



2006

Profile of the Nursing Workforce in NSW

An overview of information from the 2006 Labour Force Survey

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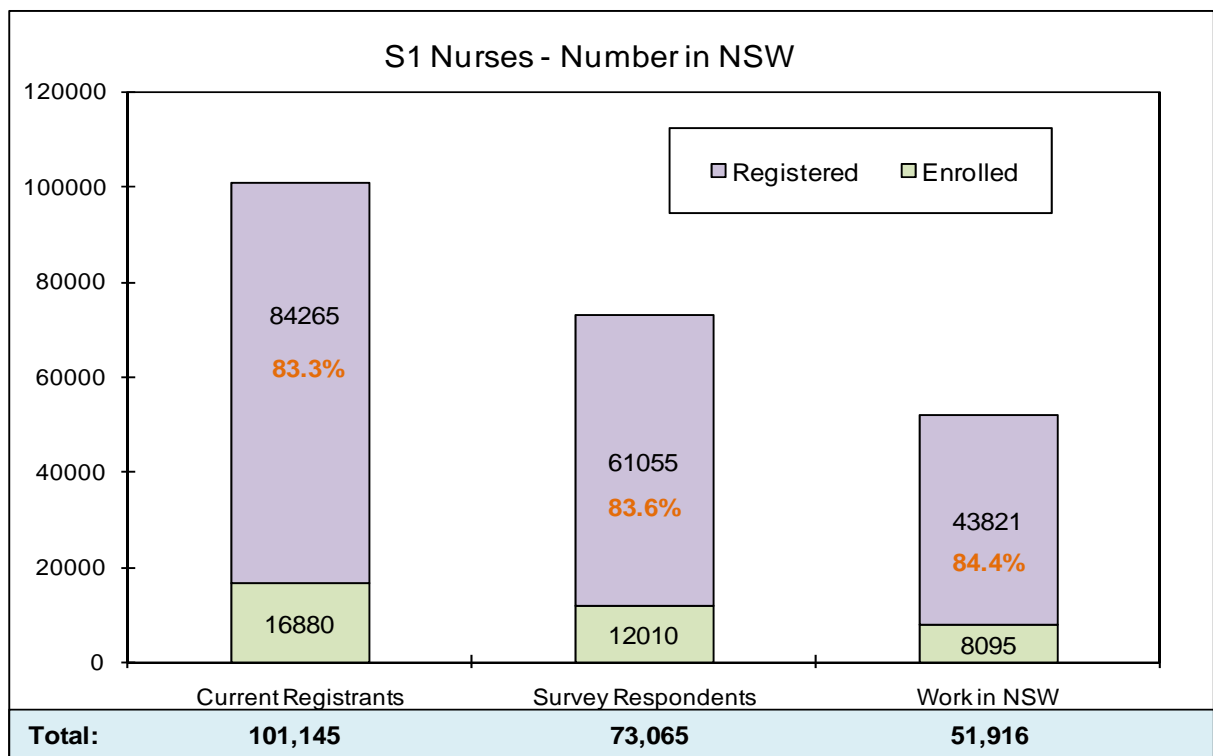
Overview

This publication presents a range of survey statistics for the nursing workforce in the State of New South Wales. The workforce is composed of registered nurses and enrolled nurses. All persons wishing to work as a nurse must be either registered or enrolled. There are differences in qualifications, award rates, duties and responsibilities between the two categories of nurses.

Separate publications have been compiled reporting a range of survey statistics for registered nurses and for enrolled nurses. However, some readers will wish to obtain information about the nursing workforce as a whole and about the ratio between the two categories of nurses for various aspects of patient care.

Number of Nurses

Chart S1 indicates the total number of nurses on the register or roll, the number of survey respondents and the number of those respondents who state that they work in New South Wales.



Registered nurses make up 84.4% of the nursing workforce according to number of respondents. The estimated true workforce calculated by proportional allocation of non respondents is 73,422 nurses made up of 61,860 registered nurses (84.3%) and 11,562 enrolled nurses.

Hours Worked & FTEs

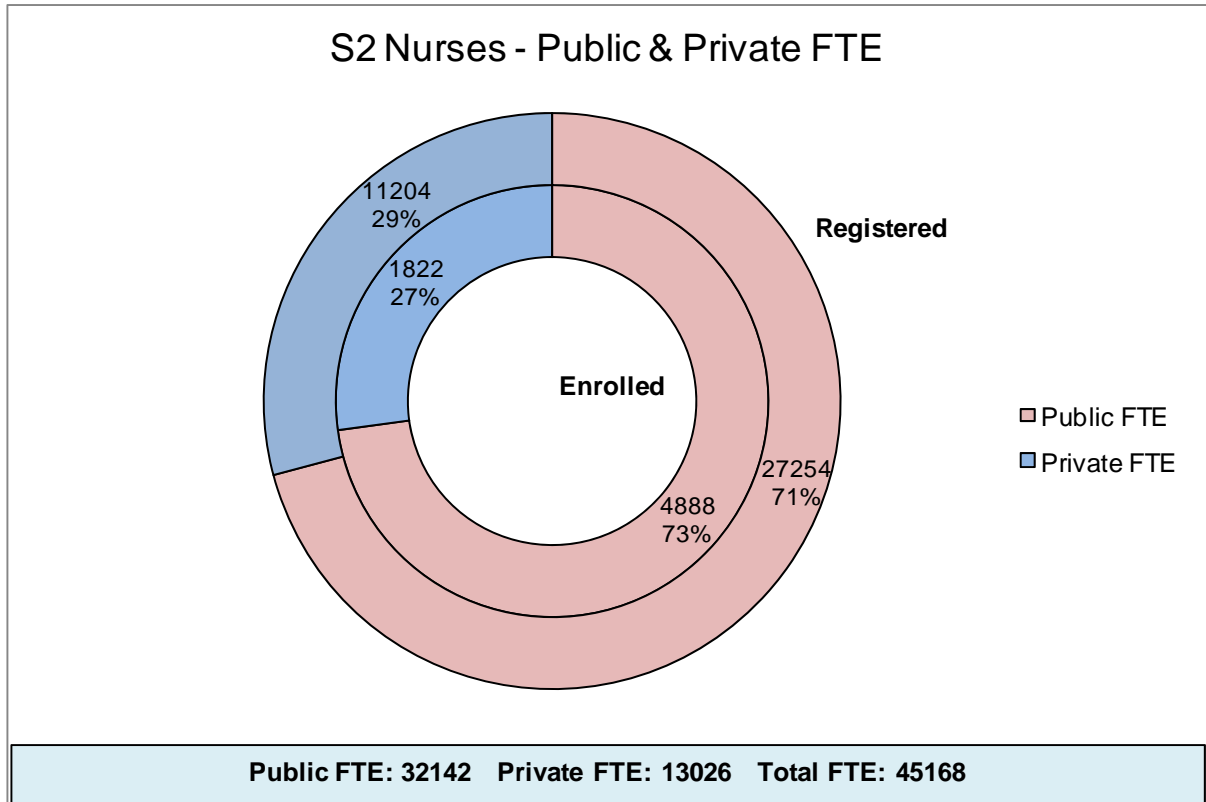
The number of hours worked in the main and the second nursing related jobs in the public and private sectors is shown below. More than 96% of hours worked were in the main job.

	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total NSW
First Job RN	1,011,933	397,226	1,424,197
Second Job RN	22,047	28,013	53,133
Registered Nurses	1,033,980	425,239	1,477,330
First Job EN	179,887	71,923	256,505
Second Job EN	4,289	3,356	8,150
Enrolled Nurses	184,176	75,279	264,655
First Job All	1,191,820	469,149	1,680,702
Second Job All	26,336	31,369	61,283
All Nurses	1,218,156	500,518	1,741,985

The average number of hours worked in the main job for the week prior to the survey was 33.3 hours for registered nurses and 32.8 hours for enrolled nurses. The average number of working hours for all nurses was 33.2.

Registered nurses with a second job worked an average of 12.4 hours compared to 13.8 hours for enrolled nurses. The average number of hours worked in second jobs for all nurses was 12.6 hours.

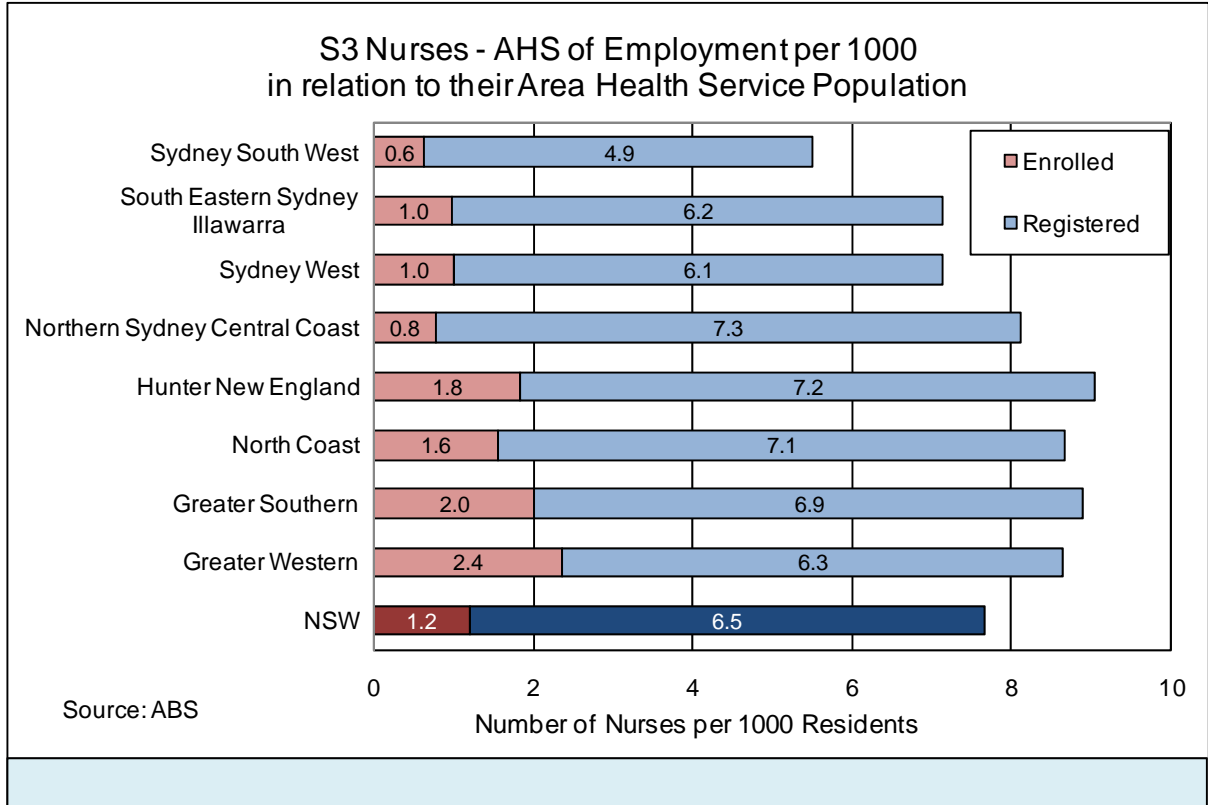
Chart S2 shows Full Time Equivalent (FTE) in the public and private sectors. There is little difference in the ratio of registered to enrolled nurses between the sectors with a slightly higher percentage of registered nurse FTE in the private sector (86.0%) than in the public sector (84.8%).



The nursing workforce is a female dominated profession with a workforce older than the population in general. Projections of the respective workforces indicate that by 2016, there will be 95,439 registered nurses and 17,910 enrolled nurses; a combined workforce of 113,349 nurses of whom 84.2% will be registered.

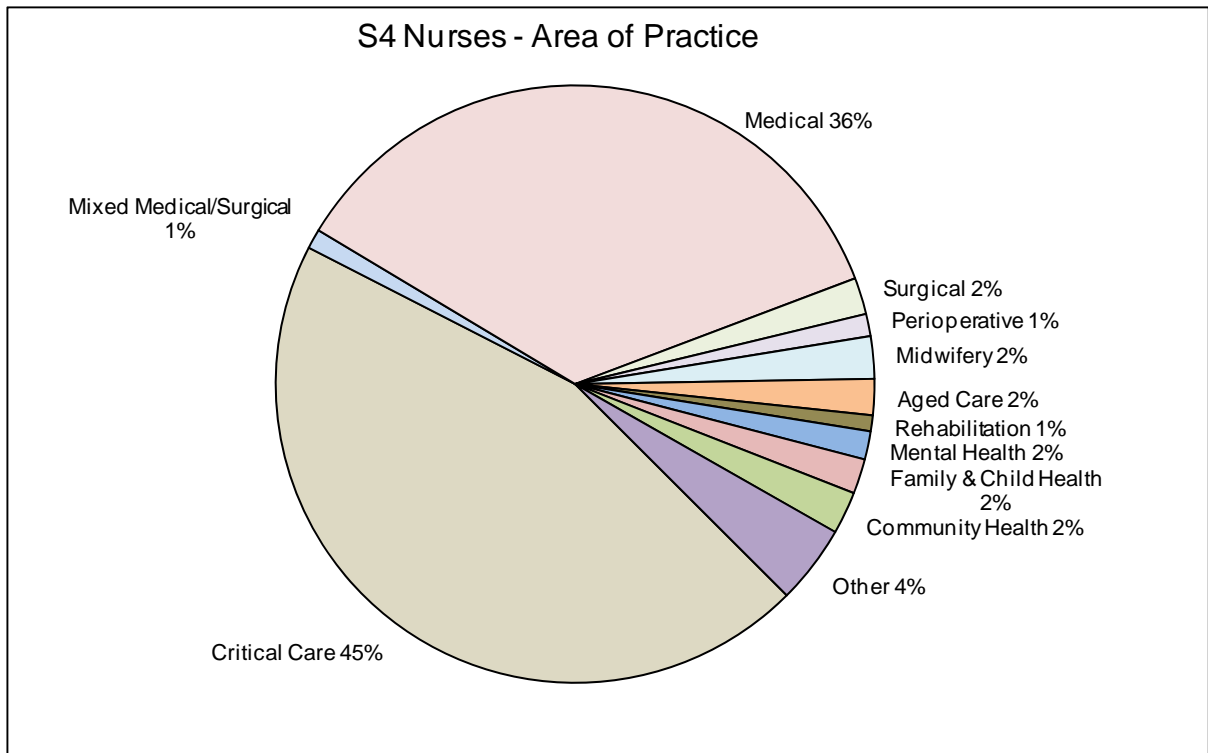
Nurses in Relation to the Population

In terms of survey respondents, the total nursing workforce indicates an average of 766 nurses per hundred thousand population. Chart S3 shows the number of nurses per thousand by Area Health Service of residence. The proportion of registered to all nurses is considerably higher in the metropolitan Areas ranging from 90.5% in Northern Sydney Central Coast to 72.7% in the Greater Western AHS. Similar ratios are evident for Area of work.



Area of Practice

Area of practice also varies substantially between the two types of nurse. Midwifery practice is almost entirely registered nursing while rehabilitation employs the highest proportion of enrolled nurses. Chart S4 shows the number of nurses for each area of practice group.



Nurses not Working

The number of qualified nurses under the age of 60 who are not currently working as a nurse was 10,548 of whom 78.3% were registered. About 7% of non working nurses are currently looking for work, mostly part time positions. The most common reason for not working was employment in another occupation as shown in Chart S5. Enrolled nurses were more likely than registered nurses to be working out of the nursing profession.

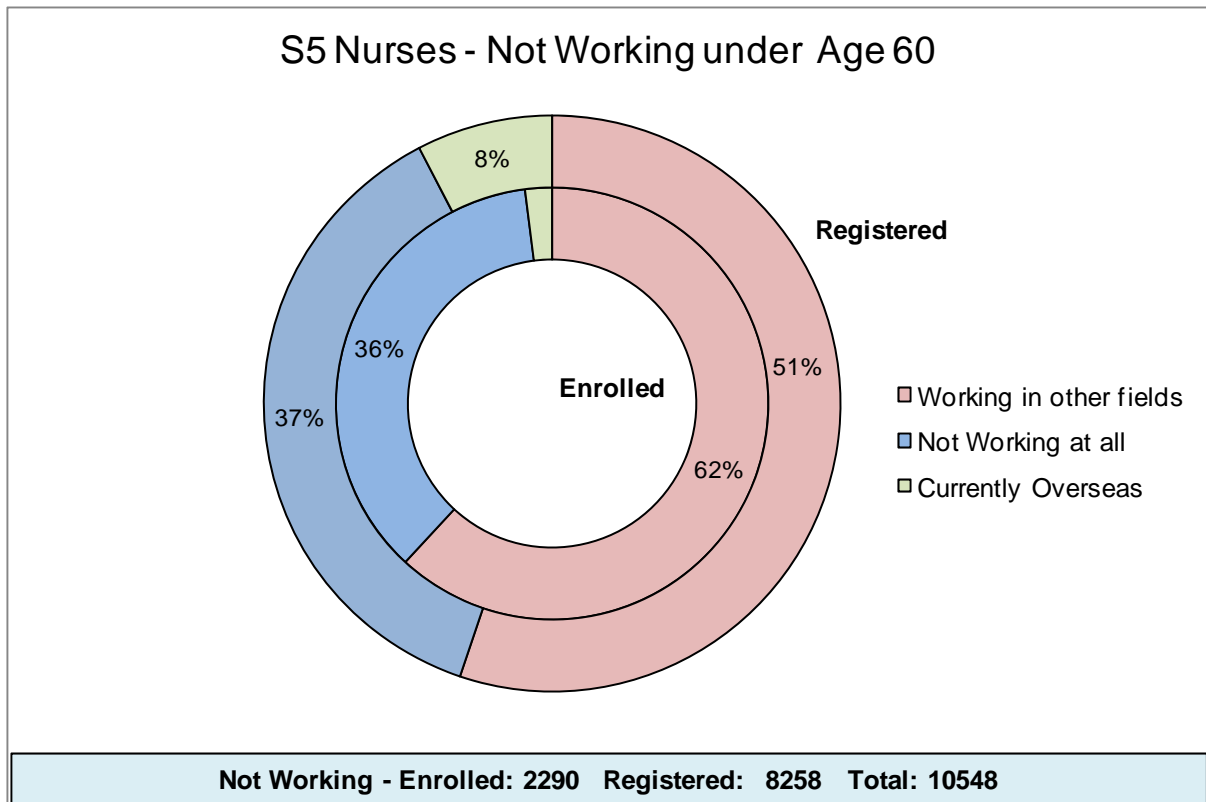


Table AN1

States of Registration
Working NSW All Percent
Respondents

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>		
Registered in one State	4213	42472	46713	89.98	61847	84.65
Registered in more than one State	347	3213	3561	6.86	6855	9.38
<i>Of which</i>						
Victoria	64	644	708	1.36	1566	2.14
Queensland	85	703	788	1.52	2120	2.90
Western Australia	23	192	215	0.41	493	0.67
South Australia	16	126	143	0.28	313	0.43
Tasmania	12	70	82	0.16	191	0.26
NT	29	182	211	0.41	449	0.61
ACT	35	400	435	0.84	896	1.23
<i>note: multiple responses allow State totals to exceed number with interstate registration</i>						
Total Responses	4560	45685	50274	96.84	68702	94.03
No response	150	1438	1642	3.16	4363	5.97
Grand Total	4710	47123	51916	100.00	73065	100.00

Note: Gender was not provided for 88 respondents working in NSW