



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Background data – 700,000 registrants

16 May 2018

Snapshot – registered health professions, 2010 until now

- AHPRA supports the [15 National Boards](#) that are responsible for regulating the health professions under the National Scheme.
- The National Boards register health practitioners, set the requirements for registration and the standards that guide professional practice, make decisions on complaints about registered health practitioners, oversee accreditation of education providers and programs of study, and assess overseas-qualified practitioners for registration in Australia.
- The Northern Territory has seen the largest growth in the number of health practitioners between 30 June 2011 and 14 May 2018, increasing 45 per cent to 7,425, New South Wales has the highest number of registered practitioners, with 202,351 (increasing 30 per cent).
- Registered practitioners aged 30-34 are the largest age group, with 100,542 practitioners, increasing 70 per cent during the period. There are 91,891 practitioners aged 25-29 (increasing 58 per cent).
- There are far more female practitioners than male, at almost 76 per cent compared to slightly more than 24 per cent of male practitioners. A very small number of practitioners identify as intersex or indeterminate. Among the individual professions, there has been a significant rise in the number of female dentists, rising from 40 to 51 per cent of all dental practitioners, with the proportion of female medical practitioners rising from 38 to 43 per cent.
- Nurses comprise the largest single group of registered practitioners, with a total of 396,765 registered as either a nurse or holding dual registration as a nurse and midwife. This is an increase of 17% over the period.
- Medical practitioners are the next largest group with a total of 114,874, increasing 30 per cent during the period.
- There has been a 108 per cent increase in the number of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners.
- The number of registered osteopaths has risen 50 per cent to 2,385, with a 49 per cent increase in registered podiatry practitioners, at 5,149.
- The number of registered physiotherapists has risen 43 per cent to 31,889.

Tables: 1. Growth in the number of practitioners across the professions

Registered practitioners	2010/11 or as stated	2017/18 (as at 14 May 2018)	Increase (decrease)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner	300 (2012/13)	625	108%
Chinese Medicine practitioner	4,070 (2012/13)	4,870	20%
Chiropractor	4,350	5,417	25%
Dental practitioner	18,319	23,051	26%
Medical practitioner	88,293	114,874	30%
Medical Radiation practitioner	13,905 (2012/13)	16,226	17%
Midwife	1,788	5,179	190%
Nurse	290,072	368,491	27%
Nurse and midwife (dual registration)	40,325	28,274	(30%)

Registered practitioners	2010/11 or as stated	2017/18 (as at 14 May 2018)	Increase (decrease)
Occupational therapist	15,101 (2012/13)	20,903	38%
Optometrist	4,442	5,525	24%
Osteopath	1,595	2,385	50%
Pharmacist	25,944	31,037	20%
Physiotherapist	22,384	31,889	43%
Podiatry practitioner	3,461	5,149	49%
Psychologist	29,142	36,267	24%
TOTAL	530,115 (2010/11)	700,162	32%

2. Cross-profession gender representation

Registered practitioners	2010/11 Number	2010/11 Proportion	2017/18 (as at 14 May 2018) Number	2017/18 Proportion
Female	369,541	70%	531,211	76%
Male	122,392	23%	168,945	24%
Intersex / indeterminate	-	-	6	0.0008%
Not stated / inadequately described	38,182	7%	-	-
TOTAL	530,115	-	700,162	-

3. Cross-profession state and territory location

Jurisdiction	2010/11	2017/18 (as at 14 May 2018)	Increase (decrease)
ACT	8,976	12,328	37%
NSW	156,139	202,351	30%
NT	5,121	7,425	45%
Qld	99,850	138,790	39%
SA	44,441	54,982	24%
Tas.	12,407	15,103	22%
Vic.	137,361	182,404	33%
WA	52,111	71,053	36%
No principal place of practice	13,709	15,726	15%

4. Cross-profession age breakdown

Age group	2010/11	2017/18 (as at 14 May 2018)	Increase (decrease)
Under 25	19,726	36,154	83%
25 – 29	58,176	91,891	58%
30 – 34	59,302	100,542	70%
35 – 39	63,680	83,431	31%
40 – 44	65,203	76,042	17%
45 – 49	65,308	75,996	16%
50 – 54	72,457	67,875	(6.3%)
55 – 59	58,540	71,673	22%
60 – 64	38,168	54,853	44%
65 – 69	17,403	26,546	53%
70 – 74	6,674	10,163	52%
75 – 79	2,640	3,309	25%
80 plus	2,838	1,687	(41%)