

# Dental practitioners: Dentists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020



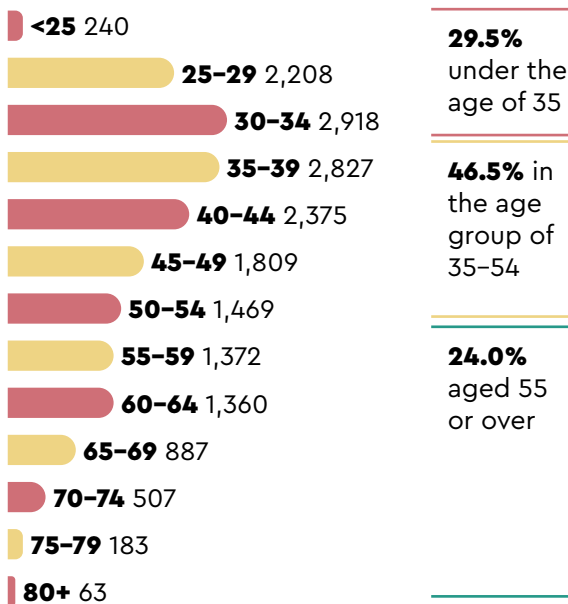
## At a glance



### 18,218 registered dentists in Australia<sup>1</sup>

- **75%** of the dental profession
- **2.4%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **69** dentists per 100,000 head of population<sup>2</sup>

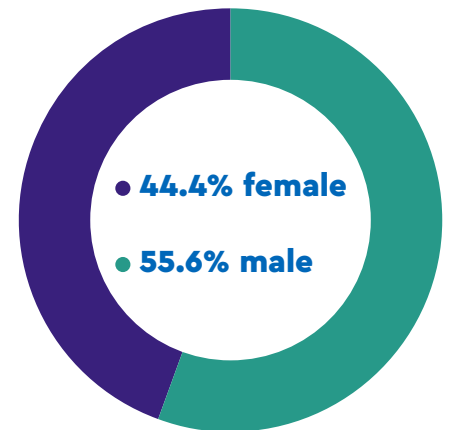
### Age breakdown at 2019/2020



- **86.6%** general registration
- **0.3%** specialist registration only
- **9.6%** specialist and general registration
- **0.3%** limited registration
- **3.2%** non-practising registration

**0.4%** dentists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander<sup>3</sup>

Average age is **44 years**



**68%** have initial qualifications from Australia<sup>2</sup>

**8.7%** work 50 hours or more per week

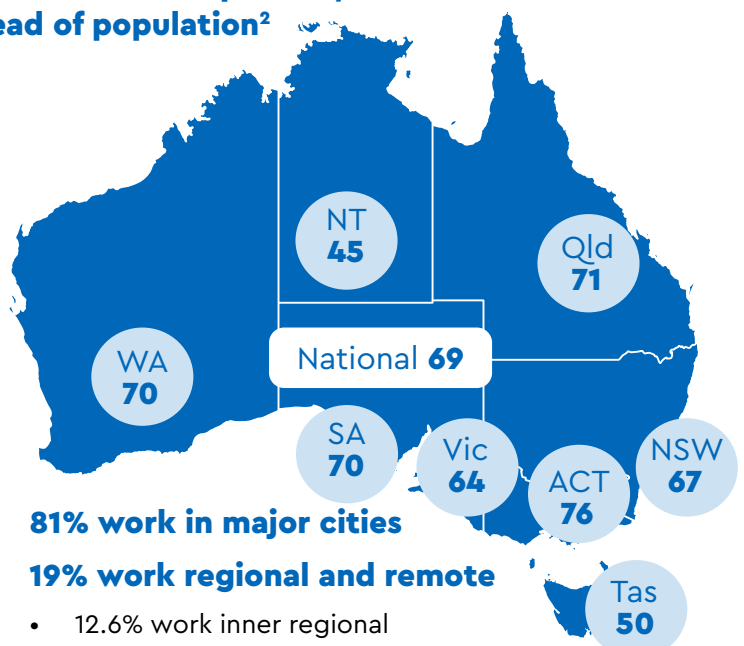
**61.6%** work 35 or more hours per week

**38.4%** work less than 35 hours per week

**10.9%** work less than 20 hours per week

**1.3%** of employed dentists work no clinical hours<sup>3</sup>

### Rate of dentists per 100,000 head of population<sup>2</sup>



**81%** work in major cities

**19%** work regional and remote

- 12.6% work inner regional
- 5.3% work outer regional
- Less than 1% work remote and very remote

<sup>1</sup>16 dentists have registration in another division/s.

<sup>2</sup>Excluding non-practising dentists.

<sup>3</sup>Source: National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS).

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## Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



12% increase in dentists

|   | 2015/16 | 2019/20       | Trend |
|---|---------|---------------|-------|
| Registered dentists                                   | 16,273  | <b>18,218</b> | ↑     |
| Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce | 2.5%    | <b>2.4%</b>   | ↓     |
| Percentage of dentists in Australia's population      | 0.07%   | <b>0.07%</b>  | →     |
| Percentage of dentists under the age of 35            | 30.1%   | <b>29.5%</b>  | ↓     |
| Percentage of dentists aged 35 to 54                  | 44.5%   | <b>46.5%</b>  | ↑     |
| Percentage of dentists over the age of 55             | 25.3%   | <b>24.0%</b>  | ↓     |
| Percentage of male dentists                           | 59.4%   | <b>55.6%</b>  | ↓     |
| Percentage of female dentists                         | 40.6%   | <b>44.4%</b>  | ↑     |

### Changes to dentistry workforce across states and territories

|     | 2015/16 | 2019/20      | % change |
|-----|---------|--------------|----------|
| ACT | 294     | <b>333</b>   | 13.3% ↑  |
| NSW | 5,138   | <b>5,627</b> | 9.5% ↑   |
| NT  | 106     | <b>114</b>   | 7.5% ↑   |
| Qld | 3,228   | <b>3,782</b> | 17.2% ↑  |
| SA  | 1,175   | <b>1,267</b> | 7.8% ↑   |
| Tas | 229     | <b>271</b>   | 18.3% ↑  |
| Vic | 3,816   | <b>4,371</b> | 14.5% ↑  |
| WA  | 1,737   | <b>1,909</b> | 9.9% ↑   |

### Changes to dentistry workforce across Australia

|                | 2015/16 | 2019/20       | % change |
|----------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Major cities   | 12,707  | <b>14,383</b> | 13.2% ↑  |
| Inner regional | 1,995   | <b>2,220</b>  | 11.3% ↑  |
| Outer regional | 889     | <b>941</b>    | 5.8% ↑   |
| Remote         | 68      | <b>73</b>     | 7.4% ↑   |
| Very remote    | 37      | <b>43</b>     | 16.2% ↑  |

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## Trends: 5 years to 2019/20

### Changes in dentist principal speciality<sup>4</sup>

| Speciality                     | 2015/16 | 2019/20    | % change |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Orthodontics                   | 605     | <b>631</b> | 4.3% ↑   |
| Periodontics                   | 223     | <b>239</b> | 7.2% ↑   |
| Oral and maxillofacial surgery | 202     | <b>228</b> | 12.9% ↑  |
| Prosthodontics                 | 213     | <b>228</b> | 7.0% ↑   |
| Endodontics                    | 163     | <b>178</b> | 9.2% ↑   |
| Paediatric dentistry           | 130     | <b>155</b> | 19.2% ↑  |
| Oral surgery                   | 51      | <b>56</b>  | 9.8% ↑   |
| Oral medicine                  | 35      | <b>41</b>  | 17.1% ↑  |
| Forensic odontology            | 26      | <b>23</b>  | 11.5% ↓  |
| Oral pathology                 | 24      | <b>22</b>  | 8.3% ↓   |
| Special needs dentistry        | 16      | <b>20</b>  | 25.0% ↑  |
| Public health dentistry        | 16      | <b>15</b>  | 6.3% ↓   |
| Dento-maxillofacial radiology  | 10      | <b>13</b>  | 30.0% ↑  |

### Changes to registration categories

- General registration decreased from 86.8% to **86.6% of registrants**
- General and specialist registration decreased from 10.0% to **9.6% of registrants**
- Specialist registration increased from 0.2% to **0.3% of registrants**
- Limited registration decreased from 0.4% to **0.3% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration increased from 2.5% to **3.2% of registrants**

<sup>4</sup> Based on principal speciality (i.e. includes double count of registration).