671	2,215.8	2,647	2,308.3
Medical Practitioners excluding GPs	60,480	66,993.4	62,989	69,694.8	65,739	72,890.6	68,329	75,334.7	70,739	77,441.4	73,673	78,799.2	76,659	81,967.6	79,982	85,829.5
Aged Care	37	29.2	33	30.4	38	30.7	48	43.7	46	41.1	76	70.8	73	59.7	90	77.9
Primary Care GPs	33,727	25,485.2	35,133	26,697.0	36,131	27,738.1	36,916	28,547.8	37,530	29,608.9	37,837	29,353.4	38,357	31,056.3	38,881	29,920.5
VR GPs	25,027	20,440.3	25,967	21,277.4	27,124	22,412.2	28,203	23,331.6	29,378	24,638.4	30,156	24,914.5	30,931	26,646.5	31,599	25,764.6
Non-VR GPs	5,295	3,361.0	5,440	3,559.1	5,051	3,286.1	4,496	3,010.7	3,902	2,691.8	3,293	2,115.8	2,435	1,512.6	1,632	818.0
GP Trainee	3,405	1,683.9	3,726	1,860.5	3,956	2,039.8	4,217	2,205.5	4,250	2,278.8	4,388	2,323.2	4,991	2,897.1	5,650	3,337.9
Total Allied Health Practitioners	137,469	124,113.3	141,927	128,343.2	147,549	133,113.2	153,977	138,959.0	178,446	164,655.0	187,597	172,009.2	195,219	179,695.3	NA	NA
Allied Health in Aged Care & Disability	4,377	3,728.5	4,491	3,872.5	5,037	4,433.8	5,802	5,226.4	6,472	5,886.8	7,387	6,701.8	7,962	7,208.6	NA	NA
Aged Care	2,441	2,074.4	2,438	2,089.3	2,856	2,523.1	3,465	3,163.9	3,899	3,594.9	4,092	3,744.1	3,968	3,585.4	NA	NA
Disability	1,936	1,654.1	2,053	1,783.2	2,181	1,910.7	2,337	2,062.5	2,573	2,292.0	3,295	2,957.6	3,994	3,623.2	NA	NA

* Note: Nurses in Aged Care & Disability includes nurses who may have worked in rehabilitation in 2015 to 2020, as survey responses did not differentiate between rehabilitation and disability until 2021.

Date of Data Extraction:
24 October 2023

Notes on the Analysis:

Table 1 shows registered and employed health practitioners with:

- Total headcounts and FTE,
- Split by those working in Aged Care and have indicated they work in a Residential Aged Care Settings,
- Split further by those that indicated they work in Disability in a residential Aged Care Setting.

Registered Nurses shows all Registered Nurses including dual registrations.

Enrolled Nurses Only shows Enrolled Nurses who were not also a Registered Nurse.

The nursing job area is used to allocate to aged care and disability.

* Note: Nurses in Aged Care & Disability includes nurses who may have worked in rehabilitation in 2015 to 2020, as survey responses did not differentiate between rehabilitation and disability until 2021.

Medical Practitioners excl GPs shows medical practitioners who did not indicate their main job area as General Practice. Their job setting is used to allocate to aged care and disability.

Primary Care GPs headcount is a workforce specific method which uses elements from the MBS data set to count when, where and by what type of GP services are being delivered

Allied Health includes: ATSI Health Practitioners; Chinese Medicine Practitioners; Chiropractors; Dental Practitioners; Medical Radiation Practitioners; Occupational Therapists; Optometrists; Osteopaths; Paramedicine Practitioners; Pharmacists; Physiotherapists; Podiatrists; and Psychologists. Their job setting is used to allocate to aged care and disability.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is based on 38 hours per week for Allied Health, 38 nursing hours per week for Nurses, and 40 hours per week for Medical Practitioners and GPs.

Full-time Equivalent for GPs is a workforce specific method to estimate the workload of GPs providing primary care services. The method calculates a GP's workload based on the MBS services claimed as well as patient and doctor factors that affect the duration of a consultation. One GP FTE represents a 40 hour week per week for 46 weeks of the year. For each Medicare provider, the measure attributes an estimate of the amount of time they have spent on their claims compared to what would be worked by a full-time GP, including billable time, non-billable time, and non-clinical time. GP FTE measures presented here are different to the GP Full-time Service Equivalent (FSE) measures published on the MBS Online website.

For more information on how Primary Care GPs are classified and how GP FTE is calculated, see <https://hwd.health.gov.au/resources/information/methods-gp-workload.html>

NA means unavailable. Data is not available for that period.

→ Sources

- National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS), 2015 - 2022 for Allied Health & Medical Professionals 2015-2022 for data excluding Primary Care GPs
- NHWDS 2015 - 2022 Nurses and Midwives
- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), 2015-2021, for Primary Care GPs