

SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONAL NURSING
WORKFORCE (EMPLOYED*) IN 2025

Total
421,796
EMPLOYED 

Female
87.4% 

Australian-born
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait
Islander
1.3% 

Born in Australia
53.1% 

Average
weekly hours
34.3 

Average Age
41.9 years 

Located in a
metropolitan
area
74.1% **MM1**

Initial
qualification
in Australia
76.9% 

The [National Nursing Workforce Strategy](#) launched in August 2026 provides a vision to grow, support and retain Australia's nursing workforce. This strategy supports collective action to tackle current workforce challenges and opportunities to enable nurses to work to their optimum scope of practice to deliver high-quality care.

CNSA will utilise the National Nursing Workforce Strategy to support the implementation of initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of the cancer nursing workforce and improving outcomes for all people affected by cancer.

*Employed in Australia, working in their registered profession (registered nurse). Excludes people on extended leave, those employed outside their registered profession, and those unemployed and looking for work.

Source: National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS). Available at: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool/>.



SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONAL CANCER NURSING
WORKFORCE (EMPLOYED*) IN 2025

Total
8,828
EMPLOYED

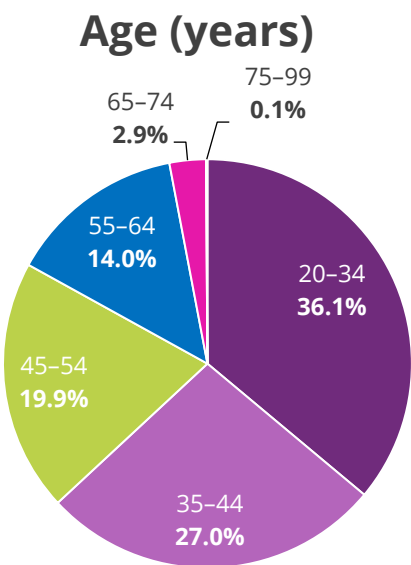
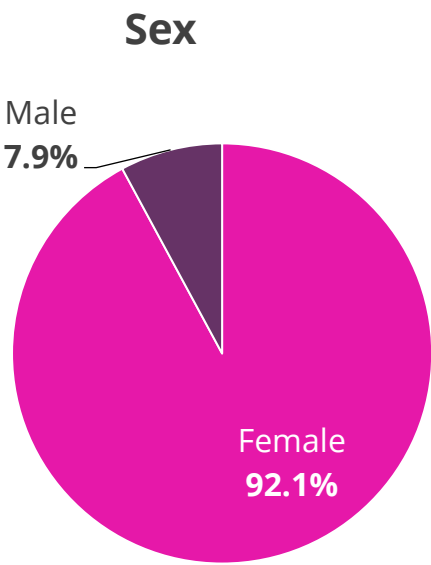
Australian-born
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait
Islander
1.15%

Female
92.1%

In 2020, the CNSA advocated for incorporating cancer care as a job area that health professionals could nominate in their AHPRA registration. As a result, we now have 5 full years of data specific to the cancer care nursing workforce (see below).

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total National Nursing Workforce	366,696	372,759	391,241	409,794	421,796
Job area - Cancer Care (% total workforce)	6,825 (1.86%)	7,004 (1.87%)	7,721 (1.84%)	8,234 (2.0%)	8,828 (2.1%)
% increase year on year		2.7%	10.12%	6.2%	6.7%

CANCER NURSING WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

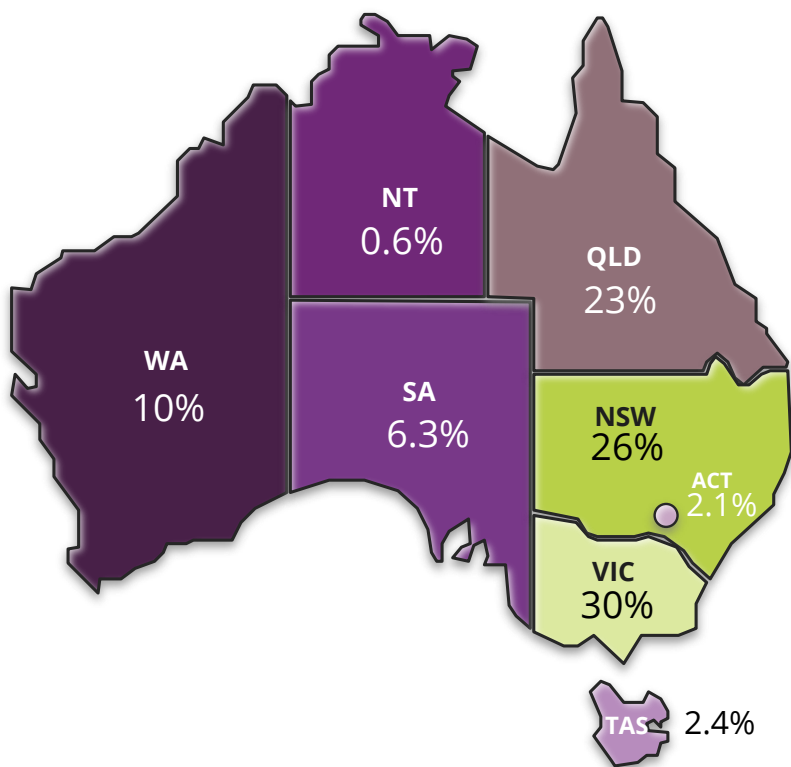


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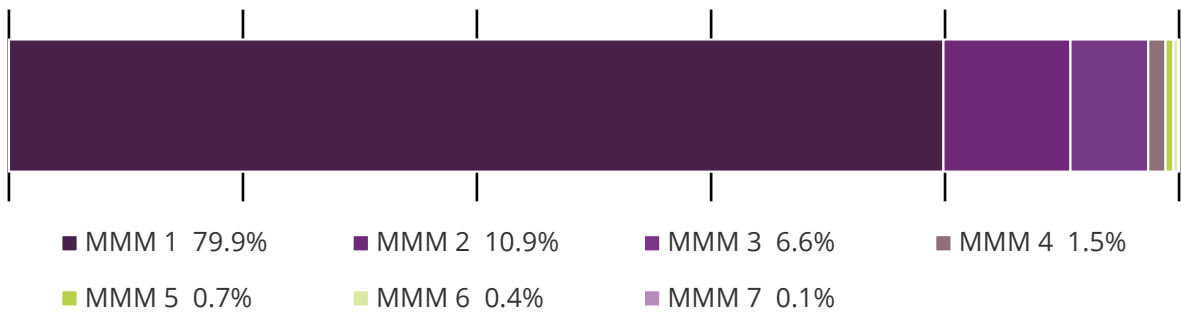
Source: National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS). Available at: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool/>.



SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONAL CANCER NURSING
WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION IN 2025



DISTRIBUTION OF CANCER NURSES BY MMM AREA | N = 8,824



CNSA uses this National Health Workforce data to map trends in the cancer nursing workforce and to understand how the profession is changing. This is paramount to developing implementation strategies to ensure a sustainable workforce that can deliver optimal outcomes for all people affected by cancer.

*Employed in Australia, working in their registered profession (registered nurse). Excludes people on extended leave, those employed outside their registered profession, and those unemployed and looking for work.

Source: National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS). Available at: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool/>.

SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONAL NURSE
PRACTITIONER WORKFORCE (EMPLOYED*)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total National Nursing Workforce	366,696	372,759	391,241	409,794	421,796
Registered Nurse Practitioner (NP) – employed	2,071	2,425	2,656	2,664	2,947
Registered NP - employed as NP	1,549	1,675	1,687	1,871	2,494
Registered NP - Job area – Cancer Care - employed	64	64	94	87	108
Registered NP - Job area – Cancer Care - employed as NP (% total registered & employed NPs)	52 (3.4%)	50 (3.0%)	69 (4.0%)	62 (3.3%)	93 (3.7%)

Female
80.3%



Average Age
50.3 years



Australian-born
Aboriginal and/or
Torres Strait
Islander
1.5%



Born in Australia
62.0%



Located in a
metropolitan
area
69.4%

MM1

Initial
qualification in
Australia
76.6%



*Employed in Australia, working in their registered profession (registered nurse). Excludes people on extended leave, those employed outside their registered profession, and those unemployed and looking for work.

Source: National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS). Available at: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool/>.

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