NCETA was contracted by the Australian Government Department of Health to undertake a national survey of the AOD workforce, the first national survey for over 10 years. The 2019-2020 National AOD Workforce Survey addressed key workforce planning and development issues. Data was collected from 1506 workers in the AOD workforce from August 2019 to February 2020. This infographic summarises key AOD workforce profile findings. Other infographics in this series address working conditions, opportunities and challenges in the AOD sector and AOD worker health and wellbeing.


**Location**

One third worked in rural locations

The majority of participants were located in QLD, NSW and VIC

**Sector**

57% were employed in the non-government (NGO) sector

**Worker profile**

2 in 3 AOD workers were women (69%)

39% were aged 50 years or older


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Lived experience

65% reported lived experience (personal, family, other) of AOD-related issues

2 in 3 workers with lived experience had disclosed this to their workplace

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity

6% of workers identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

2x times higher than the proportion in the Australian population

Professional profile

Over 30 occupational groups in the AOD workforce
Most common occupations were drug & alcohol counsellor (23%) and drug & alcohol nurse (10%)

58% of the AOD workforce held an undergraduate degree or higher

46% of the AOD workforce held AOD qualifications at a vocational or tertiary level

67% of client service workers held vocational or tertiary AOD qualifications

Prior employment sector

95% had been employed in another sector before joining the AOD sector

Primary health (18%) and mental health (18%) were the most common sectors of prior employment

Work experience

41% had been in the AOD sector for 10+ years

8% were new to the AOD sector (< 1 year)