

Psychologists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020

At a glance



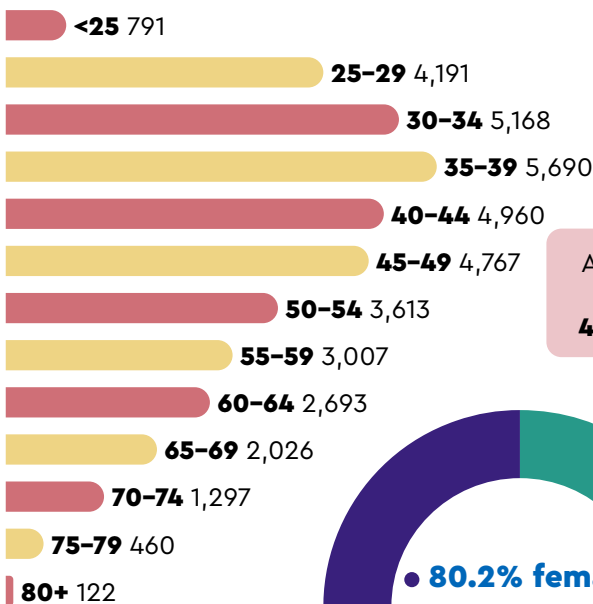
38,785 registered psychologists in Australia

1,732 psychologists on the pandemic sub-register

40,517 psychologists in total¹

- **5.0%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **147** psychologists per 100,000 head of population²

Age breakdown at 2019/2020



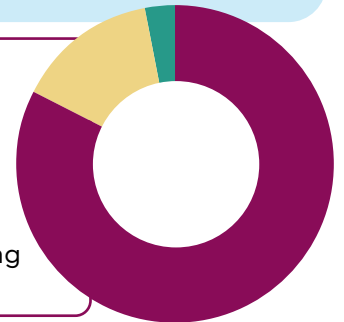
Average age is **45 years**

26.2% under the age of 35

49.1% in the age group of 35-54

24.8% aged 55 or over

- **82.6%** general registration
- **14.6%** provisional registration
- **2.8%** non-practising registration

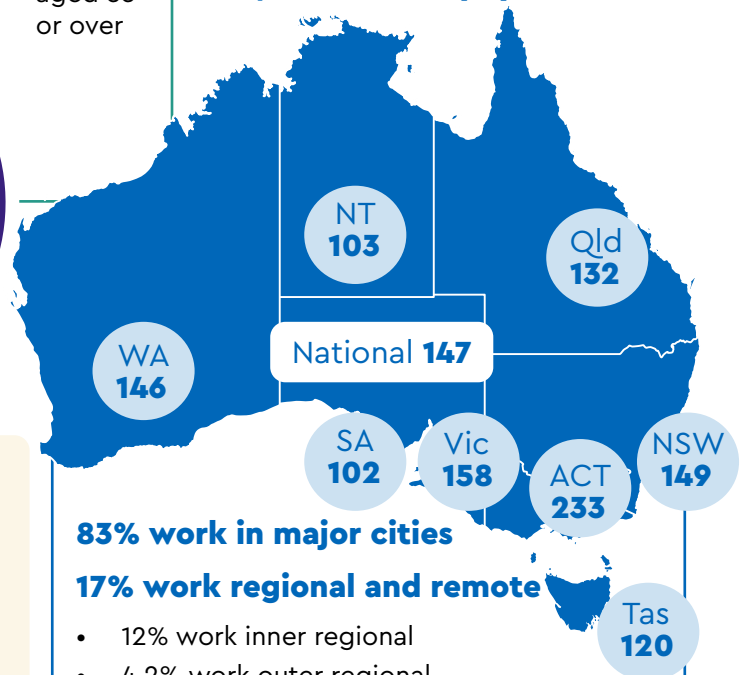


9 endorsements³

33% have one or more area of practice endorsement

0.8% psychologists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander⁴

Rate of psychologists per 100,000 head of population²

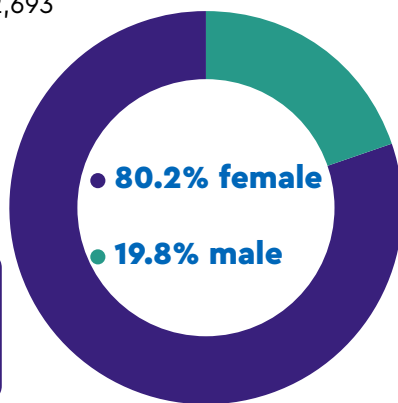


83% work in major cities

17% work regional and remote

- 12% work inner regional
- 4.2% work outer regional
- Less than 1% work remote and very remote

90.9% have initial qualifications from Australia⁴



5.8% work 50 hours or more per week

52.2% work 35 or more hours per week

47.8% work less than 35 hours per week

14.1% work less than 20 hours per week

5.3% of employed psychologists work no clinical hours⁴

¹The calculations on this page are based on the psychology profession without the pandemic response sub-register where separating the data is possible.

²Excluding non-practising psychologists.

³Endorsement subtypes under area of practice endorsement: Out of 33% psychologists holding area of practice endorsement, most of them have one endorsement subtype – clinical psychology (69%), counselling psychology (5.5%), clinical neuropsychology (4.6%), educational and developmental psychology (4.3%), organisational psychology (3.9%), forensic psychology (2.8%), health psychology (1.4%), sport and exercise psychology (0.6%) and community psychology (0.2%). The remaining 7.5% have two or more endorsement subtypes.

⁴Source: National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS).

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Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



14.4% increase in registered psychologists

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered psychologists	33,907	38,785	↑
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	5.2%	5.0% ⁵	↓
Percentage of psychologists in Australia's population	0.14%	0.15%	↑
Percentage of psychologists under the age of 35	27.6%	26.2%	↓
Percentage of psychologists aged 35 to 54	46.8%	49.1%	↑
Percentage of psychologists over the age of 55	25.6%	24.8%	↓
Percentage of male psychologists	20.6%	19.8%	↓
Percentage of female psychologists	79.4%	80.2%	↑

Changes to psychology workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	876	1,027	17.2% ↑
NSW	11,236	12,552	11.7% ↑
NT	229	255	11.4% ↑
Qld	6,028	7,025	16.5% ↑
SA	1,678	1,864	11.1% ↑
Tas	580	660	13.8% ↑
Vic	9,152	10,802	18.0% ↑
WA	3,599	3,977	10.5% ↑

Changes to psychology workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	27,672	31,706	14.6% ↑
Inner regional	3,981	4,567	14.7% ↑
Outer regional	1,422	1,574	10.7% ↑
Remote	113	132	16.8% ↑
Very remote	72	80	11.1% ↑

⁵ Due to paramedicine becoming part of the regulated health workforce in 2018.

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Trends: 5 years to 2019/20



Changes to area of practice endorsements held by psychologists

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Clinical psychology	7,481	10,051	34% ↑
Counselling psychology	946	1,058	12% ↑
Clinical neuropsychology	608	770	27% ↑
Educational and developmental psychology	619	764	23% ↑
Forensic psychology	553	647	17% ↑
Organisational psychology	489	605	24% ↑
Health psychology	321	347	8% ↑
Sport and exercise psychology	95	105	11% ↑
Community psychology	55	56	11% ↑

Changes to registration categories⁶

- General registration increased from 81.5% to **82.6% of registrants**
- Provisional registration increased from 13.6% to **14.6% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration decreased from 4.9% to **2.8% of registrants**

Changes to sector

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Public	21.2%	19.5%	↓
Private	78.8%	80.5%	↑

Changes to top 5 principal work settings

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Solo private practice	23%	21%	↓
Group private practice	15%	19%	↑
School	11%	10%	↓
Community mental health service	8%	8%	→
Hospital	7%	7%	→
Other	36%	36%	→

⁶The calculations exclude psychologists added to the pandemic response sub-register.