

# Glossary

## Area of clinical nursing

Is the classification of the area of nursing in which a nursing clinician is engaged.

During 1997 the classification for nursing was changed which will impact on the ability to compare this area with previous years the concordance between this classification system and the previous one is detailed in the table below.

**Table 74: Area of clinical nursing concordance**

Previous Classification	New Classification
Mixed Medical & Surgical	Mixed Medical & Surgical
Medical	Medical
Surgical	Surgical
Obstetrics and gynaecology	Coronary care or surgery <sup>(1)</sup>
Intensive Care	Critical care/intensive care
Gerontology/Geriatric	Geriatric/Gerontology
Operating Theatre	Perioperative/Operating theatre/Recovery
Accident and emergency	Casualty accident/emergency
Midwifery	Midwifery*
Psychiatric/mental health	Mental health/psychiatric
Community	Community
District/domiciliary	Developmental disability
Developmental disability	Occupational Health
Occupational Health	Paediatric
Paediatric	Child and family health
Child health	School Children's health
School Medical	No one principal area of practice
No one principal area of practice	Oncology
Other	Rehabilitation
Private medical practice	Renal
Independent practice	Respiratory medicine/asthma
Aboriginal health	Other

## Clinician

A registered or enrolled nurse who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including nursing diagnosis and preventative action.

## Country

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics*, Catalogue No. 1269.0 has been used to classify country of initial qualification and country of birth into the following categories:

1. *Australia*
2. *New Zealand*
3. *United Kingdom and Ireland*: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland
4. *Asia*: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Republic of Korea (South Korea), Macau, Mongolia, Formosa, Taiwan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
5. *Other countries*: all countries not specified above.

## Enrolled nurse

A nurse who is on the roll maintained by the State or Territory nurses board or nursing council to practise nursing in that State or Territory. The minimum educational requirement for an enrolled nurse is a one-year diploma from a tertiary education institution or equivalent from a recognised hospital-based program. It is necessary for a nurse to have practised for a specified minimum period in the past five years to maintain enrolment. Enrolled nurses include mothercraft and dental nurses where the educational course requirements may be greater than one year but less than a three-year degree course or equivalent.

## Hospital Staffing

- *Salaried Medical Officers* Medical officers engaged by the hospital on a full-time or part time salaried basis.
- *Nurses*
  - *Enrolled Nurses* Second-level nurses who are enrolled in all States and Territories except Victoria where they are registered by the State registration board to practise in this capacity. Includes general enrolled nurses and specialist enrolled nurses (e.g. mothercraft nurses in some States and Territories).
  - *Registered Nurses* Nurses with at least a 3 year training certificate and nurses holding postgraduate qualifications. Registered nurses must be registered with a State or Territory registration board.
- *Other personal care staff* This category includes attendants, assistants or home assistants, home companions, family aides, ward helpers, wards persons, orderlies, ward assistants and nursing assistants, engaged primarily in the provision of personal care to patients or residents, who are formally qualified or undergoing training in nursing or allied health professions.
- *Diagnostic and health professionals* Qualified staff (other than qualified medical and nursing staff) engaged in duties of a diagnostic, professional or technical nature (but also including diagnostic and health professionals whose duties are primarily or partly of an administrative nature). This category includes all allied health professionals and laboratory technicians but excludes civil engineers and computing staff.

- *Administrative and Clerical Staff* Staff engaged in administrative and clerical duties. Civil engineers and computing staff are included in this category. Medical staff and nursing staff, diagnostic and health professionals and any domestic staff primarily or partly engaged in administrative and clerical duties are excluded.
- *Domestic and other staff* Staff engaged in the provision of food and cleaning services. They include domestic staff, such as food services managers, primarily engaged in administrative duties. This category also includes all staff not elsewhere included (primarily maintenance staff, tradespersons and gardening staff).

## Hours worked

The total number of hours worked per week self-reported by responding nurses as the usual number of hours worked per week in all nursing-related jobs over the four weeks before the survey. Note that the Queensland and South Australian surveys did not specify the four-week period.

Hours worked exclude time spent on travel between work locations (except travel to call-outs) and unpaid professional and/or voluntary activities. In the editing of survey responses, maximum hours worked per week was limited to 99 hours per week for main, second and subsequent jobs and 126 hours per week for total hours worked.

The cut-off for full-time and part-time work varies among the States and Territories. In this publication the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition has been used:

- *full-time*: 35 hours or more per week;
- *part-time*: less than 35 hours per week.

## Job classification

The classification of the registered nurse varies according to the industrial award in each State and Territory. New South Wales and Victoria have state awards while the other States and Territories operate with a federal award. The concordance among the reported classifications and the published classification is shown in Table 70.

## Geographic classification

The *Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas Classification* (RRMA), November 1994, of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy and the Department of Health and Aged Care has been used to classify the geographic location of the main job of responding nurses in the following seven categories.

### Metropolitan areas:

1. *Capital cities* consist of the State and Territory capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Darwin and Canberra.
2. *Other metropolitan centres* consist of one or more statistical subdivisions, which have an urban centre of population of 100,000 or more in size. These centres are: Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan (part of Canberra-Queanbeyan), Geelong, Gold Coast-Tweed Heads, Townsville-Thuringowa.

### **Rural zones:**

3. *Large rural centres* are statistical local areas where most of the population resides in urban centres of population of 25,000 to 99,999. These centres are: Albury–Wodonga, Dubbo, Lismore, Orange, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga (NSW); Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton–Mooroopna (Vic); Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Maroochydore–Mooloolaba, Rockhampton, Toowoomba (Qld); Whyalla (SA); and Launceston (Tas).
4. *Small rural centres* are statistical local areas in rural zones containing urban centres of population between 10,000 and 24,999. These centres are: Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Casino, Coffs Harbour, Forster–Tuncurry, Goulburn, Grafton, Griffith, Lithgow, Moree Plains, Muswellbrook, Nowra–Bomaderry, Singleton, Taree (NSW); Bairnsdale, Colac, Echuca–Moama, Horsham, Mildura, Moe–Yallourn, Morwell, Ocean Grove–Barwon Heads, Portland, Sale, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool (Vic); Caloundra, Gladstone, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Tewantin–Noosa, Warwick (Qld); Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie (SA); Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Mandurah (WA); Burnie–Somerset, Devonport (Tas).
5. *Other rural areas* are the remaining statistical areas within the rural zone. Examples are Cowra Shire, Temora Shire, Guyra Shire (NSW); Ararat Shire, Cobram Shire (Vic); Cardwell Shire, Whitsunday Shire (Qld); Barossa, Pinnaroo (SA); Moora Shire, York Shire (WA); George Town, Ross (Tas); Coomalie, Litchfield (NT).

**Remote zones:** these are generally less densely populated than rural statistical local areas and hundreds of kilometres from a major urban centre. Data in this publication are reported for the zone that comprises the two areas shown below.

6. *Remote centres* are statistical local areas in the remote zone containing urban centres of population of 5,000 or more. These centres are: Blackwater, Bowen, Emerald, Mareeba, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Roma (Qld); Broome, Carnarvon, East Pilbara, Esperance, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Port Hedland, Karratha (WA); Alice Springs, Katherine (NT).
7. *Other remote areas* are the remaining areas within the remote zone. Examples are: Balranald, Bourke, Cobar, Lord Howe Island (NSW); French Island, Orbost, Walpeup (Vic); Aurukun, Longreach, Quilpie (Qld); Coober Pedy, Murat Bay, Roxby Downs (SA); Coolgardie, Exmouth, Laverton, Shark Bay (WA); King Island, Strahan (Tas); Daly, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy (NT).

## **Nursing labour force**

The nursing labour force (registered and enrolled nurses) in each State and Territory includes nurses currently employed in nursing and nurses who are not employed in nursing but are looking for work in nursing.

Registered and enrolled nurses who, at the time of the survey, were on maternity or other extended leave for more than three months are employed, and thus part of the nursing labour force. However, in most cross-classified tables for employed nurses, those on extended leave have not been included because not all States and Territories collected data on their employment characteristics prior to commencement of leave.

## **Occupation**

A description of the job function within the field of nursing of a person with nursing qualifications. The occupations are:

- *Clinician:* a registered or enrolled nurse who is mainly involved in the care and treatment of patients, including nursing diagnosis and preventative action;

- *Clinician Nurse Manager*: a registered or enrolled nurse who manages a hospital nursing care unit or other sub-unit of a hospital, nursing home or health care facility, or supervises nursing staff for a particular unit or shift;
- *Administrator*: a person mainly employed in nursing administration;
- *Teacher/Educator*: a person who is teaching or training persons in nursing for their initial qualification or in advanced skills after initial qualification;
- *Researcher*: a person engaged in nursing research; and
- *Other*: a job function in nursing which is not one of the above – for example, industrial relations or public health activities in nursing.

### **Registered nurse**

A nurse who is on the register maintained by the State or Territory nurses board or nursing council to practise nursing in that State or Territory. The minimum educational requirement for a registered nurse is a three-year degree from a tertiary education institution or equivalent from a recognised hospital-based program. Registered nurses may have their practice certificate endorsed to practise in a specific clinical area (for example, midwifery) on completion of a recognised postgraduate course. To maintain registration, it is necessary for a nurse to have practised for a specified minimum period in the field of nursing in the past five years.

### **Work setting**

The functional use of the premises where a nursing job is located. Table 71 presents the concordance between the description in the publication and the data as collected from each State and Territory.

**Table 75: Work setting concordance, States and Territories, 1997**

Publication description	Data collection description	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
<b>Public sector</b>									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	Hospital inpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Hospital outpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Acute general/specialist hospital			X					
	Psychiatric hospital/service			X					
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Nursing home/aged care service			X					
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hostel	Hostel	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hospice	Hospice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Community health centre <sup>(a)</sup>	Community health centre/service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency	Agency		X		X	X	X	X	X
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School/child health service	School	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Maternal and child health service		X						
	Child health service			X					
Tertiary education institution	Tertiary/higher education institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prison medical service <sup>(b)</sup>	Prison medical service	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Defence forces <sup>(b)</sup>	Defence forces	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Domiciliary nursing service			X					
	Government dept/statutory authority			X					
	Local government			X					
<b>Private sector</b>									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	Hospital inpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Hospital outpatient	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Acute general/specialist hospital			X					
	Psychiatric hospital/service			X					
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Nursing home/aged care service			X					
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Day surgery centre/facility			X					
Hostel	Hostel	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Hospice	Hospice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Private medical rooms	Private medical (doctor's rooms)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency	Agency	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private nursing practice	Private nursing practice	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School/child health service	School	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Maternal and child health service		X						
Tertiary education institution	Tertiary/higher education institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Private sector	Private sector	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Industry/private enterprise			X					
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Domiciliary nursing service			X					

(a) Includes private community health centres for New South Wales.

(b) Includes private prison medical services, and private defence forces for South Australia.

## References

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- Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics. ABS Cat. no. 1269.0. Canberra: ABS.
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- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 1998. OECD Health Data File, 1998. Paris: OECD.

## Related publications

The following publications relating to the health labour force have been issued by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

### National health labour force series

- No. 1: Pharmacy labour force 1992
- No. 2: Podiatry labour force 1992
- No. 3: Medical labour force 1992–93
- No. 4: Physiotherapy labour force 1993
- No. 5: Pharmacy labour force 1993
- No. 6: Medical labour force 1994
- No. 7: Podiatry labour force 1994
- No. 8: Pharmacy labour force 1994

- No. 9: Nursing labour force 1993 and 1994
- No. 10: Medical labour force 1995
- No. 11: Nursing labour force 1995
- No. 12: Pharmacy labour force 1995
- No. 13: Medical labour force 1996
- No. 14: Nursing labour force 1998
- No. 15: Medical labour force 1997
- No. 16: Medical labour force 1998
- No. 17: Pharmacy labour force 1998
- No. 18: Optometrist labour force 1999
- No. 19: Health and Community Services labour force 1996

## **Other publications**

- Australia's health 1994
- Australia's health 1996
- Australia's health 1998
- Australia's health 2000
- Australia hospital statistics 1993-95: an overview
- Australian hospital statistics 1996-97
- Australian hospital statistics 1997-98
- Australian hospital statistics 1998-99

## **Internet access**

A selection of material produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is published on the Institute's web-site at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>. This includes the Institute's medical and nursing labour force publications, the publications catalogue ordering information.



This report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare presents statistics on trends in the employment of nurses in Australia over the decade up to, and including, 1999.

The number and characteristics of all registered and enrolled nurses are presented for 1997, including statistics showing employment in nursing by age, sex, type of nurse, area of clinical nursing, classification, work setting, hours worked and geographic region of main job.

The report also includes statistics on numbers of certified nurses employed in OECD countries, levels of international migration by nurses, and the numbers of students enrolled in and completing tertiary nursing courses.