

# AUSTRALIA

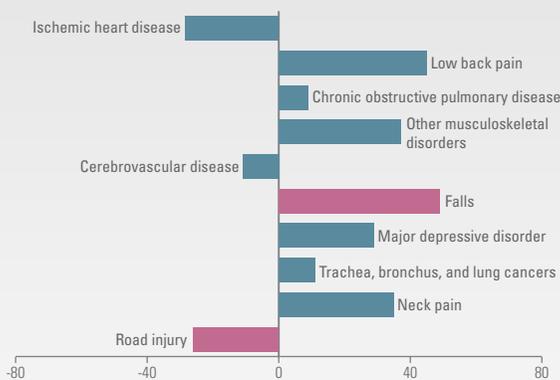
Medicare Australia, a universal tax-funded health insurance system introduced in 1984, provides medical, pharmaceutical and hospital treatment to all permanent residents. Public hospital care is free of user charges, and access to doctors of choice for out-of-hospital care and prescription drugs is subsidized. For services not referred by a general practitioner and for all other out-of-hospital services, Medicare coverage is 85%. Private insurance covers some services such as long-term care, dental treatment and home nursing. Private expenditure represents 31.5% of total expenditure on health, and 63% of this is out of pocket. In 2011, about 45% of the population had private insurance coverage. Australia has a 2.3 ratio of nurses to physicians and 38% of the total physicians are women. The density of physicians varies from 38.3 per 10 000 population in major cities to 16.3 in very remote areas; to tackle this problem, the government has introduced incentives and education and training support. Relicensing, conditional on producing evidence of relevant continuous professional development, is compulsory for physicians, nurses, midwives, dentists and pharmacists.

## POPULATION AND HEALTH

Population [all (000s); proportion under 15 (%); proportion over 60 (%)]	22.4; 19; 19	(2010)
Average annual rate of population change (%)	1.3	(2010-2015)
Population living in urban areas (%)	89	(2011)
Gross national income per capita (PPP int. \$)	38110	(2011)
Population living on <\$1 (PPP int. \$) a day (%)	-	
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (%)	9.0	(2011)
General government expenditure on health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (%)	69	(2011)
External resources for health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (%)	-	
Life expectancy at birth (years) [all; female; male]	82; 84; 80	(2011)
Total fertility rate (per woman)	1.9	(2010)
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	3	(2011)
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	4	(2011)
Under-five mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	5 [4-6]	(2011)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)	7 [4-12]	(2010)
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.1	(2009)
Antenatal care coverage - at least one visit (%)	97.1	(2009)
Antenatal care coverage - at least four visits (%)	91.2	(2009)
Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%)	92	(2011)
Postnatal care visit within two days of birth (%)	-	

## Top 10 causes of morbidity and mortality (DALYs)

Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional Non-communicable Injuries



Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) quantify both premature mortality (YLLS) and disability (YLDs) within a population. The top 10 causes of DALYs are ranked from top to bottom in order of the number of DALYs they contribute in 2010. Bars going right show the percent by which DALYs have increased since 1990. Bars going left show the percent by which DALYs have decreased.

## HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

### AVAILABILITY

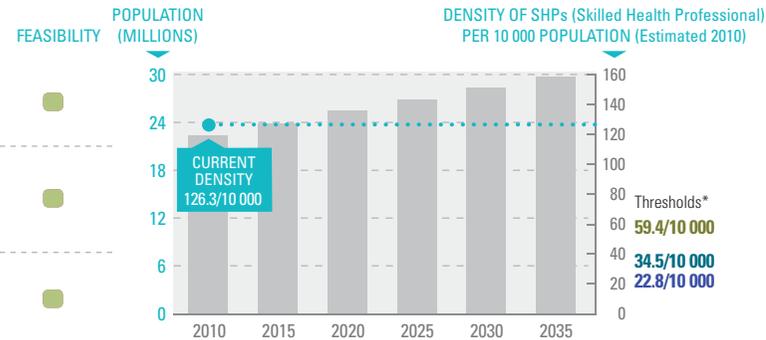
Feasibility of achieving thresholds: Most likely Somewhat likely Least likely

#### TO MEET THRESHOLDS BY 2035, REQUIRES:

0% increase to meet 22.8/10 000 threshold

0% increase to meet 34.5/10 000 threshold

0% increase to meet 59.4/10 000 threshold



### ACCESSIBILITY

SUB-NATIONAL LOW NATIONAL AVERAGE SUB-NATIONAL HIGH

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PHYSICIANS

(density per 10 000 population)

Physicians 38.5 Physicians Physicians

### ACCEPTABILITY

The ratio of nurses to physicians is **BELOW** the OECD average (2.8:1).



### QUALITY

Is there evidence that the country has mechanisms in place to:

ACCREDIT training institutions for:

Dentists	✓
Midwives	✓
Nurses	✓
Pharmacists	✓
Physicians	✓

REGULATE:

Dentists	✓
Midwives	✓
Nurses	✓
Pharmacists	✓
Physicians	✓

LICENSE/RE-LICENSE:

Dentists	✓
Midwives	✓
Nurses	✓
Pharmacists	✓
Physicians	✓

## HRH GOVERNANCE

Is there evidence that the country is adopting recommended good practices on HRH:

### Leadership and Partnership

Is there government leadership on health workforce policy and management? ✓

Is there intersectoral and multi-stakeholder partnership to inform health workforce policy and management? ✓

### Policy and Management

Is existing health workforce policy and human resource management:

related to population health needs? ✓

informed by data and strategic intelligence? ✓

addressing pre-service education? ✓

addressing geographical distribution and retention? ✓

addressing health workforce performance (e.g. competence, responsiveness and productivity)? ✓

addressing international mobility of health workers; and where relevant the WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel? ✓/✗

### Strategy/Plan and Finance

Is there a national HRH strategy/plan resulting from the above mechanisms? ✓

For which period? 2011-2015

Does the strategy/plan account for the financial costs and resource requirements to implement it? ✗

✓ = Yes ✗\* = Partial ✗ = No ? = Insufficient data

\*See Annex 1 for full explanation on country profile methods and sources.