

Optometrists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020

At a glance



6,043 registered optometrists in Australia

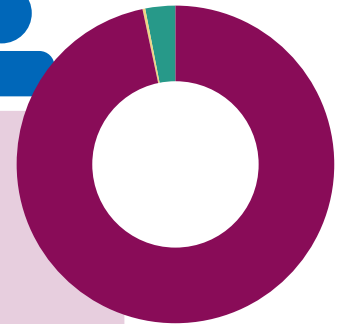
- **0.8%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **23** optometrists per 100,000 head of population¹

96.8% general registration

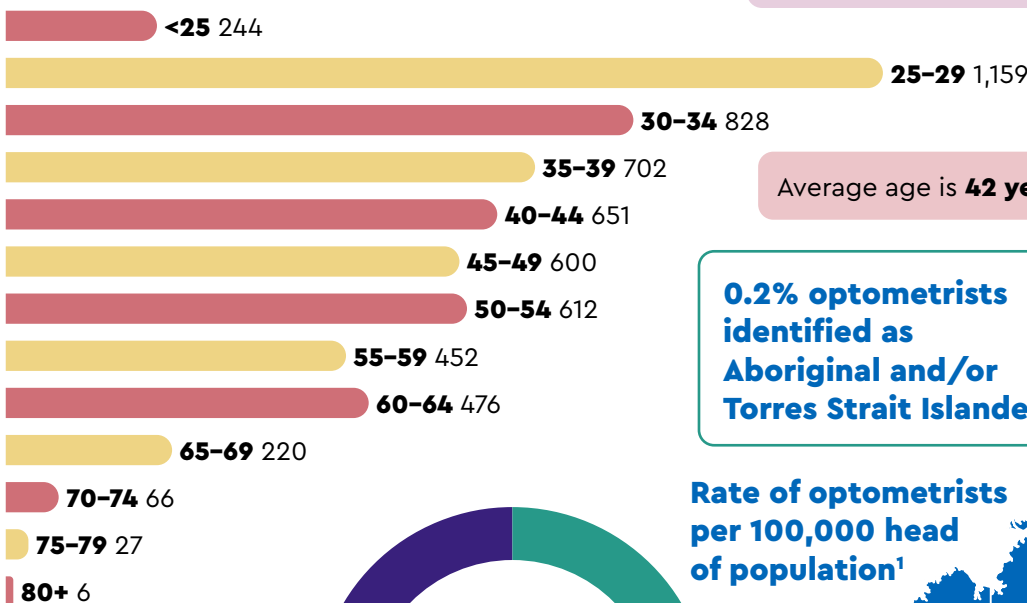
3,802 optometrists with scheduled medicine endorsements

• **0.4%** limited registration

• **2.9%** non-practising registration



Age breakdown at 2019/2020



Average age is **42 years**

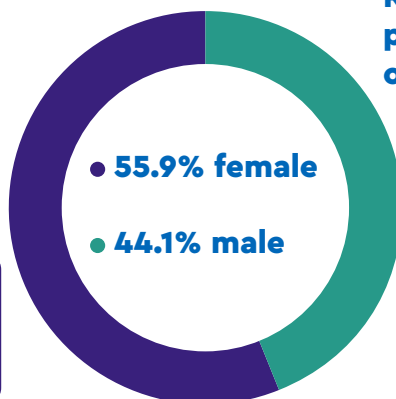
36.9% under the age of 35

42.4% in the age group of 35-54

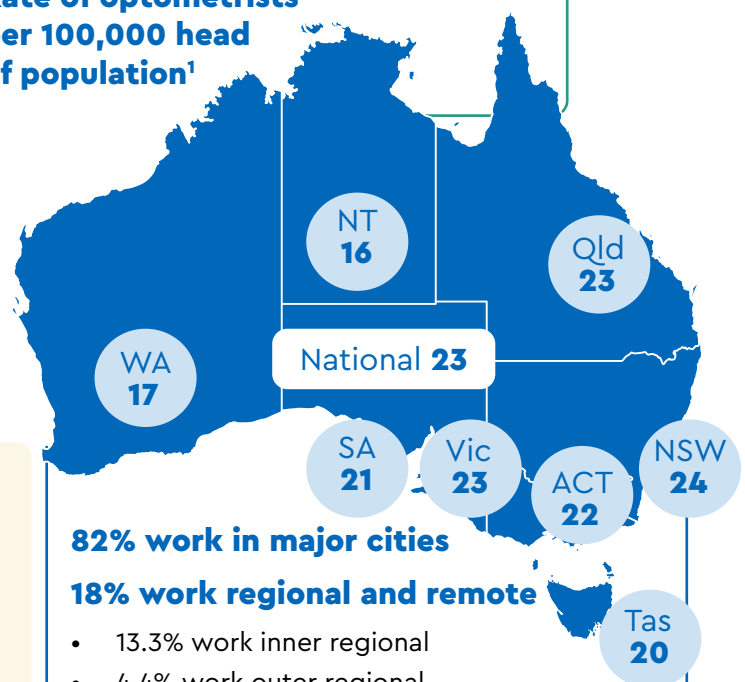
20.6% aged 55 or over

0.2% optometrists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander²

83.1% have initial qualifications from Australia²



Rate of optometrists per 100,000 head of population¹



82% work in major cities

18% work regional and remote

- 13.3% work inner regional
- 4.4% work outer regional
- Less than 1% work remote and very remote

¹ Excluding non-practising optometrists.

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

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Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



17.5% increase in registered optometrists

5.7% increase in student registration

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered optometrists	5,142	6,043	↑
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	0.8%	0.8%	→
Percentage of optometrists in Australia's population	0.02%	0.02%	→
Percentage of optometrists under the age of 35	33.1%	36.9%	↑
Percentage of optometrists aged 35 to 54	46.0%	42.4%	↓
Percentage of optometrists over the age of 55	20.9%	20.6%	↓
Percentage of male optometrists	48.3%	44.1%	↓
Percentage of female optometrists	51.7%	55.9%	↑

Changes to optometry workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	75	98	30.7% ↑
NSW	1,743	2,001	14.8% ↑
NT	30	39	30.0% ↑
Qld	1,031	1,209	17.3% ↑
SA	280	371	32.5% ↑
Tas	85	111	30.6% ↑
Vic	1,315	1,604	22.0% ↑
WA	417	457	9.6% ↑

Changes to registration categories

- General registration stayed steady at **96.8% of registrants**
- Limited registration increased from 0.1% to **0.4% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration decreased from 3.1% to **2.9% of registrants**

Changes to optometry workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	4,023	4,810	20% ↑
Inner regional	675	783	16% ↑
Outer regional	247	261	6% ↑
Remote	16	22	38% ↑
Very remote	5	5	0% →