

Dental practitioners

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020

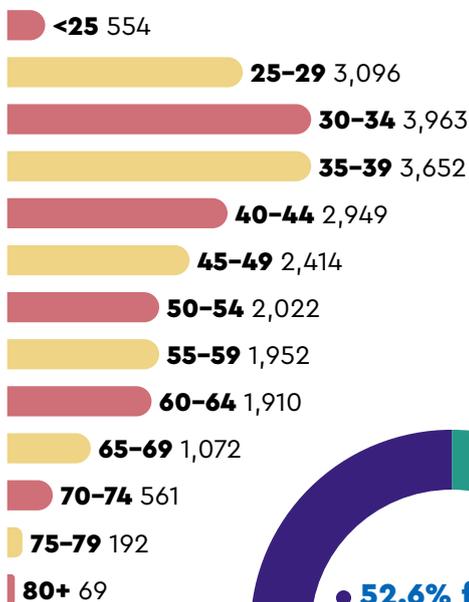
At a glance



24,406 registered dental practitioners in Australia

- **3.2%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **92** dental practitioners per 100,000 head of population¹

Age breakdown at 2019/2020

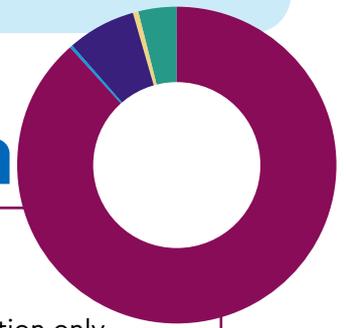


31.2% under the age of 35

45.2% in the age group of 35-54

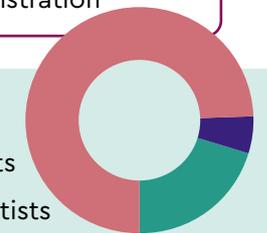
23.6% aged 55 or over

- **89.3%** general registration
- **0.2%** specialist registration only
- **7.2%** specialist and general registration
- **0.2%** limited registration
- **3.1%** non-practising registration



Divisions

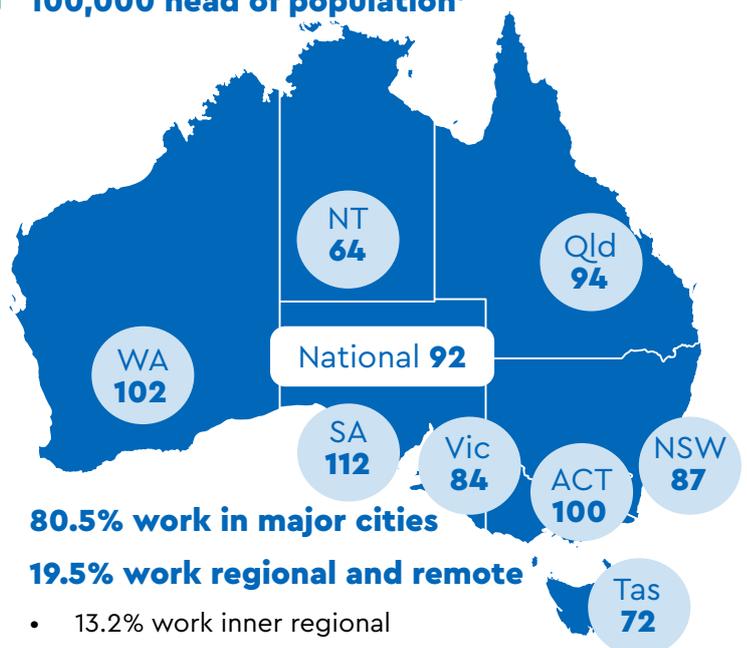
- **74.6%** dentists
- **5.2%** prosthetists
- **20.2%** oral health practitioners²



Average age is **43.5 years**

0.5% dental practitioners identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander³

Rate of dental practitioners per 100,000 head of population¹



80.5% work in major cities

19.5% work regional and remote

- 13.2% work inner regional
- 5.6% work outer regional
- Less than 1% work remote and very remote

73.5% have initial qualifications from Australia³

7.9% work 50 hours or more per week

58.8% work 35 or more hours per week

41.2% work less than 35 hours per week

11.8% work less than 20 hours per week

1.4% of employed dental practitioners work no clinical hours³

¹ Excluding non-practising dental practitioners.

² Oral health practitioners include dental hygienists, dental therapists, and oral health therapists. Number provided is individuals and includes 531 registered in more than one division. See oral health workforce snapshot data for breakdowns by divisions.

³ Source: National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS).

Dental practitioners

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Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



12.3% increase in registered dental practitioners

8.2% decrease in student registration

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered dental practitioners	21,741	24,406	↑
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	3.3%	3.2%	↓
Percentage of dental practitioners in Australia's population	0.09%	0.09%	→
Percentage of dental practitioners under the age of 35	31.5%	31.2%	↓
Percentage of dental practitioners aged 35 to 54	43.9%	45.2%	↑
Percentage of dental practitioners over the age of 55	24.5%	23.6%	↓
Percentage of male dental practitioners	50.6%	47.4%	↓
Percentage of female dental practitioners	49.4%	52.6%	↑

Changes to dental workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	402	441	9.7% ↑
NSW	6,580	7,272	10.5% ↑
NT	153	162	5.9% ↑
Qld	4,326	4,980	15.1% ↑
SA	1,800	2,024	12.4% ↑
Tas	356	395	11.0% ↑
Vic	4,972	5,741	15.5% ↑
WA	2,548	2,791	9.5% ↑

Changes to registration categories

- General registration decreased from 89.5% to **89.3% of registrants**
- General and specialist registration decreased from 7.5% to **7.2% of registrants**
- Specialist registration increased from 0.1% to **0.2% of registrants**
- Limited registration decreased from 0.3% to **0.2% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration increased from 2.5% to **3.1% of registrants**

Changes to dental workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	16,849	19,147	13.6% ↑
Inner regional	2,844	3,138	10.3% ↑
Outer regional	1,268	1,340	5.7% ↑
Remote	95	109	14.7% ↑
Very remote	49	53	8.2% ↑