



Veterinary  
Practitioners  
Board

# Veterinary practice legislation and Registration of veterinarians

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# Agenda



Legislation



Registration



Statistics

# Legislation

The object of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (NSW) (s 3) is to regulate the provision of veterinary services for the following purposes:

1. To promote the welfare of animals
2. To ensure that consumers of veterinary services are well informed as to the competencies required of veterinary practitioners
3. To ensure that acceptable standards are required to be met by veterinary practitioners so as to meet the public interest and national and international trade requirements
4. To provide public health protection



# Legislation

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* requires that:

1. Only a registered person may represent themselves to be a veterinarian (s 11)
2. Only a person registered as a specialist can represent themselves as a specialist (s 13)
3. Only a registered person may perform a restricted act of veterinary science (s 9)
4. Only a registered person or holder of a veterinary hospital licence may recover fees from performing restricted acts of veterinary science (s 10)



# Legislation

Restricted acts of veterinary science are declared under the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013* (cl 4) and include:

1. Examination of or attendance on an animal for the purpose of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal
2. Treatments, procedures or tests that require anaesthesia
3. Administration of an anaesthetic agent otherwise than under the immediate and direct [supervision](#) of a veterinarian (includes sedatives and tranquilisers but not topical anaesthesia)\*



# Legislation

Restricted acts of veterinary science are declared under the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013* (cl 4) and include:

4. A list of specific procedures including:
  - a) A variety of animal husbandry procedures from a specific age
  - b) Insertion of any thing into certain body cavities
  - c) Insertion of any thing into the uterus or rectum of a horse
  - d) Insertion of microchips into horses
  - e) Dental procedures other than tooth cleaning on any animal other than a horse
  - f) Diagnosis of pregnancy in a horse



# Legislation

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (s 9(2)) provides that a person other than a veterinarian may do any restricted act of veterinary science if the person is:

1. The owner of the animal
2. An employee of the owner of the animal and the act is done incidentally to their primary duties of employment
3. A veterinary student enrolled in specific courses under direct supervision
4. The animal is in urgent need and a veterinary practitioner is not available
5. A person holding an authority under the *Animal Research Act 1985*
6. A person who has been accredited by the Board



# Legislation

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (s 76) provides for the constitution of the Veterinary Practitioners Board (Board) which is to consist of 8 members (s 77) selected by the Minister and appointed by the Governor:

1. One veterinarian representing specialist veterinarians
2. One veterinarian representing urban veterinarians
3. One veterinarian representing rural veterinarians
4. One veterinarian representing academics in the field of veterinary science
5. Two veterinary practitioners selected personally by the Minister
6. Two persons who are not veterinarians selected by the Minister to represent consumers of veterinary services





# Legislation

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (s 79) describes a number of Board functions including:

1. To register veterinary practitioners
2. To license veterinary hospitals
3. To investigate complaints against veterinary practitioners and take disciplinary action against veterinary practitioners



# Registration of veterinary practitioners



Divisions



Acceptable  
qualifications



Conditions on  
Registration



Renewal and  
Removal



National  
Recognition

# Divisions

The Board may grant the following kinds of registration:

1. Full (general) registration
2. Provisional registration
3. Limited registration
4. Honorary registration
5. Specialist registration



# Full registration

Full registration may be granted if a person holds an approved qualification

1. Passport sized photograph
2. Certified proof of date of birth
3. Certified proof of qualification (eQuals or testamur)
4. Payment of fees
5. Letter of Professional Standing from your most recent veterinary regulation authority if applicable



# Provisional registration

A person applying for full registration may be granted provisional registration if that person has completed an approved qualification but not yet graduated (graduand).

1. Passport sized photograph
2. Certified proof of date of birth
3. Proof of qualification (Deans List or [eQuals](#))
4. Payment of fees



# Limited registration

Limited registration may be granted if a person does not hold an approved qualification but has such qualifications in veterinary science and experience in the practice of veterinary science to justify the granting of limited registration.

Additional requirements:

1. Proof of specific purpose
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Supervising Veterinarian Declaration



# Honorary registration

Honorary registration may be granted to a person who has full (or specialist) registration if:

1. The person has been a member of the profession for not less than 40 years or
2. The person is a member of the profession of long standing and is of or above the age of 65 years or
3. The person's standing in the profession is such as to justify the person being granted honorary registration
4. Board policy from 2014 requires this person to be retired



# Specialist registration

Specialist registration may be granted in a branch of veterinary science if the Board is satisfied the veterinarian has such qualifications and experience as to justify the granting of specialist registration.

Assessments of qualifications and experience are completed by the Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS) of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). This allows for a consistent approach throughout Australia and New Zealand.





# Acceptable qualifications

## **Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)**

Consists of eight of the nine member Boards from Australia and New Zealand with the following functions:

1. A forum for member communication and discussion of areas of common interest and policy development
2. A framework for public and industry confidence in veterinary standards
3. Assurance and promotion of educational standards in the accreditation of veterinary schools, the Australasian Veterinary Exam (AVE) and specialist accreditation



# Acceptable qualifications

## **Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC)**

Assists member Boards by providing:

1. A list of veterinary qualifications generally recognised in Australia and New Zealand
2. Skills assessment for Australian migration
3. Assessment of veterinary specialist registration applications
4. Veterinary school accreditation



# Conditions on registration

The Board may impose a condition on a veterinarian's registration for a variety of reasons including:

1. Safety or health of any person
2. Health and welfare of animals
3. Damage to the international reputation of Australia in relation to animal exports, animal welfare, animal produce or sporting events
4. Any conditions imposed by another veterinary regulation authority
5. Any impairment suffered by the veterinarian



# Renewal and removal

The Board may remove a veterinarian's name from the Register for a number of reasons including:

1. The person has been found guilty of an offence under a number of Acts including:
  - a) *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*
  - b) *Stock Medicines Act 1989*
  - c) *Biosecurity Act 2015*
  - d) *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*
  - e) *Export Control Act 2020*
2. Failure to pay a fee or fine
3. Failure to lodge an Annual Return



# Renewal and removal

## Annual Return

The Annual Return consists of a series of questions including:

1. Confirmation of your current place of work area of employment
2. Whether you have been found guilty of any offence that may cause you to be removed from the Register
3. Whether you suffer from an impairment
4. How many continuing professional development (CPD) points you have gained over the previous year



# Renewal and removal

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

In order to maintain your registration in NSW you must complete 60 CPD points over the previous 3 year period (rolling) of which 15 points must be structured CPD

- Structured CPD points are derived from activities which can readily be externally validated including university courses, conferences, workshops and publications
- Unstructured CPD points are derived from activities which cannot readily be externally validated such as private reading, clinical rounds, and mentoring



# National recognition of veterinary registration

- There is no system of national registration for veterinarians in Australia but there is national recognition of veterinary registration (NRVR)
- NRVR requires veterinarians to register in the state or territory in which they reside rather than where they work
- NRVR was designed to increase the mobility of veterinarians in Australia and reduce administration costs of registration
- Once an Australian registered veterinarian moves their principal place of residence to NSW they must apply for registration in NSW within 3 months.



# Summary

- A person who holds a qualification approved by the AVBC may be granted provisional registration if not yet graduated or full registration upon graduation
- A person who holds additional qualifications in a branch of veterinary science approved by the AVBC may be granted specialist registration
- A person who holds a veterinary qualification not approved by the AVBC may be granted limited registration
- The AVBC also conducts skills assessments for graduates from Australian universities who are applying in Australia for a visa after they have registered as a veterinarian in Australia
- For a list of veterinary qualifications generally acceptable for registration in NSW please visit the [AVBC website](#)





# Summary

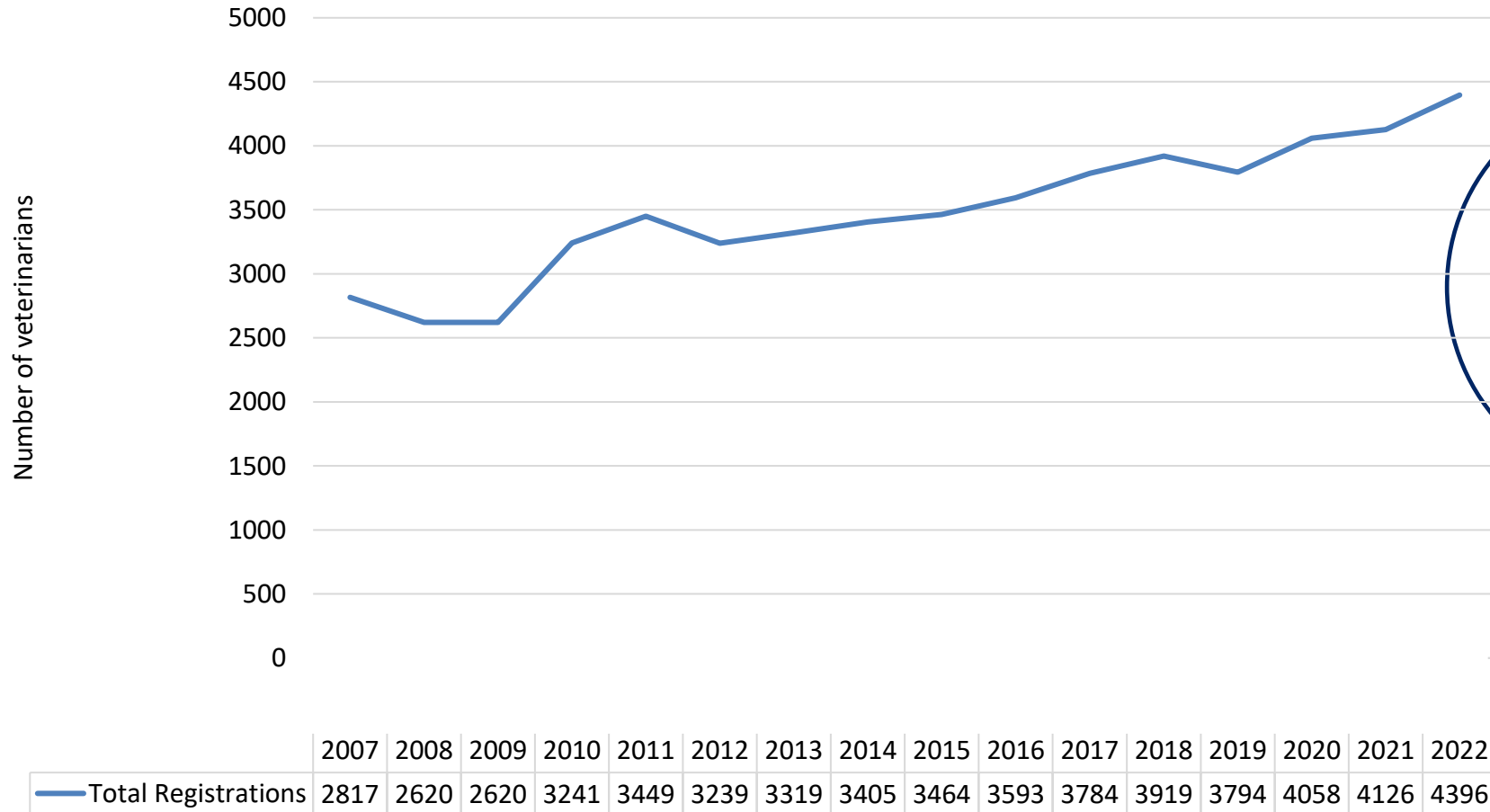
- To maintain registration in NSW veterinarians must **pay a renewal fee and submit an Annual Return before 30 June**
- The Annual Return provides confirmation of contact details, work details, CPD, and notification of any legislative breaches and impairment
- Veterinarians who have been working in another jurisdiction and wish to apply for registration or those who wish to restore themselves to the Register in NSW must also organise for a Letter of Professional Standing to be sent from their current or most recent regulatory authority to the Board
- Veterinarians who no longer require registration in NSW should submit a Voluntary Removal from the Register Form



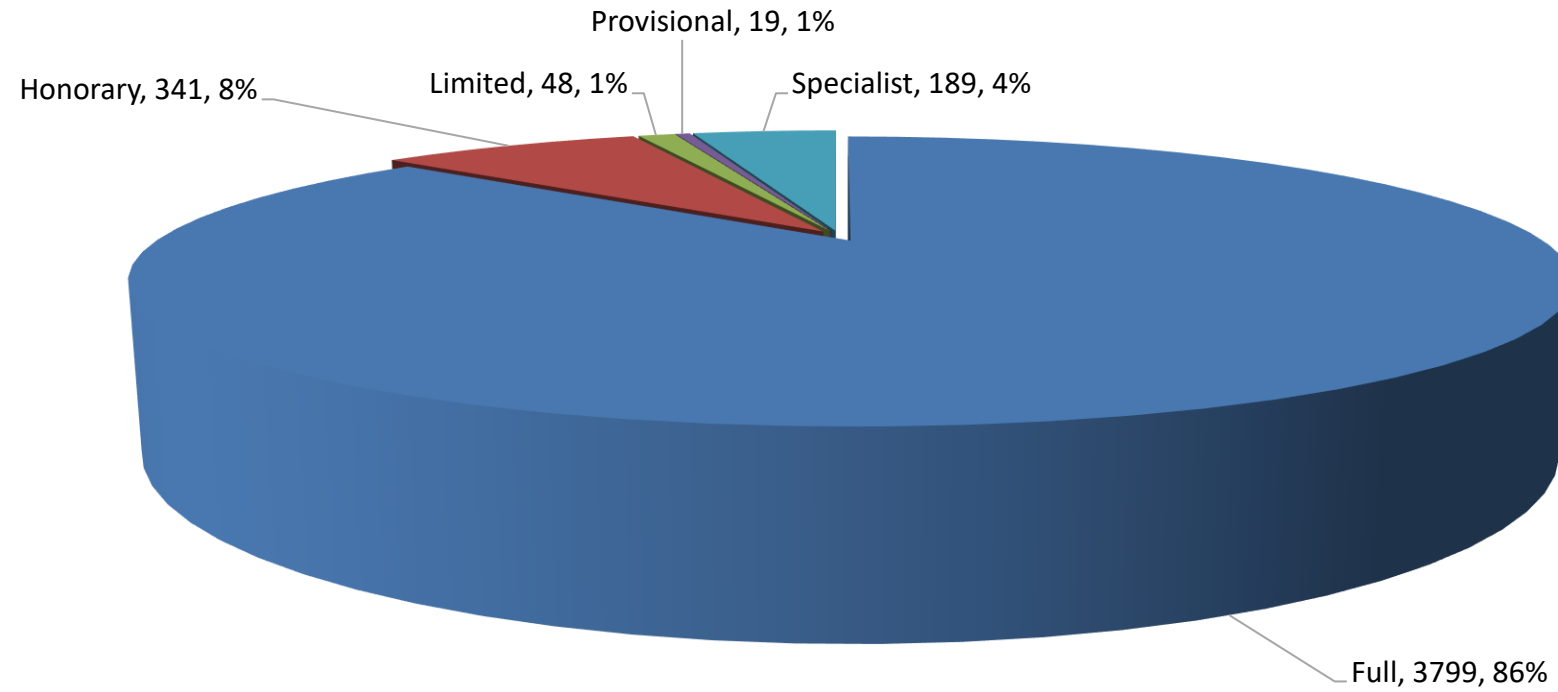
# Questions



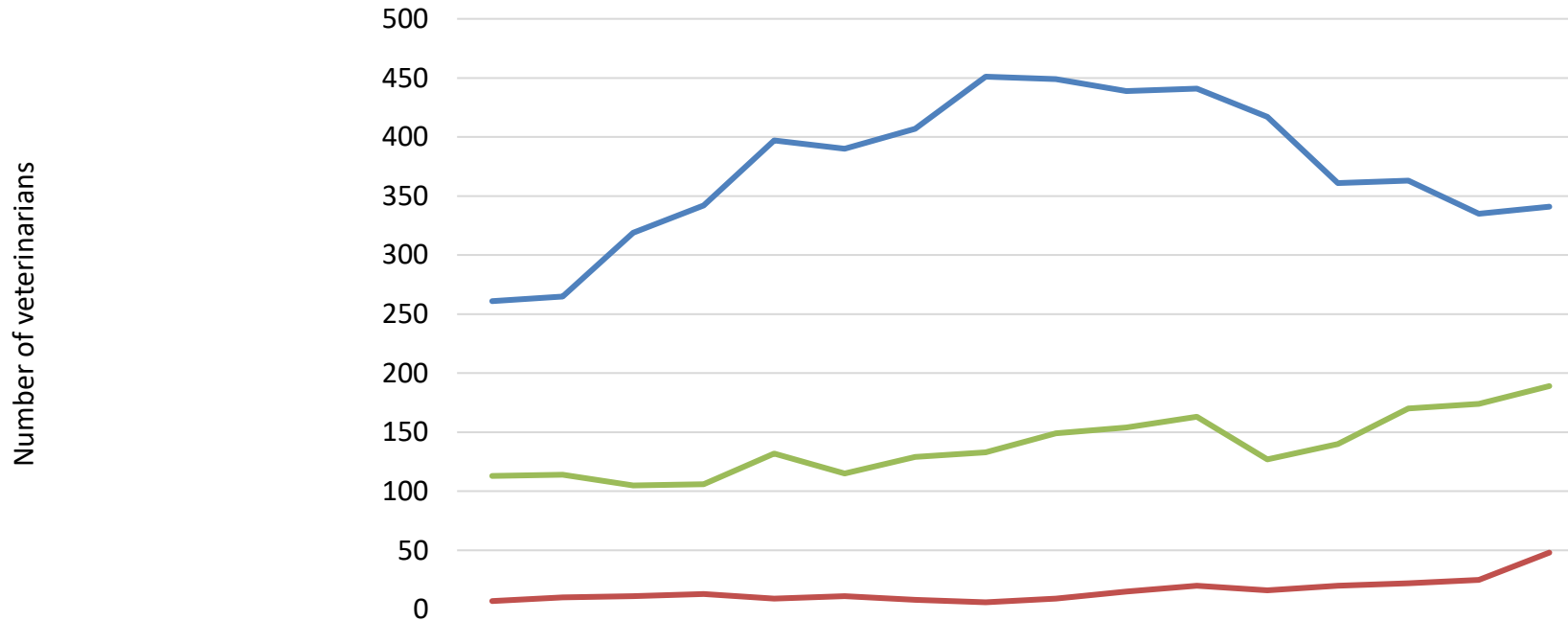
# Total registrants 2007-2022



# Registration type 2022

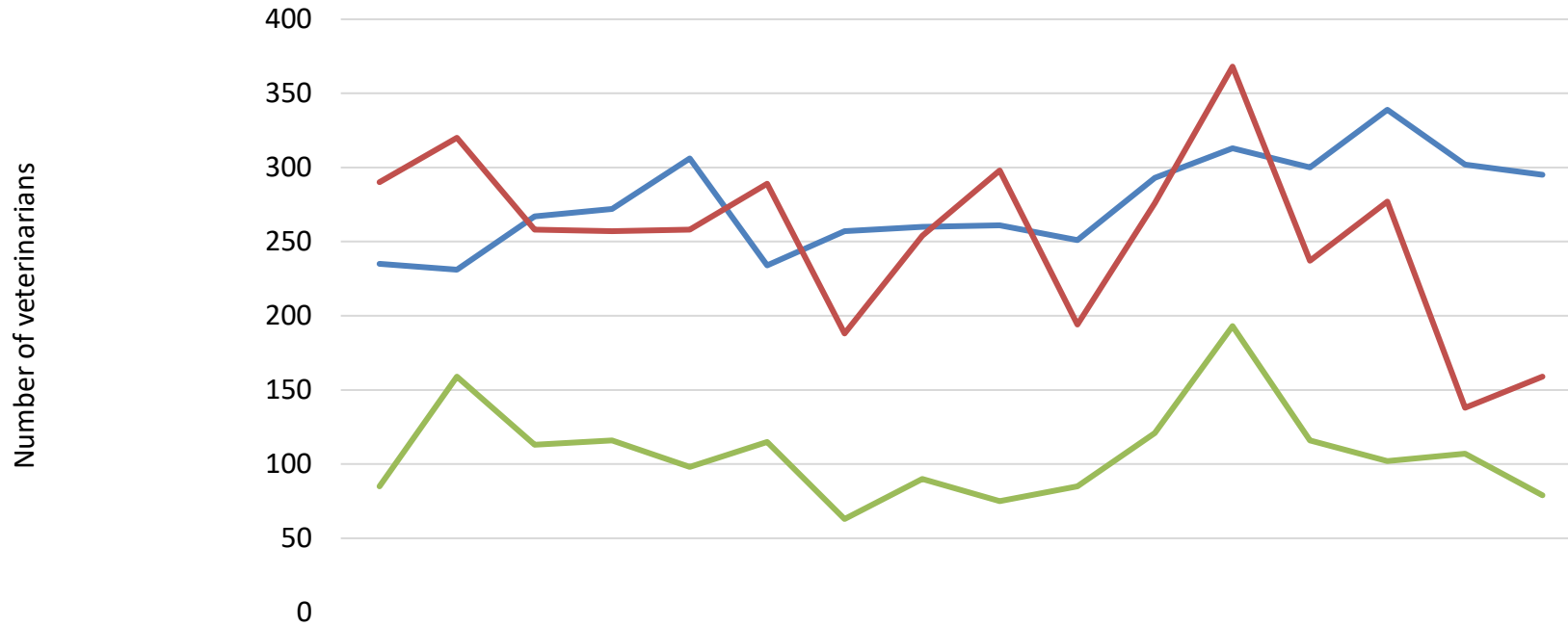


# Registration types 2007-2022



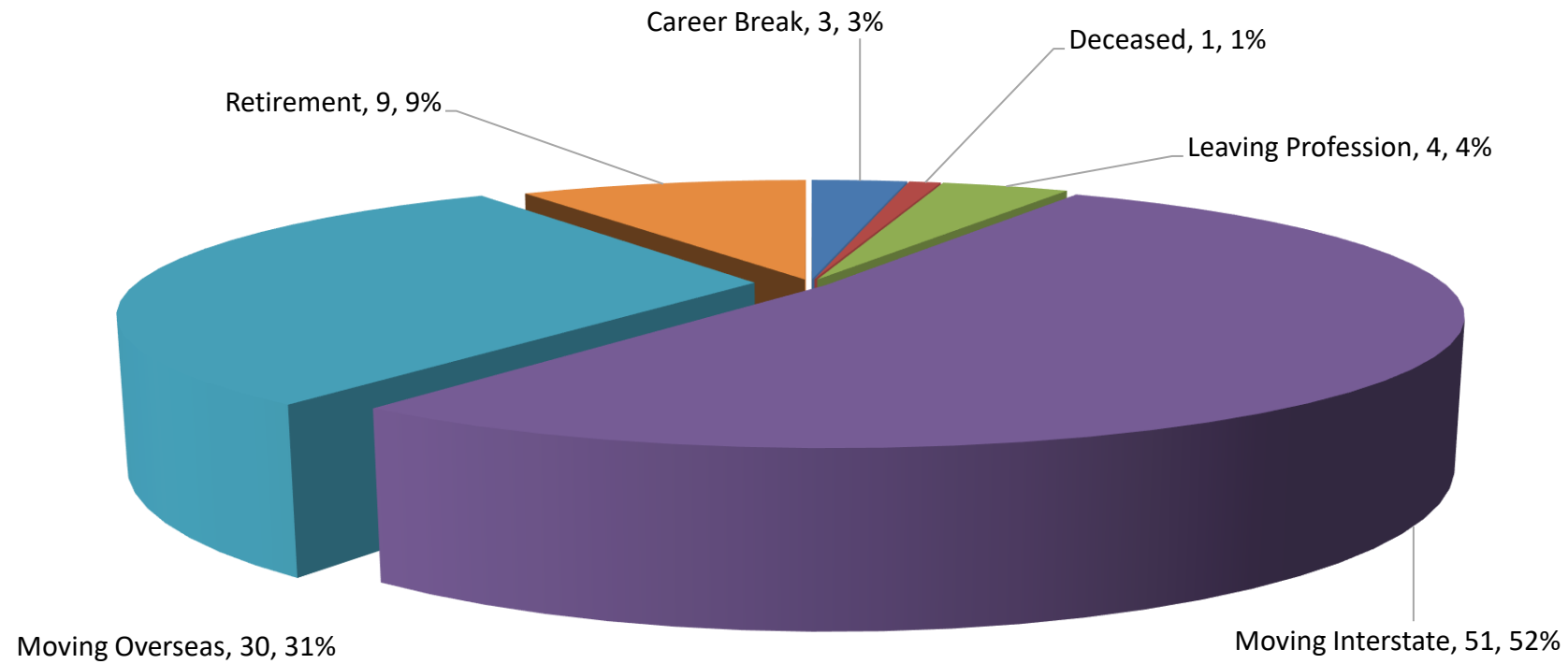
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
— Total Honorary Registrations	261	265	319	342	397	390	407	451	449	439	441	417	361	363	335	341
— Total Limited Registrations	7	10	11	13	9	11	8	6	9	15	20	16	20	22	25	48
— Total Specialist Registrations	113	114	105	106	132	115	129	133	149	154	163	127	140	170	174	189

# Changes to the Register 2007-2022

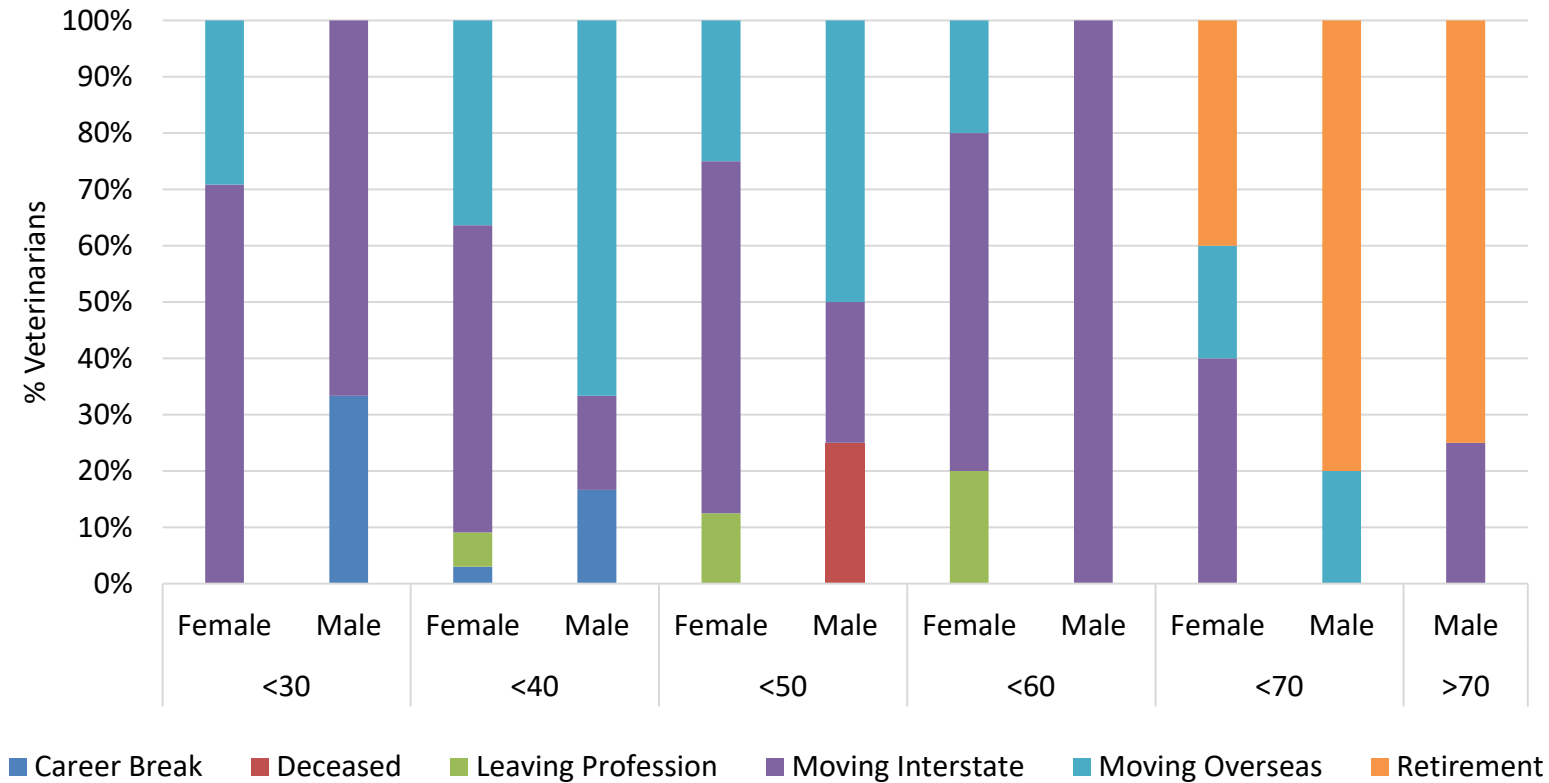


	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
— New Registrations	235	231	267	272	306	234	257	260	261	251	293	313	300	339	302	295
— Removals	290	320	258	257	258	289	188	254	298	194	276	368	237	277	138	159
— Restorations	85	159	113	116	98	115	63	90	75	85	121	193	116	102	107	79

# Reasons for removal 2022



# Reasons for removal by gender and age 2022

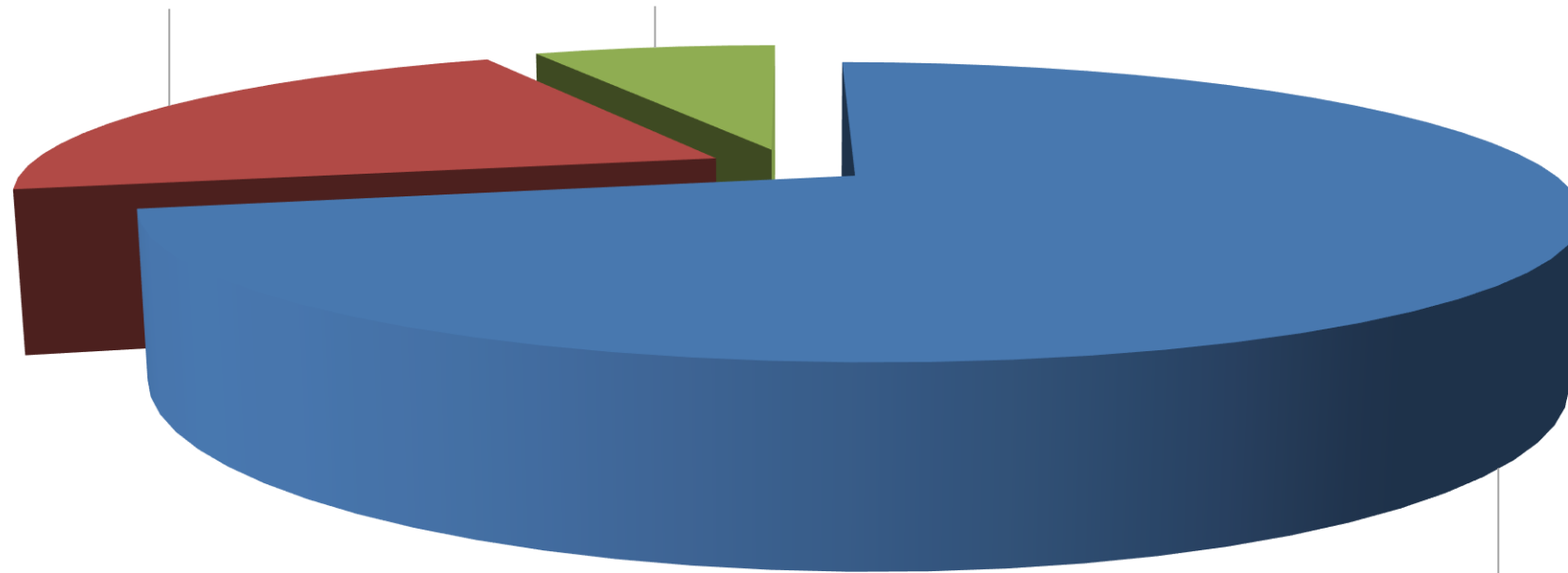




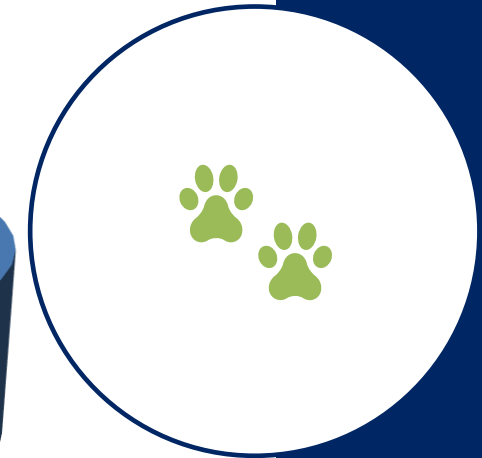
# Employment type general practice 2022

General Mixed Animal Practice, 598, 21%

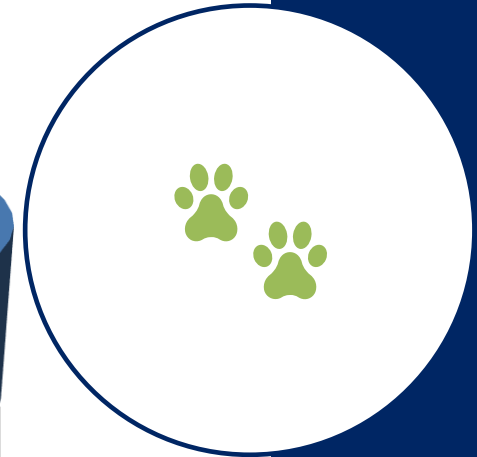
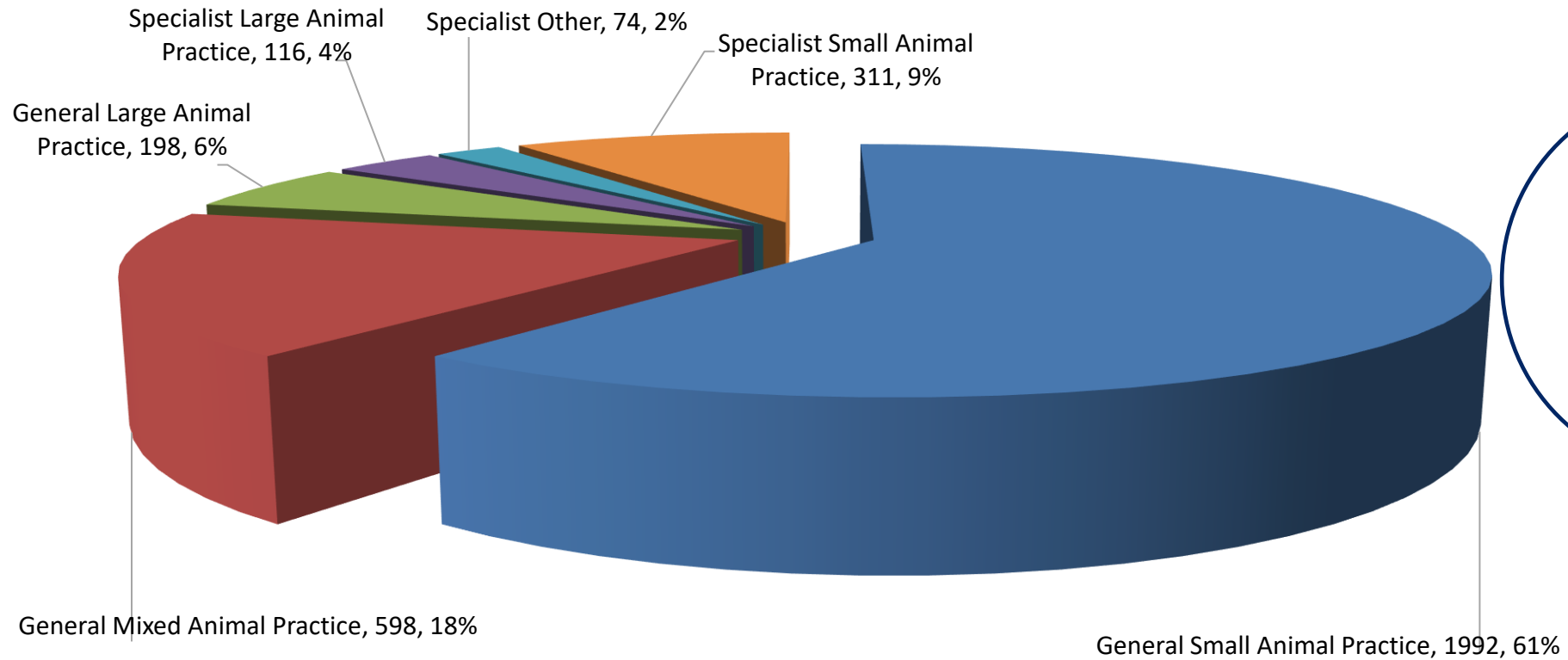
General Large Animal Practice, 198, 7%



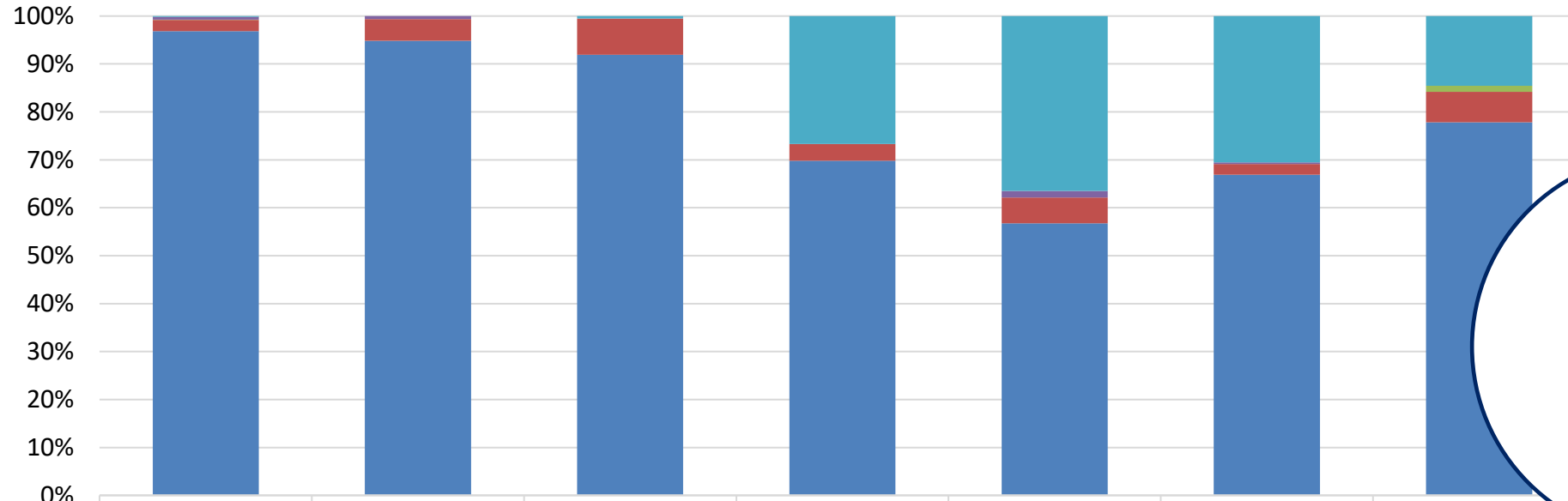
General Small Animal Practice, 1992, 72%



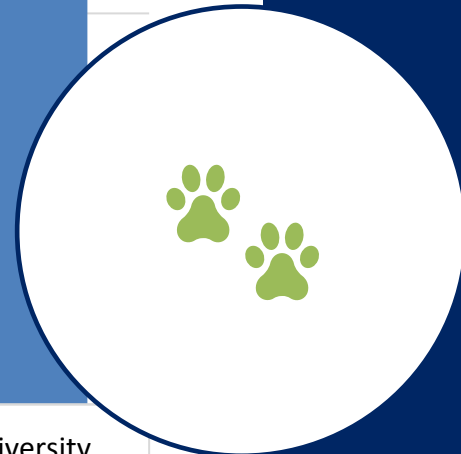
# Employment type general and specialist practice 2022



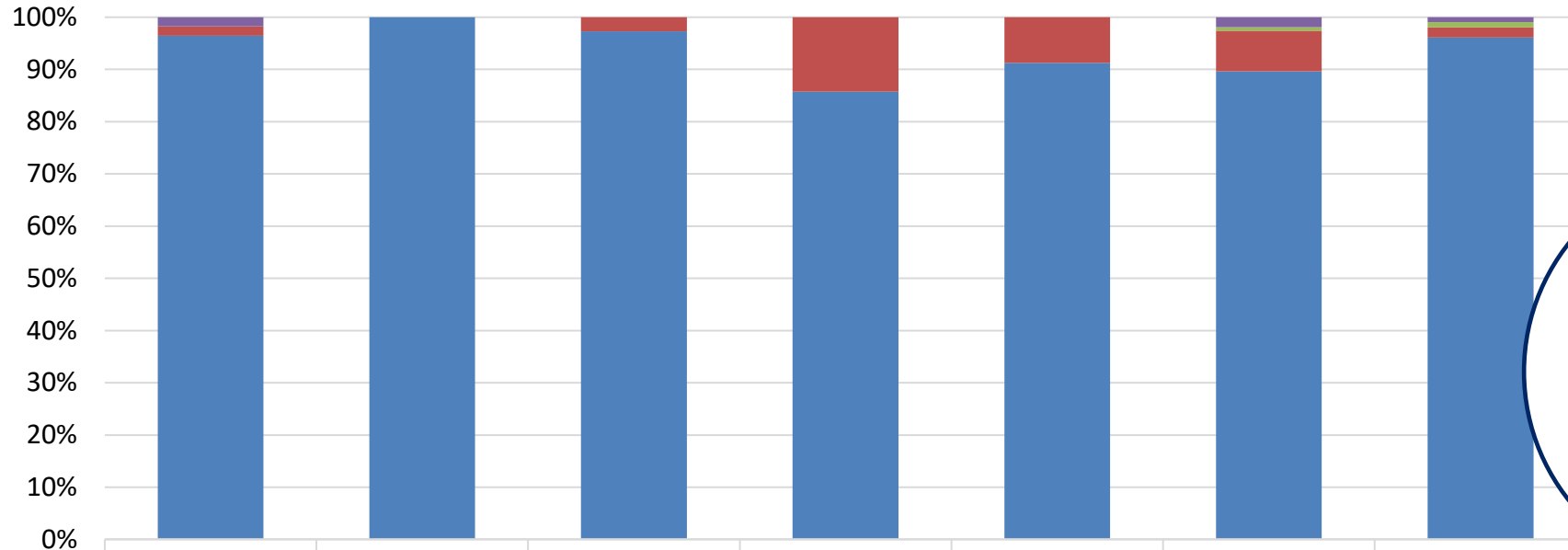
# Employment type clinical practice 2022



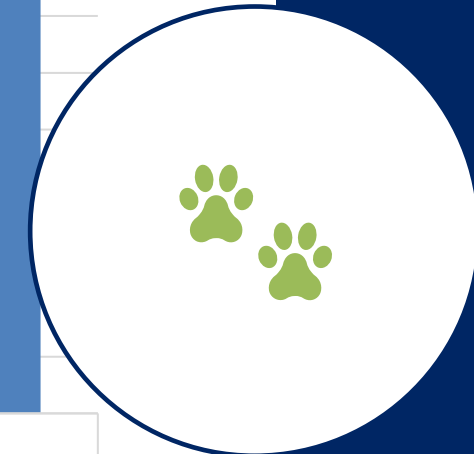
	General Small Animal Practice	General Mixed Animal Practice	General Large Animal Practice	Specialist Large Animal Practice	Specialist Other	Specialist Small Animal Practice	University
Specialist	4		1	31	27	95	23
Provisional	11	4			1	1	
Limited	1						2
Honorary	47	27	15	4	4	7	10
Full	1929	567	182	81	42	208	123



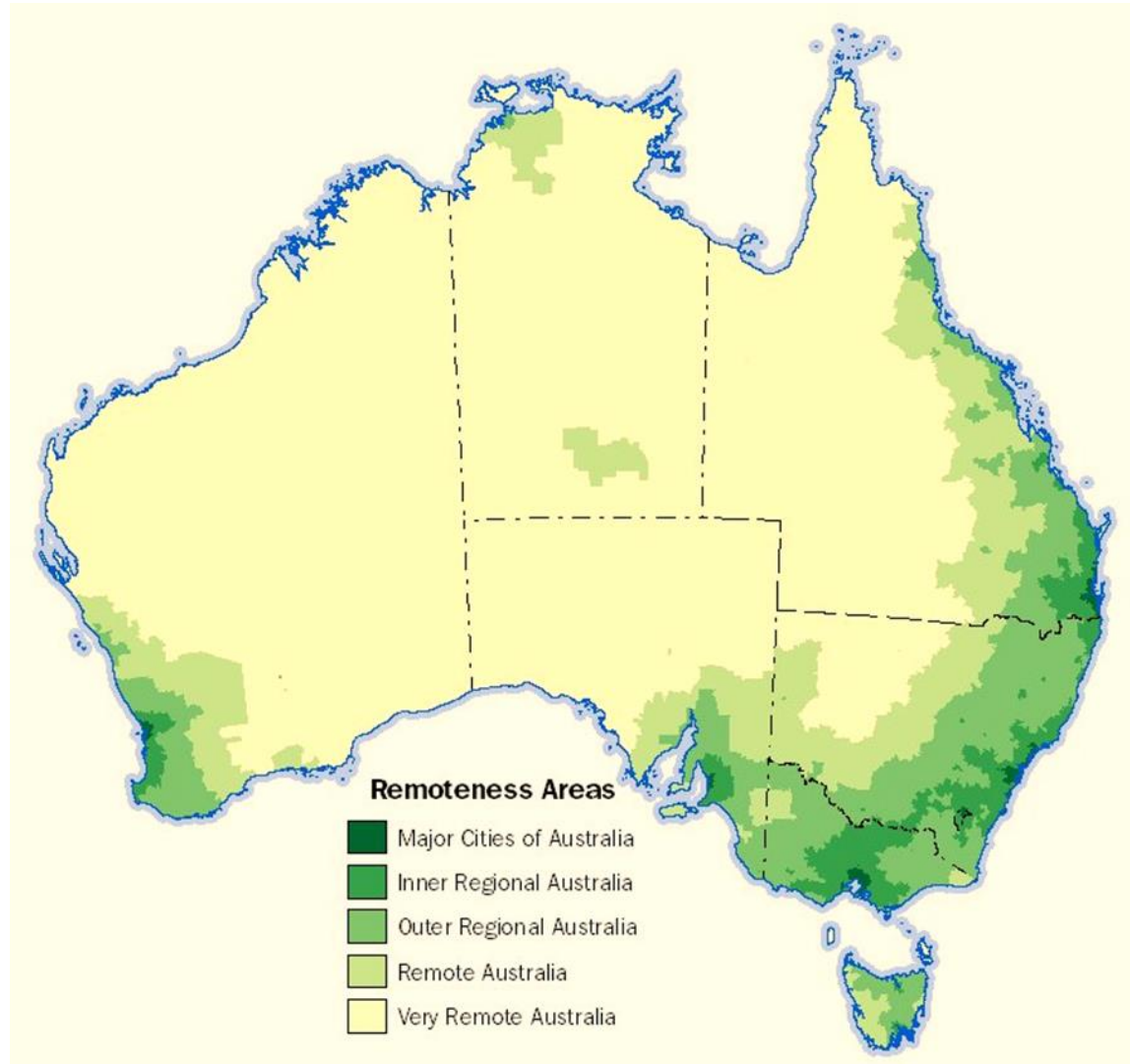
# Employment type non-clinical practice 2022



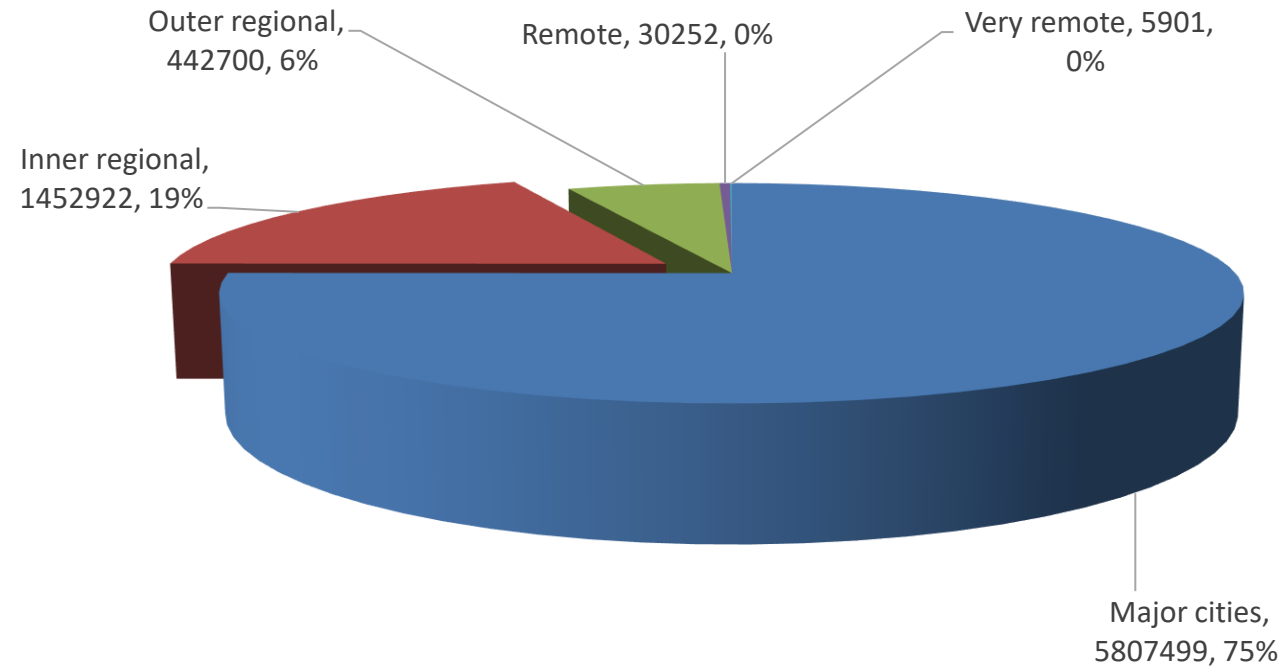
	Government Officer Commonwealth	Government Officer LLS	Government Officer NSW	Government Research & Development	Non-Veterinary Pursuit	Other Veterinary Pursuit	Pharmaceutical
Specialist	1					3	1
Limited						1	1
Honorary	1		2	2	9	12	2
Full	54	52	71	12	94	138	99



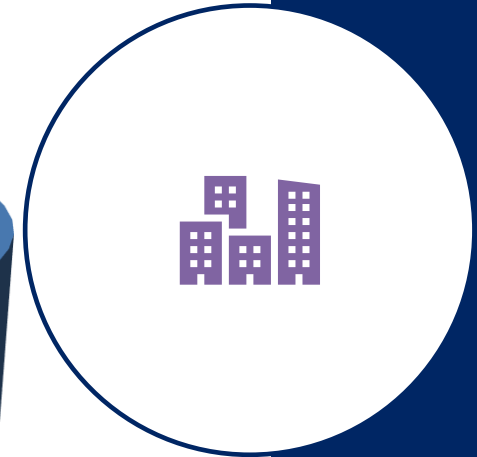
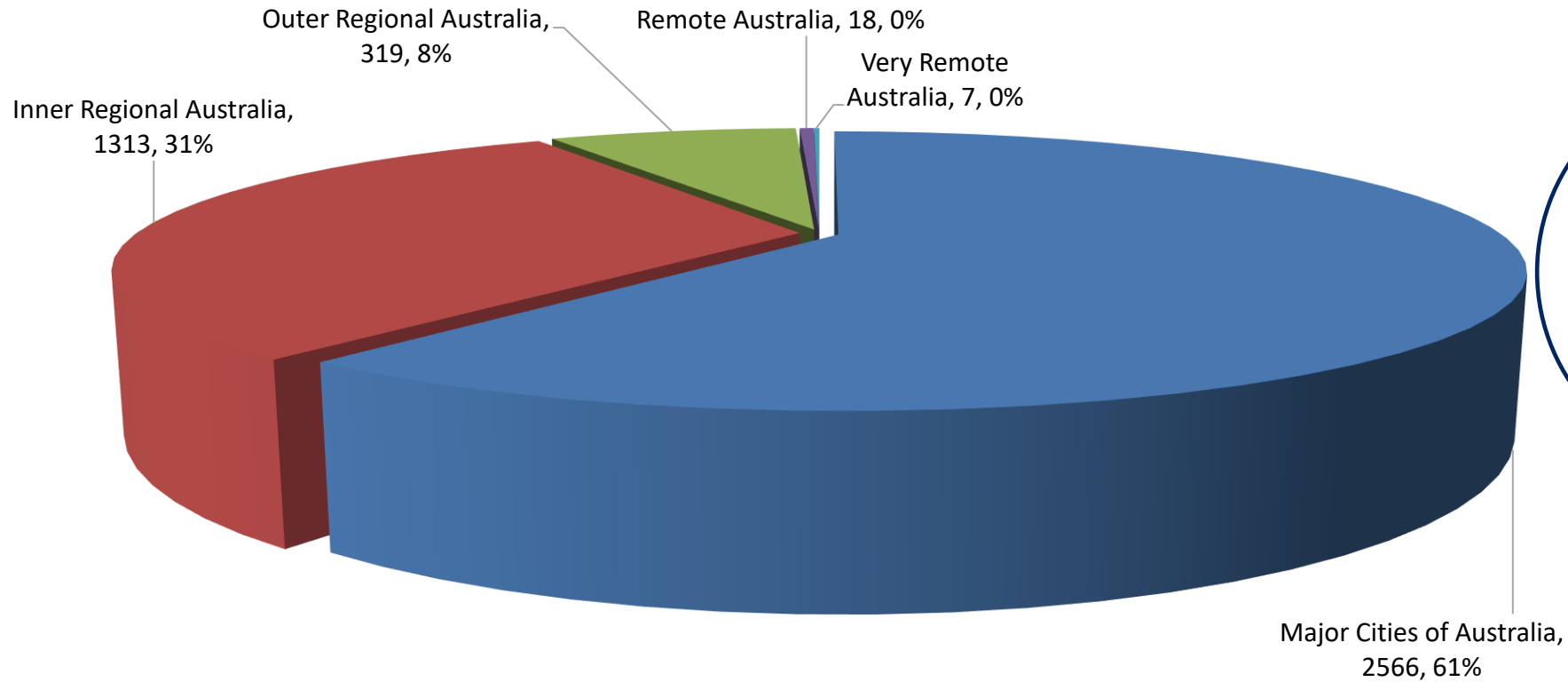
# Employment location remoteness areas



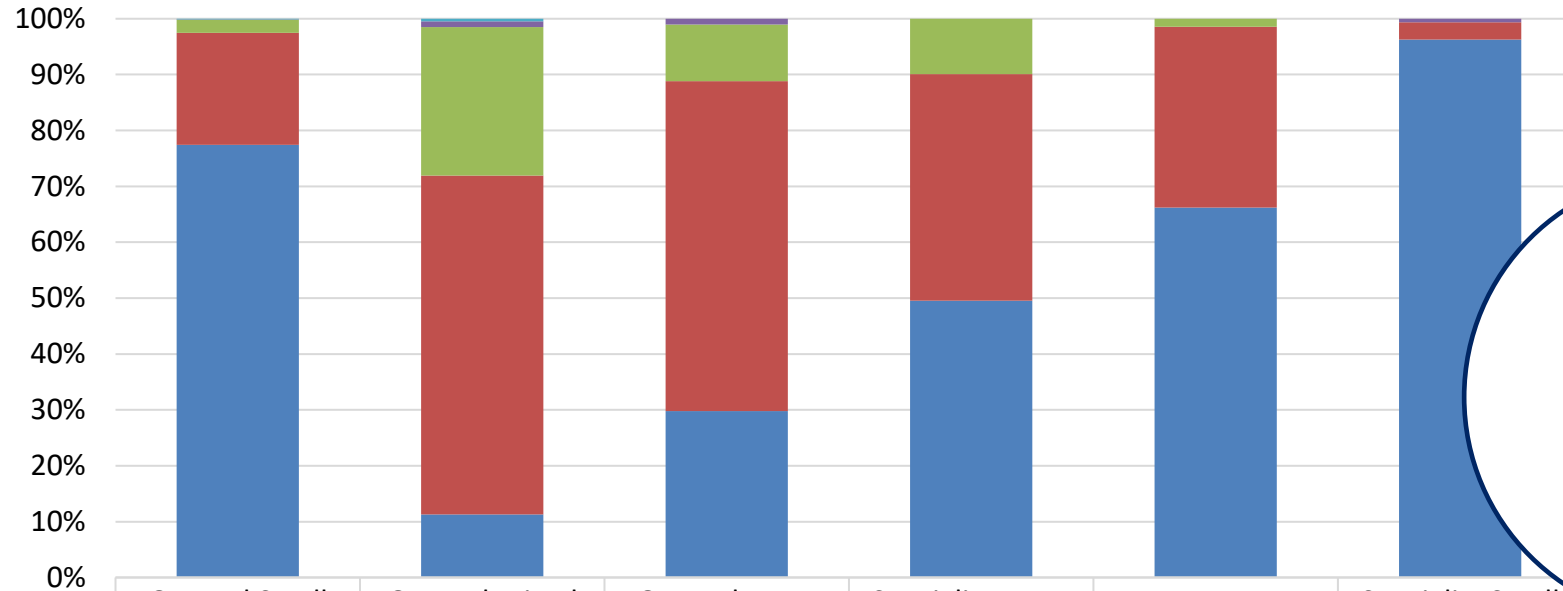
# Remoteness index NSW population 2016



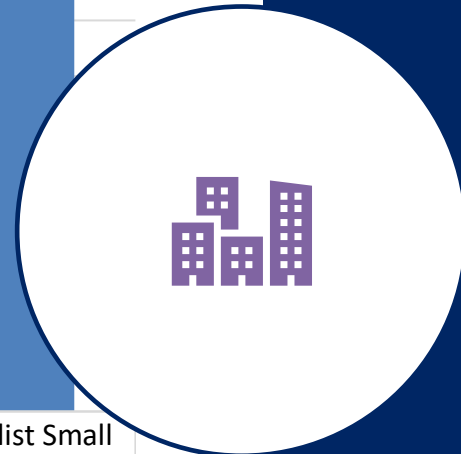
# Employment location remoteness index 2022



# Type of practice and employment location 2022

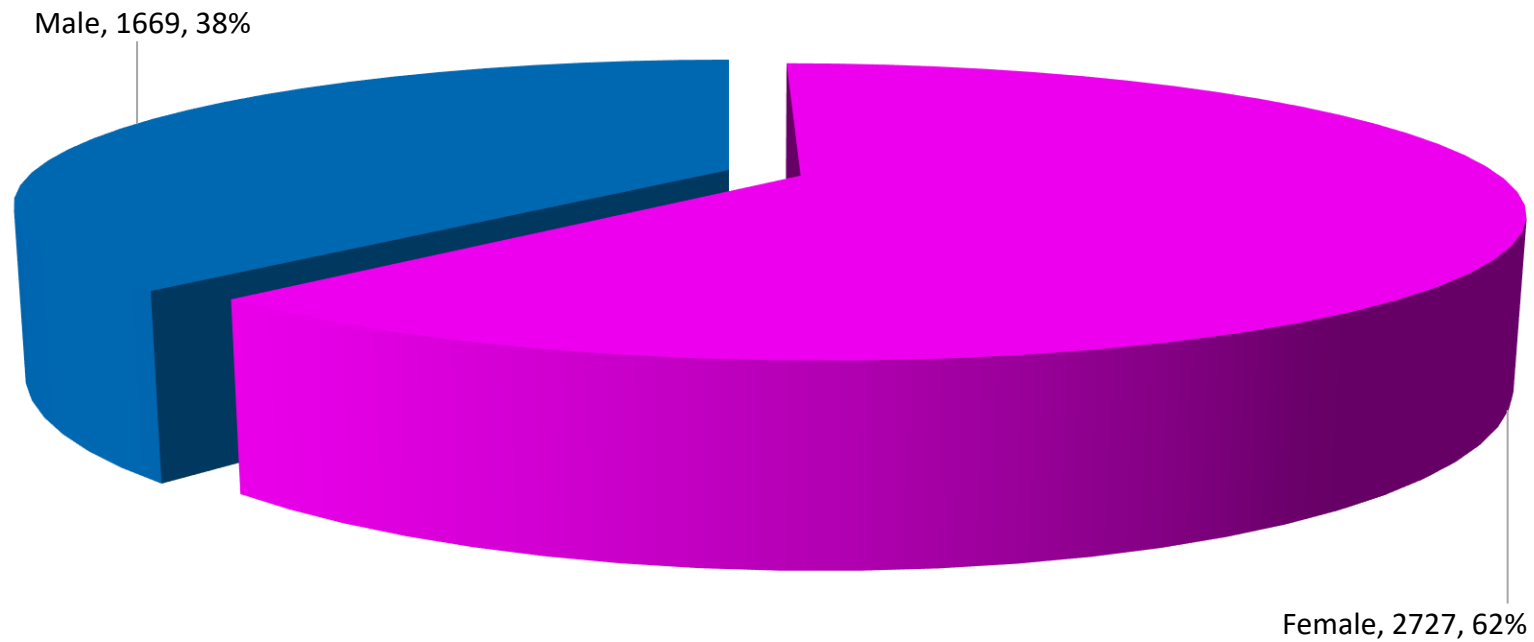


	General Small Animal Practice	General Mixed Animal Practice	General Large Animal Practice	Specialist Large Animal Practice	Specialist Other	Specialist Small Animal Practice
Very Remote Australia	3	3				
Remote Australia	1	6	2			2
Outer Regional Australia	45	158	19	11	1	
Inner Regional Australia	388	361	111	45	22	9
Major Cities of Australia	1498	67	56	55	45	281

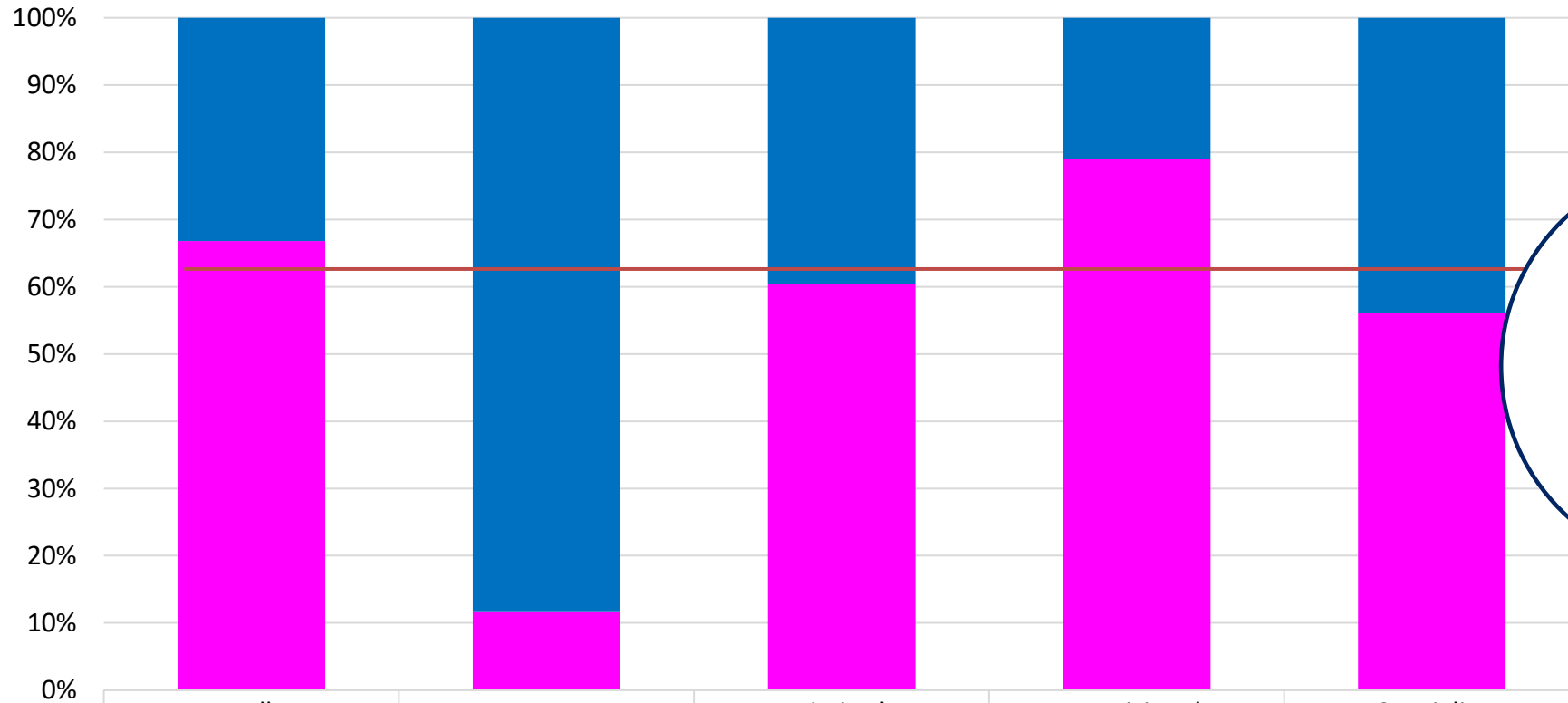




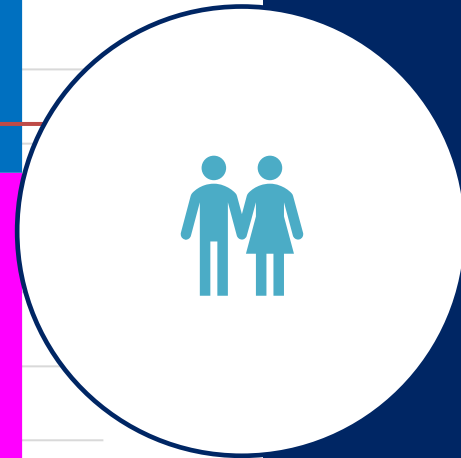
# Gender distribution 2022



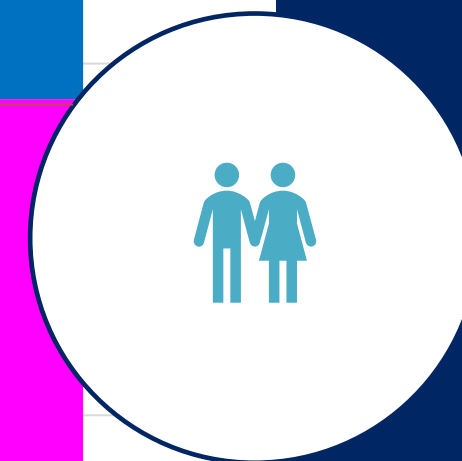
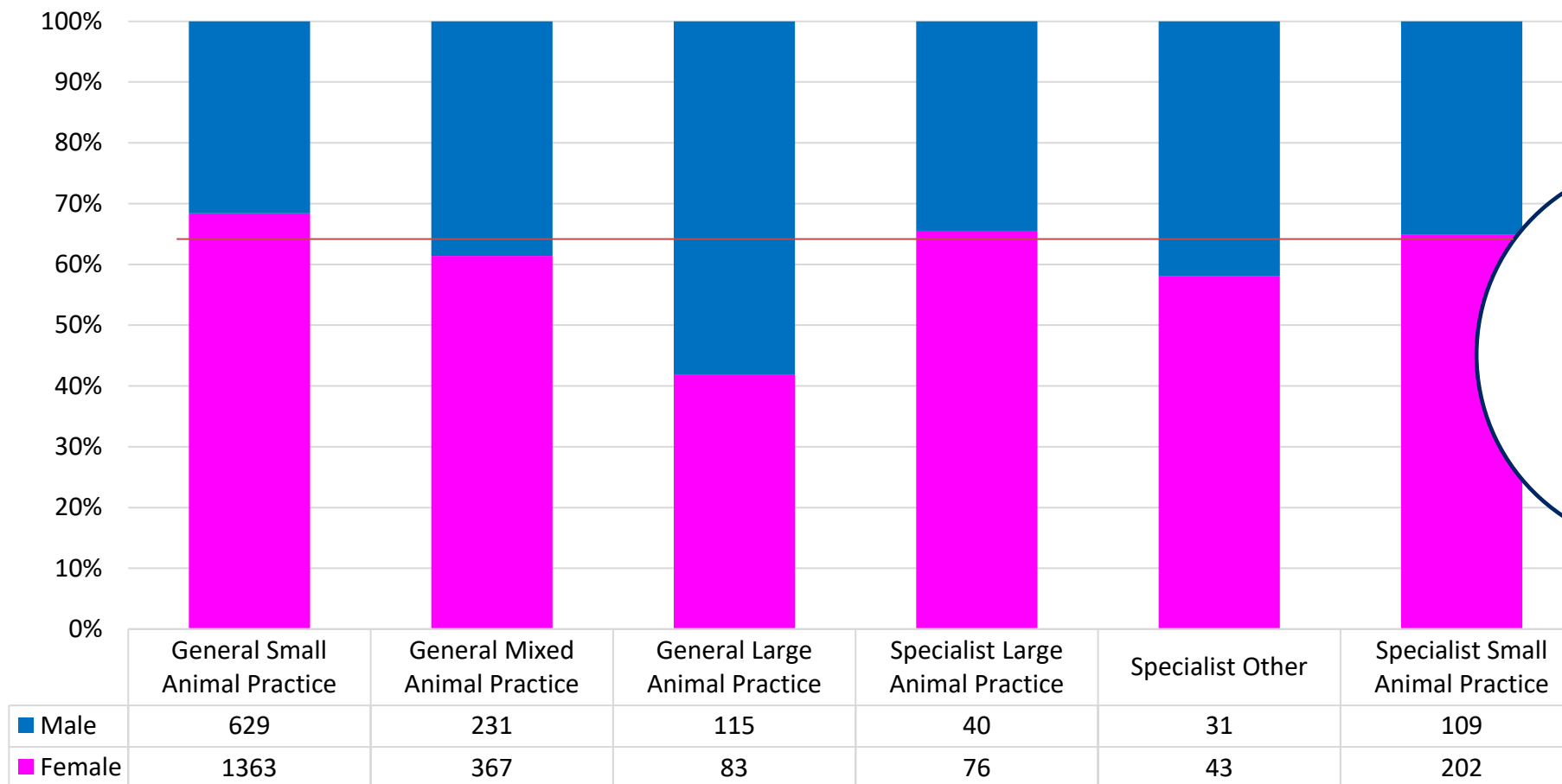
# Registration types 2022



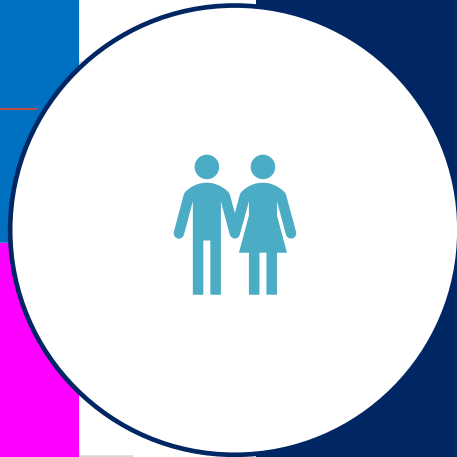
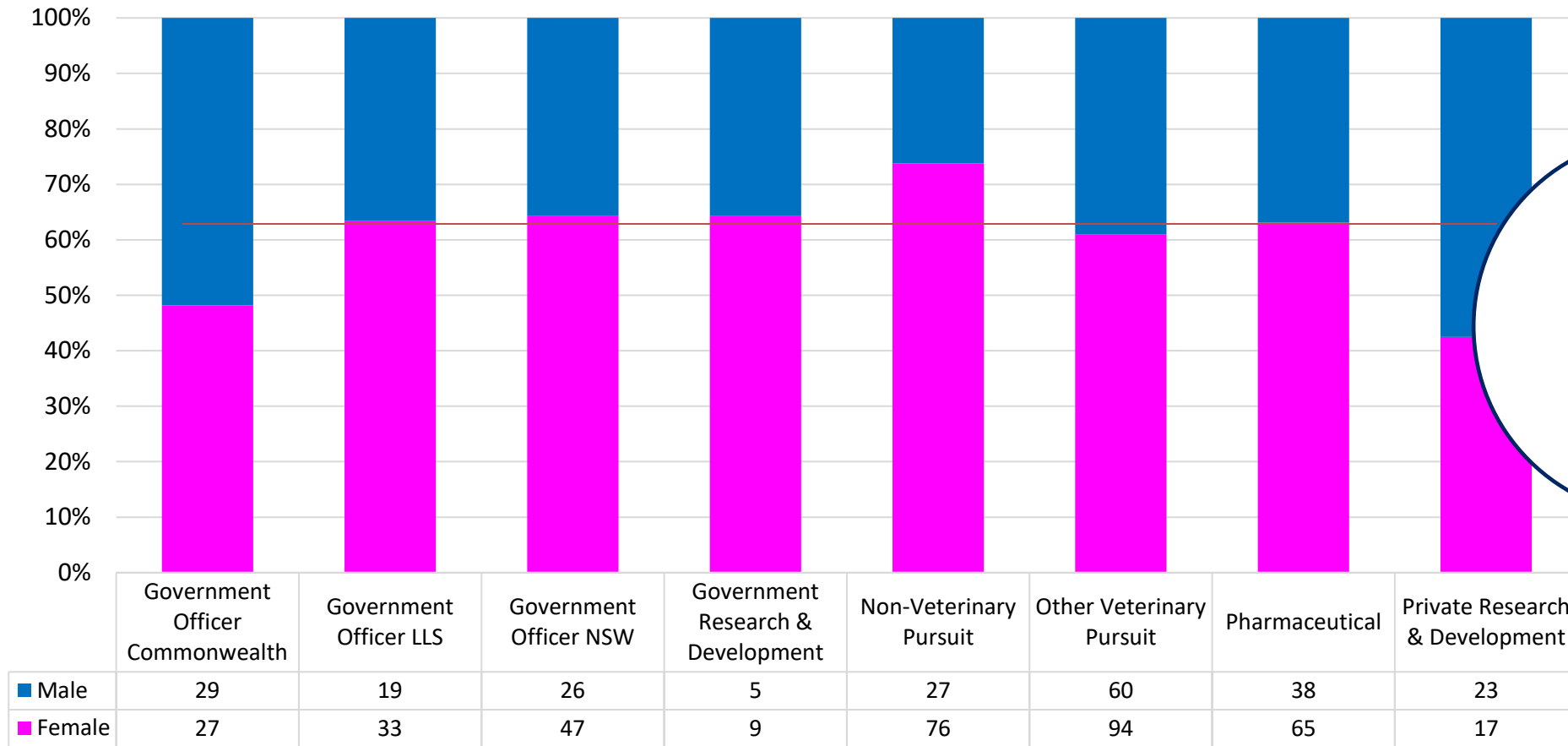
	Full	Honorary	Limited	Provisional	Specialist
Male	1262	301	19	4	83
Female	2537	40	29	15	106



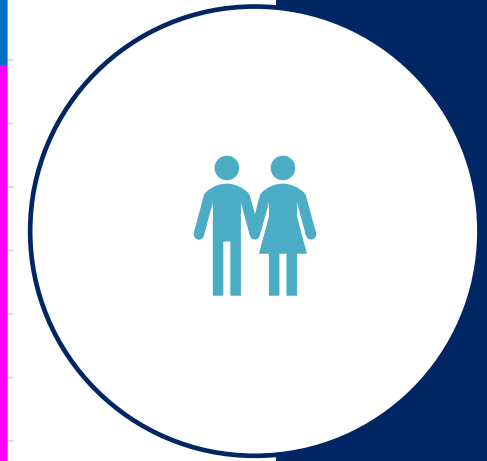
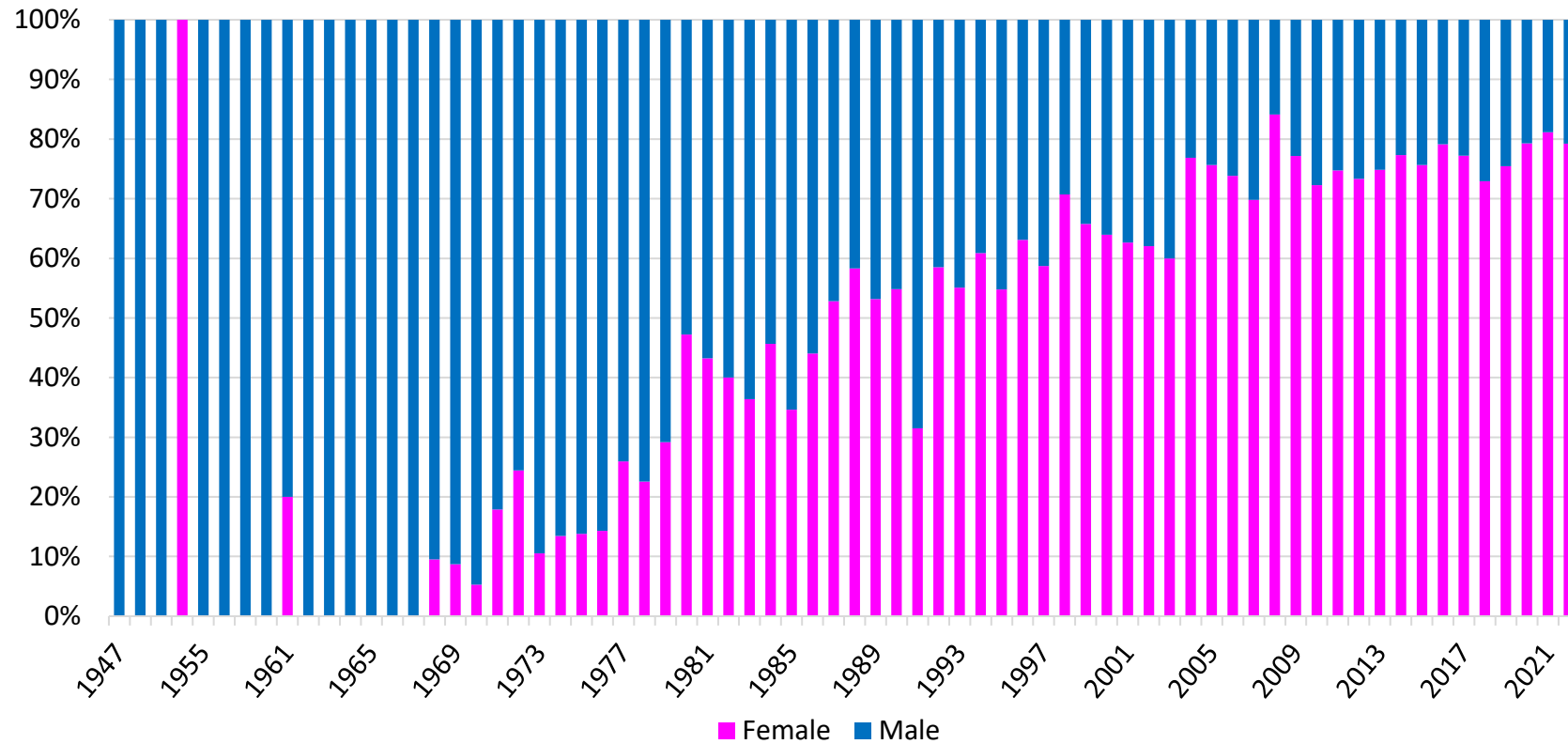
# Gender distribution clinical practice 2022



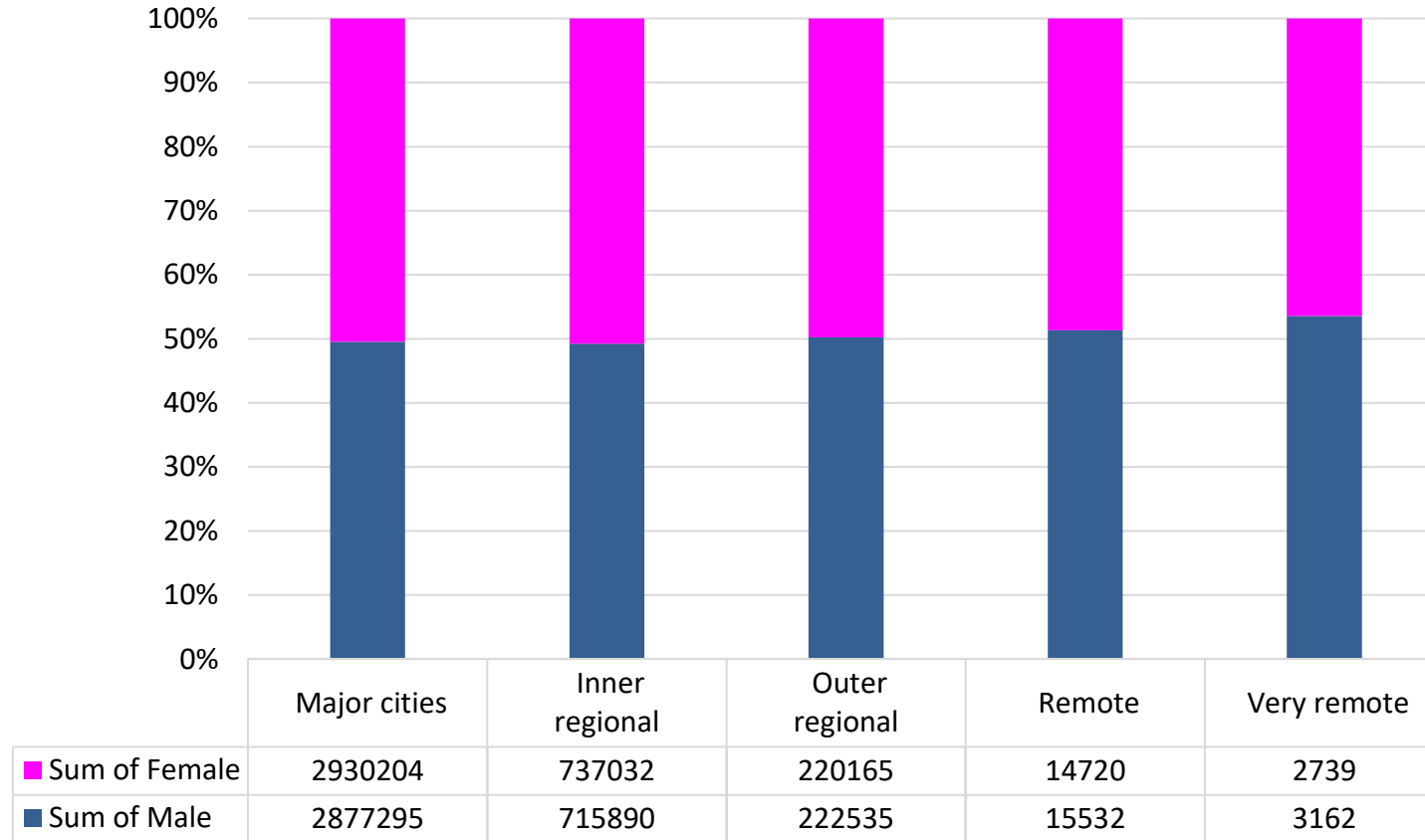
# Employment type non-clinical 2022



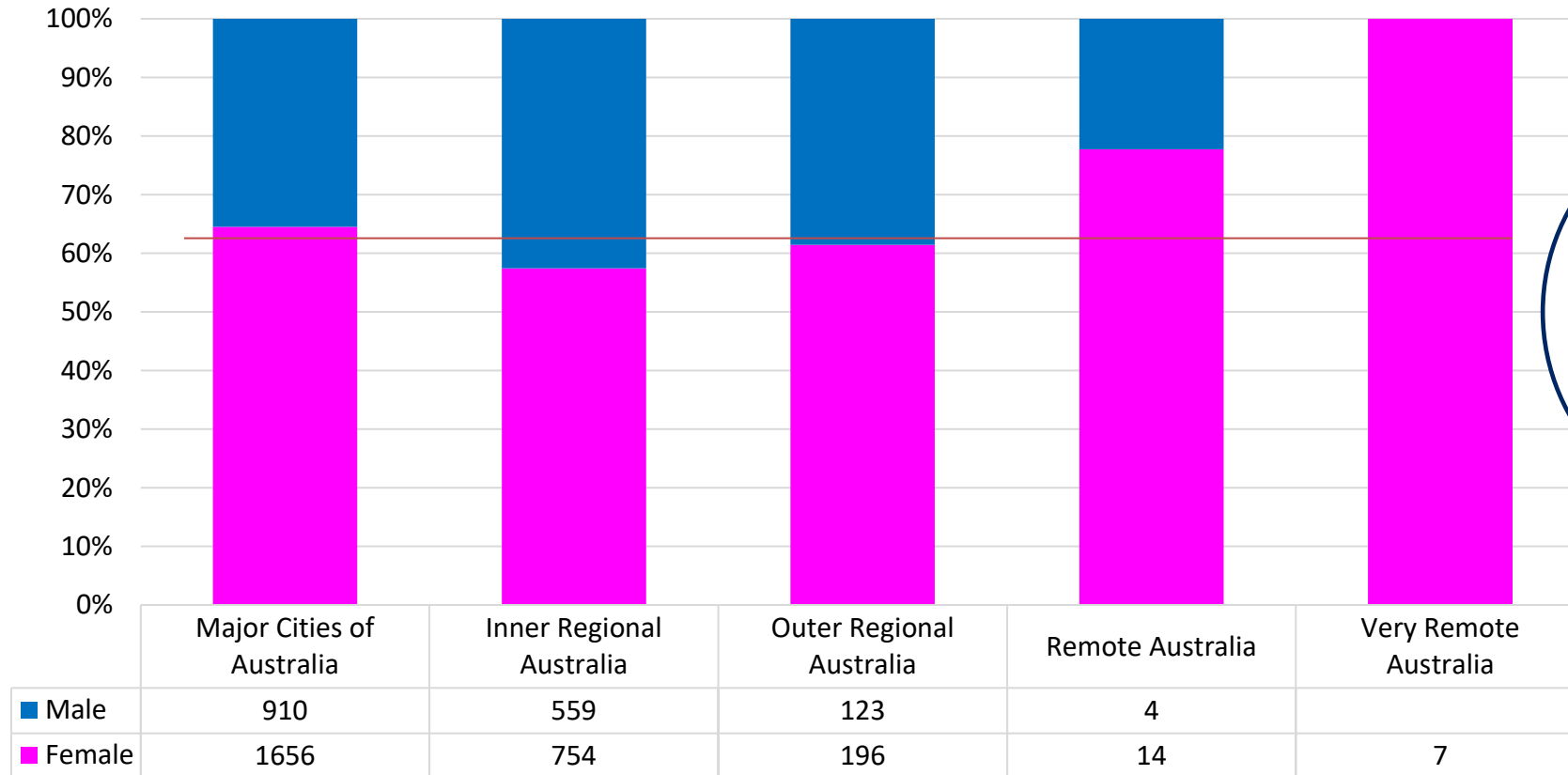
# Gender distribution by year of graduation 2022



# Gender distribution by remoteness index (NSW) 2016



# Gender distribution by remoteness index 2022



# Summary



The number of veterinarians has increased on average by 3% each year. Last year about 80% of those removing themselves from the register were moving. About 14% are unlikely to return to the Register in NSW.



Approximately 3,200 (75%) of registrants work in clinical practice (general and specialist) and of these the distribution is approximately 70:20:10 for small, mixed and large animal practice types respectively.



Approximately 60% of veterinarians work in major cities of NSW and 30% work in regional NSW. By contrast 75% of the population reside in major cities and 20% in regional NSW.



Approximately 80% of new graduate registrations are female and 60% of all veterinarians are female. For clinical practice the only area still (60%) is general large animal practice.



Approximately 10% of veterinarians are retiring each year. For more meaningful data to assist with workforce planning the Board will need to collect information on FTE status and hours worked per week.