

Nurses & midwives are the solution

Nurses and midwives make up 54% of Australia's health workforce.

It's time to enable nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives to work to their full potential to make health care more accessible and improve health outcomes for all Australians.

Skilled. Safe. Experienced. Trusted. Underutilised.



650,000

nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives, and recently retired nurses and midwives in Australia



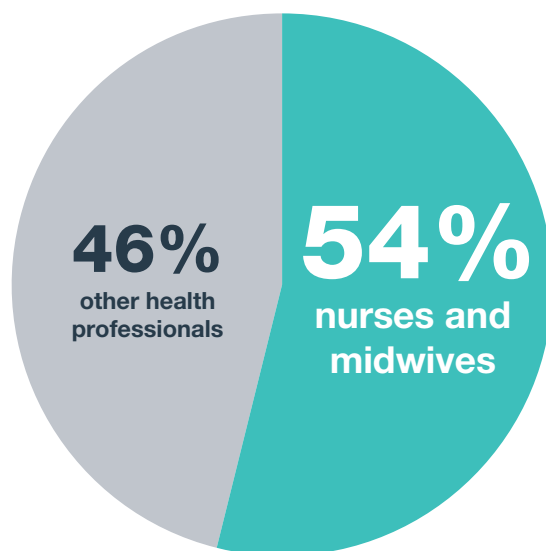
473,672

nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives registered to work in Australia



180,000

exited in the past 10 years



54% of Australia's health workforce are nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives.



6,776

nurses and midwives are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, with nearly half employed outside metropolitan areas



nurses and midwives have spearheaded the promotion of culturally safe care, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



Nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives can do more.

Nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives want to do more.

Nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives are calling for the adoption of the **Scope of Practice Review** recommendations and further reforms to fully utilise their skills and improve healthcare outcomes for **all Australians**.

Skilled.

- Australia trains highly skilled, world-class nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives.
- While nursing and midwifery are considered 'caring' professions, their degrees are science-based.
- Australian nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives are increasingly postgraduate qualified.
- Australian-trained nurses and midwives are sought after globally.

77%

 degree qualification or higher

47%

 postgraduate qualification or higher

Safe.

- Nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives are safe and regulated, and their care leads to quality patient health outcomes.
- Protected titles: Nurse and Midwife are protected titles requiring specific training.
- Regulated by government: The professions are regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).



Only **0.5%** of nurses had a notification to NMBA/AHPRA in 2022/23, compared to 5.6% of all medical practitioners.

Experienced.

- Australian nurses and midwives have an average age of 43 and 47 years, respectively.
- Nurses typically work in more than three clinical settings, gaining valuable experience.
- Nurses bring a wealth of experience, with a median of 21 years in the profession.



21 yrs

of clinical experience in multiple settings

Trusted.

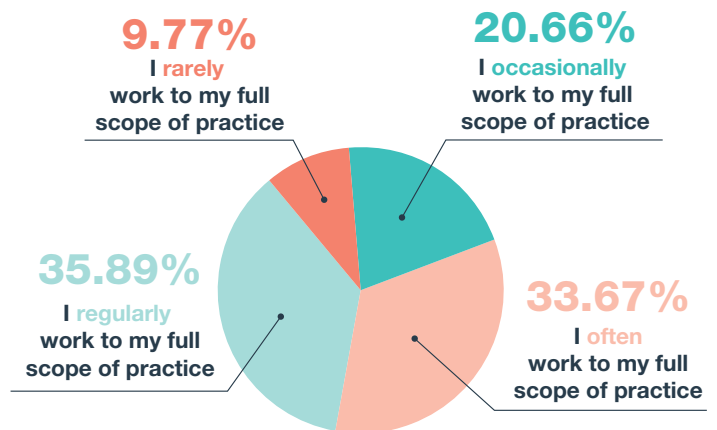
- Australians trust nurses and consistently rank them as the most trusted profession in health.
- Until the Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey ended, nurses were voted as the highest trusted health profession.



88% of Australians rated nurses 'very high' or 'high' for ethics and honesty

Underutilised.

- 36% of primary health care nurses only 'occasionally' or 'rarely' work to their full scope of practice, according to the APNA Workforce Survey Data (2023).



Nurses & midwives are the solution

It's time to enable **nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives** to work to their full capacity to increase access, provide quality health care, and **keep Australia healthier.**