

Optometry workforce

SNAPSHOT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

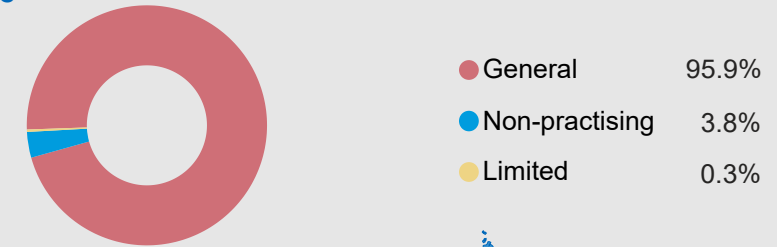


6,503 registered optometrists in Australia¹

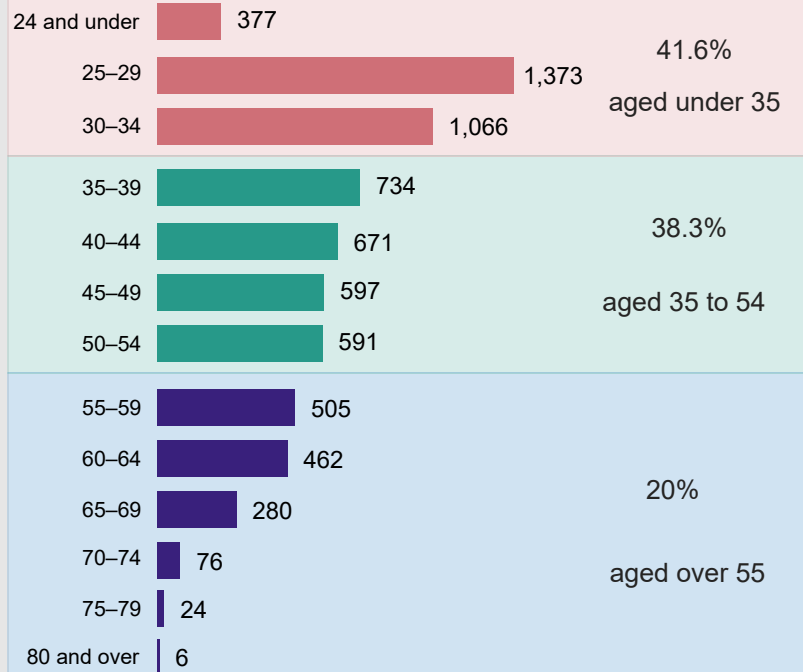
0.8% of regulated health practitioner workforce

24.6 optometrists per 100,000 head of population²

Registration type



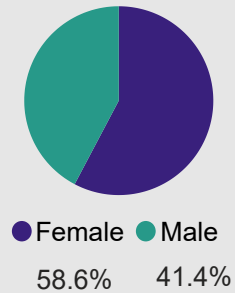
Age range at 2022/23



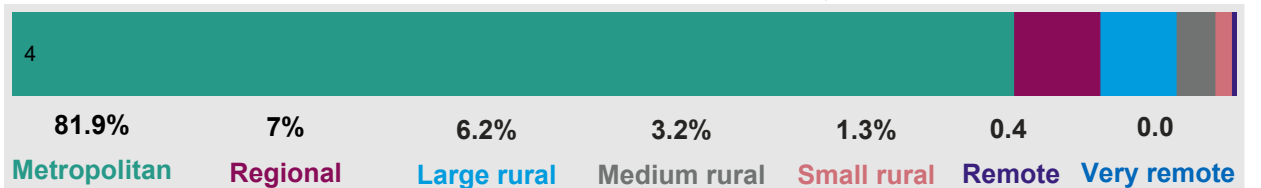
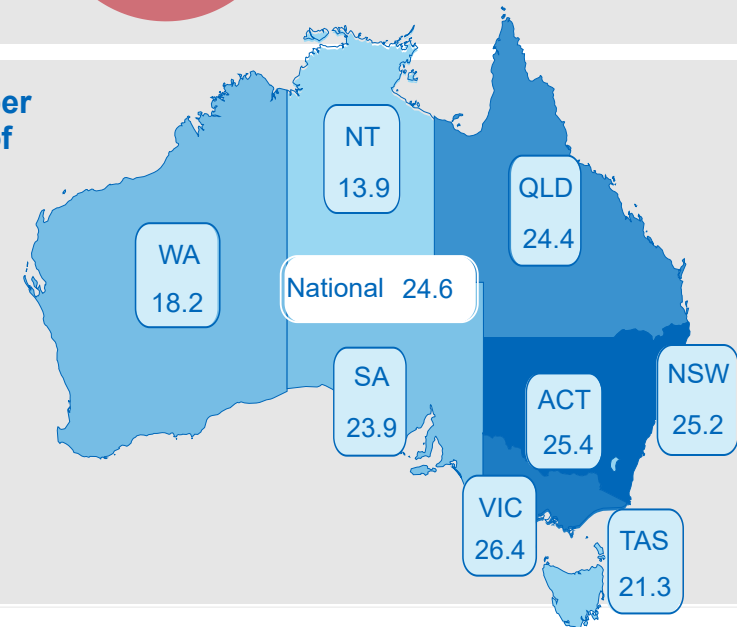
Average age

41.6 years

Gender



Optometrists per 100,000 head of population excluding non-practising registrants³



1. Excludes non-practising registrants, unless otherwise stated.

2. Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics population data as at March 2023.

3. See above.

4. Remoteness data excludes practitioners who did not provide a valid postcode for principal place of practice (PPP).

Optometry workforce

FIVE-YEAR TREND FROM 2018/19 TO 2022/23

Registered optometrists⁵

5,781	6,762	▲
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce		
0.8%	0.8%	●
Optometrists per 100,000 head of population ⁶		
23	25.5	▲
Age		
Percentage of optometrists under the age of 35		
36%	41.6%	▲
Percentage of optometrists aged 35 to 54		
43.1%	38.3%	▼
Percentage of optometrists aged 55 and over		
20.8%	20%	●
Gender		
Percentage of female optometrists		
55.1%	58.6%	▲
Percentage of male optometrists		
44.9%	41.4%	▼

Five-year trend from 2018/19 to 2022/23

Table key

2018/19

2022/23

Trend down ▼

Trend stable ●

Trend up ▲

17% increase in registered optometrists

Changes to registration categories

General registration		
96.9%	95.9%	▼
Limited registration		
0.4%	0.3%	●
Non-practising registration		
2.8%	3.8%	▲

5. Includes non-practising practitioners.

6. See above.

Optometry workforce

FIVE-YEAR TREND FROM 2018/19 TO 2022/23

Changes to workforce across states and territories⁷

91	ACT 121	+33% ▲
1,933	NSW 2,152	+11.3% ▲
35	NT 35	0% ●
1,143	QLD 1,363	+19.2% ▲
346	SA 449	+29.8% ▲
103	TAS 124	+20.4% ▲
1,521	VIC 1,844	+21.2% ▲
444	WA 531	+19.6% ▲

Changes to workforce across remoteness areas⁸

4,466	Metropolitan 5,293	+18.5% ▲
368	Regional 450	+22.3% ▲
335	Large rural 400	+19.4% ▲
166	Medium rural 206	+24.1% ▲
81	Small rural 86	+6.2% ▲
21	Remote 27	+28.6% ▲
5	Very remote 3	-40% ▼

7. Excludes practitioners who do not have a PPP in Australia recorded on the public register. These practitioners usually reside overseas or have not provided a valid PPP.

8. See above.