

# Dental practitioners: dental therapists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020

## At a glance

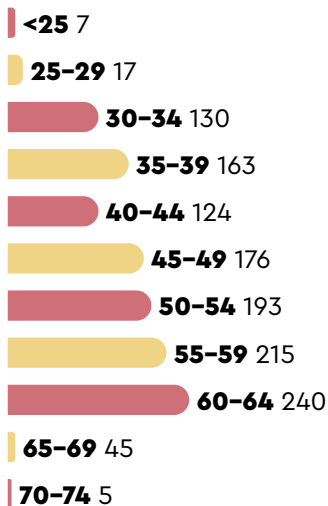


### 1,315 registered dental therapists in Australia<sup>1</sup>

- **5%** of the dental profession
- **0.2%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **4.9** dental therapists per 100,000 head of population<sup>2</sup>

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- **95.4%** general registration
  - **4.6%** non-practising registration

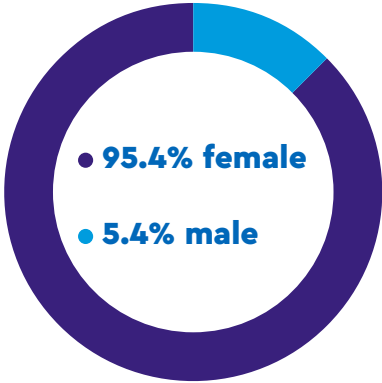
### Age breakdown at 2019/2020



**11.7%**  
under the  
age of 35

**49.9%** in  
the age  
group of  
35-54

**38.4%**  
aged 55  
or over

- 
- **95.4%** female
  - **5.4%** male

Average age is  
**52 years**

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

**91.4%** have initial  
qualifications from Australia<sup>2</sup>

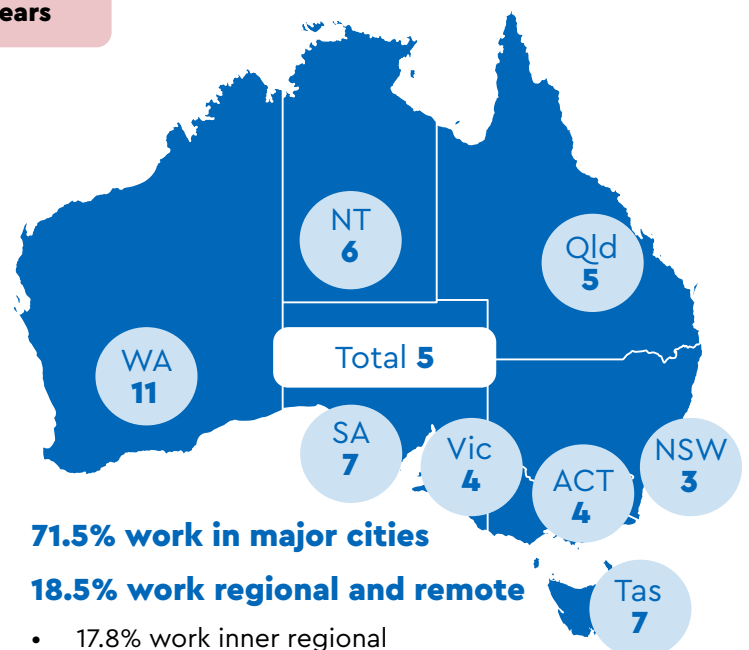
**2.4%** work 50 hours or more per week

**39.8%** work 35 or more hours per week

**60.2%** work less than 35 hours per week

**16.7%** work less than 20 hours per week<sup>3</sup>

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



**71.5%** work in major cities

**18.5%** work regional and remote

- 17.8% work inner regional
- 9.3% work outer regional
- 0.9% work remote
- 0.5% work very remote

<sup>1</sup> Figures and percentages are based on division registration and not individuals (i.e. some dental therapists may also be registered in other divisions).

<sup>2</sup> Excluding non-practising dental therapists.

<sup>3</sup> Source: National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS), allocates to a single division.

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## Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



17% increase in registered dental therapists

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered dental therapists	1,507	<b>1,315</b>	↓
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	0.2%	<b>0.2%</b>	→
Percentage of dental therapists in Australia's population	0.01%	<b>0.01%</b>	→
Percentage of dental therapists under the age of 35	19.2%	<b>11.7%</b>	↓
Percentage of dental therapists aged 35 to 54	48.7%	<b>49.9%</b>	↑
Percentage of dental therapists over the age of 55	32%	<b>38.4%</b>	↑
Percentage of male dental therapists	4.8%	<b>5.4%</b>	↑
Percentage of female dental therapists	95.2%	<b>94.6%</b>	↓

### Changes to dental therapist workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	29	<b>20</b>	-31.0% ↓
NSW	278	<b>239</b>	-14.0% ↓
NT	22	<b>15</b>	-31.8% ↓
Qld	329	<b>289</b>	-12.2% ↓
SA	146	<b>132</b>	-9.6% ↓
Tas	50	<b>40</b>	-20.0% ↓
Vic	288	<b>265</b>	-8.0% ↓
WA	347	<b>307</b>	-11.5% ↓

### Changes to registration categories

- General registration decreased from 97.0% to **95.4% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration increased from 3.0% to **4.6% of registrants**

### Changes to dental therapist workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	1,046	<b>933</b>	-10.8% ↓
Inner regional	269	<b>232</b>	-13.8% ↓
Outer regional	150	<b>122</b>	-18.7% ↓
Remote	14	<b>12</b>	-14.3% ↓
Very remote	7	<b>6</b>	-14.3% ↓