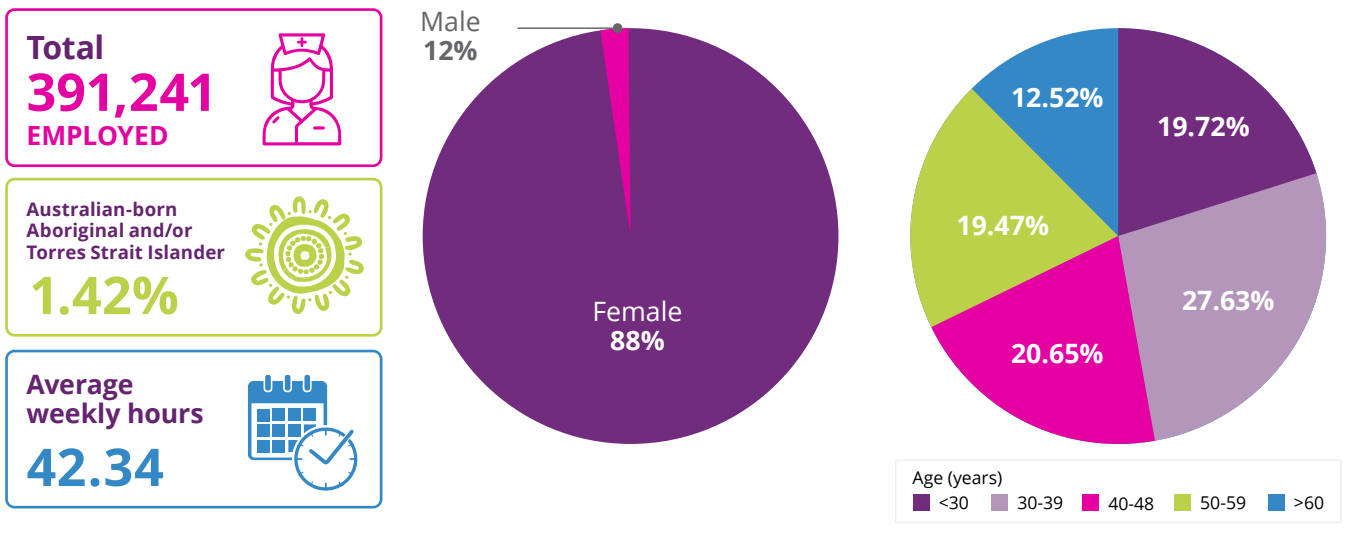


# Nursing Workforce in Australia



## SNAPSHOT OF THE NATIONAL NURSING/MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE (EMPLOYED\*) IN 2023



## CANCER NURSING WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2020, the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia advocated to incorporate cancer care as a job area health professionals could nominate in their AHPRA registration. As a result, we now have 3 full years of data specific to the cancer care nursing workforce (see below).

## SNAPSHOT OF THE NURSING WORKFORCE – CANCER CARE (EMPLOYED\*) IN 2023

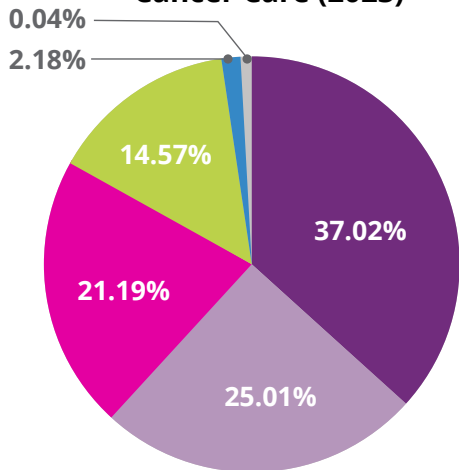


Variation workforce composition	2021	2022	2023
<b>National Nursing/Midwifery Workforce</b>	<b>366,696</b>	<b>372,759</b>	<b>391,241</b>
Job area – Cancer Care (% of the total nursing/midwifery workforce)	6,825 (1.86%)	7,004 (1.87%)	7,721 (1.84%)
Job area – Surgical (% of the total nursing/midwifery workforce)	27,698 (7.6%)	28,226 (7.5%)	31,116 (8%)
Job area – Palliative Care (% of the total nursing/midwifery workforce)	3,516 (0.9%)	3,689 (0.9%)	3,917 (1.0%)
<b>Nurse Practitioners (NP)</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,432</b>
Job area – Cancer Care (% of the total NP workforce)	64 (3.1%)	64 (2.9%)	94 (3.9%)

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

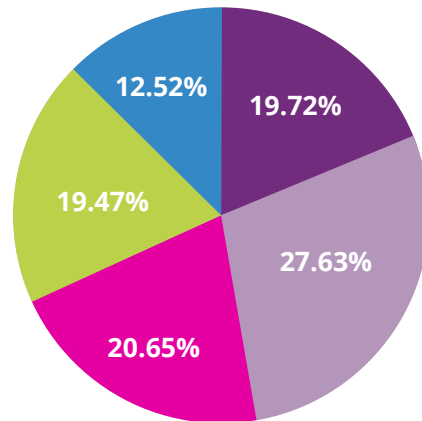
## AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

**Nursing Workforce - Job Area - Cancer Care (2023)**



Age (years)  
 ■ 20-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-59 ■ 65-74 ■ 75-99

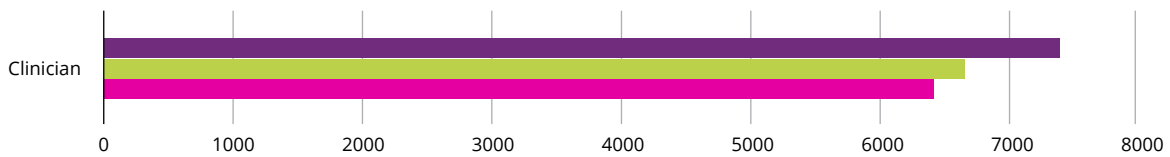
**Total National Nursing / Midwifery Workforce (2023)**



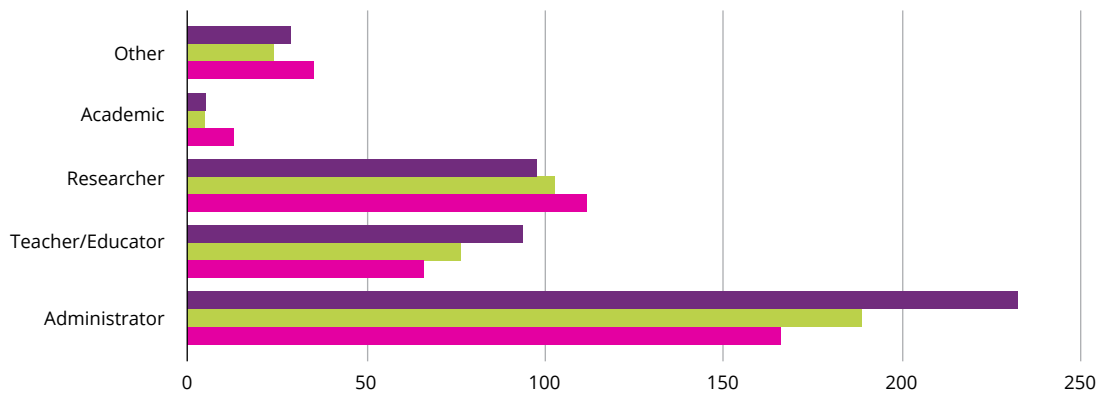
Age (years)  
 ■ 20-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■ 55-59 ■ 65-74

## CANCER NURSING JOB ROLE



**Nursing Workforce - Job Area - Cancer Care - Job Role - Clinician**



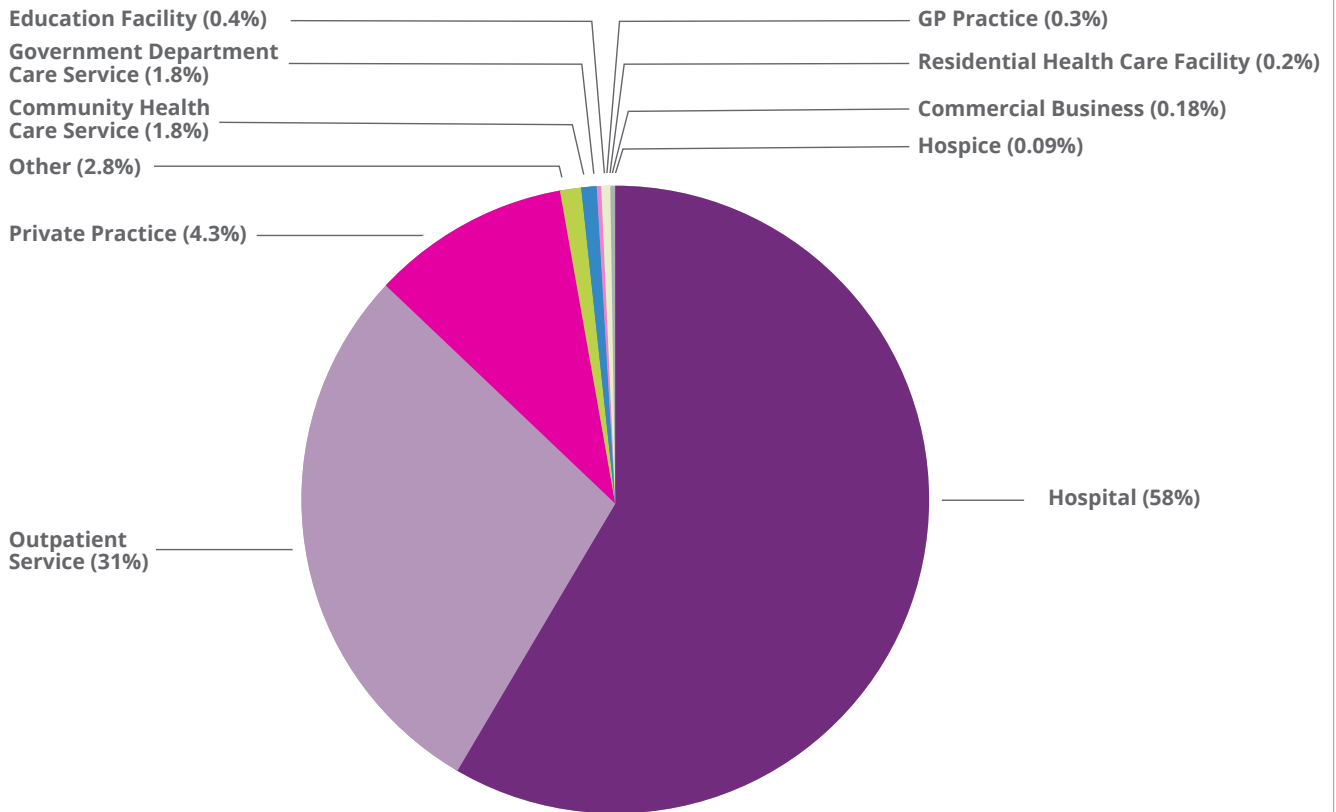
**Cancer Care - All job roles**



Year of data reporting  
 ■ 2023 ■ 2022 ■ 2021

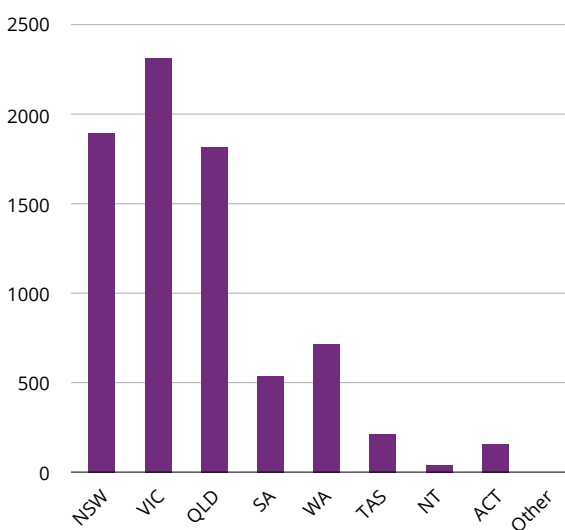
Cancer Nurse Workforce	2021	2022	2023
 <b>Male (% total)</b>	515 (7.5%)	567 (8%)	581 (7.5%)
 <b>Female (% total)</b>	6308 (92%)	6437 (91%)	7140 (92%)

## CANCER NURSE WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION BY JOB SETTING

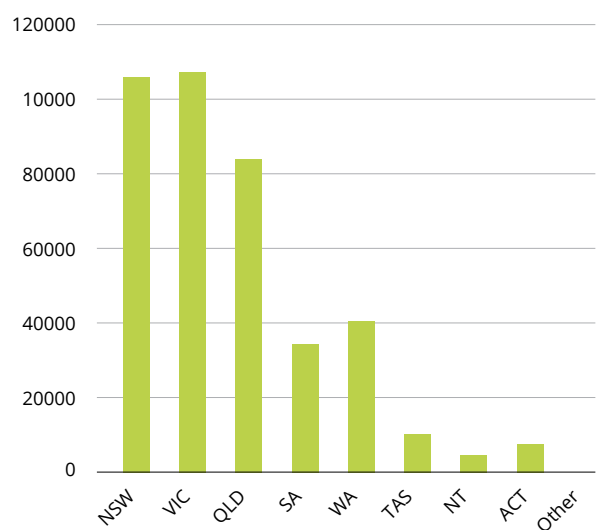


## CANCER NURSE WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF WORK

**Nursing Workforce - Job Area - Cancer Care (2023)**

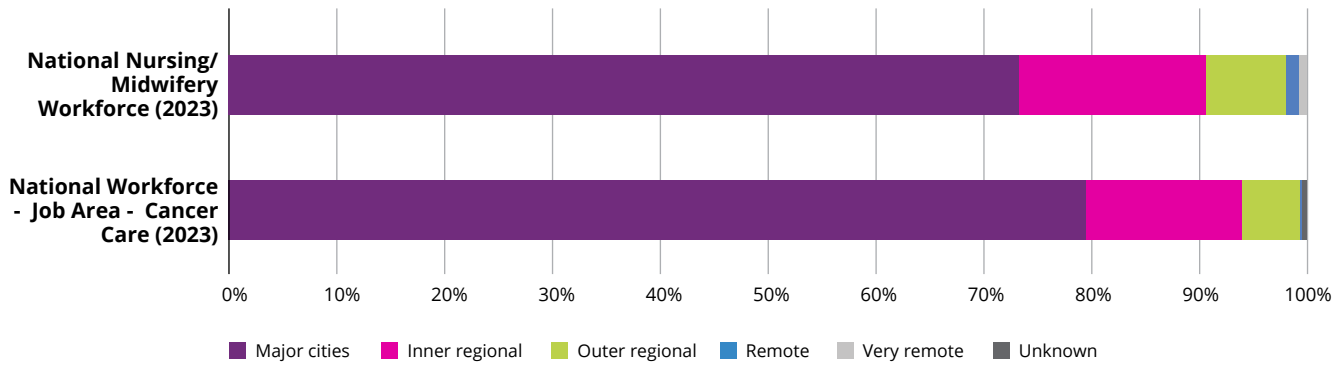


**Total National Nursing / Midwifery Workforce (2023)**



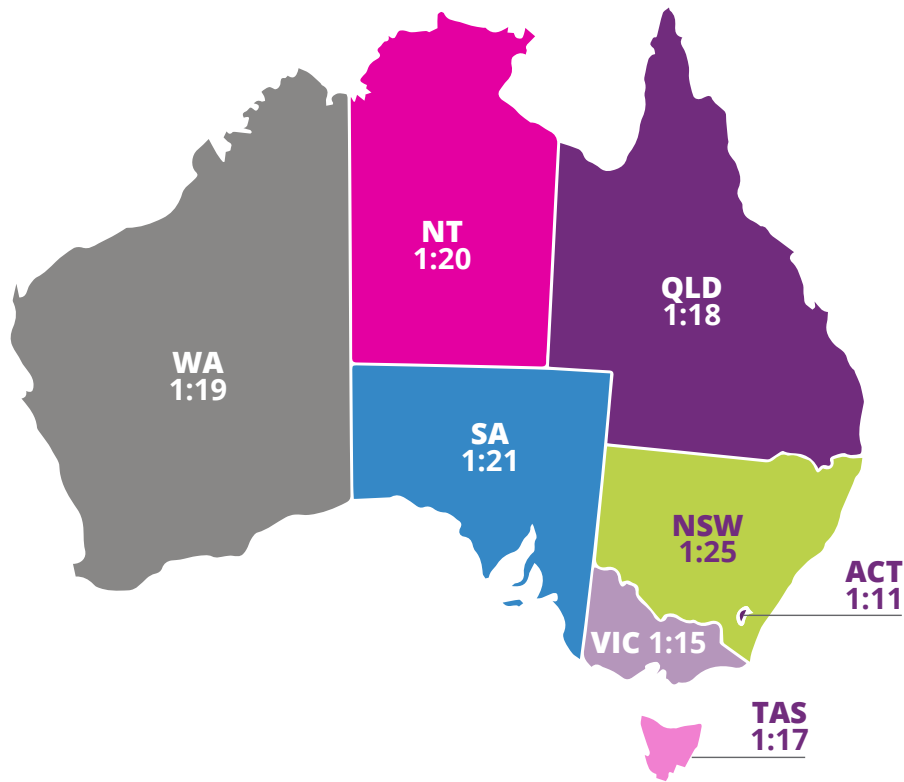
**Other:** Includes other territories comprising Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.

## WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION BY REMOTENESS AREA



## CANCER NURSE DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO CANCER CASES

Estimated ratio of cancer nurses to cancer cases in Australian states and territories.



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

### SOURCES

**Workforce Data:** National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDs), Available at: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool/>. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for the national registration of the healthcare workforce in Australia. The data from this annual registration process, together with data from a workforce survey that is voluntarily completed at the time of registration, forms the NHWDs.

**Cancer Incidence Data Source:** Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/cancer/latest-release>.

Estimated cancer rates are based on a 2020 dataset and then extrapolated against National, state, and territory population estimates from March 2024.