



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

NATIONAL PRACTICE NURSE WORKFORCE SURVEY 2003

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Overview

- Why
- When
- How
- Limitations
- Preliminary Results



WHY?

- No comprehensive national data on the practice nurse workforce



WHEN?

- Completed Surveys returned to ADGP by end September 2003.
- Data entry and analysis by ADGP between September and December 2003.
- Results back to Divisions and State Based Organisations in early 2004.



HOW?

- Assistance and support from State Based Organisations to distribute surveys to Divisions and coordinate follow up
- Assistance of the Divisions to administer the survey
- Assistance of the general practice staff and practice nurses to provide the information



Preliminary Findings



Australian Divisions of General Practice

Response Rate

- 70% of the 120 Divisions of General Practice responded to the survey
- These Divisions represent 53% of general practices nationally
- The response rate from practices that employ a practice nurse was 74%
- 60% of practices in the representative group DO NOT employ a practice nurse

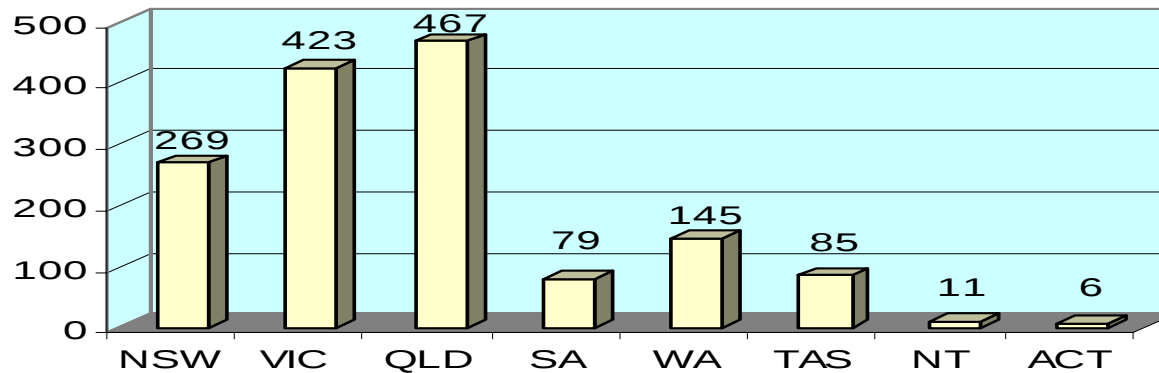


Practice Data

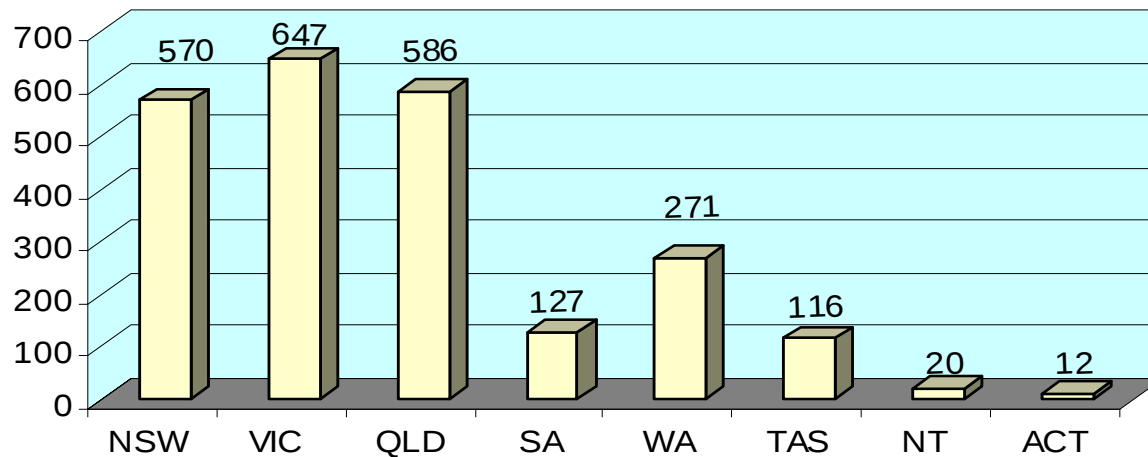
- 1,400 practices responded to the survey
- 2,349 practices nurses employed



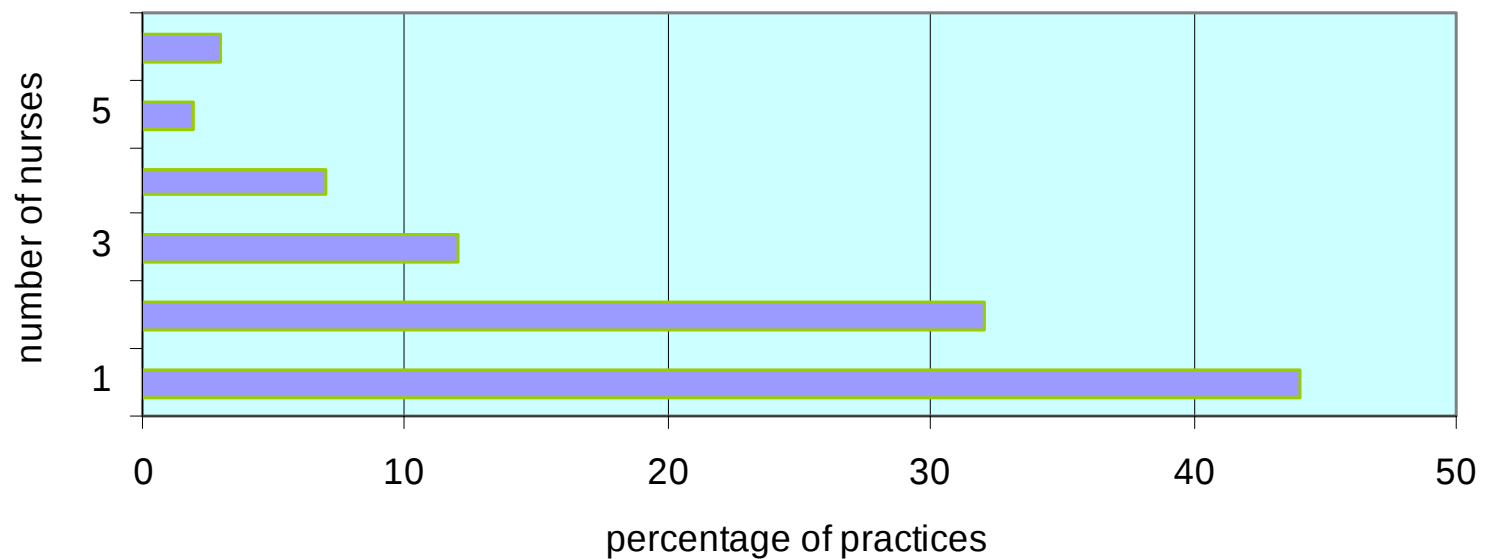
Practices that responded to the survey



Number of Practice Nurses Per State



Number of practice nurses employed per practice



Practice Nurse Data

- 1,968 practice nurses completed individual surveys
- 84% registered nurses
- 16% enrolled nurses

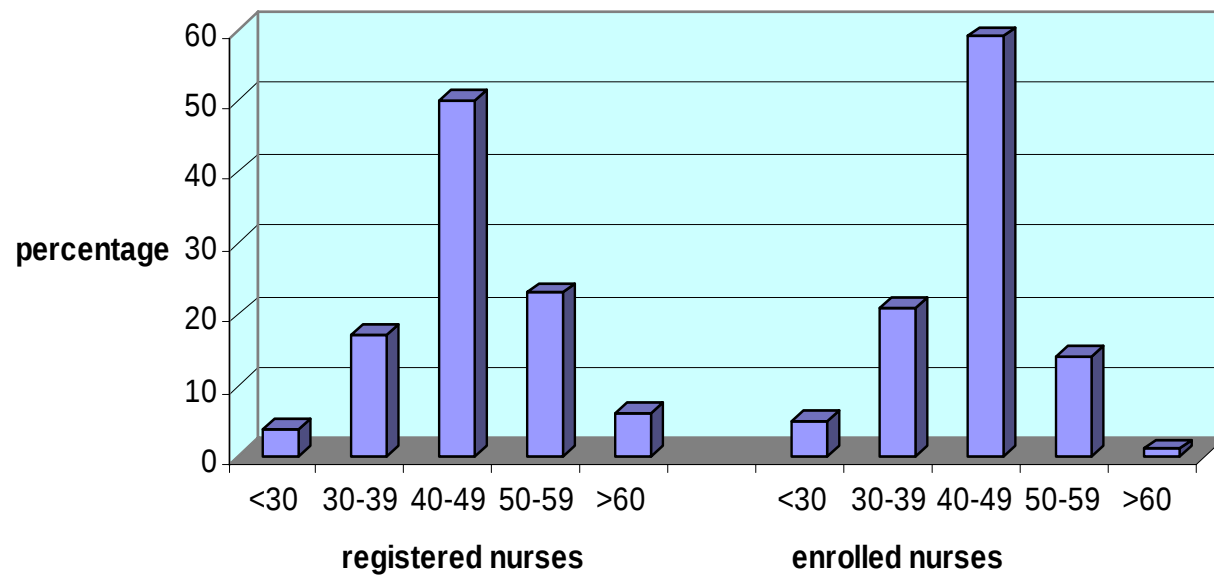


Demographics

■ Age

- Consistent with the nursing profession as a whole, practice nurses are an ageing workforce.
- 73% of practice nurses are over 40 years of age





Demographics cont

- Sex

- ☐ Predominantly female with less than 2% males



Hours Worked

- 84% of practice nurses work part time.



Patterns of employment

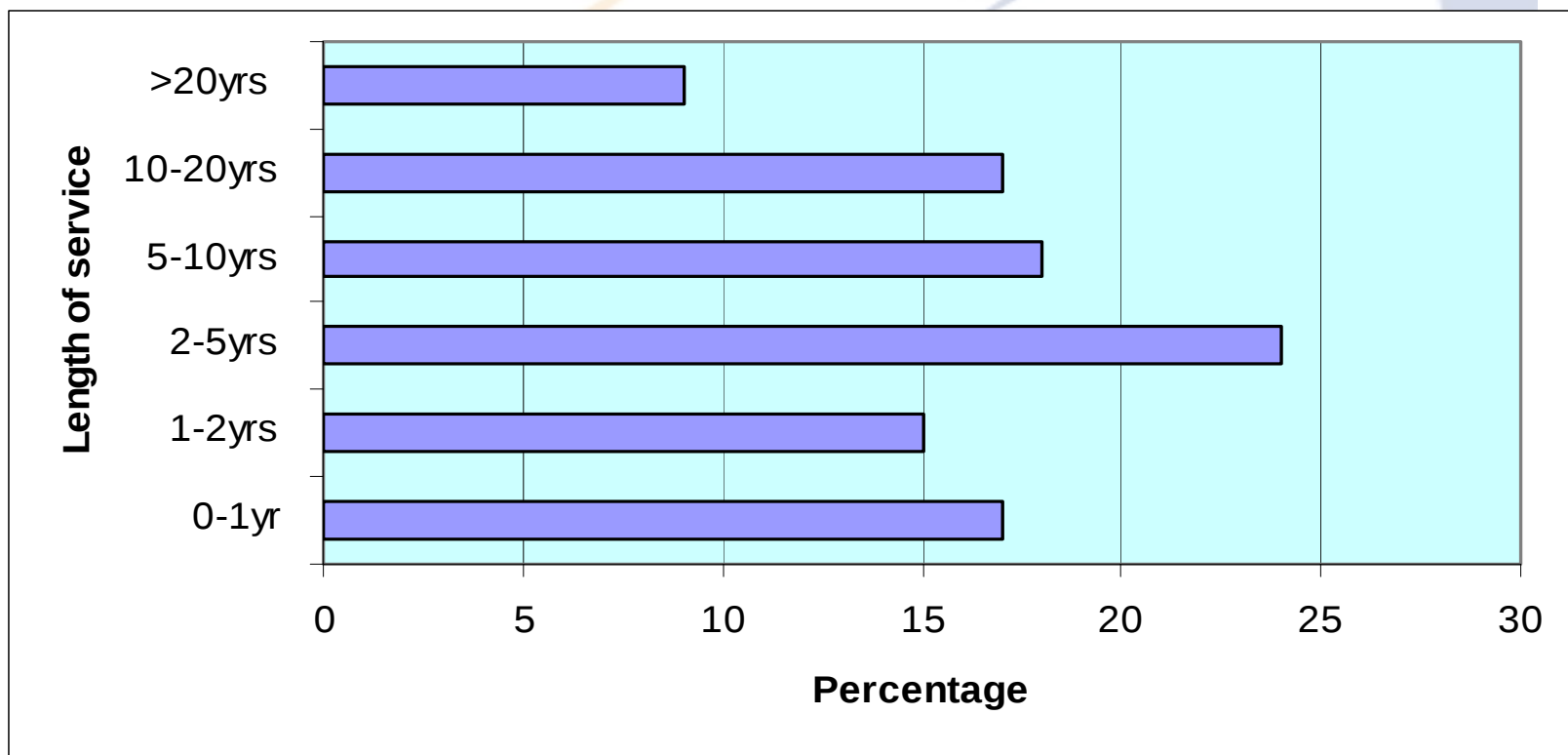
- Almost one third of the practice nurse workforce is employed in another job
 - ☐ Public hospital
 - ☐ Another general practice
 - ☐ Private hospital
 - ☐ Aged Care Facility



Length of service in general practice

- Almost one third of nurses have been employed in general practice for less than two years





Membership of a Professional Nursing Organisation

- 43% of practice nurses reported that they were members of a professional nursing organisation.
- The most frequently reported membership was to the Australian Nursing Federation



Post Graduate Nursing Qualifications

- 46% of practice nurses reported that they held an additional nursing qualification.
 - Most frequently reported:
 - Midwifery
 - Accredited nurse immuniser
 - Asthma educator



Conclusions

- This information will provide Divisions of General Practice and other stakeholders with key information for workforce planning and practice nurse support.
- ADGP continues to lobby for the extension of the practice nurse incentive payment to all practices to support the employment of more nurses.

