

Occupational therapists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020

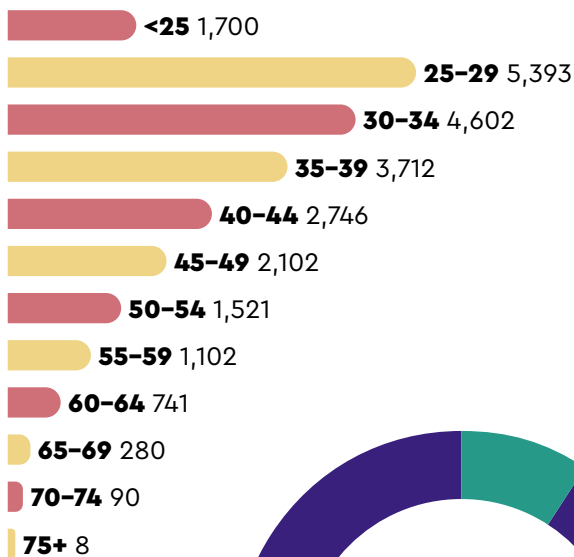
At a glance



23,997 registered occupational therapists in Australia

- **3.1%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **91** occupational therapists per 100,000 head of population¹

Age breakdown at 2019/2020



48.7%
under the
age of 35

42.0% in
the age
group of
35-54

9.3%
aged 55
or over

• **96.7% general registration**

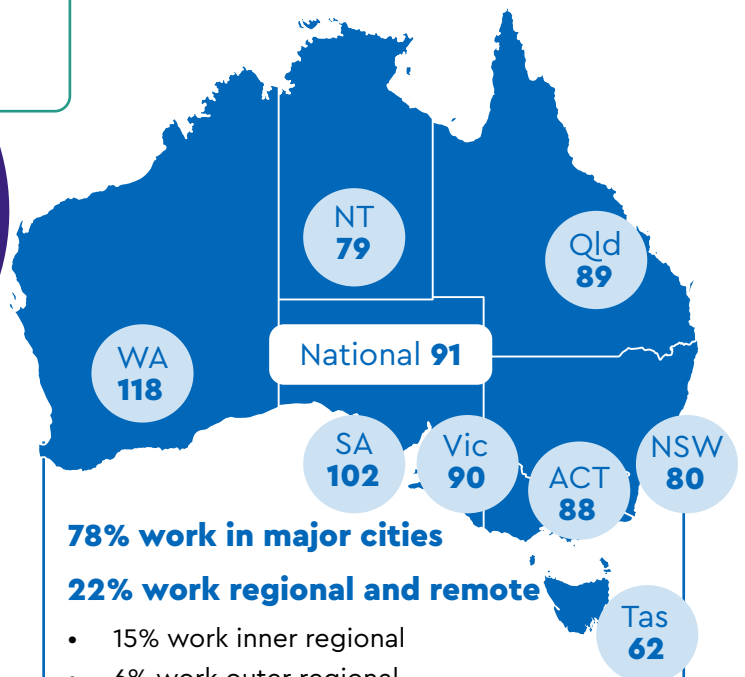
• **0.4% limited registration**

• **2.9% non-practising registration**

0.6% occupational therapists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander²

Average age is **37.3 years**

Rate of occupational therapists per 100,000 head of population¹



78% work in major cities

22% work regional and remote

- 15% work inner regional
- 6% work outer regional
- 1% work remote and very remote

87.1% have initial qualifications from Australia²

• **90.6% female**

• **9.4% male**

3.4% work 50 hours or more per week

60.8% work 35 or more hours per week

39.2% work less than 35 hours per week

11.4% work less than 20 hours per week

7.9% of employed occupational therapists work no clinical hours²

¹ Excluding non-practising occupational therapists.

² Source: National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS).

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Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



31.1% increase in registered occupational therapists

24% increase in student registration

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered occupational therapists	18,304	23,997	↑
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	2.8%	3.1%	↑
Percentage of occupational therapists in Australia's population	0.1%	0.1%	→
Percentage of occupational therapists under the age of 35	49.4%	48.7%	↓
Percentage of occupational therapists aged 35 to 54	41.5%	42.0%	↑
Percentage of occupational therapists over the age of 55	9.0%	9.3%	↑
Percentage of male occupational therapists	8.5%	9.4%	↑
Percentage of female occupational therapists	91.5%	90.6%	↓

Changes to occupational therapy workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	335	398	18.8% ↑
NSW	5,167	6,643	28.6% ↑
NT	175	199	13.7% ↑
Qld	3,544	4,759	34.3% ↑
SA	1,430	1,858	29.9% ↑
Tas	285	341	19.6% ↑
Vic	4,521	6,179	36.7% ↑
WA	2,626	3,271	24.6% ↑

Changes to registration categories

- General registration increased from 95.9% to **96.7% of registrants**
- Limited registration stayed steady at **0.4% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration decreased from 3.5% to **2.9% of registrants**

Changes to occupational therapy workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	13,909	18,291	31.5% ↑
Inner regional	2,704	3,621	33.9% ↑
Outer regional	1,239	1,490	20.3% ↑
Remote	93	121	30.1% ↑
Very remote	73	74	1.4% ↑