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PSYCHOLOGISTS WORKING IN NSW

This section documents the number and characteristics of psychologists working in NSW.

- The NSW psychologist workforce is estimated to be 4,400 in total in 2000, a very slight increase on the estimated workforce size of 4,380 in 1999 (after adjusting for non response, see Section 1, p.5, "Estimating Workforce Size"). The estimated full time equivalent psychologist workforce (FTE workforce) consists of 4,785.4 FTE in 2000.
- Workforce participation rates for psychologists in NSW are high at 85.7% (3,796/4,430).
- The proportion of women in the psychologist workforce is 69.4%, with a greater proportion of females in younger age groups. Some 36.8% or just over one third of the female workforce were aged under 40, while 19.0% or nearly one fifth of males were under forty years in 2000. Women are greater in numbers in all age groups except for those aged 65 to 69 years and over 75 years, varying from 91.7% of all psychologists in the 20 to 24 age group, to the lowest proportion of 23.5% for those 75 years and older.
- Some 31.3% of the workforce are aged under forty years, 31.4% are aged 40 to 49 years, 30.2% are aged 50 to 59 years, and 7.2% of the workforce are 60 years and older. This indicates an older workforce overall, with the modal age range being 50 to 54 years (ie the age range with the greatest number of working psychologists), followed by 45 to 49 years.
- Some 94.3% of psychologists working in NSW are Australian citizens, with 5.1% permanent residents, and only 0.6% not permanent residents or not stated (but not Australian citizens). Nearly three quarters of psychologists are born in Australia (73.1%), and the most common countries of birth for overseas born psychologists are the UK/Ireland, other Europe and Asia.
- Some 6.2% of psychologists working in NSW are also registered interstate; and some 70.4% are required to be registered in NSW in their current position.
- Some 29.6% of the workforce designate counselling as one of their principal areas of practice in a main job, with 19.9% indicating clinical psychology, 15.6% education, 7.5% in organisational psychology, 5.9% in health and 4.2% practicing in research. This varies with the second job, with 31.1% in counselling, 25.6% in a clinical role, 10.6% in education, 6.7% in teaching, 5.1% in organisational psychology, and 5.3% in health. Respondents were able to provide multiple responses to the question. Males were slightly more likely to work in organisational psychology and forensic work, and slightly less likely to be in counselling or education in a main job than female psychologists.

- The public sector accounted for 65.2% of psychologists in 2000 in their main job while 34.8% work in the private sector in their main job. Some 16.3% of the total workforce work in public schools, and 11.2% work in public tertiary education institutions; while 23.6% in total work in a public sector health setting in public hospitals (7.7% of the total), in public community health centres (7.8%), in the public community mental health service (5.7%), and in other public community health centres or services (2.4%). The largest single group were the 23.6% of the total who worked in a private practice/consultancy, followed by 3.2% in mining, industrial, corporate or commercial settings.
- In a second job, this trend is reversed, with 70.8% working in the private sector and 29.2% in the public sector. The largest single group is of psychologists working in a private practice or consultancy (57.5% of the total workforce in a second job), followed by 10.2% in public tertiary education institutions and 11.1% in a health setting in the public sector; in public hospitals (4.5% of the total), in public community health centres (2.5%), in the public community mental health service (2.1%), and in other public community health centres or services (2.0%).
- In a main job, 69.5% were permanent employees, 20.8% were self employed, 5.5% were temporary and 4.2% were casual. In a second job, this was significantly different with 13.7% permanent employees, 57.6% self employed, 21.6% casual and 7.1% temporary.
- Some 87.1% of the workforce indicated service provision/client contact hours in their main job, with the greatest number (31.7%) working 20 to 29 hours per week in this area. Some 74.3% of the workforce indicated hours worked in administration/management with the largest proportion working one to nine hours per week in this capacity. Some 14.9% reported they taught psychology and only 2.9% of respondents reported working full time in teaching psychology. One quarter or 25.6% were involved in psychological research, with 5.8% of respondents full time. Some 27.9% reported providing professional supervision, and 9.9% reported working other hours in a psychological role. There were 971 psychologists who reported working hours in a second job, and of those 765 reported service provision/client contact hours, 460 reported administration/management hours, 136 provided professional supervision, 121 were teaching psychology, 115 were conducting psychological research and 72 had other activities.
- Some 42.4% of psychologists reported working part time paid hours in their **main job** (paid hours worked less than 35 hours per week). Women were more likely to work part time than men (47.4% of women compared with 31.0% of men). Some 99.2% of psychologists reported working part time paid hours in their **second** job (hours worked less than 35 hours per week). In terms of total hours worked in a main job, 37.7% of psychologists worked part time, and 62.3% full time. Women again more commonly worked part time total hours in a main job (42.5% compared with 26.5% of men working part time). Some 29.1% of psychologists reported working part time in their **total job hours** for all jobs, with 40 to 44 hours per week the most common range of total hours worked.
- In 2000, the main job for 85.3% of psychologists was located in Metropolitan Area Health Services, with 69.2% in Metropolitan Sydney and 16.1% in other major Metropolitan areas. South Eastern Sydney was the main job location for 20.1% of psychologists with Northern Sydney having 18.0%. Rural Area Health services were the main job location for 14.2% of psychologists, with Northern Rivers having the highest proportion in a rural area at 3.1%. The distribution is similar for a second job.
- Some 30.9% of psychologists worked predominantly with adults in their main job, 19.9% with adolescents, 17.3% with children, and 14.1% with families. A higher proportion worked with adults (42.7%) in a second job. English was the predominant language spoken for 86.3% of psychologists, with 1.3% using German, 1.4% using Spanish and 1.1% using French.