

Dental therapist labourforce Australia, 1996

FSP Szuster
AJ Spencer



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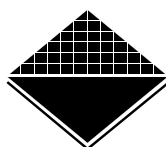
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Dental Statistics and Research Series
Number 13

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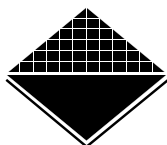
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Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU), in conjunction with the Australian Dental Therapists' Association, and presents national health labourforce statistics for dental therapists.

Data were collected in 1996 in seven States and Territories of Australia. Dental therapists are registered with State/Territory Dental Boards in Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and data were collected from those registered in these States and Territory. DSRU collected directly from dental therapists in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory using listings provided by the State/Territory dental health services. The dental health services in Queensland and South Australia conducted the data collection and forwarded the completed questionnaires to DSRU for processing and analysis. New South Wales dental health service did not proceed with the data collection.

The data items collected comply with the national data set agreed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council to facilitate appropriate health planning and administration. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix 3 to provide the data set and question wording that have been used to collect the data for this report.

The collection aimed to identify dental therapists' practising status; demographic characteristics; qualification characteristics; area and type of practice; pattern of hours worked; reasons if working in casual or less than full-time work; number of practice locations and geographic distribution.

The response rate for the data collection was 80.5% (ranging from 71.9% in Queensland to 96.1% in South Australia) but complete data were not available from all respondents. For all estimates, the assumption was made that non-respondents to the survey in each State/Territory had the same labourforce characteristics as respondents, and the survey data were scaled up to State/ Territory totals.

State/Territory data are not presented in this report for New South Wales, but the totals have been adjusted to take account of the reported 260 dental therapists in that State. It should be noted that in 1996 in Western Australia those who were employed solely in the public sector were not required to register with the Dental Board. The collection omitted to include the 139 dental therapists in Western Australia who were associated with the dental health service but not registered with the Dental Board. Of these, 77 dental therapists were in practice at the time of the data collection and this number was included in the Western Australia component of this report.

Note: Where figures have been rounded (e.g. percentages), discrepancies may occur between some of the component items and totals.

Commentary

The practice status of the respondents to the data collection by State/Territory is presented in

Table 1 and Figure 1. It can be seen that in 1996 there were 1,289 or 72.7% who were working as therapists, with an additional 152 or 8.6% who were on 3 or more months leave.

It can be seen from the matching of annual practice status (presented in Appendix 1) that there is considerable stability in the practice status of the dental therapist labourforce. In particular, the levels of inflow (196) and expected outflow (181) show consistency both when compared to practice status one year ago and expected practice status in 12 months. Note that this does not determine training requirements as the data collection does not take account of employment attrition.

The rates per 100,000 population by State/Territory are also included in

Table 1 and Figure 2. There is a considerable difference between the States/Territories in full-time equivalent (FTE) rates per 100,000 with Western Australia and Tasmania the highest (12.8 and 11.7 respectively) compared to the national average of 5.8 per 100,000 population.

These differences match the reported use of services (see Appendix 2 for reported use of school dental services in the 1995 Australian Bureau of Statistics survey on children's screening) and reflect separate policies between States/Territories.

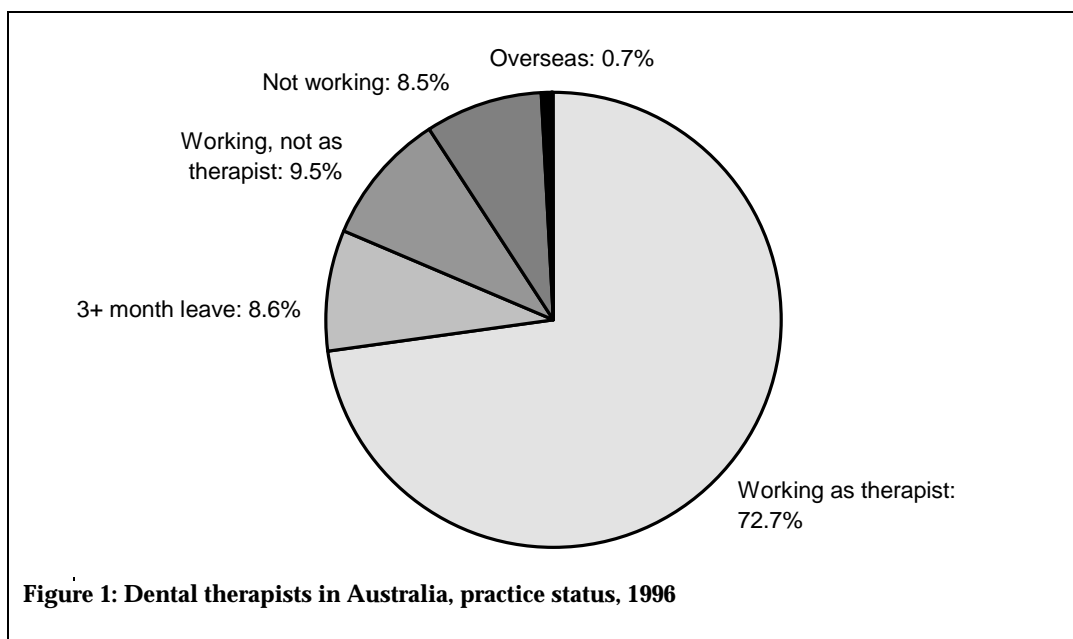


Table 1: Dental therapists, practice status by State/Territory, 1996

Practice status	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Working as therapist	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
Working as therapist, but on 3+ months leave	25	45	39	13	5	1	3	152
Working, but not as therapist	42	36	52	13	4	4	–	169
Not working	30	43	50	10	–	–	–	150
Overseas	3	3	4	2	–	–	–	13
Total	260	532	427	177	77	22	18	1773
Practising rate	3.5	12.1	16.0	9.4	14.4	9.6	4.9	7.0
Full-time equivalent rate	2.9	10.7	12.8	6.9	11.7	9.6	3.7	5.8

(percentages)								
Practice status	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Working as therapist	61.5	76.1	66.0	78.5	88.3	77.3	83.3	72.7
Working as therapist, but on 3+ months leave	9.6	8.5	9.1	7.3	6.5	4.5	16.7	8.6
Working, but not as therapist	16.2	6.8	12.2	7.3	5.2	18.2	–	9.5
Not working	11.5	8.1	11.7	5.6	–	–	–	8.5
Overseas	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	–	–	–	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection.

Rate: Practising and full-time equivalent (FTE) therapists per 100,000 population. See Appendix 4 for estimated resident population at 30 June 1996.

FTE Rate

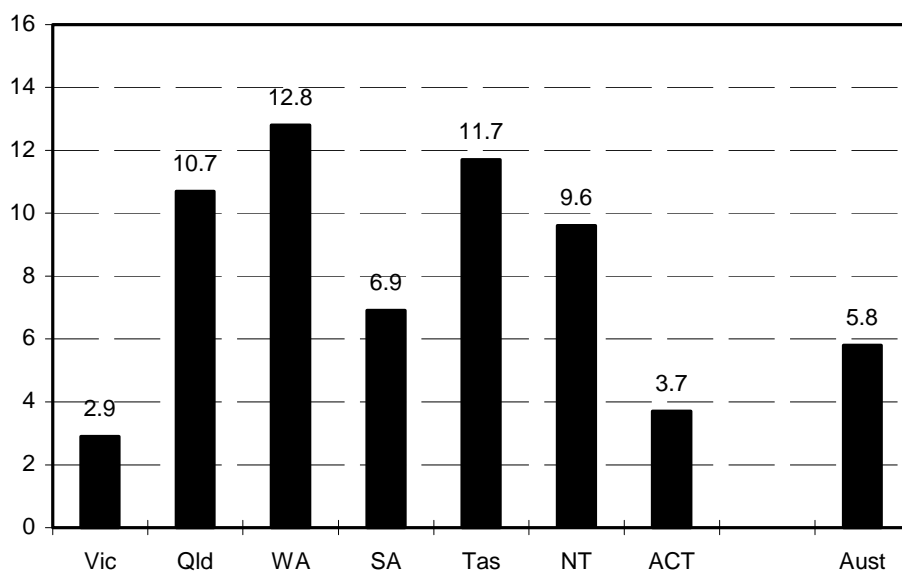


Figure 2: Full-time equivalent therapists, State/Territory, rate per 100,000 population; 1996

From Table 2 and Figure 3, it can be seen that the largest age groups of practising therapists are 25–29, 30–34 and 35–39 with only a few in the oldest (45+) age groups. It can also be seen that practising therapists were predominantly born in English speaking countries and use English only with clients.

It should be noted that there were 19 male dental therapists, and four respondents reported that they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

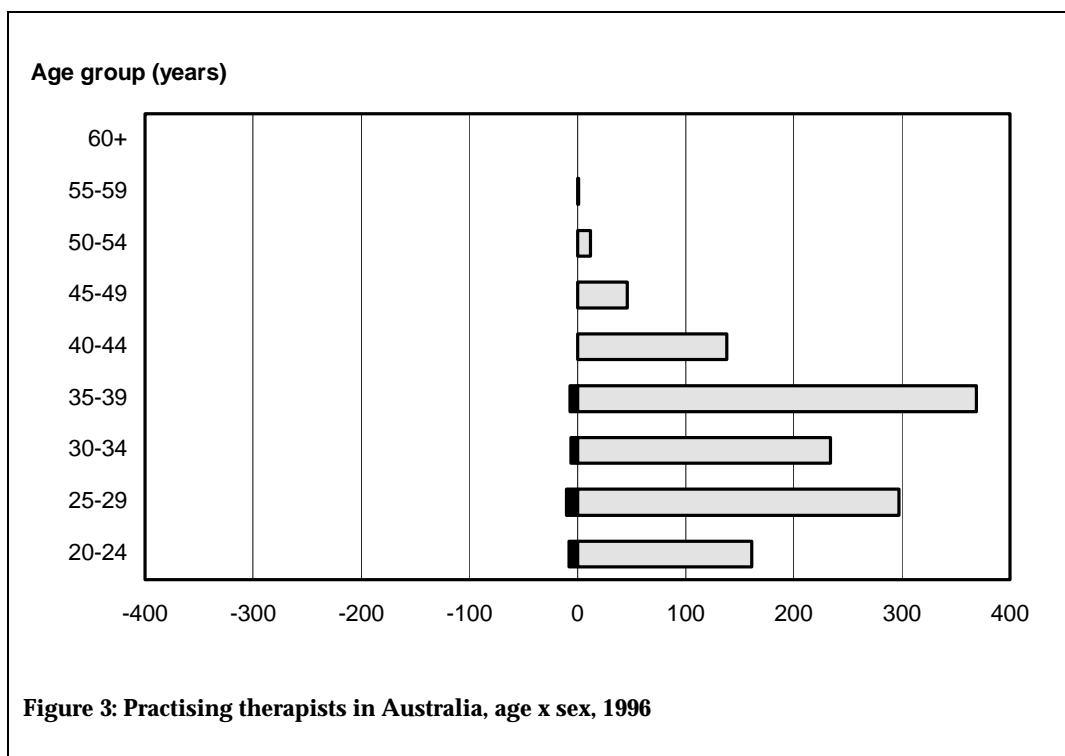


Table 2: Practising therapists, demographic background by State/Territory, 1996

	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Age (years):								
20–24	20	71	42	5	5	2	1	169
25–29	46	85	77	29	10	3	8	307
30–34	24	110	34	18	13	6	4	240
35–39	53	109	72	42	23	5	2	376
40–44	13	25	37	32	7	1	–	138
45–49	2	1	20	12	7	–	–	46
50–54	2	4	–	–	3	–	–	12
55–59	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
60+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Country of birth:								
Australia	128	370	227	130	63	15	11	1106
New Zealand	16	8	10	–	2	1	1	58
UK & Eire	6	13	21	4	3	–	1	56
Other English speaking	1	–	11	–	–	–	–	13
Other Europe	7	7	5	2	–	–	–	30
Asia	1	4	5	2	–	1	2	17
Other	1	3	3	1	–	–	–	9
Languages used with clients:								
English only	147	398	256	136	66	13	15	1217
Greek	6	1	3	–	–	–	–	18
Italian	5	–	8	1	–	–	–	20
Other European	5	6	10	2	3	–	–	32
Other	–	3	6	1	–	4	–	14
Total	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
(percentage)								
	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Age (years):								
20–24	12.5	17.5	14.9	3.6	7.4	11.8	6.7	13.1
25–29	28.8	21.0	27.3	20.9	14.7	17.6	53.3	23.8
30–34	15.0	27.2	12.1	12.9	19.1	35.3	26.7	18.6
35–39	33.1	26.9	25.5	30.2	33.8	29.4	13.3	29.2
40–44	8.1	6.2	13.1	23.0	10.3	5.9	–	10.7
45–49	1.2	0.2	7.1	8.6	10.3	–	–	3.6
50–54	1.2	1.0	–	–	4.4	–	–	0.9
55–59	–	–	–	0.7	–	–	–	0.1
60+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Country of birth:								
Australia	80.0	91.4	80.5	93.5	92.6	88.2	73.3	85.8
New Zealand	10.0	2.0	3.5	–	2.9	5.9	6.7	4.5
UK & Eire	3.8	3.2	7.4	2.9	4.4	–	6.7	4.3
Other English speaking	0.6	–	3.9	–	–	–	–	1.0
Other Europe	4.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	–	–	–	2.3
Asia	0.6	1.0	1.8	1.4	–	5.9	13.3	1.3
Other	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.7	–	–	–	0.7
Languages used with clients:								
English only	91.9	98.3	90.8	97.8	97.1	76.5	100.0	94.4
Greek	3.8	0.2	1.1	–	–	–	–	1.4
Italian	3.1	–	2.8	0.7	–	–	–	1.6
Other European	3.1	1.5	3.5	1.4	4.4	–	–	2.5
Other	–	0.7	2.1	0.7	–	23.5	–	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

It can be determined from Table 3 that the majority of therapists (87.9%) qualified in the State in which they are currently practising. In addition, it can also be seen in Figure 4 that 95% qualified in Australia with most of the remainder qualifying in New Zealand (4.7%).

It can be seen that the majority of therapists have a certificate as their highest level of qualification and both qualified and first practised before 1980. It should be observed that the majority of therapist training in the 1990s has been changed to diploma qualification.

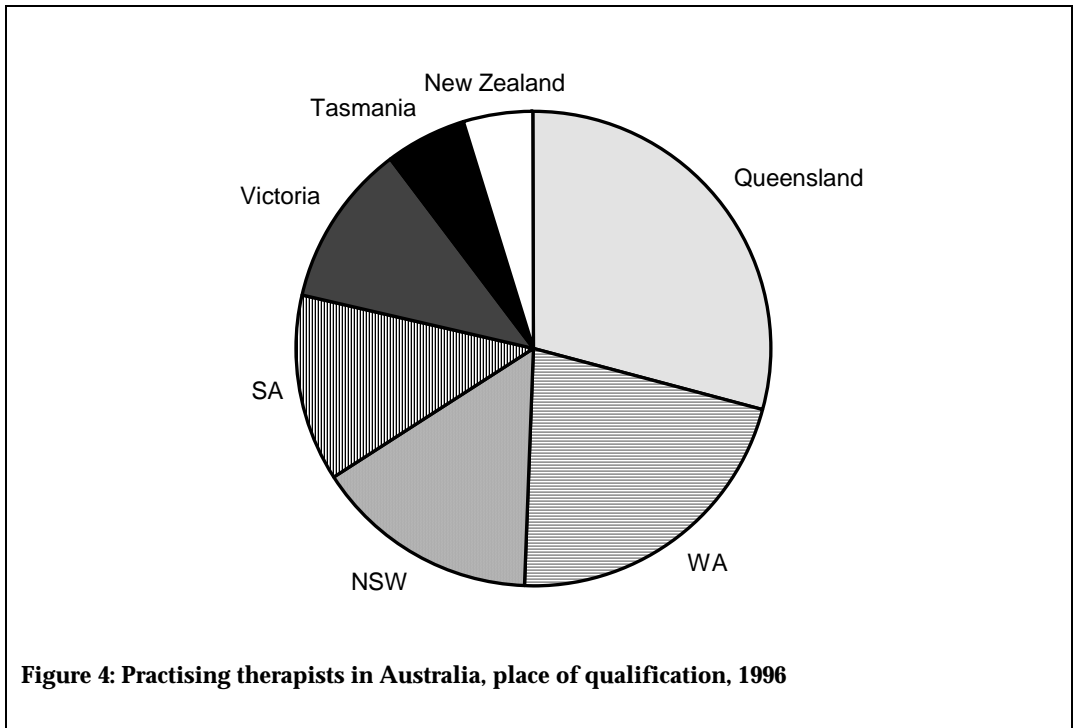


Table 3: Practising therapists, qualification background by State/Territory, 1996

	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Place of qualification:								
New South Wales	5	15	–	2	–	2	4	196
Victoria	133	3	1	–	–	–	1	144
Queensland	2	370	–	–	–	1	–	376
Western Australia	1	3	262	3	1	3	–	274
South Australia	4	4	6	133	7	5	–	164
Tasmania	–	3	–	–	57	1	9	70
New Zealand	15	6	11	–	3	5	1	61
Other	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	4
Level of qualification:								
Certificate	43	388	52	112	50	13	13	820
Associate diploma	22	7	207	13	1	1	1	252
Diploma	93	9	23	14	17	3	1	214
Other	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	3
Year qualified:								
Before 1980	55	88	103	82	33	11	2	444
1980 – 1984	30	132	34	8	16	1	6	265
1985 – 1989	17	75	42	34	13	1	7	210
1990+	58	110	103	15	6	4	–	370
Year first practised:								
Before 1980	46	74	72	73	28	8	2	361
1980 – 1984	35	131	44	15	17	4	6	296
1985 – 1989	17	81	43	30	18	1	7	219
1990+	62	119	123	21	5	4	–	413
Total	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
(percentage)								
	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Place of qualification:								
New South Wales	3.1	3.7	–	1.4	–	11.8	26.7	15.2
Victoria	83.1	0.7	0.4	–	–	–	6.7	11.2
Queensland	1.2	91.4	–	–	–	5.9	–	29.2
Western Australia	0.6	0.7	92.9	2.2	1.5	17.6	–	21.3
South Australia	2.5	1.0	2.1	95.7	10.3	29.4	–	12.7
Tasmania	–	0.7	–	–	83.8	5.9	60.0	5.4
New Zealand	9.4	1.5	3.9	–	4.4	29.4	6.7	4.7
Other	–	0.2	0.7	0.7	–	–	–	0.3
Level of qualification:								
Certificate	26.9	95.8	18.4	80.6	73.5	76.5	86.7	63.6
Associate diploma	13.8	1.7	73.4	9.4	1.5	5.9	6.7	19.6
Diploma	58.1	2.2	8.2	10.1	25.0	17.6	6.7	16.6
Other	1.2	0.2	–	–	–	–	–	0.2
Year qualified:								
Before 1980	34.4	21.7	36.5	59.0	48.5	64.7	13.3	34.4
1980 – 1984	18.8	32.6	12.1	5.8	23.5	5.9	40.0	20.6
1985 – 1989	10.6	18.5	14.9	24.5	19.1	5.9	46.7	16.3
1990+	36.2	27.2	36.5	10.8	8.8	23.5	–	28.7
Year first practised:								
Before 1980	28.8	18.3	25.5	52.5	41.2	47.1	13.3	28.0
1980 – 1984	21.9	32.3	15.6	10.8	25.0	23.5	40.0	23.0
1985 – 1989	10.6	20.0	15.2	21.6	26.5	5.9	46.7	17.0
1990+	38.8	29.4	43.6	15.1	7.4	23.5	–	32.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

The distribution of main practice settings are presented in Table 4. Not surprisingly the majority of therapists (1,126 or 87.4%) work in the school dental service, with most of the remainder being private practice therapists in Western Australia (125 or 9.7%).

Comparing this number in the school dental services with the number of children seen at school dental clinics (see Appendix 2) it can be estimated that there are 119.6 therapists (or 98.8 FTE) per 100,000 children aged 2–14 receiving services from school dental clinics. However, looking at the total children (3,336,300), then there were 34.9 therapists (or 28.8 FTE) per 100,000 children. The variations between States and Territories reflects the different policies of the State/Territory dental health services.

Table 4: Practising therapists, type of main practice by State/Territory, 1996

Type of main practice	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Private								
Clinical practice	–	–	117	–	–	–	–	117
Other	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	8
Public								
School dental service	157	397	144	134	67	17	12	1126
Community dental clinic	1	6	2	–	1	–	3	15
Dental hospital	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	3
Teaching institution	2	1	6	4	–	–	–	16
Other	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	4
Total	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
(percentage)								
Type of main practice	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Private								
Clinical practice	–	–	41.5	–	–	–	–	9.1
Other	–	–	2.8	–	–	–	–	0.6
Public								
School dental service	98.1	98.0	51.1	96.4	98.5	100.0	80.0	87.4
Community dental clinic	0.6	1.5	0.7	–	1.5	–	20.0	1.2
Dental hospital	–	–	1.1	–	–	–	–	0.2
Teaching institution	1.2	0.2	2.1	2.9	–	–	–	1.2
Other	–	0.2	0.7	0.7	–	–	–	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

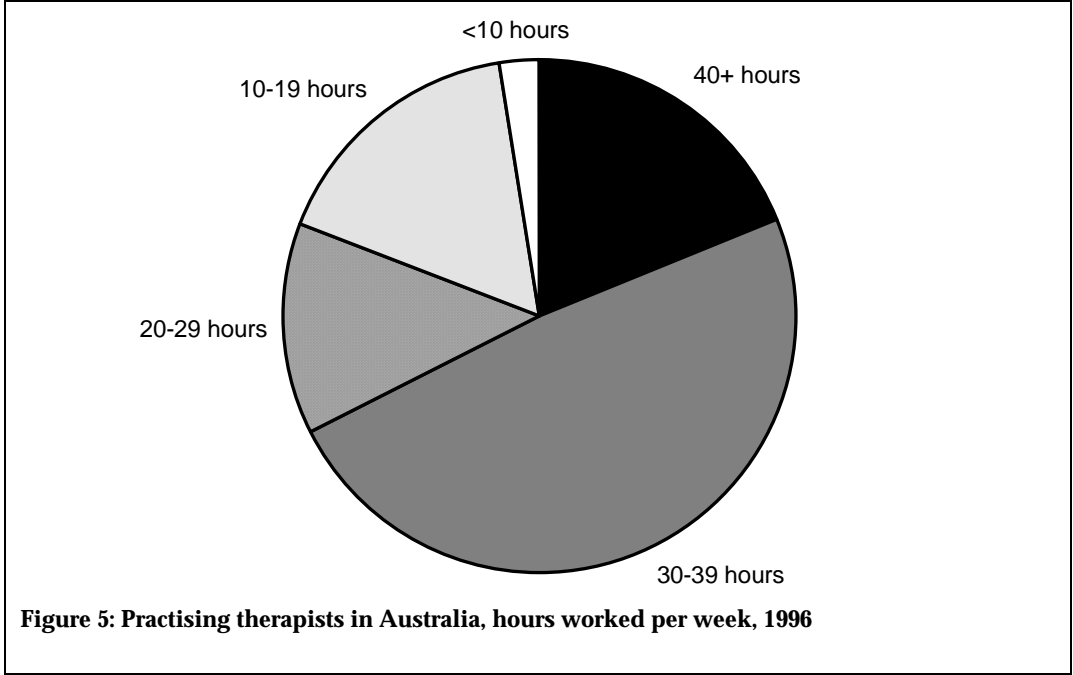
Table 5 and Figure 5 present the level of activity measured by hours worked per week. The largest grouping was 48.6% who reported working 30–39 hours per week, with the smallest grouping being those working less than 10 hours per week (2.4%). Over two-thirds (67.5%) reported working 30 hours or more per week while less than a fifth (19.1%) worked below 20 hours per week.

There were some differences between the States and Territories, where the mean hours per week ranged from 27.6 in South Australia to 37.5 in the Northern Territory. However, the majority of States and Territories were close to the national average of 31.0 hours worked per week. These differences may reflect greater opportunities for part-time work in some States/Territories.

Table 5: Practising therapists, hours worked per week by State/Territory, 1996

Hours worked per week	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Less than 10	5	7	10	2	1	–	–	31
10–19	27	56	56	36	4	–	1	215
20–29	20	47	25	26	22	–	7	173
30–39	96	116	159	72	41	15	7	627
40+	12	179	32	3	–	2	–	243
Total	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
Mean hours per week	31.1	33.1	29.9	27.6	30.6	37.5	28.6	31.0
(percentage)								
Hours worked per week	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Less than 10	3.1	1.7	3.5	1.4	1.5	–	–	2.4
10–19	16.9	13.8	19.9	25.9	5.9	–	6.7	16.7
20–29	12.5	11.6	8.9	18.7	32.4	–	46.7	13.4
30–39	60.0	28.6	56.4	51.8	60.3	88.2	46.7	48.6
40+	7.5	44.2	11.3	2.2	–	11.8	–	18.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection



For those who worked on a casual or less than full-time basis, Table 6 presents the main reason for doing so. More than one response was possible to the question in the data collection. Over two-thirds (71.3%) reported child rearing as a main reason, with household duties (24.7%) and preference (22.5%) also reported as substantial reasons.

Table 6: Practising therapists in casual or less than full-time work, main reason by State/Territory, 1996

Main reasons	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Household duties	12	40	36	16	9	–	–	128
Child rearing	47	114	71	55	18	–	6	370
Further study	11	6	11	8	12	–	–	62
Illness	1	1	3	2	–	–	1	10
Preference	14	24	34	14	13	–	–	117
Other	–	6	11	10	3	–	1	31
Total	61	128	114	89	34	–	8	519
(percentage)								
Main reasons	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Household duties	19.7	31.2	31.6	18.0	26.5	–	–	24.7
Child rearing	77.0	89.1	62.3	61.8	52.9	–	75.0	71.3
Further study	18.0	4.7	9.6	9.0	35.3	–	–	11.9
Illness	1.6	0.8	2.6	2.2	–	–	12.5	1.9
Preference	23.0	18.8	29.8	15.7	38.2	–	–	22.5
Other	–	4.7	9.6	11.2	8.8	–	12.5	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	–	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

Note: The sum of the reasons exceeds total as it was possible to provide more than one reason

It can be seen from the questionnaire (Appendix 3), that respondents were asked to report the number of hours per week against the area of practice. Accordingly, Table 7 presents the full-time equivalent (total hours divided by 37.5) for the areas of practice.

The majority (78.4%) of hours were spent in clinical practice with small amounts of administration/management (11.9%), dental health promotion (3.7%) and teaching/education (2.9%). There were some variations between States/Territories with the most notable being higher reported percentage clinical hours per therapist in South Australia and higher percentage dental health promotion hours per therapist in the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 7: Full-time equivalent therapists, area of practice by State/Territory, 1996

Area of practice	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Clinical practice	105.5	272.5	175.4	89.4	43.3	13.2	8.5	841.6
Dental health promotion	2.9	16.7	11.6	1.8	1.1	0.6	1.5	39.9
Chairside assistance	1.8	10.3	5.2	0.5	0.1	–	0.1	20.2
Administration/management	18.7	44.8	24.4	6.2	5.7	2.6	1.3	127.5
Teaching/education	2.2	9.4	10.4	3.8	2.3	0.3	–	31.3
Research	–	0.5	1.3	–	0.1	–	–	1.9
Other	1.4	3.1	1.6	0.6	2.8	0.3	–	11.5
Total	132.5	357.2	229.9	102.2	55.4	17.0	11.4	1073.8
(percentage)								
Area of practice	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Clinical practice	79.6	76.3	76.3	87.4	78.1	77.6	74.2	78.4
Dental health promotion	2.2	4.7	5.0	1.8	2.1	3.5	13.5	3.7
Chairside assistance	1.4	2.9	2.3	0.5	0.1	–	0.6	1.9
Administration/management	14.1	12.6	10.6	6.1	10.2	15.3	11.7	11.9
Teaching/education	1.7	2.6	4.5	3.7	4.2	1.9	–	2.9
Research	–	0.1	0.6	–	0.3	–	–	0.2
Other	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	5.1	1.7	–	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

Respondents were able to report more than one location of practice. The questionnaire permitted five separate locations and one respondent provided activity characteristics in all five locations. It can be seen from Table 8 that almost seven out of every eight therapists (86.3%) reported working at only one location and over 95% practised in no more than two locations.

Table 8: Practising therapists, number of practice locations by State/Territory, 1996

Number of practice locations	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
1	144	361	246	90	60	15	13	1112
2	12	33	31	32	5	–	2	130
3	4	8	3	14	–	–	–	34
4	–	3	1	3	3	2	–	12
5	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Total	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
(percentage)								
Number of practice locations	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
1	90.0	89.1	87.2	64.7	88.2	88.2	86.7	86.3
2	7.5	8.1	11.0	23.0	7.4	–	13.3	10.1
3	2.5	2.0	1.1	10.1	–	–	–	2.6
4	–	0.7	0.4	2.2	4.4	11.8	–	0.9
5	–	–	0.4	–	–	–	–	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

Table 9 presents the reported levels of looking for work. It can be seen that the largest group (54 of the 116) are seeking part-time work only, with 45 looking for only full-time work.

Table 9: Therapists looking for work, full-or part-time by State/Territory, 1996

Looking for work	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Either full-time or part-time	2	3	4	4	1	–	–	17
Full-time	4	15	14	3	4	–	–	45
Part-time	7	13	16	5	4	–	–	54
Total	13	31	34	12	9	–	–	116

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection

The geographic distribution of therapists by capital city/rest of state is presented in Table 10 and Figure 6. There are clear differences in the rate per 100,000 between the capital cities with Perth the highest (17.8), followed by Darwin (13.6), Hobart (12.3) and Brisbane (12.1) having similar levels. Canberra (4.9) and Melbourne (3.1) reported the lowest rates. New South Wales did not proceed with the data collection and accordingly there is no rate available for Sydney.

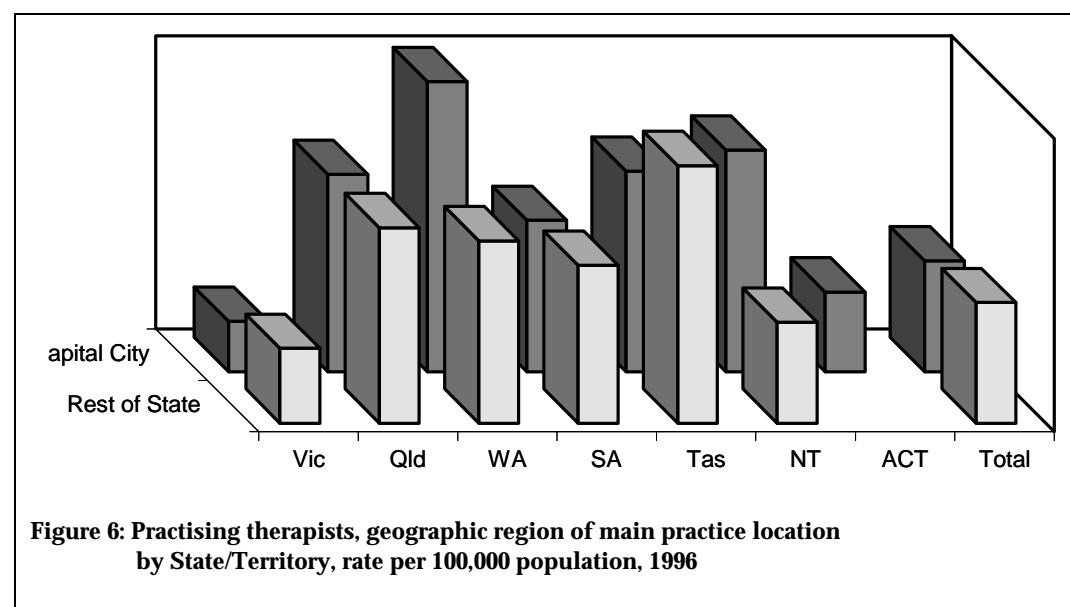
When comparing the rate per 100,000 for capital cities and the rest of state within States/Territories, it can be seen that there is little difference nationally (6.8 versus 7.4). However, there are some differences in Western Australia (17.8 versus 11.2) and the Northern Territory (13.6 versus 6.2). For Western Australia this difference is associated strongly with the private practice therapists.

Table 10: Practising therapists, geographic region of main practice location by State/Territory, 1996

	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total*
Capital city								
Number	100	185	228	101	24	11	15	791
Rate	3.1	12.1	17.8	9.3	12.3	13.6	4.9	6.8
Rest of state								
Number	60	220	54	38	44	6	–	498
Rate	4.6	12.0	11.2	9.7	15.8	6.2	–	7.4
Total								
Number	160	405	282	139	68	17	15	1289
Rate	3.5	12.1	16.0	9.4	14.4	9.6	4.9	7.0

Note: Rate: Practising therapists per 100,000 estimated resident population. See Appendix 4 for estimated resident population at 30 June 1996.

* Total adjusted for NSW exclusion from data collection.



APPENDIX 1

Annual changes in practice status

Table 1.1: Dental therapists, current practice status by practice status one year ago, 1996

Current practice status	Practice status one year ago					Total
	Working as therapist	On 3+ mths leave	Working but not as therapist	Not working	Overseas	
Working as therapist	1093	105	41	36	14	1289
Working as therapist but on 3+ mths leave	112	37	1	–	2	152
Working but not as therapist	25	8	132	3	1	169
Not working	31	11	14	91	3	150
Overseas	6	–	1	–	6	13
Total	1267	161	189	130	26	1773

Inflow : 196

By matching the practice status one year ago to current practice status, inflow can be determined as those who were not working as a therapist one year ago and who are currently working as a therapist (namely 105, 41, 36 and 14 in the first row in Table 1.1).

Table 1.2: Dental therapists, current practice status by expected practice status in 12 months time, 1996

Current practice status	Expected practice status in 12 months time					Total
	Working as therapist	On 3+ mths leave	Working but not as therapist	Not working	Overseas	
Working as therapist	1108	93	47	21	20	1289
Working as therapist but on 3+ mths leave	109	29	7	7	–	152
Working but not as therapist	22	2	140	5	–	169
Not working	43	2	21	83	1	150
Overseas	7	–	–	–	6	13
Total	1289	126	215	116	27	1773

Expected outflow : 181

By matching the expected practice status in 12 months time to current practice status, expected outflow can be determined as those who do not expect to be working as a therapist in 12 months time and who are currently working as a therapist (namely 93, 47, 21 and 20 in the first row in Table 1.2).

APPENDIX 2

Survey of children's screening, April 1995

Children aged 2 to 14 years old.

Place of last dental consultation by State/Territory of usual residence.

State/Territory	Consulted a dental professional in last 12 months					Total	Total children
	Private dental surgery	School dental clinic	Community dental clinic	Hospital	Other		
New South Wales	335,300	186,600	27,100	22,800	*3,000	574,800	1,120,700
Victoria	298,900	135,200	7,300	8,400	*1,800	451,800	813,400
Queensland	126,800	271,000	3,600	6,200	**500	408,200	623,100
Western Australia	54,600	170,900	2,400	3,000	*1,000	232,000	336,000
South Australia	49,300	135,400	**400	2,600	**400	188,100	262,100
Tasmania	13,300	43,900	*300	*400	**	57,800	92,700
Northern Territory	3,200	13,900	1,900	*300	**	19,400	30,600
ACT	15,900	16,500	1,500	**200	**	34,100	57,700
Total	897,400	973,600	44,500	44,000	6,700	1,966,200	3,336,300

* Subject to sampling variability between 25% and 50%

** Subject to high sampling variability

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Children's' Screening, unpublished table

Note: Variations between States and Territories reflect the different policies of the State/Territory dental health services. The Australian Bureau of Statistics covered children aged 2 to 14 years. However, the age of children eligible for public dental services varies between States and Territories.

APPENDIX 3

Questionnaire

DENTAL THERAPIST LABOURFORCE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION

The Australian Dental Therapists' Association and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Dental Statistics & Research Unit, with the co-operation of State/Territory Dental Health Services and Dental Boards, are conducting a national data collection on the dental therapist labourforce. These data are part of a national data set to enable appropriate health planning and administration.

Individual information remains strictly confidential.

Please tick the boxes and write responses, where appropriate, in the spaces provided.

- 1** Please indicate your: (a) date of birth:

.	.	.
day	month	year

 (b) sex: Male ☐ 1
Female ☐ 2

- 2** In which country were you born? Australia ☐ 1 Other ☐

(a) please specify your country of birth: country

(b) are you an Australian citizen? Yes ☐ 2 No ☐

If you are not an Australian citizen, do you have permanent resident status in Australia? Yes ☐ 3 No ☐ 4

- 3** Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? Yes, Aboriginal ☐ 1
Yes, Torres Strait Islander ☐ 2
No, other ☐ 3

- 4** Do you use a language other than English with clients?

No, only English ☐ 1
Yes, other language(s) ☐ 2 (please specify)

5

(a) Where did you obtain your qualification as a dental therapist?

NSW ☐ 1
Vic ☐ 2
Qld ☐ 3

SA ☐ 4
WA ☐ 5
Tas ☐ 6

Overseas (please specify) ☐ 7

country of qualification

(b) What is the highest dental therapy qualification you have obtained?

Certificate ☐ 1
Associate diploma ☐ 2
Diploma ☐ 3

Other (please specify) ☐ 4

highest qualification obtained

(c) In what year was this qualification obtained?

(please indicate the final year of study and not the year of official graduation)

1 9 ☐ ☐
year

6

In what year did you first practise as a dental therapist in Australia?

1 9 ☐ ☐
year

7

Which of the following best describes your work status five years ago, one year ago, current status and anticipated status in twelve months' time? (Tick one box only for each column.)

	5 years ago	1 year ago	Current	In 12 months' time
Working in dental therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Working in dental therapy, but on leave for three months or longer (e.g. maternity, study, long service leave)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Working in dentistry, but not in dental therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Working, but not in dentistry	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Not working	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Overseas	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

8

Are you looking for paid work in dental therapy?

Yes ☐ No ☐ 1

If Yes, are you seeking full-time or part-time work?

Either full- or part-time ☐ 2 Full-time ☐ 3 Part-time ☐ 4

- 9** Please indicate the practice activity you currently perform as a dental therapist for each location you work in. For each area of practice, please estimate as best you can the hours worked per week. If you work in more than one job or location, please provide all in descending order of paid hours per week.

Main location		
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	Type of practice	Area of practice (duties) and hours worked per week
Suburb/town: <input type="text"/>	Public: school dental service <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 1..... hours
	Public: community dental clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Dental health promotion <input type="checkbox"/> 2..... hours
	Public: dental hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Chairside assistance <input type="checkbox"/> 3..... hours
	Public: teaching institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Administration/management <input type="checkbox"/> 4..... hours
	Other public <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Teaching/education <input type="checkbox"/> 5..... hours
	Private clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Research <input type="checkbox"/> 6..... hours
	Other private <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7..... hours

2nd location		
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	Type of practice	Area of practice (duties) and hours worked per week
Suburb/town: <input type="text"/>	Public: school dental service <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 1..... hours
	Public: community dental clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Dental health promotion <input type="checkbox"/> 2..... hours
	Public: dental hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Chairside assistance <input type="checkbox"/> 3..... hours
	Public: teaching institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Administration/management <input type="checkbox"/> 4..... hours
	Other public <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Teaching/education <input type="checkbox"/> 5..... hours
	Private clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Research <input type="checkbox"/> 6..... hours
	Other private <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7..... hours

3rd location		
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	Type of practice	Area of practice (duties) and hours worked per week
Suburb/town: <input type="text"/>	Public: school dental service <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 1..... hours
	Public: community dental clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Dental health promotion <input type="checkbox"/> 2..... hours
	Public: dental hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Chairside assistance <input type="checkbox"/> 3..... hours
	Public: teaching institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Administration/management <input type="checkbox"/> 4..... hours
	Other public <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Teaching/education <input type="checkbox"/> 5..... hours
	Private clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Research <input type="checkbox"/> 6..... hours
	Other private <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7..... hours

4th location		
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	Type of practice	Area of practice (duties) and hours worked per week
Suburb/town: <input type="text"/>	Public: school dental service <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 1..... hours
	Public: community dental clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Dental health promotion <input type="checkbox"/> 2..... hours
	Public: dental hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Chairside assistance <input type="checkbox"/> 3..... hours
	Public: teaching institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Administration/management <input type="checkbox"/> 4..... hours
	Other public <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Teaching/education <input type="checkbox"/> 5..... hours
	Private clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Research <input type="checkbox"/> 6..... hours
	Other private <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7..... hours

ADDITIONAL SPACE AND QUESTIONS OVER THE PAGE.

P.T.O.

5th location		
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	Type of practice	Area of practice (duties) and hours worked per week
Suburb/town: <input type="text"/>	Public: school dental service <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="text"/> hours
<input type="text"/>	Public: community dental clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Dental health promotion <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="text"/> hours
<input type="text"/>	Public: dental hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Chairside assistance <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="text"/> hours
	Public: teaching institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Administration/management <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="text"/> hours
	Other public <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Teaching/education <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="text"/> hours
	Private clinical practice <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Research <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="text"/> hours
	Other private <input type="checkbox"/> 7	Other <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="text"/> hours

- 10** Please indicate your total hours and direct patient care hours per week.
(Exclude time spent on travel between work locations, unpaid professional and/or voluntary activities.)

Total hours worked per week:

Direct patient care hours per week:

- 11** If you work less than a total of 35 hours per week, or work on a casual basis, please indicate your major reason for doing so:

Household duties ☐ 1 Illness ☐ 4
 Child rearing ☐ 2 Preference ☐ 5
 Further study ☐ 3 Other (please specify) ☐ 6

reason

**Thank you for your time and contribution.
Please return your completed questionnaire in the
envelope provided.**

The Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU) is an external unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and was established in 1988 at The University of Adelaide. The DSRU was funded to improve the range and quality of dental statistics and research on the dental labourforce, dental health status, dental practices and the use of dental services.

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APPENDIX 4

Estimated resident population, 30 June 1996

State/Territory	Capital city	Rest of State/Territory	Total
New South Wales	3,821,400	2,368,800	6,190,200
Victoria	3,248,800	1,292,200	4,541,000
Queensland	1,525,500	1,829,200	3,354,700
Western Australia	1,282,800	480,000	1,762,700
South Australia	1,086,500	392,600	1,479,200
Tasmania	195,000	278,400	473,400
Northern Territory	80,900	96,800	177,700
Australian Capital Territory	307,500	—	307,500
Total	11,548,400	6,738,000	18,286,300

Source: Australia Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Nos. 3201.0, 3210.1, 3203.2, 3201.3, 3204.5, 3201.4, 3204.6, 3201.7

Note: Rate per 100,000 population is calculated by dividing the number of therapists by the estimated resident population and multiplying by 100,000.

eg. Practising rate for Australia = $1,289 \div 18,286,300 \times 100,000$
= 7.0

AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Series

1. *Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 1989*
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