

Perceptions of careers in aged care: the emerging workforce

A national study of 18–23-year-old students*

Not considering a career in aged care

The aged care sector does not have strong appeal among tertiary students.



62% are unlikely to consider a career in the aged care sector when they finish their course of study.

Main reasons for not considering a career in aged care

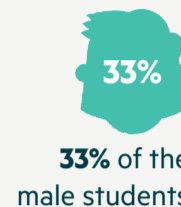


46% say it's because they have no experience relating to older people.



37% say it's because they don't know enough about the aged care industry and the careers available.

Who's most likely to consider a career in aged care?



33% of the male students



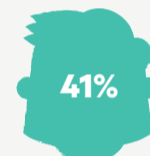
24% of the female students



66% of the students aged 18–20



56% of the students aged 21–23

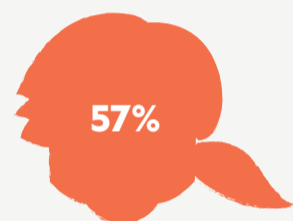


41% of the students in full- or part-time work



23% of the students who don't work at all

A job rather than a career



57% see working in aged care as having a job rather than a career.

Drivers when choosing a career path



67% choose a career because it's meaningful work that is rewarding and contributes to society.



62% choose a career where they can achieve a great salary.



56% choose a career that offers a great company culture and flexible workplace.

Concerns about the aged care sector



21% are concerned that it is not well paid compared to other sectors.



17% are concerned about what they have heard about in the news/media.

Choices by gender

Students unlikely to consider a career in the aged care industry because they don't know enough about the aged care industry and the careers available.



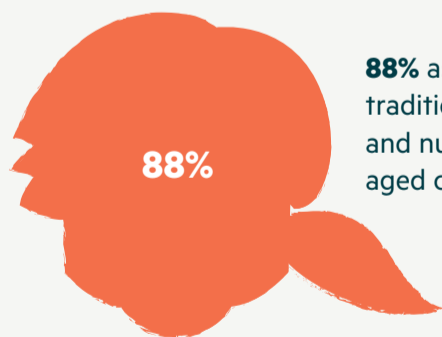
44% of the male students



31% of the female students

Tasks and roles associated with aged care

There's a low level of understanding of the breadth of careers and roles in the sector.



88% associate traditional medical and nursing tasks with aged care roles.

12% marketing

36%

67% food and catering

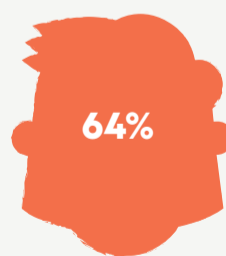
36% human resources

Choices by culture

Students who say having fulfilling, meaningful work that helps others is important in selecting a career.

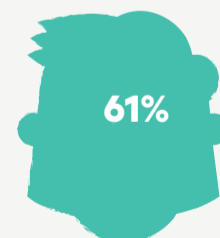


75% of students who speak a language other than English at home

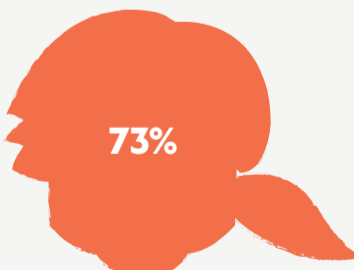


64% of students who speak English at home

Students who say having fulfilling, meaningful work that helps others is important in selecting a career.



61% of the male students



73% of the female students

*Notes

This study was conducted online by YouGov Galaxy between 6–11 June 2019. The sample comprises 500 tertiary students aged 18–23 years throughout Australia. Age, gender and region quotas were applied to the sample. Following the completion of interviewing, the data was weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.

Whiddon must be referenced when using this research.