

Definitions

Age

Age has been derived as the number of completed years from year of birth to the year of the survey.

Area of clinical nursing

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

A detailed classification of some 61 classes was used by New South Wales which does not precisely match the standard 20 classes used in other States and Territories. The concordance between the standard classification and the New South Wales classification is shown in the table below.

Table 60: Area of clinical nursing concordance, New South Wales

Publication classification	New South Wales classification
Mixed medical and surgical	Mixed medical surgical
Medical	Medical group excluding aged care Diagnostic group
Surgical	Surgical group excluding operating theatre/recovery
Operating theatre	Operating theatre/recovery
Intensive care	Acute care group excluding casualty accident/emergenc
Paediatric	
Obstetrics and gynaecology/midwifery	Gynaecology/obstetrics group excluding mothercraft
Psychiatric/mental health	Mental health group excluding developmental disability
Developmental disability	Developmental disability
Gerontology/geriatric	Aged care
Accident and emergency	Casualty accident/emergency
Community	Community nursing—general
Child health	Child and family health
School medical	School children's health
District/domiciliary	
Occupational health	Occupational health
Private medical practice	
Independent practice	
No one principal area	No one area of practice
Other	Mothercraft Aboriginal health Women's health

In 1993, midwifery was not separately identified and, in 1994, Victoria was the only State to separately identify this area. Therefore, midwifery is not shown as a separate area of clinical nursing in this publication. Midwifery was separately identified in the 1995 and subsequent surveys.

Classification of job

The classification of the registered nurse 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 the table below.

Table 61: Registered nurses: classification of job concordance, States and Territories

Publication classification	Reported classification	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Level 5 director of nursing	Management: area DON/RNO	X							
	Management: area manager nurse education	X							
	Management: director of nursing	X							
	Management: deputy director of nursing	X							
	Grade 7 director of nursing		X						
	Grade 6 management/education		X						
Level 4 assistant director of nursing clinical/management	Level 5 director of nursing			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Clinical: Assistant director of nursing (ADON)	X							
	Management: assistant director of nursing	X							
	Grade 5 clinical management/supervisor		X						
	Level 4 ADON: clinical			X					
	Level 4 ADON: management			X					
Level 4 staff development/education/research	Level 4 clinical/management				X	X	X	X	X
	Management: manager nurse education	X							
	Grade 5 staff development/education		X						
	Level 4 staff development/education			X					
	Level 4 research			X					
Level 3 nurse manager	Level 4 staff development/education/research				X	X	X	X	X
	Clinical: nursing unit manager	X							
	Management: nursing unit manager	X							
	Grade 4 nurse manager/maternal child nurse/ staff development		X						
Level 3 clinical nurse consultant/specialist	Level 3 Nurse manager			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Clinical nurse consultant	X							
	Grade 3 clinical nurse consultant/associate charge nurse		X						
	Level 3 clinical nurse consultant			X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 3 staff development/education/research	Level 3 clinical nurse specialist							X	
	Education: clinical education	X							
	Education: staff development	X							
	Education: vocational education	X							
	Researcher	X							
	Level 3 staff development/education			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Level 3 research			X					
Level 2 clinical nurse	Level 2 staff development/education				X				
	Clinical nurse specialist	X							
Level 1 registered nurse	Level 2 clinical nurse			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Clinical: midwife	X							
	Clinical: registered nurse	X							
	Grade 2 registered nurse/clinical nurse specialist		X						
	Grade 1 registered nurse		X						
Lecturer—higher education sector	Level 1 registered nurse			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Education: nurse academic	X							
	Lecturer—higher education sector		X		X	X	X	X	X
Other	Lecturer/Tutor—higher education sector			X					
	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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 data by country.

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, mental health, psychiatric and dental nurses where the educational course requirements may be greater than one year but less than a three year degree course or equivalent.

Geographic classification

The *Rural and Remote Areas Classification (RARAC)*, January 1994, of the Department of Health and Family Services has been used to classify the geographic location of the main job of responding nurses in the following five categories:

1. *capital city*;
2. *other major urban*: areas with a population of 80,000 or more—for example, are Newcastle, Wollongong, Queanbeyan (part of Canberra–Queanbeyan), Geelong, Gold Coast–Tweed (part), Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba and Launceston;
3. *major rural*:
 - statistical local areas with a minimum population of 20,000 in New South Wales and Victoria, 18,000 in Queensland, or 14,000 in other States and Territories; or
 - urban areas with a population density of 30 or more per square kilometre and a population of at least 10,000 in New South Wales and Victoria, 9,000 in Queensland, or 7,000 in other States/Territories.For example, Albury, Armidale, Lismore (NSW); Ballarat, Shepparton (Vic); Gladstone, Mackay (Qld); Mount Gambier, Port Augusta (SA); Albany, Bunbury (WA); and Devonport, Wynyard (Tas);
4. *other rural*: for example, Cowra Shire, Temora Shire (NSW); Ararat Shire, Cobram Shire (Vic); Cardwell Shire, Whitsunday Shire (Qld); Barossa, Pinnaroo (SA); Moora Shire, York Shire (WA); Bruny, Ross (Tas); and Vernon (NT);
5. *remote*: generally less densely populated areas than rural statistical local areas and hundreds of kilometres from a major urban centre—for example, are Broken Hill, Bourke (NSW); Mildura, Omeo (Vic); Mt Isa, Quilpie (Qld); Port Lincoln, Coober Pedy (SA); Carnarvon, Exmouth (WA); King Island, Zeehan (Tas); and Alice Springs, Jabiru (NT).

Hours worked

The total number of hours worked per week self reported by responding nurses as the average worked in all nursing related jobs over the four weeks before the survey. Note that some States and Territories recorded hours worked in the respondent's first and second nursing related jobs while other States and Territories recorded hours worked in the respondent's first, second and remaining nursing related jobs.

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 126 hours per week.

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.

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 3 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 data were not collected 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;
- *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 research in the practice of nursing; 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. The table below presents the concordance between the description in the publication and the data as collected from each State and Territory.

Table 62: Work setting concordance, States and Territories

Publication description	Data collection description	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Public sector									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	General hospital	X							
	Psychiatric hospital	X							
	Paediatric hospital	X		X					
	Hospital inpatient		X						
	Hospital outpatient		X						
	Acute general/specialist hospital				X	X	X	X	X
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X						
	Nursing home/aged care service			X	X	X	X	X	X
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X						
Hostel	Hostel		X						
Hospice	Hospice		X						
Community health centre	Community health centre/service	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency	Agency		X						
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability institution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School/child health service	Public school system	X							
	School								
	Child health service			X	X	X	X	X	X
Tertiary education institution	Higher education institution	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Prison medical service	Prison medical service	X	X						
Defence forces	Defence forces	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Domiciliary nursing service			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Government dept/statutory authority			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Local government			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mental health centre/service							X	
Private sector									
Acute/psychiatric hospital	General hospital	X							
	Psychiatric hospital	X		X					
	Hospital inpatient		X						
	Hospital outpatient		X						
	Acute general/specialist hospital			X	X	X	X	X	X
Nursing home	Nursing home	X	X						
	Nursing home/aged care service			X	X	X	X	X	X
Day procedure centre	Day procedure centre	X	X						
	Day surgery centre/facility			X	X	X	X	X	X
Hostel	Hostel	X	X						
Hospice	Hospice	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	
Private nursing practice	Private nursing practice	X	X						
Developmental disability service	Developmental disability service		X	X	X	X	X	X	
School/child health service	School		X						
Tertiary education institution	Higher education institution			X	X	X	X	X	
Private sector	Private sector	X	X						
	Industry/private enterprise			X	X	X	X	X	X
Other	Other	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Prison medical service		X						
	Defence forces		X						
	Domiciliary nursing service			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mental health centre/service							X	

Reference list

Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian demographic statistics. Catalogue No. 3101.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 1990. Australian standard classification of countries for social statistics. Catalogue No. 1269.0. Canberra: ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 1981, 1986, 1991. Census of population and housing: Characteristics of persons employed in health occupations, Australia. Catalogue No. 4346.0. Canberra:ABS.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. Labour force survey, Group C. Canberra, quarterly 1989-96, microfiche.

Australian Nursing Council 1993, 1994, 1995. Annual Report. Canberra: Australian Nursing Council Inc.

Department of Health and Family Services 1994. Rural and remote areas classification. Canberra: AGPS.

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*

Other publications

Australia's Health 1994

Australia's Health 1996

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 report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare presents statistics on all nurses registered with the nursing board or nursing council in each State and Territory of Australia in 1993 and 1994.

The number and characteristics of all registered and enrolled nurses are presented 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 showing trends in nursing employment, and data on the number of certified nurses employed in OECD countries, levels of international migration within the field, and the number of students enrolled in and completing tertiary nursing courses.