

Dental practitioners: dental hygienists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020



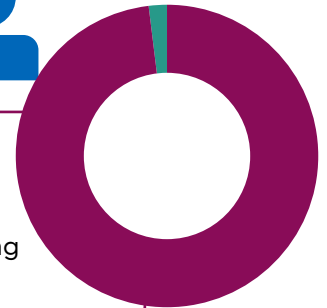
At a glance



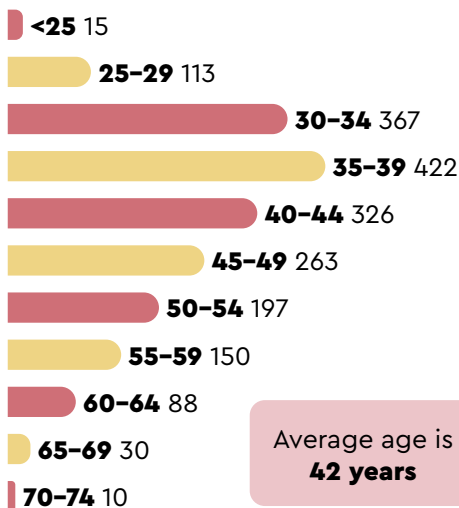
1,981 registered dental hygienists in Australia¹

- **8%** of the dental profession
- **0.3%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **7.4** dental hygienists per 100,000 head of population²

- **96.2%** general registration
- **3.7%** non-practising registration



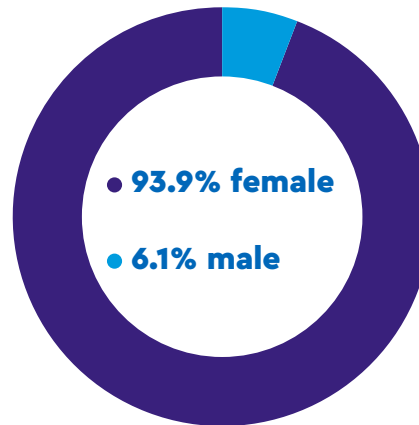
Age breakdown at 2019/2020



25.0% under the age of 35

61.0% in the age group of 35-54

14.0% aged 55 or over



1.2% dental hygienists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander³

84.9% have initial qualifications from Australia²

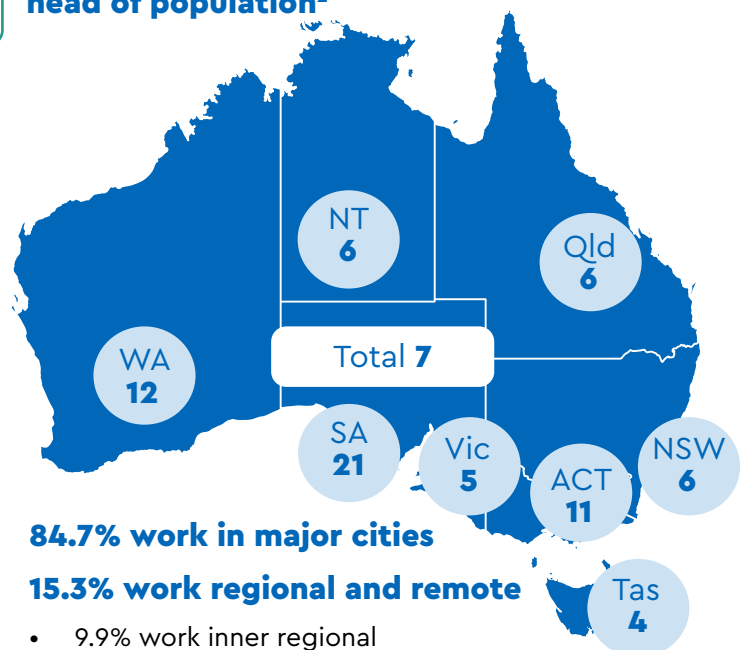
1.2% work 50 hours or more per week

30.6% work 35 or more hours per week

69.7% work less than 35 hours per week

21.1% work less than 20 hours per week³

Rate of dental hygienists per 100,000 head of population²



84.7% work in major cities

15.3% work regional and remote

- 9.9% work inner regional
- 4.9% work outer regional
- 0.5% work remote
- 0.1% work very remote

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

² Excluding non-practising dental hygienists.

³ 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 hygienists

| | 2015/16 | 2019/20 | Trend |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------|-------|
| Registered dental hygienists | 1,911 | 1,981 | ↑ |
| Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce | 0.3% | 0.3% | → |
| Percentage of dental hygienists in Australia's population | 0.01% | 0.01% | → |
| Percentage of dental hygienists under the age of 35 | 37.6% | 25.0% | ↓ |
| Percentage of dental hygienists aged 35 to 54 | 51.7% | 61.0% | ↑ |
| Percentage of dental hygienists over the age of 55 | 10.8% | 14.0% | ↑ |
| Percentage of male dental hygienists | 5.7% | 6.1% | ↑ |
| Percentage of female dental hygienists | 94.3% | 93.9% | ↓ |

Changes to dental hygienist workforce across states and territories

| | 2015/16 | 2019/20 | % change |
|-----|---------|------------|----------|
| ACT | 53 | 48 | -9.4% ↓ |
| NSW | 496 | 488 | -1.6% ↓ |
| NT | 19 | 15 | -21.1% ↓ |
| Qld | 289 | 303 | 4.8% ↑ |
| SA | 324 | 377 | 16.4% ↑ |
| Tas | 20 | 24 | 20.0% ↑ |
| Vic | 346 | 372 | 7.5% ↑ |
| WA | 328 | 331 | 0.5% ↑ |

Changes to registration categories

- General registration decreased from 97.5% to **96.2% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration increased from 2.4% to **3.7% of registrants**

Changes to dental hygienist workforce across Australia

| | 2015/16 | 2019/20 | % change |
|----------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| Major cities | 1,587 | 1,658 | 4.5% ↑ |
| Inner regional | 176 | 194 | 10.2% ↑ |
| Outer regional | 98 | 95 | -3.1% ↓ |
| Remote | 10 | 9 | -10.0% ↓ |
| Very remote | 3 | 1 | -66.6% ↓ |