

Nursing labour force

1999

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Contents

- List of tables.....vii
- List of figures..... x
- Abbreviations..... xi
- Symbols and other usages..... xi
- Prefacexii
- Explanatory notes..... 1
 - Background..... 1
 - Scope and coverage..... 1
 - Method..... 1
 - Nurse labour force survey response rate..... 2
 - Labour force estimates..... 2
 - Collection timing..... 2
 - Identification of registered and enrolled nurses..... 3
- Main features..... 4
- Overview 7
 - Overall numbers in 1997 7
 - Registrations and enrolments of nurses to 1999 7
 - Composition of the workforce, 1997..... 8
 - Demographics..... 12
 - Hours worked..... 13
 - Job Classification 13
- Patterns of employment..... 14
 - Main area of clinical nursing 14
 - Work setting of main job..... 16
 - Sector of employment..... 18
 - FTE nursing staff in hospitals, 1998-99 18
- Geographic distribution of the nursing workforce, 1997..... 21
 - Nurses per 100,000 population..... 22
 - Demographics..... 23
 - Hours worked..... 23
- Workforce Planning 24
 - Nurse unemployment..... 24

Nurse shortages	24
Nurse education	26
Nurse migration	27
International comparison.....	28
Glossary	107
Area of clinical nursing	107
Clinician.....	107
Country	108
Enrolled nurse.....	108
Hours worked.....	109
Job classification	109
Geographic classification	109
Nursing labour force.....	110
References	113
Related publications	113
National health labour force series	113
Other publications.....	114
Internet access	114

List of tables

Table 1: Nurse Labour Force Survey: data collection period, States and Territories, 1997.....	3
Table 2: Nurse Labour Force Survey: method of classifying nurses as registered or enrolled, selected States and Territories, 1997.....	3
Table 3: Employed registered and enrolled nurses work setting of main job, Australia, 1994 to 1997.....	16
Table 4: Full-time equivalent nursing staff, by setting, 1995-96 to 1998-99.....	19
Table 5: Registered and Enrolled Nurses by geographic location 1994 and 1997.....	21
Table 6: Registered and enrolled nurses – Workforce Composition 1997.....	22
Table 7: Nursing occupations in shortage, States and Territories, February 2001.....	25
Table 8: Certified nurses: OECD countries, 1997.....	29
Table 9: Registrations and enrolments, States and Territories, 1993 to 1999.....	30
Table 10: Registered and enrolled nurse workforce, Australia, 1990 to 1999.....	31
Table 11: Registered and enrolled nurses: employment status, Australia, 1993 to 1997.....	32
Table 12: Employed nurses and full-time equivalent nurses per 100,000 population: States and Territories, 1993 to 1997.....	33
Table 13: Registered and enrolled nurses: employment status, Australia, 1993 to 1999.....	34
Table 14: Registered and enrolled nurses: professional employment status, States and Territories, 1997.....	35
Table 15: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians: area of clinical nursing, States and Territories, 1997.....	36
Table 16: Employed registered and enrolled nurses: age and sex, States and Territories, 1997.....	37
Table 17: Employed registered and enrolled nurses: total hours worked and sex, States and Territories, 1997.....	39
Table 18: Employed nurses: type of nurse, country of initial qualification, States and Territories 1997.....	41
Table 19: Employed nurses: type of nurse, country of birth, selected States and Territories, 1997.....	42
Table 20: Employed nurses: type of nurse, citizenship, States and Territories, 1997.....	44
Table 21: Registered nurses: professional employment status, occupation, States and Territories, 1997.....	45
Table 22: Employed registered nurses: annual salary range and sex, States and Territories, 1997.....	46
Table 23: Registered nurses employed as clinicians and clinical nurse managers: area of clinical nursing, States and Territories, 1997.....	48

Table 24: Registered nurses employed as clinicians and clinical nurse managers: area of clinical nursing and total hours worked per week, Australia, 1997.....	50
Table 25: Employed registered nurses: age and sex, States and Territories, 1997	51
Table 26: Employed registered nurses: total hours worked per week and sex, States and Territories, 1997	52
Table 27: Employed registered nurses: work setting of main job, sector, States and Territories, 1997.....	54
Table 28: Employed registered nurses: average hours worked per week by work setting of main job, sector, States and Territories, 1997	55
Table 29: Employed registered nurses: type of post initial qualification skills held or used,States and Territories, 1997	56
Table 30: Enrolled nurses: professional employment status and occupation, States and Territories, 1997.....	57
Table 31: Enrolled nurses employed as clinicians and clinical nurse managers: area of clinical nursing, States and Territories, 1997	58
Table 32: Employed enrolled nurses: age and sex, States and Territories, 1997	60
Table 33: Enrolled nurses employed as clinicians and clinical nurse managers: area of clinical nursing and total hours worked per week, Australia, 1997.....	61
Table 34: Employed enrolled nurses: total hours worked per week and sex, States and Territories, 1997.....	62
Table 35: Employed enrolled nurses: work setting of main job, sector, States and Territories, 1997.....	64
Table 36: Employed enrolled nurses: average hours worked per week, work setting of main job, sector, States and Territories, 1997	65
Table 37: Employed registered nurses: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997.....	66
Table 38: Employed enrolled nurses: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997.....	67
Table 39: Employed registered and enrolled nurses: selected characteristics, geographic location of main job, Australia, 1997.....	68
Table 40: Employed registered nurses: geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1997	70
Table 41: Employed enrolled nurses: geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1997	71
Table 42: Employed registered nurses: salary range of main job, geographic location, States and Territories, 1997.....	72
Table 43: Employed registered nurses: average age by geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1997	74
Table 44: Employed enrolled nurses: average age by geographic location of main job and sex, States and Territories, 1997	75

Table 45: Employed registered nurses: geographic location of main job, total hours worked per week, States and Territories, 1997.....	76
Table 46: Employed enrolled nurses: geographic location of main job, total hours worked per week, States and Territories, 1997	78
Table 47: Full-time equivalent nursing staff per bed in public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories, 1995-96 to 1998-99	80
Table 48: Average FTE nursing staff in public hospitals: States and Territories, 1995-96 to 1998-99.....	81
Table 49: Patient and staffing statistics, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, Australia, 1995-96 to 1998-99.....	82
Table 50: Patient and staffing statistics, private acute and psychiatric hospitals, Australia, 1993-94 to 1998-99.....	83
Table 51: Patient and staffing statistics, private free-standing day hospitals, Australia, 1993-94 to 1998-99.....	84
Table 52: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in public hospitals: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	85
Table 53: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in private hospitals: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	86
Table 54: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in public nursing homes: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	87
Table 55: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in private nursing homes: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	88
Table 56: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in community health centres: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	89
Table 57: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in private medical rooms: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	90
Table 58: Registered and enrolled nurses employed in community/district/domiciliary nursing: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	91
Table 59: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in geriatrics/gerontology: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997.....	92
Table 60: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in medical and surgical nursing: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	93
Table 61: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in psychiatry/mental health: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	94
Table 62: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	95
Table 63: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in operating theatre nursing: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	96

Table 64: Registered and enrolled nurses employed as clinicians in intensive care nursing: characteristics, Australia, 1994 to 1997	97
Table 65: Nursing course commencements: type and level of course, residency and year of commencement, Australia, 1990 to 1999	98
Table 66: Nursing course enrolments: type and level of course, residency and year of enrolment, Australia, 1990 to 1999	99
Table 67: Nursing course completions: type and level of course, residency and year of completion, Australia, 1989 to 1998	100
Table 68: Australian permanent resident students commencing nursing courses: geographic location of home residence, sex, States and Territories, 1999	101
Table 69: Australian permanent resident students completing nursing courses: country of birth by year of completion, 1990 to 1998	102
Table 70: Permanent migration of nurses to and from Australia, 1993-94 to 1998-99	103
Table 71: Temporary migration of nurses to and from Australia for education, 1993-94 to 1998-99	103
Table 72: Temporary migration of nurses to and from Australia for employment, 1993-94 to 1998-99	104
Table 73: Registered nurses: classification of job concordance, States and Territories, 1997 Nurses employed under a nursing award	105
Table 74: Area of clinical nursing concordance	107
Table 75: Work setting concordance, States and Territories, 1997	112

List of figures

Figure 1: Registered and enrolled nurses, Australia,	6
Figure 2: Employed nurses as a percentage of total nurse workforce, 1989 to 1999	8
Figure 3: Registered nurses, Australia, 1997	10
Figure 4: Enrolled nurses, Australia, 1997	11
Figure 5: Registered and enrolled nurses per 100,000 population in Australia, 1989 and 1999	22
Figure 6: Registered and enrolled nurses per 100,000 by geographic area, 1997	23
Figure 7: Australian permanent resident students commencing and completing basic nursing courses, 1990 to 1998	26

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADON	Assistant Director of Nursing
AHMAC	Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council
ANCI	Australian Nursing Council Incorporated
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
DEWRSB	Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business
DON	Director of Nursing
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
LEO	Labour Economics Office
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Qld	Queensland
RNO	Regional Nursing Officer
SA	South Australia
Tas	Tasmania
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Symbols and other usages

Throughout this publication, data may not add to the totals shown due to the estimation process for non-response.

Throughout this publication, percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Italics within a table denote a subtotal.

Percentage printed as 0.0 may denote less than 0.05%.

.. denotes not applicable.

– denotes nil.

n.a. denotes not available.

Preface

There is increasing concern about the adequacy of the nursing workforce in each State and Territory, and for Australia as a whole, particularly its capacity to cope with the growing proportion of older age groups in the population. Some of the concerns that have been raised include the proportion of trained nurses who choose not to nurse, the ageing of the nursing workforce and falling student numbers. Several inquiries into various aspects of nursing are now underway.

The nursing workforce is surveyed every two years at the time of registration renewal. This publication largely reports the results of the 1997 survey, but it also contains information relating to registration numbers in 1999, nurse training in 1999 and 1998–99 migration data. It is expected that the results from the 1999 survey will be available soon.

This publication was prepared by Helen Morton, Warwick Conn and Glenice Taylor of the Labour Force and Rural Health Unit and Kathy Southgate of the Data and Information Technology Unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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State and Territory nurses' registration boards and health authorities, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs for immigration data, the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs for education data. The Australian Nursing Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics for labour force survey and population census data.

Most importantly, I would like to thank all those nurses who complete the two-yearly survey. Without their cooperation, it would be impossible to compile this valuable data collection to assist in planning and policy-making.

Richard Madden

Director

August 2001