

9 Aboriginal health service employment

The data in this section are on medical practitioners who indicated that the employment setting of their main, second or third job was an Aboriginal health service. Features of these medical practitioners in 1995 included the following:

Geographic distribution

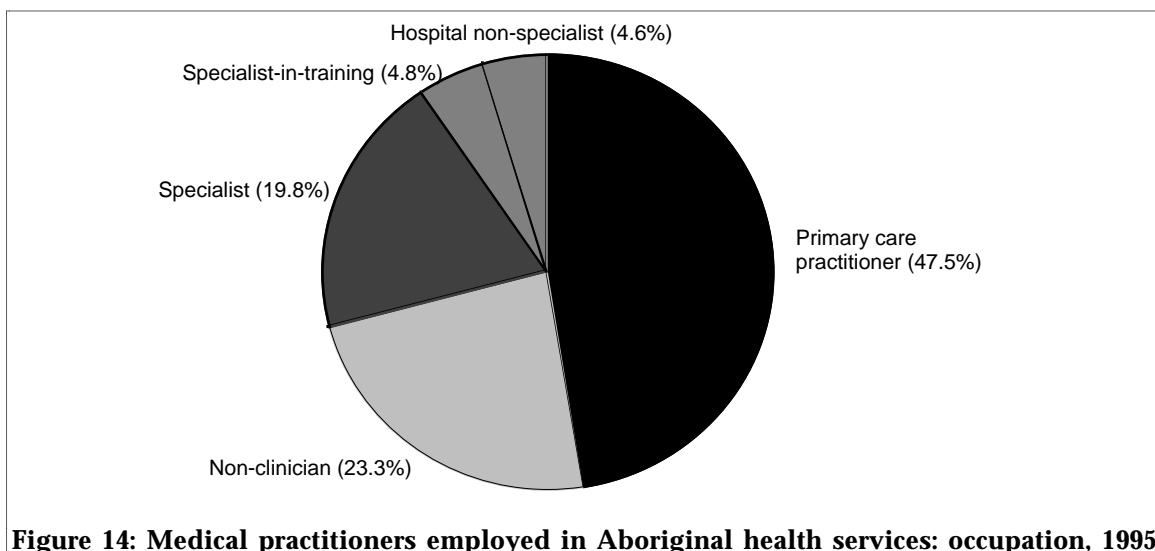
- The distribution of Aboriginal health service clinicians across States and Territories differed significantly from the distribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Queensland (7.9% compared with 26.4%) and South Australia (17.9% compared with 6.1%).
- 57.5% of Aboriginal health service medical practitioners were located in a metropolitan area.

Sex

- Of the 512 medical practitioners employed in an Aboriginal health service in 1995, 192 (37.5%) were female. This proportion was similar across all States and Territories except Tasmania which showed the lowest proportion (28.6%) and Queensland which showed the highest proportion (56.0%).

Occupation

- In 1995, 47.5% of Aboriginal health service medical practitioners were primary care practitioners; 19.8% were specialists; 4.8% were specialists-in-training; 4.6% were hospital non-specialists; and the remaining 23.3% worked in a non-clinical field including administration and education.



Age

- The average age of these medical practitioners was 42.0 years. This average varied across States and Territories, from a high of 45.9 years in Tasmania to a low of 37.5 years in the Northern Territory.

Hours worked

- Average hours worked by medical practitioners in an Aboriginal health service was 23.8 hours per week in 1995. Average hours worked varied among States and Territories, from a low of 17.0 hours per week in Tasmania to a high of 32.6 hours per week in Western Australia. Most medical practitioners (65.3%) worked fewer than 35 hours a week in the Aboriginal health service.

Overseas graduates

- 81.7% of Aboriginal health service medical practitioners had gained their initial qualification in Australia. Of those who had gained an initial qualification overseas, 57.4% qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- 98.3% were a permanent resident of Australia in 1995.

Aboriginal health service medical practitioners in main job only

In 1995, 193 medical practitioners worked in an Aboriginal health service in their main job. The features of these medical practitioners included the following:

- 54.6% were female. This compared with 37.5% female of all those working in an Aboriginal health service.
- 65.3% were primary care practitioners; 10.2% were specialists; 7.7% were specialists-in-training; 6.9% were hospital non-specialists; and the remaining 9.8% worked in a non-clinical field including administration and education.
- The average age of these medical practitioners was 38.6 years.
- 49.2% were employed in their main job as an Aboriginal health service medical practitioner in a metropolitan area.
- Most medical practitioners whose main job was in an Aboriginal health service (68.7%) worked 35 or more hours a week. The average was 39.4 hours per week in 1995.
- 82.9% of medical practitioners working in an Aboriginal health service in their main job had gained their initial qualification in Australia. Of those who had gained an initial qualification overseas, 57.6% had qualified in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- 97.3% were a permanent resident of Australia.

Table 78: Clinicians employed in an Aboriginal health service per 100,000 Aboriginal population: States and Territories, 1995

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Aboriginal population(a)	70,019	16,735	70,124	41,779	16,232	8,885	1,775	39,910	265,459
Aboriginal health service clinicians(b)	102	42	31	58	70	14	12	64	392
Aboriginal health service clinicians per 100,000 Aboriginal population	145.7	251.0	44.2	138.8	431.2	157.6	676.1	160.4	148.0

(a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as at the 1991 Census.

(b) All clinicians who reported working in an Aboriginal health service in a main, second or third job.

Source: ABS: Cat. No. 2740.0.

Table 79: Medical practitioners employed in an Aboriginal health service^(a): selected characteristics and States and Territories, 1995

Selected	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	%
Occupation ^(b)										
<i>Clinician</i>	102	42	31	58	70	14	12	64	392	76.7
Primary care	64	20	24	37	39	7	5	48	243	47.5
Hospital non-specialist	1	2	4	9	3	0	5	0	24	4.6
Specialist	31	17	2	7	24	7	2	11	101	19.8
Specialist-in-training	6	5	2	5	3	0	0	5	24	4.8
<i>Non-clinician</i>	9	21	19	23	18	7	2	20	120	23.3
Geographic location ^(c)										
Metropolitan	72	49	24	38	59	16	14	23	295	57.5
Non-metropolitan	39	14	26	43	29	5	0	61	217	42.5
% metropolitan	64.9	77.8	48.3	47.2	66.7	75.0	100.0	27.0	57.5	..
Sex										
Male	74	38	22	54	57	15	9	51	320	62.5
Female	37	25	28	27	31	6	5	33	192	37.5
% female	33.3	39.7	56.0	33.3	35.2	28.6	35.7	39.3	37.5	..
Age (years)										
Average age	45.1	42.0	40.6	41.1	41.4	45.9	42.4	37.5	42.0	..
<35	16	13	14	27	32	3	3	33	141	27.5
35-44	39	30	17	33	29	8	7	37	200	39.1
45-54	39	12	12	16	20	7	2	6	114	22.3
55+	18	7	6	5	7	3	2	7	55	10.7
Hours worked per										
Average hours worked	21.1	19.1	21.1	32.6	23.4	17.0	32.3	30.4	23.8	..
<20	62	40	30	31	49	16	7	24	258	50.4
20-34	17	8	6	7	10	2	0	26	76	14.9
35-49	22	10	6	26	15	0	4	17	99	19.4
50-64	9	5	8	10	10	3	4	15	63	12.2
65-79	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	2	11	2.1
80+	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	5	0.9
% working 35+	28.6	23.7	28.1	52.9	33.3	15.4	50.0	41.0	34.7	..
Country of initial qualification										
Australia	89	54	36	64	75	18	12	70	418	81.7
New Zealand	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	7	1.4
United Kingdom/Ireland	5	5	10	11	10	3	0	10	54	10.5
Asia	5	3	1	2	2	0	0	2	15	2.9
Other countries	9	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	18	3.5
Residency status										
Australian citizen/ permanent resident	111	63	47	75	88	21	14	84	503	98.3
Not a permanent	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	9	1.7
Total	111	63	50	81	88	21	14	84	512	100.0

(a) All medical practitioners who reported working in an Aboriginal health service in a main, second or third job.

(b) For clinicians working in an Aboriginal health service, occupation refers to their main job as a clinician and not necessarily to all their occupations within the Aboriginal health service. For non-clinicians, occupation refers to their principal job in an Aboriginal health service.

(c) Region of main job worked as an Aboriginal health service medical practitioner.

(d) Hours worked per week as an Aboriginal health service medical practitioner.

Table 80: Medical practitioners employed in an Aboriginal health service in their main job: selected characteristics and States and Territories, 1995

Selected	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total	%
Occupation of main job										
<i>Clinician</i>	38	21	15	40	18	3	3	34	174	90.2
Primary care	27	12	11	28	12	3	2	32	126	65.3
Hospital non-specialist	1	2	3	6	0	0	2	0	13	6.9
Specialist	7	4	0	4	5	0	0	0	20	10.2
Specialist-in-training	2	4	2	4	2	0	0	2	15	7.7
<i>Non-clinician</i>	0	2	3	0	5	0	0	9	19	9.8
Geographic location of main job										
Metropolitan	27	19	5	13	13	3	3	10	95	49.2
Non-metropolitan	11	4	13	27	10	0	0	33	98	50.8
% metropolitan	71.9	83.3	27.3	33.3	57.1	100.0	100.0	22.7	49.2	..
Sex										
Male	22	10	4	19	9	0	3	20	87	45.4
Female	16	13	14	21	15	3	0	23	105	54.6
% female	41.2	57.7	76.2	52.2	63.5	100.0	0.0	53.9	54.6	..
Age (years)										
Average age	43.8	36.9	38.4	36.5	40.5	32.5	40.0	35.6	38.6	..
<35	6	7	8	22	7	2	0	22	75	39.0
35-44	15	15	4	14	11	2	3	17	81	42.0
45-54	12	1	3	2	4	0	0	2	24	12.3
55+	5	0	3	2	2	0	0	2	13	6.7
Hours worked per week in main										
Average hours worked	31.7	33.9	41.5	45.1	46.5	60.0	45.0	36.5	39.4	..
<20	10	5	1	4	0	0	0	5	25	12.8
20-34	10	5	4	2	3	0	0	12	36	18.5
35-49	13	11	6	21	12	0	2	14	78	40.4
50-64	5	3	7	8	5	3	2	12	44	23.0
65-79	1	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	8	4.4
80+	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
% working 35+	50.0	60.0	69.2	85.7	85.7	100.0	100.0	60.0	68.7	..
Country of initial qualification										
Australia	33	19	14	31	20	3	3	36	160	82.9
New Zealand	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
United Kingdom/Ireland	1	1	4	4	4	0	0	5	19	10.0
Asia	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	3.2
Other countries	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	2.9
Residency status										
Australian citizen/ permanent resident	38	23	17	37	23	3	3	43	187	97.3
Not a permanent	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	5	2.7
Total	38	23	18	40	23	3	3	43	193	100.0