



Registered Nurse ANZSCO 2544

South Australia
June 2019

Current labour market rating: No Shortage

There is no evidence of a shortage of Registered Nurses in South Australia.

Key research findings

- Employers surveyed were from medical general practice centres, community health centres, not for profit organisations and public hospitals.
- The proportion of vacancies filled in 2019 decreased (62 per cent), compared to 2018 (74 per cent).
- In 2019, the average number of applicants (18.7) has increased compared to 2018 (9.8).
- The average number of suitable applicants per vacancy in 2019 (1.4) has decreased compared to 2018 (2.4).
- In 2019, the average number of qualified applicants per vacancy (11.7) increased compared to 2018 (8.6).
- The reasons why applicants were considered unsuitable included:
 - Lack of specific experience in specialised fields, such as general practice.
 - Applicants lacked soft skills including being able to work in a team and demonstrated communication skills.
- Employers found it difficult to recruit experienced Registered Nurses with many employers requiring a minimum of 12 months experience.
- Regional employers tended to recruit applicants who needed to relocate as skills were not found locally.

Demand and supply

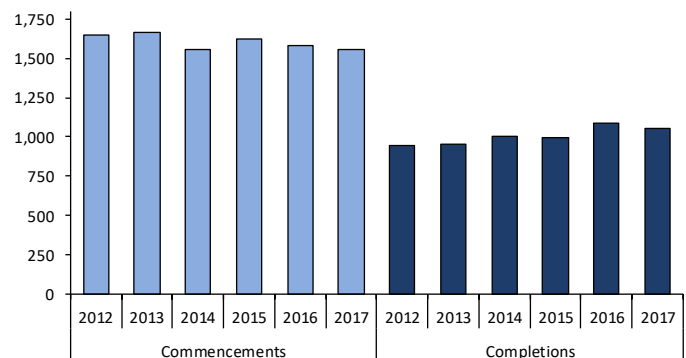
- At 31 March 2019, there were 23,658 practicing Registered Nurses in SA. This was an increase of 8.0 per cent from 2014 (21,993).¹
- In SA, the main industries that employed Registered Nurses at the 2016 Census were Hospitals (60.0 per cent), Aged Care Residential Services (13.3 per cent) and General Practice Medical Services (4.7 per cent).²

2019 Survey Results³



- There was a slight increase of Registered Nurses employed by the Government of South Australia in 2018 (13,218) compared to 2017 (12,837).⁴
- From 2012 to 2017, an average of 1007 people per year completed an undergraduate Nursing Degree in SA.⁵

Figure 1: Undergraduate Commencements and completions, Registered Nurse, 2012 to 2017.



¹ Nursing and Midwifery Board, Nurse and Midwife – Registration Data, March 2014, March 2019.

² ABS Census of Population and Housing 2016, customised tables.

³ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology](#)

⁴ Government of South Australia – Workforce Information Reports, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

⁵ Department of Education, Higher Education Student Data Collection, 2017, customised tables.