

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: PI 01a- Number of health practitioners in specialist palliative care workforce, 2021

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	PI 01a-Number of health practitioners in specialist palliative care workforce, 2021
METEOR identifier:	744815
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Qualified 21/10/2021
Description:	Number of health practitioners with a speciality in palliative care, who work in a palliative care area or who work in a hospice setting (for the registered professions of medical practitioners and nurses).
Rationale:	According to the National Palliative Care Strategy 2018 (DoH 2019), workforce planning is an essential element in achieving functional and sustainable healthcare across the palliative care sector. Palliative care faces a range of challenges, including an increase in demand for services due to an ageing population and a decrease in ability to meet service demand due to the size of and changes in the palliative care workforce. An understanding of the characteristics of the workforce will assist in identifying current needs gaps and aid future planning.
Indicator set:	Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Key Performance Indicators 2021 Health , Qualified 21/10/2021

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description: For this indicator, the workforce for each profession is defined as those employed in Australia in the profession, who specialise in or work in palliative care. This excludes those who are registered in the profession but are retired from regular work, working outside the profession, working in the profession but on extended leave of 3 months or more, who are only engaged in unpaid/volunteer work or working outside Australia.

Number = number of health practitioners, for selected professions.

Employed palliative medicine physicians include only practitioners whose main speciality is palliative care. This excludes practitioners who practice palliative care as a second or third speciality, and does not include information on whether they are currently working in palliative care. Employed palliative care nurses include only nurses whose principal job area is palliative care, and does not include information on whether they have a speciality in palliative care.

Computation: Numerator only

Numerator: Number of physicians and nurses in the workforce who specialise or primarily work in palliative care in the reference year.

Numerator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Job area, code NNN[N]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Job area for nurses:

1403 = Palliative care

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Number of practitioners

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Primary specialty, code N[N]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Primary speciality for medical practitioners:

13 = Palliative care

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—registered profession, code AAAA

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Disaggregation:

Year (2015 - 2019), state and territory, age group, sex, Indigenous status, remoteness area, job role, job setting, by profession for the following professions:

- medical practitioners
- nurses

Disaggregation data

Data Element / Data Set

elements:

Data Element

Health practitioner—Age group, code NNNNN

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Australian state/territory identifier of main job, N[N]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Indigenous status, code N[N3]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Job role, code N[N3]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Job setting, code NNN[N]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Remoteness area identifier of main job, code AAN

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Sex, code N[N3]

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health practitioner—Year, code NNNN

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Health profession—registered profession, code AAAA

Registered profession code:

MDCL = Medical Practitioners

NRMW = Nurses and Midwives

Data Source

[National Health Workforce Data Set](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Survey-based plus administrative by-product data

Comments:

Reference period for 2021 reporting: 2019.

The [National Health Workforce Dataset](#) was sourced from the Australian Government Department of Health.

It is recognised that social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and other allied health professionals form an integral part of the palliative care workforce; however, the current national data sources do not support their inclusion in this indicator. These professions will be added to the indicator as data becomes available.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Count
Data type:	Real
Unit of measure:	Person
Format:	N[N(4)]

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions:	5. Accessibility
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Data source attributes

Data sources:	Data Source
	National Health Workforce Data Set
	Data custodian
	Australian Government Department of Health

Accountability attributes

Organisation responsible for providing data:	Australian Government Department of Health
Other issues caveats:	The National Health Workforce Dataset was sourced from the Australian Government Department of Health.

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents:	Department of Health (DoH) 2019. National Palliative Care Strategy 2018. Canberra: DoH. Viewed 7 June 2021, https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/the-national-palliative-care-strategy-2018 .
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