

# Dental practitioners: oral health therapists

A snapshot as at 30 June 2020



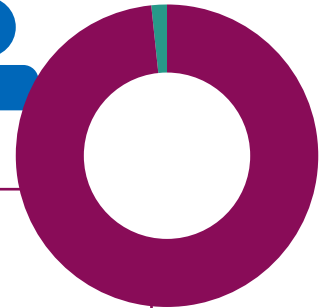
## At a glance



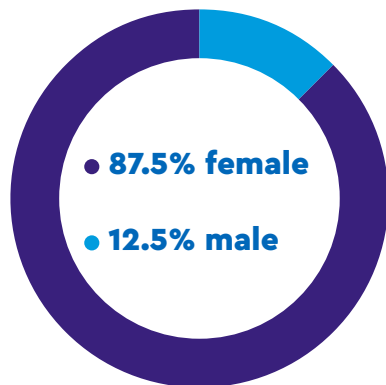
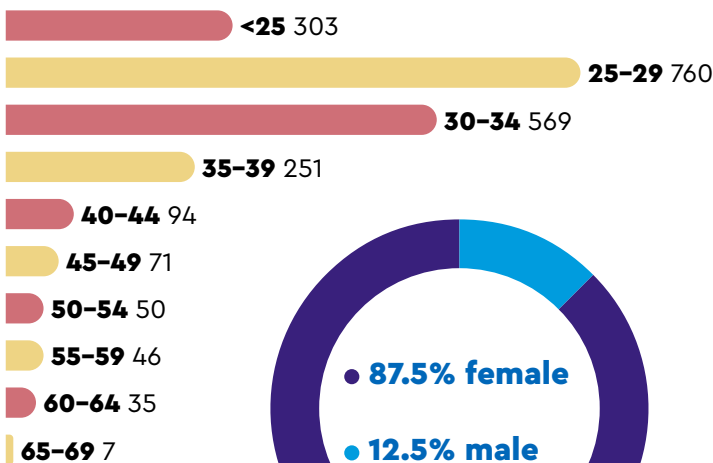
### 2,186 registered oral health therapists in Australia<sup>1</sup>

- **9%** of the dental profession
- **0.3%** of the regulated health practitioner workforce
- **8.4** oral health therapists per 100,000 head of population<sup>2</sup>

- **98.6% general registration**
- **1.4% non-practising registration**



### Age breakdown at 2019/2020



**74.7%** under the age of 35

**21.3%** in the age group of 35-54

**4.0%** aged 55 or over

**1.1% oral health therapists identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander<sup>3</sup>**

Average age is **31 years**

**89.8% have initial qualifications from Australia<sup>2</sup>**

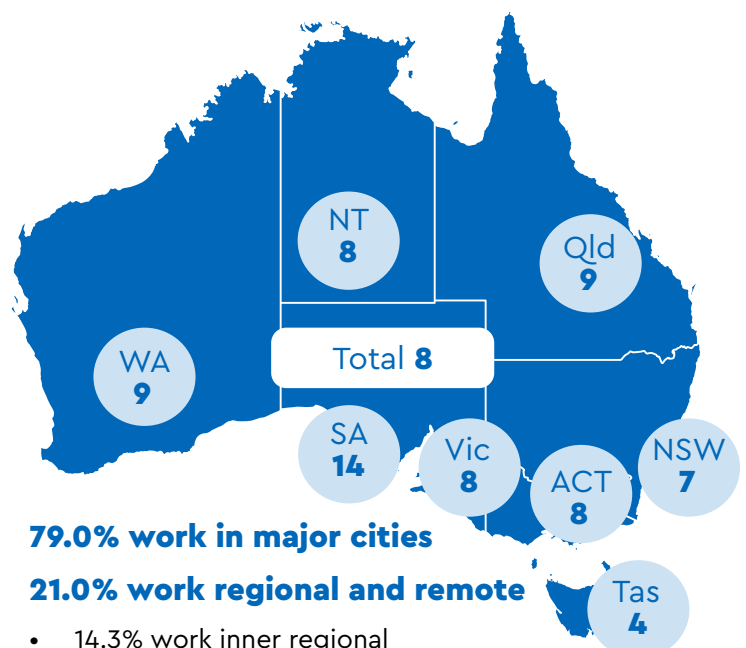
**2.3% work 50 hours or more per week**

**60.4%** work 35 or more hours per week

**39.6% work less than 35 hours per week**

**9.3%** work less than 20 hours per week<sup>3</sup>

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



**79.0% work in major cities**

**21.0% work regional and remote**

- 14.3% work inner regional
- 5.8% work outer regional
- 0.7% work remote
- 0.1% work very remote

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

<sup>2</sup> Excluding non-practising oral health 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 oral health therapists

	2015/16	2019/20	Trend
Registered oral health therapists	1,304	<b>2,186</b>	↑
Percentage of regulated health practitioner workforce	0.2%	<b>0.3%</b>	↑
Percentage of oral health therapists in Australia's population	0.01%	<b>0.01%</b>	→
Percentage of oral health therapists under the age of 35	77%	<b>74.7%</b>	↓
Percentage of oral health therapists aged 35 to 54	18.7%	<b>21.3%</b>	↑
Percentage of oral health therapists over the age of 55	4.3%	<b>4.0%</b>	↓
Percentage of male oral health therapists	12.5%	<b>12.5%</b>	→
Percentage of female oral health therapists	87.5%	<b>87.5%</b>	→

### Changes to oral health therapist workforce across states and territories

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
ACT	21	<b>34</b>	61.9% ↑
NSW	330	<b>614</b>	86.1% ↑
NT	9	<b>20</b>	122.2% ↑
Qld	362	<b>470</b>	29.8% ↑
SA	155	<b>251</b>	61.9% ↑
Tas	11	<b>19</b>	72.7% ↑
Vic	299	<b>524</b>	75.3% ↑
WA	112	<b>230</b>	105.4% ↑

### Changes to registration categories

- General registration increased from 98.2% to **98.6% of registrants**
- Non-practising registration decreased from 1.7% to **1.4% of registrants**

### Changes to oral health therapist workforce across Australia

	2015/16	2019/20	% change
Major cities	998	<b>1,706</b>	70.9% ↑
Inner regional	207	<b>308</b>	48.8% ↑
Outer regional	88	<b>126</b>	43.2% ↑
Remote	3	<b>16</b>	433.3% ↑
Very remote	2	<b>3</b>	50.0% ↑