

# Victoria's Healthcare - 2022/2023 Highlights

This Dashboard is a point-in-time compilation of the Victoria's health as at 30 June 2023  
Last Updated: 15 May 2024



## Health Workforce

Victoria's healthcare system is strengthened by a large and varied health workforce, comprised of skilled professionals employed in a number of occupations and across a variety of settings.

**229,160**  
registered health practitioners across 17 professions  
3.1% more than last year  
26.1% of national total

Source: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Annual-reports/Annual-Report-2023.aspx>

**3.4**  
registered health practitioners for every 100 Victorians

The population estimate for Victoria as of the 30th June 2023 is 6,815,441

### Victorian Health Workforce

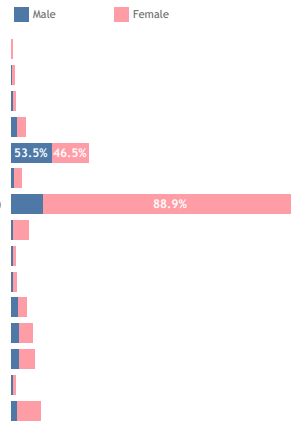
Nurses and midwives continued to be the largest group of registered health professionals in Victoria at about 56 percent of all registered health professionals.

Profession	Percentage	Count
Aboriginal Health Practitioner	0.02%	(44)
Chinese medicine practitioner	0.57%	(1,308)
Chiropractor	0.70%	(1,604)
Dental practitioner	2.81%	(6,437)
Medical practitioner	15.07%	(34,545)
Medical radiation practitioner	1.94%	(4,444)
Nurse and midwife	55.78%	(127,821)
Occupational therapist	3.33%	(7,620)
Optometrist	0.80%	(1,844)
Osteopath	0.90%	(2,058)
Paramedic	3.02%	(6,928)
Pharmacist	4.15%	(9,508)
Physiotherapist	4.45%	(10,192)
Podiatrist	0.80%	(1,830)
Psychologist	5.66%	(12,977)

Source: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Annual-reports/Annual-Report-2023.aspx>

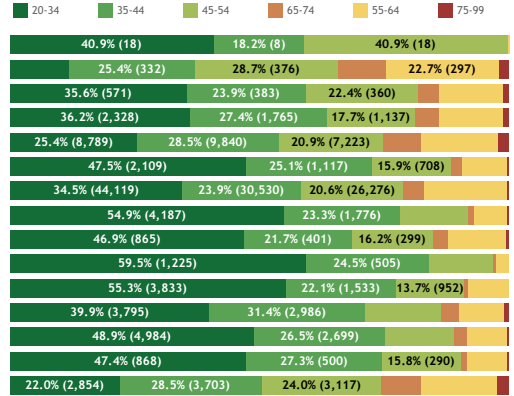
### A predominantly female workforce

On average, the highest number of Victorian health professionals are women. However, there are more men than women among medical practitioners.



### More young health professionals\*

There are more young health professionals in the health workforce, but medical practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners and Psychologists are slightly older than other health professionals. There will be significant impacts on this workforce if these older health professionals retire or reduce their workload.



\*Estimation based on Health workforce Victorian 2021/22 Data and Ahpra National 2022/23 Data

## Primary Care services

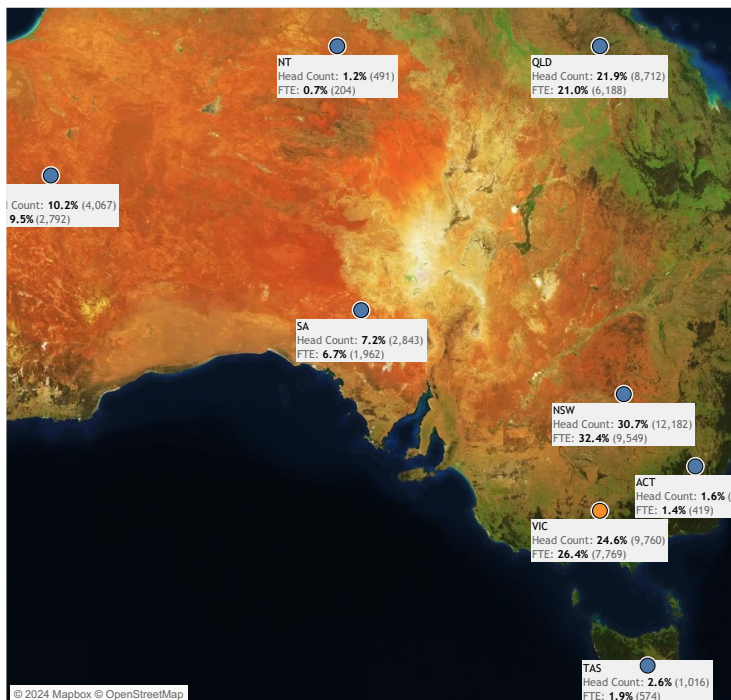
Primary care is often Victorians' first point of contact with healthcare professionals such as GPs, pharmacists and Allied Health professionals.

### General Practice (GP) Workforce

General practice forms a core part of the health system, with general practitioners (GPs) having a gatekeeper role for patients to receive care from other health services.

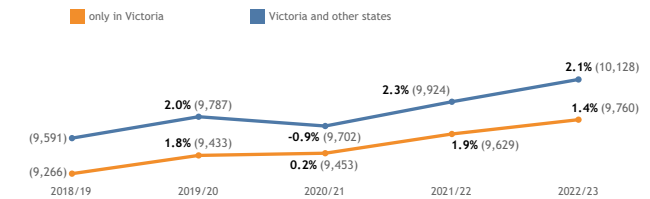
#### Australian GP Workforce

Around 25 percent of the Australian GP workforce are working in Victoria in terms of the number of GPs and GPFTE in the 2022/23 period.



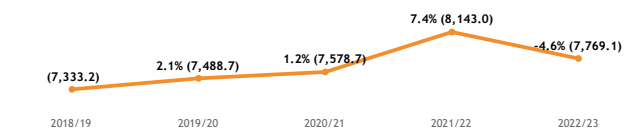
#### Number of Primary Care GPs

In 2022/23, the proportion of GPs who were working in Multi-state and Single-state (VIC) increased from 9,924 to 10,128 by 2.1 percent and 9,629 to 9,760 by 1.4 percent respectively.



#### GP Full Time Equivalent (GPFTE)

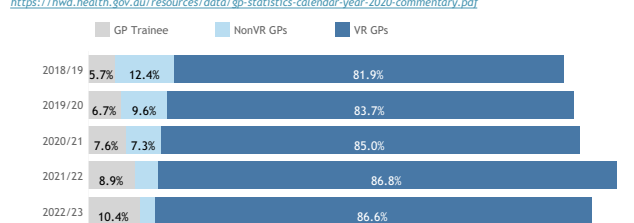
The percentage change of GPFTE in Victoria has notably decreased by 4.6 percent in the 2022/23 period compared with 2021/22. The closure of general practices and the rate of new practices opening falling significantly short of making up the difference, could be a reason for that decrease.



† GP FTE estimates the total effort spent by GPs delivering primary care services.

#### An increasing proportion of doctors working as general practitioners have specialist GP qualifications

While the number of VR GPs and GP trainees in Victoria continues to grow over the five-year period except in 2022/23, non-VR GPs have halved accordingly. This trend may be in line with the Australian Government policy to support all doctors working as GPs to gain specialist qualifications. Non-VR doctors are encouraged to apply for training with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) or the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), through fully funded or subsidised programs.



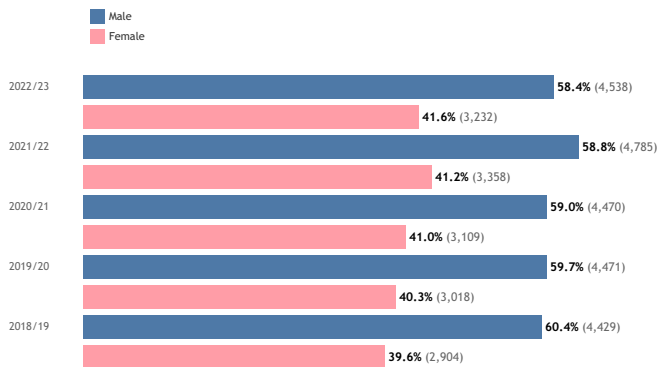
Around 25 percent of the Australian GP workforce are working in Victoria in terms of the number of GPs and GPFTE in the 2022/23 period. However, between 2017-2023, GP FTE was smaller than the number of practitioners, indicating that overall they worked less than their FTE of 40 hours per week. Specifically, there was a big gap between these two measures in 2022/23. In a concerning trend, Victoria's healthcare system is facing a critical shortage of full-time GPs. This impending crisis calls for immediate action to safeguard Victorians' access to primary healthcare services. An aging population and growing healthcare needs could be contributing factors to this shortage. Newer generations of GPs prioritise flexible work arrangements, and this could be another factor causing this shortage of full-time GPs.

#### A predominantly male GP FTE

There is an imbalance of male to female GP FTE in Victoria despite the head count gap improving. This is interesting as historical data from the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) showed a more even distribution of male and female GPs in Victoria. It may also be possible that female GPs are opting to work less hours than their male counterparts. More research is needed to investigate if female GPs are more likely to leave the profession or work less hours and why...

#### Standardise GP FTE by Modified Monash Model (MMM)

Between 2018-2023, average GP FTE Per 100,000 population has been highest in metropolitan (MM1) and rural regions and has been lowest in remote regions (MM6). This divergent distribution in GPs is continuing and disproportionately affects remote areas the greatest.



Source: <https://hwd.health.gov.au/resources/data/gp-primarycare.html>

## Victorian Health Service Utilisation

### General Practice Utilisation

Australians access general practice more than any other area of the health system.



Source: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/medicare-statistics-per-patient-bulk-billing-dashboard-2022-23.pdf>

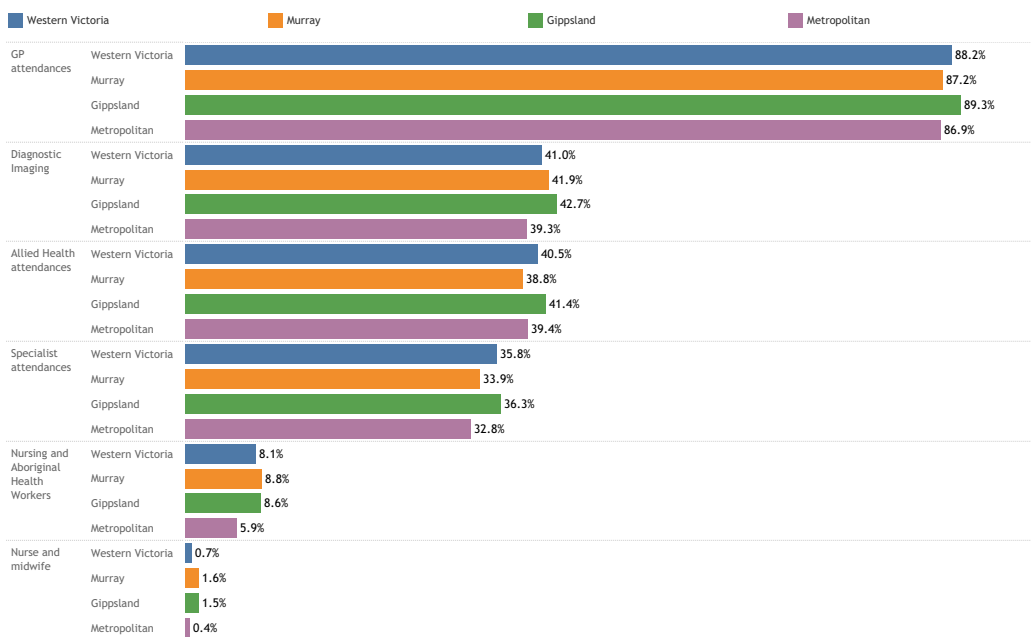
### General Practice Access



Source: <https://www.racgp.org.au/general-practice-health-of-the-nation-2023>

### Non-Hospital Medicare-subsidised Services (as a percentage of population)

In 2022/23, there was no greater variation in the percentage of people who received non-hospital Medicare-subsidised services between regional PHNs compared to metropolitan PHNs in Victoria. The percentage of people who received a Medicare-subsidised GP service ranged from 87 percent to 89 percent across PHNs in Victoria.

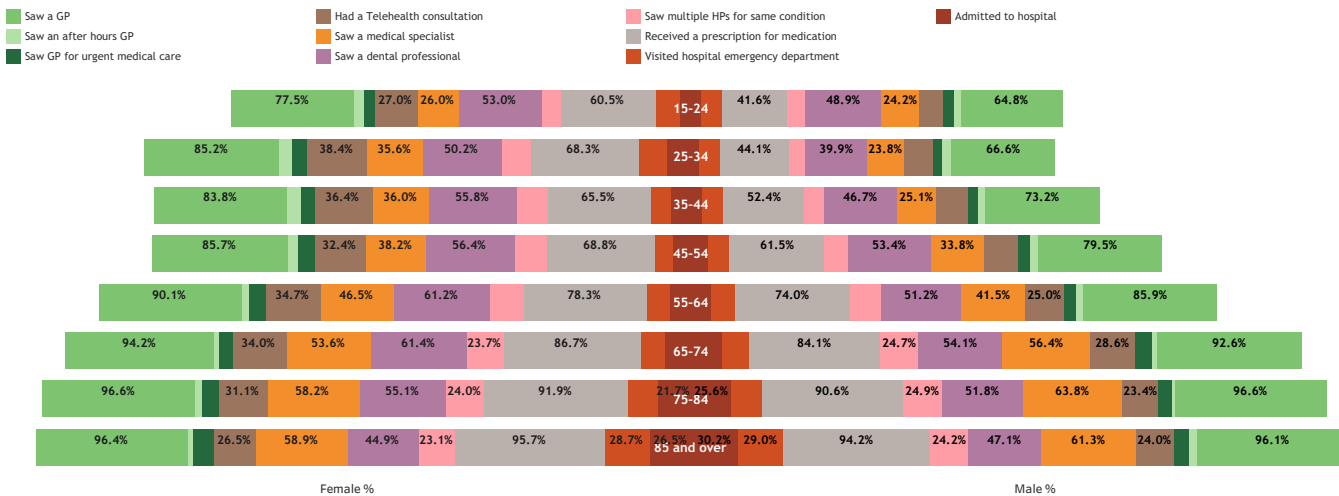


Source: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/primary-health-care/medicare-subsidised-care-2022-23/data>

## The effects of gender and age on health related behaviours

(Estimation based on n = 29,793 Australians)

Patient age and gender influences their health needs, with females younger than 64 years seeing their GP more often than males and males older than 65 years (>65) seeing a medical specialist more than females. Male and female >65 years were more likely to visit range of health professionals than younger people. Male 25-34 years were less likely to see a dental professional but people younger than 24 years did see a dental professional. Older people are more likely to be admitted to hospital.



Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-services/patient-experiences/2022-23#data-downloads>

For an interactive version of this document click [here](#)