Nursing now

A snapshot as at 30 June 2022

Workforce at a glance

Nursing and Midwifery Board
Ahpra

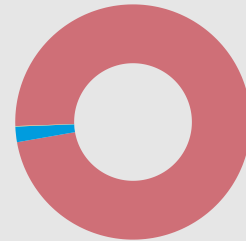**454,721** nurses in Australia[1]

15,265 nurses on the pandemic sub-register

469,986 nurses in total

54.6% of regulated health practitioner workforce
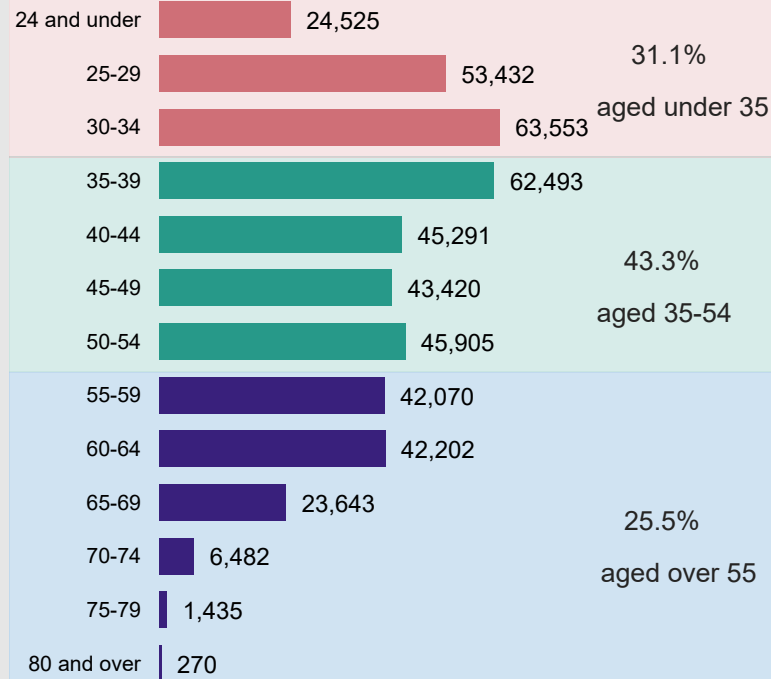
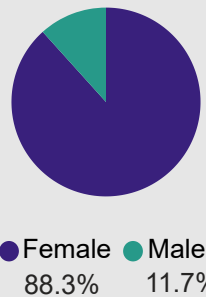**1,718.8** nurses per 100,000 head of population

Registration type

● General	97.8%
● Non-practising	2.1%
● Provisional	0.1%

Divisions

82.2%	● Registered nurse
15.4%	● Enrolled nurse
2.4%	Enrolled nurse and registered nurse

Age range at 2021/22

Age	Count
24 and under	24,525
25-29	53,432
30-34	63,553
35-39	62,493
40-44	45,291
45-49	43,420
50-54	45,905
55-59	42,070
60-64	42,202
65-69	23,643
70-74	6,482
75-79	1,435
80 and over	270

31.1% aged under 35

43.3% aged 35-54

25.5% aged over 55
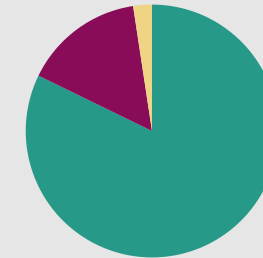
Average age (mean)

43.7 years

Gender

● Female 88.3% ● Male 11.7%

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

State	Value
NT	2,029.6
QLD	1,760.0
WA	1,587.9
National	1,718.8
SA	2,017.6
ACT	1,643.9
NSW	1,447.1
VIC	1,785.9
TAS	1,930.3

71.9%	19.0%	7.8%	0.8%	0.6%
Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote
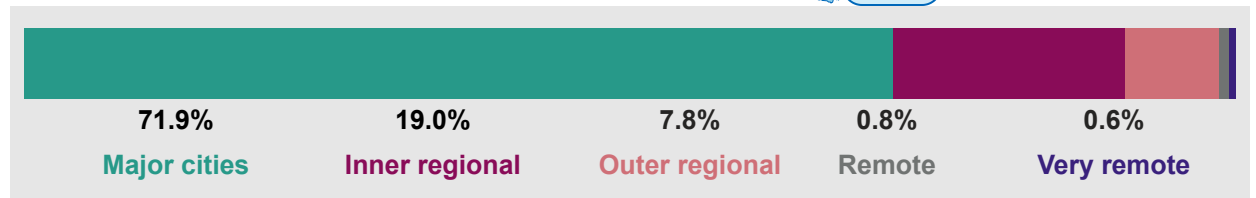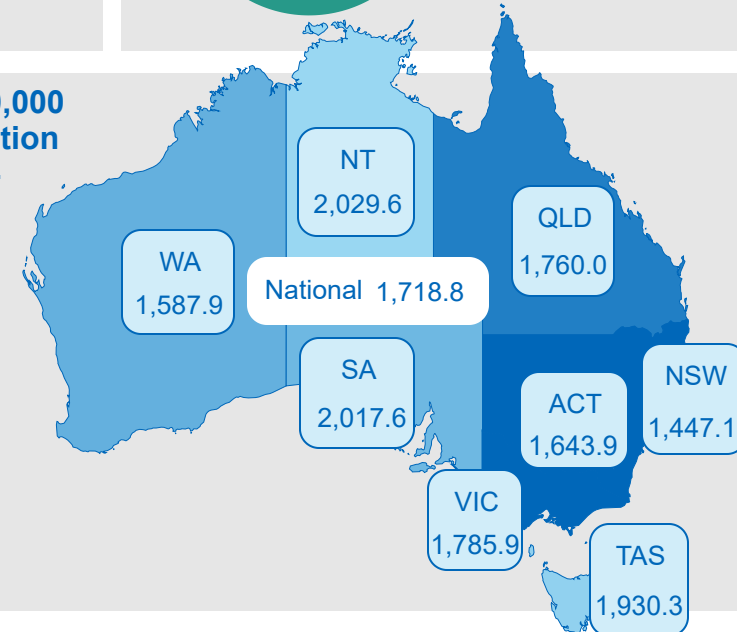
1. Excludes non-practising registrants and those on the pandemic sub-register, unless otherwise stated.

Nursing now

Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Nurses

| 398,596 | 454,721 | ▲ |

Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce

| 53.5% | 54.6% | ▲ |

Nurses per 100,000 head of population[1]

| 1,596.5 | 1,756.3 | ▲ |

Age

Percentage of nurses under the age of 35

| 29.0% | 31.1% | ▲ |

Percentage of nurses aged 35 to 54

| 43.2% | 43.3% | ▲ |

Percentage of nurses aged 55 and over

| 27.8% | 25.5% | ▼ |

Gender

Percentage of female nurses

| 88.9% | 88.3% | ▼ |

Percentage of male nurses

| 11.1% | 11.7% | ▲ |

Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22 Table key

| 2017/18 | 2021/22 |

| Trend down ▼ | Trend stable ● | Trend up ▲ |

14.1% increase in nurses

Changes to registration categories

General registration

| 98.4% | 97.8% | ▼ |

Provisional registration

| 0.1% | 0.1% | ● |

Non-practising registration

| 1.6% | 2.1% | ▲ |

1. Includes non-practising practitioners.

Nursing now

Five year trend from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Changes to workforce across states and territories[1]

ACT
6,404 | 7,654 | +19.5 % ▲

NSW
108,758 | 120,563 | +10.9 % ▲

NT
4,542 | 5,141 | +13.2 % ▲

QLD
80,168 | 94,963 | +18.5 % ▲

SA
33,518 | 37,457 | +11.8 % ▲

TAS
9,534 | 11,250 | +18.0 % ▲

VIC
105,690 | 119,692 | +13.2 % ▲

WA
39,164 | 44,787 | +14.4 % ▲

Changes to workforce across remoteness areas[1]

Major cities
277,642 | 316,498 | +14.0 % ▲

Inner regional
72,628 | 83,854 | +15.5 % ▲

Outer regional
30,905 | 34,216 | +10.7 % ▲

Remote
3,297 | 3,487 | +5.8 % ▲

Very remote
2,426 | 2,513 | +3.6 % ▲

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.