The Social Workers Workforce

Workforce Wizard Occupation Report
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Executive Summary

In the year to August 2013, there were 2,700 people employed as Social Workers, and in recent years employment has increased while the majority of Social Workers were female, and in recent years, the share of females has increased.

In general, Social Workers are older than the South Australian workforce, with higher proportions of people aged 45 years and older.

Social Workers are most likely to be working in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry.

In general, Social Workers are more qualified than the South Australian workforce, with higher proportions of people with Certificate III or higher qualifications.

In general, people employed as Social Workers are more likely to reside in metropolitan South Australia.
Total Employed

In the year to August 2013, there were 2,700 people employed as Social Workers, and in recent years employment has increased.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey, in the year to August 2013 there were 2,700 people employed as Social Workers, accounting for 0.3 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 1. Total People Employed, 2008 to 2013


Since 2008, the number of Social Workers has increased by 500 (or 22.7 per cent) while the number of people employed in the South Australian workforce has increased by 30,100 (or 3.8 per cent).
Gender

In the year to August 2013, the majority of Social Workers were female, and in recent years, the share of females has increased.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in the year to August 2013, 77.8 per cent of Social Workers were female, compared to 53.6 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 2. Employment Share by Gender, year to August 2013

Since 2008, the share of female employment of Social Workers has increased from 72.7 per cent to 77.8 per cent while the actual number of females employed also has increased by 500 people (or 31.3 per cent).

Over the same time period, the share of male employment of the South Australian workforce has decreased from 54.4 per cent to 53.6 per cent while the actual number of males employed has increased by 10,000 people (or 2.3 per cent).
Employment Status

In the year to August 2013, the majority of Social Workers were employed full-time, and in recent years, the share of full-time employment has decreased.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in the year to August 2013, 66.7 per cent of Social Workers were employed full-time, compared to 66.6 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 3. Employment Share by Status, year to August 2013


Since 2008, the share of Social Workers employed full-time has decreased from 68.2 per cent to 66.7 per cent while the actual number of people employed full-time has increased by 300 people (or 20.0 per cent).

Over the same time period, the share of the South Australian workforce employed full-time has decreased from 69.5 per cent to 66.6 per cent while the actual number of people employed full-time also has decreased by 2,600 people (or 0.5 per cent).
Age

In general, Social Workers are older than the South Australian workforce, with higher proportions of people aged 45 years and older.

According to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, 43.3 per cent of Social Workers were aged 45 years and older, compared to 42.2 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 4. Employment Share by 10 Year Age Group, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Industry

Social Workers are most likely to be working in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry. According to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, the largest industry of employment of Social Workers was the Health Care & Social Assistance industry (51.8 per cent).

Figure 5. Employment Share by Industry, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Qualifications

In general, Social Workers are more qualified than the South Australian workforce, with higher proportions of people with Certificate III or higher qualifications.

According to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, 95.8 per cent of Social Workers have Certificate III or higher qualifications, compared to the South Australian workforce with 55.5 per cent.

The main qualification held by Social Workers was Bachelor or Higher qualifications (87.0 per cent).

Figure 6. Employment Share by Post-School Qualification Level, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Schooling

In general, people working as Social Workers are more likely to have completed year 12 than the South Australian workforce.

According to the 2011 Census of Housing and Population, 82.0 per cent of Social Workers have completed year 12 (or equivalent), compared to 56.3 per cent have the South Australian workforce.

Figure 7. Employment Share by Highest Level of Schooling, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Indigenous Status

The share of Indigenous persons employed as Social Workers is higher than in the South Australian workforce.

According to the 2011 Census of Housing and Population, 2.5 per cent of Social Workers were Indigenous, compared to 1.0 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 8. Share of Indigenous Employment, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Regions

In general, people employed as Social Workers are more likely to reside in metropolitan South Australia.

According to the 2011 Census of Housing and Population, 76.1 per cent of Social Workers resided in metropolitan South Australia, compared to 71.2 per cent of the South Australian workforce.

Figure 9. Employment Share by Region, 2011

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011
Apprentice and Trainee Commencements

In 2012, there were 0 people who had commenced an apprenticeship or traineeship as Social Workers, and in recent years commencements have not changed.

According to the National Centre of Vocational Education Research, in 2012 there were 0 commencements of Social Workers, accounting for 0.0 per cent of commencements in South Australia.

Figure 10. Apprentice and Trainee Commencements, 2007 to 2012

Source: National Centre of Vocational Education and Research, VocStats

Since 2007, apprentice and trainee commencements of Social Workers have not changed while commencements of the South Australian workforce have increased by 4,727 (or 22.8 per cent).
Vocational Education and Training (VET)

In 2012, there were 73 students in VET courses related to Social Workers, and in recent years, student numbers have increased.

According to the National Centre of Vocation Education Research, in 2012 there were 73 students in VET courses related to Social Workers, accounting for 0.1 per cent of VET students in South Australia.

Figure 11. VET Students, 2007 to 2012

Since 2007, the number of students in VET courses related to Social Workers have increased by 45 (or 160.7 per cent) while for the South Australian workforce VET student numbers have increased by 19,486 (or 15.8 per cent).

Source: National Centre of Vocational Education and Research, VocStats
Higher Education

In 2011, there were 1,135 enrolments in higher education courses related to Social Workers, and in recent years, enrolments have increased.

According to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, in 2011 there were 1,135 enrolments in higher education courses related to Social Workers, accounting for 1.8 per cent of enrolments in South Australia.

Figure 12. Higher Education Enrolments, 2006 to 2011

Since 2006, enrolments in higher education courses related to Social Workers have increased by 83 (or 7.9 per cent) while for the South Australian workforce enrolments have increased by 9,315 (or 17.1 per cent).
Additional Information

Selected Occupations

2725 - Social Workers
Notes

1. The occupations included in this document are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation 2006. For more information please see Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation 2006.

2. All data contained in this report is for South Australia (unless otherwise stated).

3. Labour Force Survey data has been annualised to minimise volatility as detailed estimates may be subject to high standard errors.

4. An adjustment process has been made to the data to incorporate occupation ‘not further defined’ to improve the completeness of the data.

5. VET and higher education data has been translated from ‘field of education’ to ‘occupation’ based on Census data.

6. Census data is self-reported by individuals and as a result may produce unexpected outcomes.

Disclaimer

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