

Optometry now

A snapshot as at 30 June 2022

Workforce at a glance



6,465 registered optometrists in Australia¹

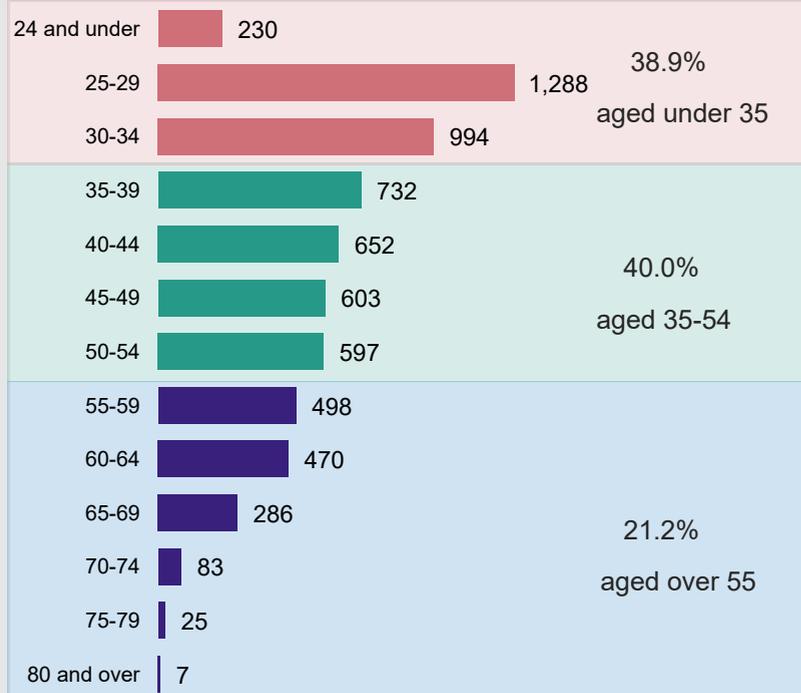
0.8% of regulated health practitioner workforce

24.1 optometrists per 100,000 head of population

Registration type



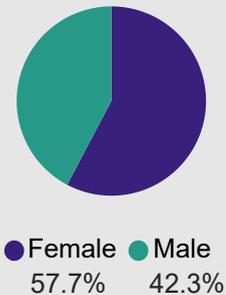
Age range at 2021/22



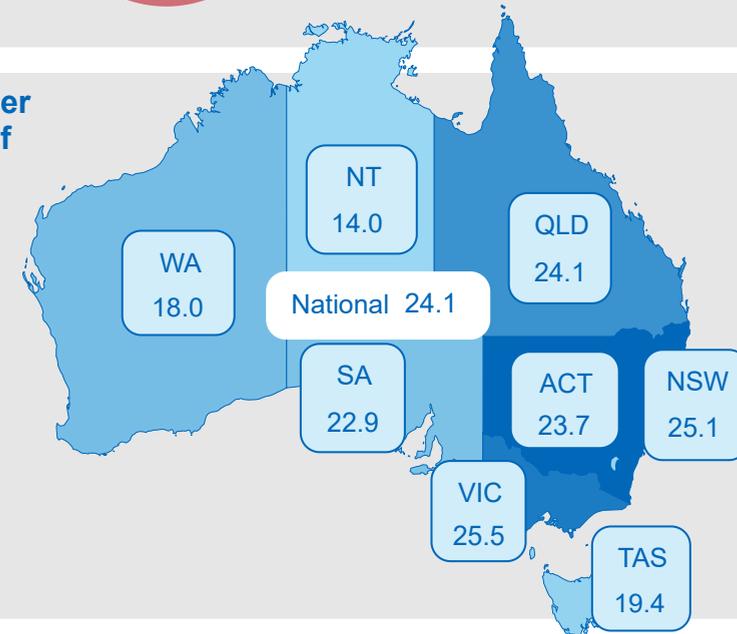
Average age (mean)

41.8 years

Gender



Optometrists per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants



1. Excludes non-practising registrants and those on the pandemic sub-register, unless otherwise stated.

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Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Registered optometrists

5,532	6,465	▲
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce		
0.7%	0.8%	▲
Optometrists per 100,000 head of population ¹		
22.2	25.0	▲
Age		
Percentage of optometrists under the age of 35		
34.3%	38.9%	▲
Percentage of optometrists aged 35 to 54		
44.3%	40.0%	▼
Percentage of optometrists aged 55 and over		
21.3%	21.2%	▼
Gender		
Percentage of female optometrists		
54.0%	57.7%	▲
Percentage of male optometrists		
46.0%	42.3%	▼

Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Table key

2017/18

2021/22

Trend down ▼

Trend stable ●

Trend up ▲

16.9% increase in registered optometrists

Changes to registration categories

General registration		
96.7%	96.2%	▼
Limited registration		
0.2%	0.3%	▲
Non-practising registration		
3.1%	3.5%	▲

1. Includes non-practising practitioners.

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Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Changes to workforce across states and territories¹

87	ACT 110	+26.4 % ▲
1,857	NSW 2,092	+12.7 % ▲
32	NT 35	+9.4 % ▲
1,092	QLD 1,309	+19.9 % ▲
315	SA 421	+33.7 % ▲
95	TAS 112	+17.9 % ▲
1,467	VIC 1,731	+18.0 % ▲
426	WA 505	+18.5 % ▲

Changes to workforce across remoteness areas¹

4,354	Major cities 5,107	+17.3 % ▲
743	Inner regional 877	+18.0 % ▲
244	Outer regional 292	+19.7 % ▲
19	Remote 24	+26.3 % ▲
6	Very remote 7	+16.7 % ▲

1. Excludes practitioners who do not have an Australian Principal Place of Practice (PPP) recorded on the register - usually because they are residing overseas or have not provided a valid PPP.