



# Annual Report 2020

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the registration for Allied Health professionals commenced in April 2013, the number of Allied Health professionals registered with the AHPC has increased from three professions (namely, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Therapy) of around 2,500 in the first year of registration to five professions totalling 6,326 professionals at the end of 31 December 2020.

Two new members were appointed to the Council on 1 February 2020, Mr J R Karthikeyan, an occupational therapist, who is the Chief Executive Officer of AWWA Ltd and Mr Er Beng Siong, a physiotherapist in private practice. The Occupational Therapy Credentials Committee also welcomed four new members in 2020. They are Ms Soh Siok Khoon from KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Ms Jessica Hooi Xiao Jing from Rainbow Centre, Ms Hoo Kar Ling Corrine from Singapore Institute of Technology and Ms Tay Hwee Lin from SPD. These members have widened the representation of the Council and committee.

The Council has also set up the Continuing Professional Development committee in December 2020, headed by Council members A/Prof Lim Hua Beng and Deputy Registrar Gabriel Leong. The committee will recommend the framework and guidelines for Continuing Professional Development for the registered Allied Health professionals.

A Review Panel was appointed in November 2019 to re-evaluate the Master of Science (Speech & Language Pathology) programme conducted by the National University of Singapore. The evaluation was completed in December 2020, and the programme was assessed to have met the core curriculum requirements for the registration of speech-language therapists in Singapore. We thank the chairman and members of the Programme Review Panel.

The Curriculum and Organisation Review Committees had recommended that three qualifications be included to the AHPC's List of Recognised Qualifications this year. The Doctor of Physiotherapy from Curtin University and University of Melbourne, and the Master of Speech Pathology from University of Melbourne were approved to be included in the First Schedule of the Allied Health Professions Act.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the circuit breaker measures in 2020, the AHPC modified the supervisory provisions to accommodate for the restrictions. Conditionally registered diagnostic radiographers on Level 3 (L3) supervision who have demonstrated the requisite competencies on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> month of supervision could be deployed to work with remote L3 supervision. During the circuit breaker period, the AHPC recommended guidelines on tele-supervision for occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech-language therapists on L2 and L3 supervision. The AHPC also ceased all counter services, and instituted e-services and services by mail. Certificates were mailed to employers from July 2020.

The pandemic restrictions did not significantly impede AHPC in ensuring that supervisors continue to be equipped with the necessary skills to supervise and assess the conditionally registered Allied Health professionals. The AHPC continued to conduct training workshops virtually via Zoom Conferencing for newly appointed supervisors under the guidance of Council member Prof Alan Wong Wai Pong. In 2020, there were more participants for each workshop with the increased number of supervisory grade staff and less limitation of places with virtual workshops. To date, 2,126 supervisors have been trained since 2013.

On behalf of the AHPC, I thank all members of the AHPC Council, Credentials Committees, Curriculum and Organisation Review Committees, the Additional Qualifications Committee and the AHPC's Complaints Panel for their flexibility to modify and change processes, and for their contribution and commitment during these unprecedented times. I would like to thank the supervisors in institutions and workplaces, and the Heads of departments and employers responsible for supervising the conditionally registered Allied Health professionals and for conscientiously assessing their progress and fitness to practise as fully registered Allied Health professionals. Since 1 January 2020, the Secretariat operated under the umbrella of the Secretariat for healthcare Professional Boards (SPB), a joint secretariat team which has been set up to consolidate the common functions of, and provide support to, all the healthcare professional boards in Singapore. We appreciate the combined expertise from SPB and thank the staff for their work and commitment to AHPC.

Dr Lau Hong Choon  
President  
Allied Health Professions Council

## INTRODUCTION

The AHPC's purpose is to protect the public through regulating the professional standards for practice, and the conduct and ethics of registered Allied Health professionals in accordance with the Allied Health Professions Act (AHPA). Registered Allied Health professionals have a duty of care to patients and to uphold the highest standards of professional practice and conduct. This ensures that patients' continued trust in the profession is maintained.

The AHPC's functions include maintaining the registers of Allied Health professionals, oversight of the supervision for conditionally registered Allied Health professionals, maintaining the AHPC Code of Professional Conduct, managing the complaints and disciplinary processes, and issuing circulars, letters and certificates in its various functions.

The Annual Report 2020 includes the activities of AHPC and the registration statistics as at 31 December 2020 for diagnostic radiographers (DRs), occupational therapists (OTs), physiotherapists (PTs), radiation therapists (RTs) and speech-language therapists (SLTs).

# ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL MEMBERS

## **President (Representative of the Director of Medical Services)**

Dr Lau Hong Choon

## **Registrar**

Ms Susan Niam

## **Deputy Registrar**

Mr Leong Kok Wah Gabriel

## **Representative of the Director-General of Education**

Ms Loh Wee Cheng

## **Members**

Mr Abdul Rashid Jailani

Mr Abhimanyau Pal

Prof Alan Wong Wai Pong

Ms Doreen Yeo Sai Ching

Dr Elizabeth Jane Teh Ning Yen

Mr Er Beng Siong

(from 1 February 2020)

Mr Jambulingam Rajamanickam Karthikeyan

(from 1 February 2020)

A/Prof Lim Hua Beng

Ms Melissa Chua Hui Ling

Mr Michael Ong Kah Leong

Ms Sng Li Hoon

Ms Yusnita Binte Omar

# MEMBERS OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE & CURRICULUM AND ORGANISATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

## DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY AND RADIATION THERAPY

### Co-Chairpersons

Mr Michael Ong Kah Leong

Ms Yusnita Binte Omar

### Deputy Chairpersons

Ms Goh Li Li

Ms Sng Li Hoon

### Members

Mr Chua Poh Hai

Ms Evelyn Quah Shi Shi

Ms Jolene Ooi Wei Ling

Ms June Sim Lian Siok

Mr Leong Kok Wah Gabriel

Ms Lim Fung Leng

Mr Muhammad Yasin Bin Abu Bakar

Mr Omar Bin Mahmood

Ms Rafidah Binti Abu Bakar

Ms Tan Sai Geok



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

### **Chairperson**

A/Prof Lim Hua Beng

### **Deputy Chairpersons**

Ms Florence Cheong Wai Fong

Ms Koh Hwan Jing

### **Members**

Ms Carolyn Teo Boon Lee

Ms Doreen Yeo Sai Ching

Mr Gribson Chan Yu Chun

Ms Ho Soo Fung

Ms Hoo Kar Ling Corrine  
(from 5 June 2020)

Ms Jessica Hooi Xiao Jing  
(from 5 June 2020)

Mr Patrick Ker Thye San

Ms Soh Siok Khoon  
(from 5 June 2020)

Mr Sudev Sreedharan

Ms Tay Hwee Lin  
(from 5 June 2020)

Ms Wong Wai Min

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

### **Chairperson for Credentials Committee & Deputy Chairperson for Curriculum and Organisation Review Committee**

Mr Christopher Ng Thong Lian

### **Chairperson for Curriculum and Organisation Review Committee & Deputy Chairperson for Credentials Committee**

Mr Tan Hai Yang

### **Members**

Mr Abdul Rashid Jailani

Assoc Prof Benjamin Soon Tze Chin

Dr Cindy Ng Li Whye

Asst. Prof Clement Yan Chee Kin

Ms Foong Jing Wen

Mr Kwok Boon Chong

Ms Lee May Li Mina

Ms Lim Cheng Kuan

Mr Lim Teck Guan

Ms Wendy Lim Hsin Wei

## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY**

### **Chairperson**

Ms Chua Hui Ling Melissa

### **Deputy Chairpersons**

Dr Elizabeth Jane Teh Ning Yen

Ms Tay Danyi Deirdre

### **Members**

Mr Bellakka Narayanappa Krishnamurthy

Ms Chiang Hui Xian Mindy

Ms Li Hongyuan

Ms Sendhilnathan Sunitha

Ms Zenne T'ng Kuan Chen

## MEMBERS OF ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

### **Chairperson**

Mr Abdul Rashid Jailani

### **Members**

Ms Goh Ming Rong

Ms Helen Jane Chandler

Ms Lee Chui Yeng Jeanette

Assoc Prof May Lim Sok Mui

Ms Tan Chek Wee

Ms Tan Sai Geok

Dr Wong Seng Mun

## MEMBERS OF PROGRAMME REVIEW PANEL

### SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)

#### **Chairperson**

Ms Chua Hui Ling Melissa

#### **Members**

Mr Bellakka Narayanappa Krishnamurthy

Ms Li Hongyuan

Ms Sendhilnathan Sunitha

Ms Tay Danyi Deirdre

## OVERVIEW OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The categories of registration of DRs, OTs, PTs, RTs and SLTs are full, conditional, temporary and restricted<sup>1</sup> registration.

Allied Health professionals whose qualifications are recognised in the First Schedule or those who are qualified under the Second Schedule<sup>2</sup> of the Allied Health Professions Regulations must undergo conditional registration and supervised practice before they can be fully registered. Returnees to practice may also be put on conditional registration depending on the period they have been out of professional practice to enable them to practise safely and competently before they can be accorded full registration.

As at end 2020, a total of 6,326 Allied Health professionals consisting of 1,963 DRs, 1,304 OTs, 2,129 PTs, 203 RTs and 727 SLTs were on the Allied Health Professions' Register.

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<sup>1</sup> Restricted registration is a transitional category applicable only during the initial grace period of registration for foreign-trained Allied Health professionals who were practising in Singapore before the Allied Health Professions Act (AHPA) came into force and whose qualifications were not found in the First Schedule under the AHPA. Restricted registration allowed these professionals to practise within the AHPC-approved restricted scope of practice and to continue their practice in the specified areas where they have been practising prior to the implementation of AHPA.

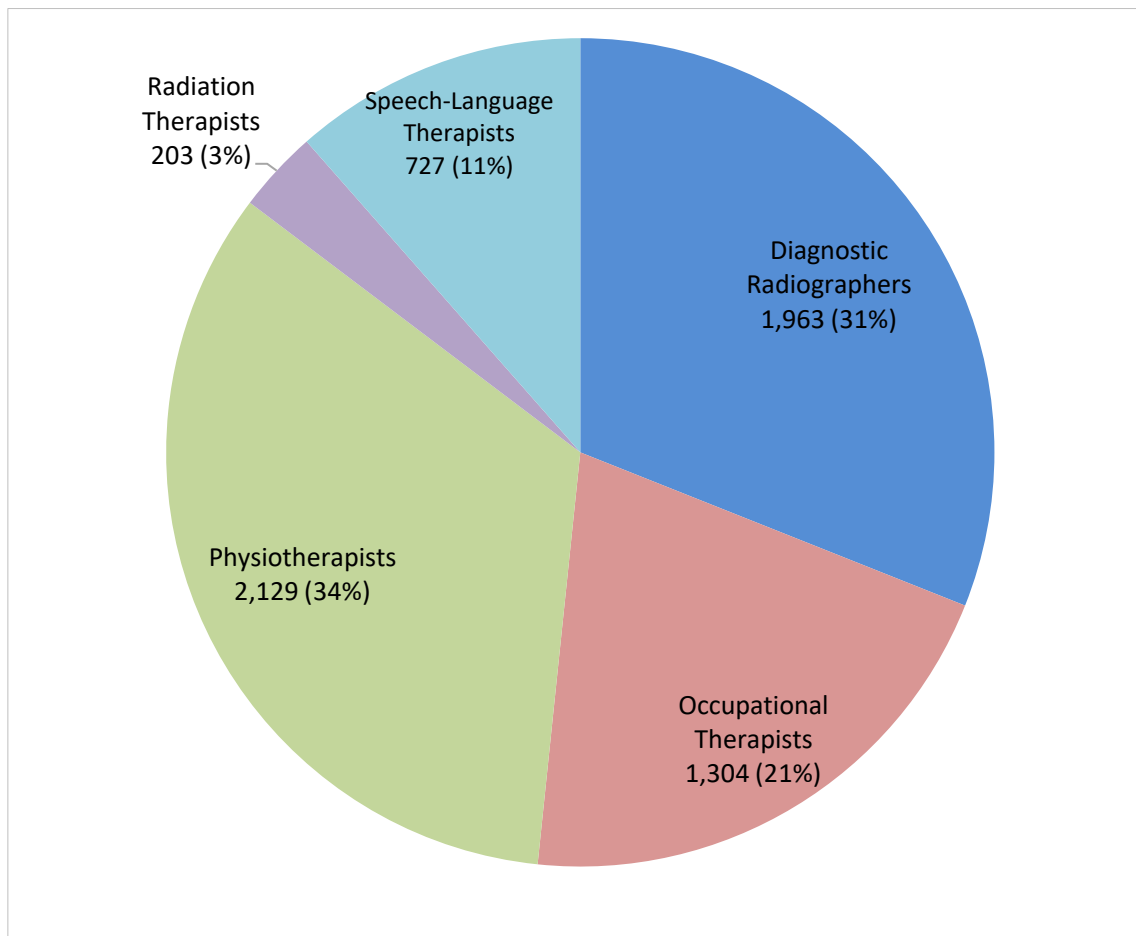
<sup>2</sup> List of Qualifying Examination

# REGISTRATION STATISTICS

## DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

There was a total of 6,326 registered Allied Health professionals who have registered and still remained on the Register as at end 2020. Of these registered Allied Health professionals, PTs formed the largest group of Allied Health professionals registered by the AHPC followed by the DRs and OTs.

**Chart 1.** Number of registered Allied Health professionals as at 31 December



## REGISTRATION NUMBERS BY TYPE OF REGISTRATION

There was a 6% increase each in the number of registered OTs and SLTs and a 5% increase each in registered DRs, PTs and RTs in 2020 from 2019. 92% of RTs, 91% of OTs, 89% of SLTs, 88% of PTs and 87% of DRs were fully registered. The remaining DRs, OTs, PTs, RTs and SLTs were mostly conditionally registered.

From December 2019, Allied Health professionals who did not renew their practising certificates for a period of more than two years were removed from the Registers, in accordance with the Allied Health Professions Act. 106 names of Allied Health professionals from the Registers for Full and Restricted registrations including one for disciplinary reasons were removed in 2019 and 33 more names of Allied Health professionals from the Registers for Full and Restricted registrations were removed in 2020. This year, we also welcomed the first batch of DR, OT, PT and RT graduates from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

**Table 1.** Registered Allied Health professionals by registration type as at 31 December of each registration year

<b>Diagnostic Radiography</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Registration	-	1,469 (90.3%)	1,542 (88.6%)	1,646 (88.0%)	1,717 (87.4%)
Restricted Registration	-	12 (0.8%)	12 (0.7%)	12 (0.6%)	12 (0.6%)
Conditional Registration	-	132 (8.1%)	168 (9.7%)	191 (10.2%)	233 (11.9%)
Temporary Registration	-	13 (0.8%)	17 (1.0%)	22 (1.2%)	1 (0.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	1,626 (100%)	1,739 (100%)	1,871 (100%)	1,963 (100%)
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Registration	898 (84.2%)	992 (88.2%)	1,074 (89.4%)	1,118 (91.1%)	1,182 (90.6%)
Restricted Registration	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)
Conditional Registration	167 (15.6%)	131 (11.6%)	124 (10.3%)	104 (8.5%)	117 (9.0%)
Temporary Registration	- (0.0%)	- (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.2%)	3 (0.2%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,067 (100%)	1,125 (100%)	1,201 (100%)	1,227 (100%)	1,304 (100%)



<b>Physiotherapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Registration	1,341 (79.2%)	1,474 (81.3%)	1,630 (82.9%)	1,771 (87.7%)	1,879 (88.3%)
Restricted Registration	57 (3.4%)	58 (3.2%)	57 (2.9%)	54 (2.7%)	52 (2.4%)
Conditional Registration	295 (17.4%)	282 (15.5%)	280 (14.2%)	192 (9.5%)	195 (9.2%)
Temporary Registration	- (0.0%)	- (0.0%)	- (0.0%)	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,693</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,814</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,967</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>2,020</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>2,129</b> <b>(100%)</b>
<b>Radiation Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Registration	-	150 (89.3%)	160 (87.9%)	173 (89.2%)	186 (91.6%)
Conditional Registration	-	18 (10.7%)	22 (12.1%)	20 (10.3%)	17 (8.4%)
Temporary Registration	-	- (0.0%)	- (0.0%)	1 (0.5%)	- (0.0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>182</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>194</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>203</b> <b>(100%)</b>
<b>Speech-Language Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Registration	435 (83.0%)	488 (82.0%)	560 (87.2%)	589 (85.9%)	646 (88.9%)
Restricted Registration	5 (1.0%)	5 (0.8%)	5 (0.8%)	5 (0.7%)	5 (0.7%)
Conditional Registration	84 (16.0%)	101 (17.0%)	75 (11.7%)	92 (13.4%)	75 (10.3%)
Temporary Registration	- (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	2 (0.3%)	- (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>524</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>595</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>642</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>686</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>727</b> <b>(100%)</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>5,328</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>6,326</b>

Allied Health professionals whose qualifications were not found in the First Schedule (List of Recognised Qualifications) and who had an offer of employment in an approved place of practice were referred to take the Qualifying Examinations (QE) under the Second Schedule of the Allied Health Professions Regulations. They must pass the QE in order to be registered with the AHPC. Table 2 shows the number of Allied Health professionals who were conditionally registered based on their qualifications as at 31 December 2020.

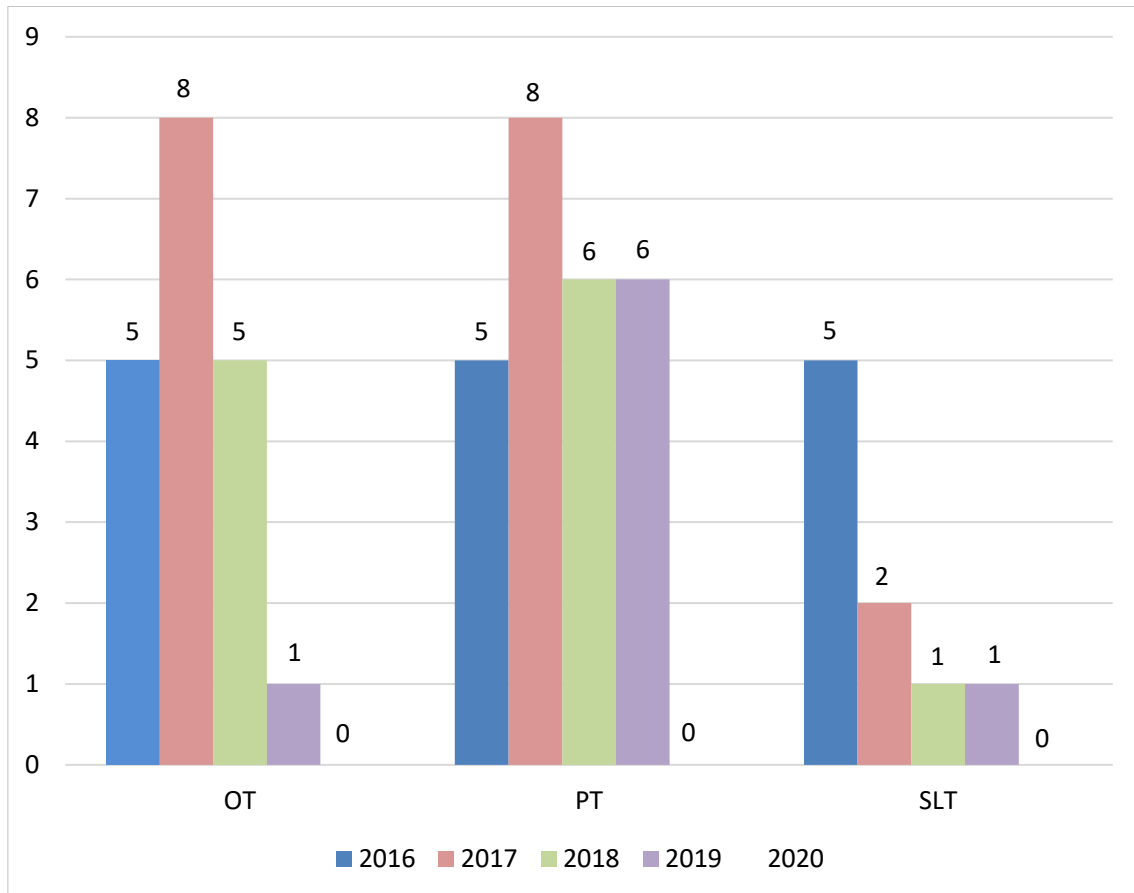
**Table 2.** Allied Health professionals on conditional registration by registration year and category of qualification

<b>Diagnostic Radiography</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Qualifications from the First Schedule	-	124	152	147	171
Passed QE (Second Schedule)	-	8	16	44	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	132	168	191	233
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>					
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Qualifications from the First Schedule	148	117	117	99	112
Passed QE (Second Schedule)	9	14	7	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	167	131	124	104	117
<b>Physiotherapy</b>					
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Qualifications from the First Schedule	247	225	231	163	181
Passed QE (Second Schedule)	48	57	49	29	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	295	282	280	192	195
<b>Radiation Therapy</b>					
<b>Radiation Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Qualifications from the First Schedule	-	18	22	20	17
Passed QE (Second Schedule)	-	0*	0*	0*	0*
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	18	22	20	17
<b>Speech-Language Therapy</b>					
<b>Speech-Language Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Qualifications from the First Schedule	86	99	75	89	71
Passed QE (Second Schedule)	2	2	-	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	84	101	75	92	75

\* There were no candidates attempting the QE.

The AHPC also registered Allied Health visiting experts through temporary registration to provide training and/or professional opinions on patient management. Visiting experts must be registered with the AHPC if they conduct hands-on demonstration on clients/patients/caregivers during lectures, workshops or seminars and/or provide advice to patients and their caregivers. These temporarily-registered visiting experts were excluded from the registration tally in Table 1. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no visiting expert registration in 2020.

**Chart 2.** Number of temporarily registered Visiting Experts from 2016 to 2020 for OT, PT and SLT



## DISTRIBUTION OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The public healthcare institutions were the largest sector employers for all five professions. The private sector was the second largest sector for DRs, PTs, RTs and SLTs while the social service agencies (SSAs)/voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs) were the second largest sector for OTs. Tables 3a – 3e provide the numbers in the sectors of employment of the registered Allied Health professionals.

**Table 3a.** Sector distribution of DRs from 2017 to 2020

Diagnostic Radiography	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	1,145 (70.4%)	1,192 (68.6%)	1,269 (67.8%)	1,342 (68.4%)
Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations*	19 (1.1%)	21 (1.2%)	21 (1.1%)	18 (0.9%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	405 (24.9%)	428 (24.6%)	442 (23.6%)	448 (22.8%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	14 (0.9%)	13 (0.7%)	15 (0.8%)	17 (0.9%)
Statutory Boards and Government-linked Agencies	8 (0.5%)	7 (0.4%)	7 (0.4%)	5 (0.2%)
Others^	35 (2.2%)	78 (4.5%)	117 (6.3%)	133 (6.8%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,626</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,739</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,871</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,963</b> <b>(100%)</b>

\* Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations include organisations like SATA.

^ Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

**Table 3b.** Sector distribution of OTs from 2016 to 2020

Occupational Therapy	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	462 (43.3%)	454 (40.4%)	464 (38.6%)	442 (36.0%)	465 (35.7%)
Community Hospitals <sup>⊛</sup>	142 (13.3%)	140 (12.4%)	147 (12.2%)	154 (12.6%)	173 (13.3%)
Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations <sup>*</sup>	219 (20.5%)	256 (22.8%)	288 (24.0%)	284 (23.1%)	294 (22.5%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	147 (13.8%)	143 (12.7%)	145 (12.1%)	171 (14.0%)	173 (13.3%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	15 (1.4%)	13 (1.2%)	11 (0.9%)	14 (1.1%)	12 (0.9%)
Statutory Boards and Government- linked Agencies	13 (1.2%)	14 (1.2%)	13 (1.1%)	15 (1.2%)	16 (1.2%)
Others <sup>^</sup>	69 (6.5%)	105 (9.3%)	133 (11.1%)	147 (12.0%)	171 (13.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,067 (100%)</b>	<b>1,125 (100%)</b>	<b>1,201 (100%)</b>	<b>1,227 (100%)</b>	<b>1,304 (100%)</b>

<sup>⊛</sup> Cluster and VWO Community Hospitals include organisation like Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital, Ren Ci Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Yishun Community Hospital, etc.

<sup>\*</sup> Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations include organisations like SPD, AWWA Ltd, Rainbow Centre, St. Luke's ElderCare, etc.

<sup>^</sup> Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

**Table 3c.** Sector distribution of PTs from 2016 to 2020

Physiotherapy	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	821 (48.5%)	817 (45.0%)	864 (43.9%)	817 (40.5%)	884 (41.5%)
Community Hospitals <sup>*</sup>	169 (10.0%)	165 (9.1%)	180 (9.1%)	182 (9.0%)	199 (9.4%)
Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations <sup>*</sup>	181 (10.7%)	210 (11.6%)	236 (12.0%)	247 (12.2%)	248 (11.7%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	369 (21.8%)	419 (23.1%)	440 (22.4%)	475 (23.5%)	508 (23.8%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	18 (1.1%)	16 (0.9%)	17 (0.9%)	27 (1.3%)	24 (1.1%)
Statutory Boards and Government-linked Agencies	23 (1.3%)	20 (1.1%)	27 (1.4%)	29 (1.5%)	29 (1.4%)
Others <sup>^</sup>	112 (6.6%)	167 (9.2%)	203 (10.3%)	243 (12.0%)	237 (11.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,693</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,814</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,967</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>2,020</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>2,129</b> <b>(100%)</b>

<sup>\*</sup> Cluster and VWO Community Hospitals include organisation like Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital, Ren Ci Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Yishun Community Hospital, etc.

<sup>\*</sup> Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations include organisations like SPD, AWWA Ltd, Rainbow Centre, St. Luke's ElderCare, etc.

<sup>^</sup> Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

**Table 3d.** Sector distribution of RTs from 2017 to 2020

Radiation Therapy	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	137 (81.5%)	140 (76.9%)	145 (74.8%)	147 (72.4%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	28 (16.8%)	34 (18.7%)	34 (17.5%)	40 (19.7%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Statutory Boards and Government-linked Agencies	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.5%)
Others <sup>^</sup>	2 (1.2%)	8 (4.4%)	15 (7.7%)	15 (7.4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>182</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>194</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>203</b> <b>(100%)</b>

<sup>^</sup> Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

**Table 3e.** Sector distribution of SLTs from 2016 to 2020

<b>Speech-Language Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Public Healthcare Sector (Restructured Hospitals and Institutions, Polyclinics)	212 (40.5%)	229 (38.5%)	242 (37.7%)	242 (35.3%)	246 (33.8%)
Community Hospitals <sup>∗</sup>	15 (2.9%)	14 (2.4%)	16 (2.5%)	23 (3.4%)	28 (3.8%)
Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations <sup>*</sup>	115 (21.9%)	134 (22.5%)	144 (22.4%)	162 (23.6%)	167 (23.0%)
Private Hospitals/Clinics/Centres/Schools	140 (26.7%)	159 (26.7%)	159 (24.7%)	162 (23.6%)	176 (24.2%)
Public Sector Educational Institutions	1 (0.2%)	2 (0.3%)	3 (0.5%)	5 (0.7%)	4 (0.6%)
Statutory Boards and Government- linked Agencies	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.6%)	5 (0.7%)
Others <sup>^</sup>	40 (7.6%)	56 (9.4%)	77 (12.0%)	88 (12.8%)	101 (13.9%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	524 (100%)	595 (100%)	642 (100%)	686 (100%)	727 (100%)

<sup>∗</sup> Cluster and VWO Community Hospitals include organisation like Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital, Ren Ci Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital, Yishun Community Hospital, etc.

<sup>\*</sup> Social Service Agencies/Voluntary Welfare Organisations include organisations like SPD, AWWA Ltd, Rainbow Centre, St. Luke's ElderCare, etc.

<sup>^</sup> Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The majority of the registered Allied Health professionals who were practising in Singapore were in full time employment, and 403 out of 6,326 Allied Health professionals (approximately 6.4%) worked part-time. A slight increase in the percentage of PTs and RTs working part-time was noted in 2020, whilst the percentage of DRs, OTs and SLTs working part-time was noted to have decreased in 2020, as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Employment status of registered Allied Health professionals from 2016 to 2020

<b>Diagnostic Radiography</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Time	-	1,529 (94.0%)	1,600 (92.0%)	1,691 (90.4%)	1,769 (90.1%)
Part Time	-	62 (3.8%)	61 (3.5%)	63 (3.4%)	61 (3.1%)
Others*	-	35 (2.2%)	78 (4.5%)	117 (6.2%)	133 (6.8%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	1,626 (100%)	1,739 (100%)	1,871 (100%)	1,963 (100%)
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Time	911 (85.4%)	939 (83.5%)	977 (81.3%)	983 (80.1%)	1,036 (79.5%)
Part Time	87 (8.1%)	81 (7.2%)	91 (7.6%)	97 (7.9%)	97 (7.4%)
Others*	69 (6.5%)	105 (9.3%)	133 (11.1%)	147 (12.0%)	171 (13.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,067 (100%)	1,125 (100%)	1,201 (100%)	1,227 (100%)	1,304 (100%)
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Time	1,457 (86.1%)	1,508 (83.1%)	1,618 (82.3%)	1,630 (80.7%)	1,731 (81.3%)
Part Time	124 (7.3%)	139 (7.7%)	146 (7.4%)	147 (7.3%)	161 (7.6%)
Others*	112 (6.6%)	167 (9.2%)	203 (10.3%)	243 (12.0%)	237 (11.1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,693 (100%)	1,814 (100%)	1,967 (100%)	2,020 (100%)	2,129 (100%)
<b>Radiation Therapy</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full Time	-	165 (98.2%)	169 (92.9%)	172 (88.7%)	180 (88.7%)
Part Time	-	1 (0.6%)	5 (2.7%)	7 (3.6%)	8 (3.9%)
Others*	-	2 (1.2%)	8 (4.4%)	15 (7.7%)	15 (7.4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	168 (100%)	182 (100%)	194 (100%)	203 (100%)



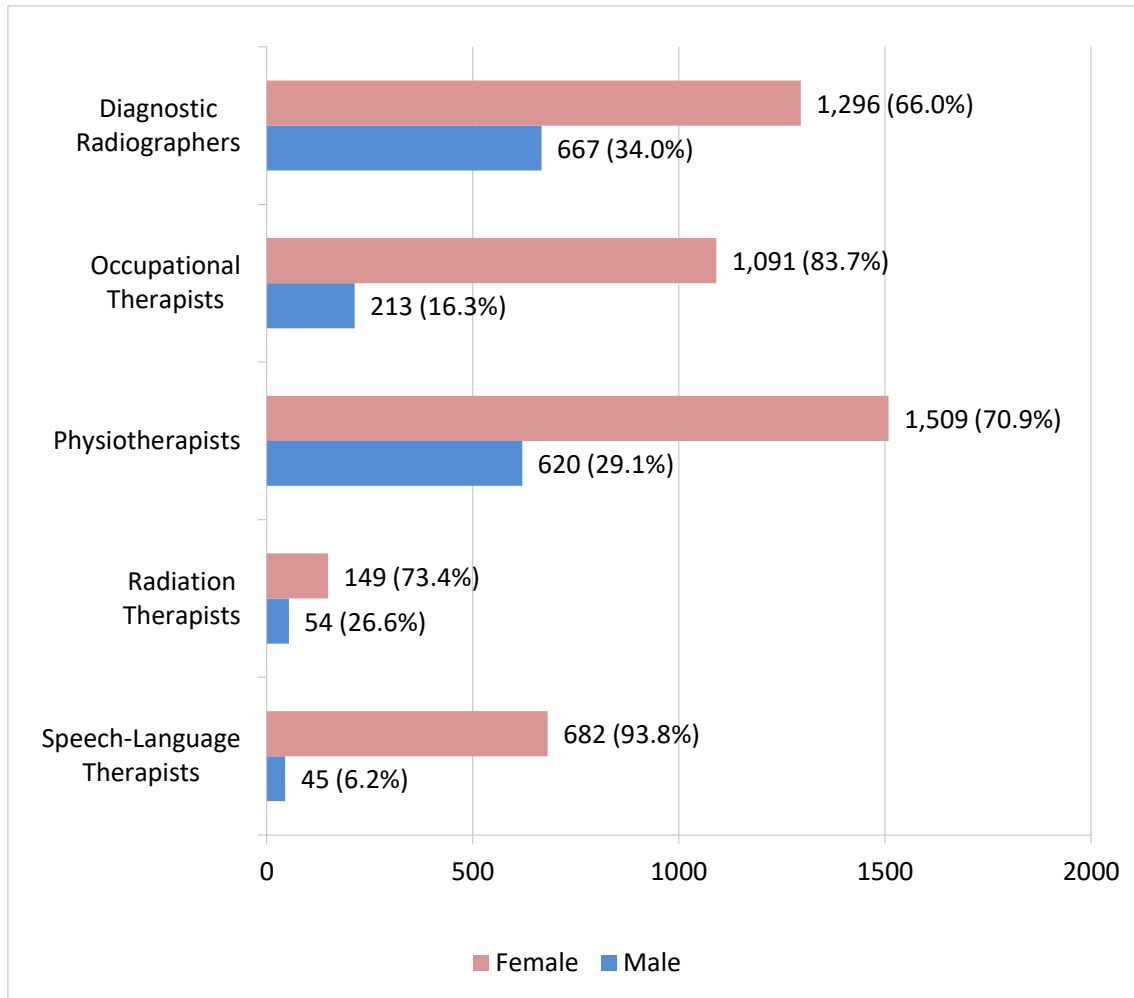
Speech-Language Therapy	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Full Time	421 (80.4%)	467 (78.5%)	491 (76.5%)	521 (76.0%)	550 (75.6%)
Part Time	63 (12.0%)	72 (12.1%)	74 (11.5%)	77 (11.2%)	76 (10.5%)
Others*	40 (7.6%)	56 (9.4%)	77 (12.0%)	88 (12.8%)	101 (13.9%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	524 (100%)	595 (100%)	642 (100%)	686 (100%)	727 (100%)

\* Others include those who have retired, are working overseas, working in other fields, pursuing further education or not working.

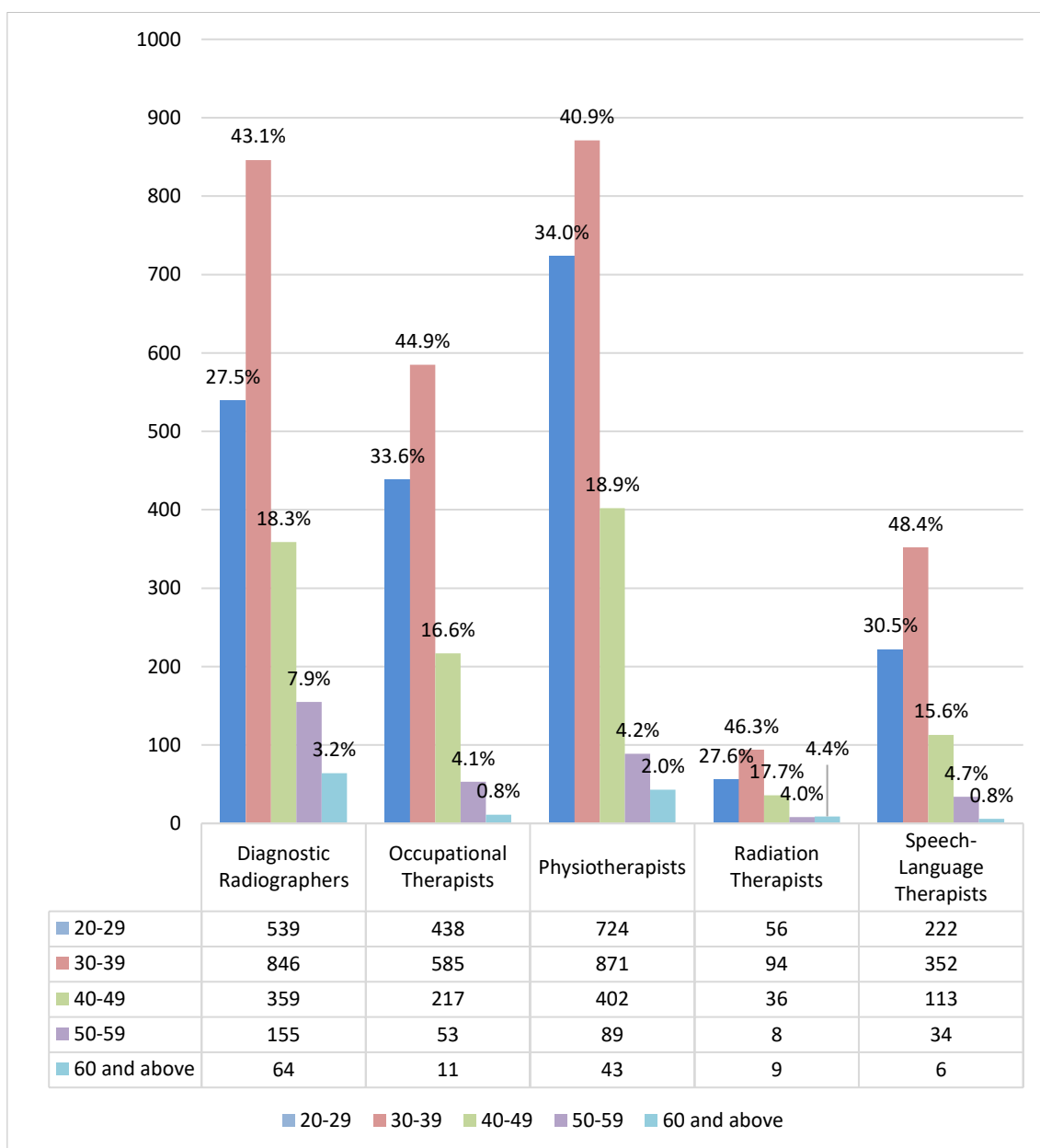
## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The registered Allied Health professionals for all five professions were mostly in the age bands between 20 to 39 years of age, and mainly of female gender. Singapore citizens and permanent residents (PRs) comprise between 71% to 94% of the registered Allied Health professions.

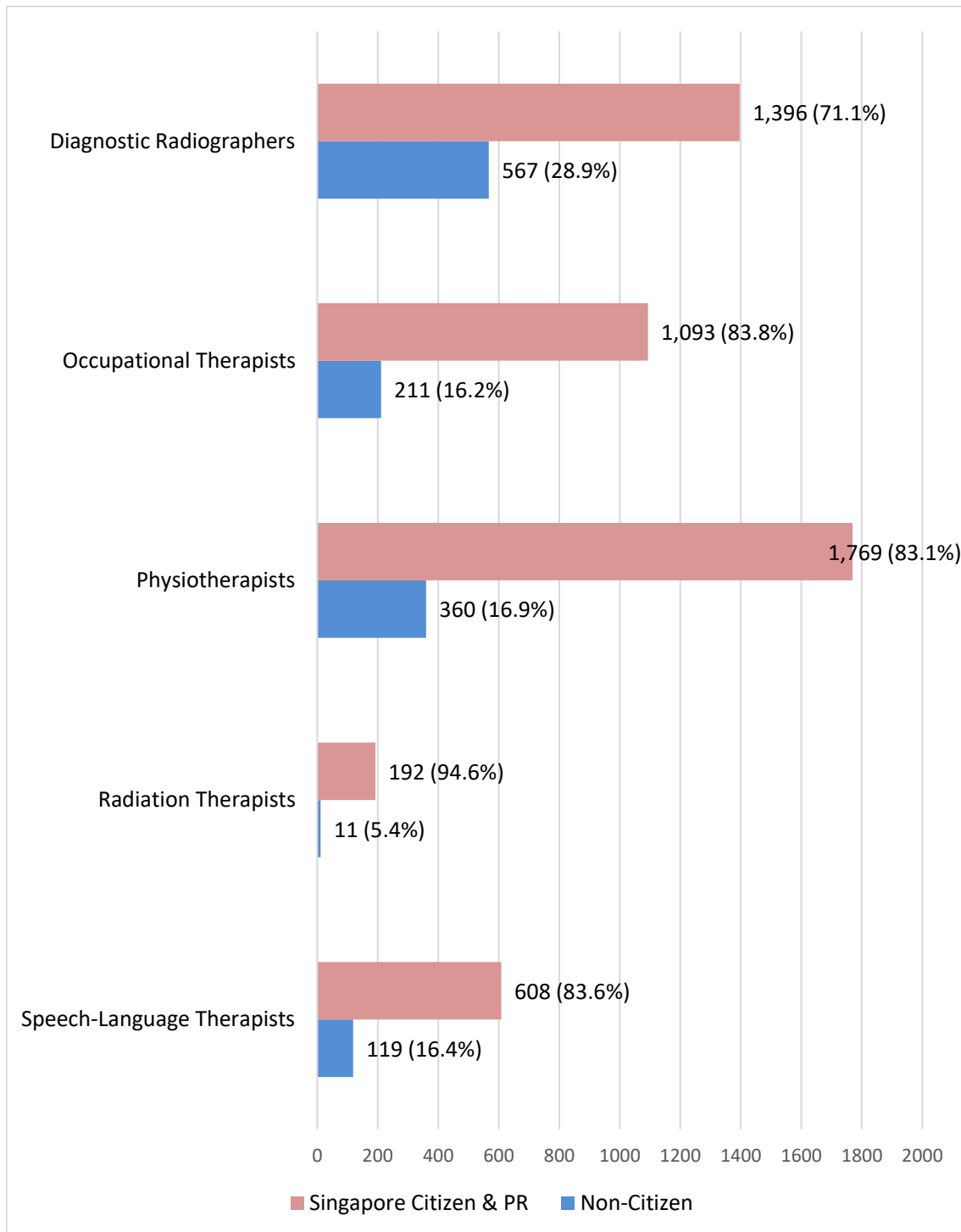
**Chart 3.** Number of registered Allied Health professionals by profession and gender as at 31 December 2020



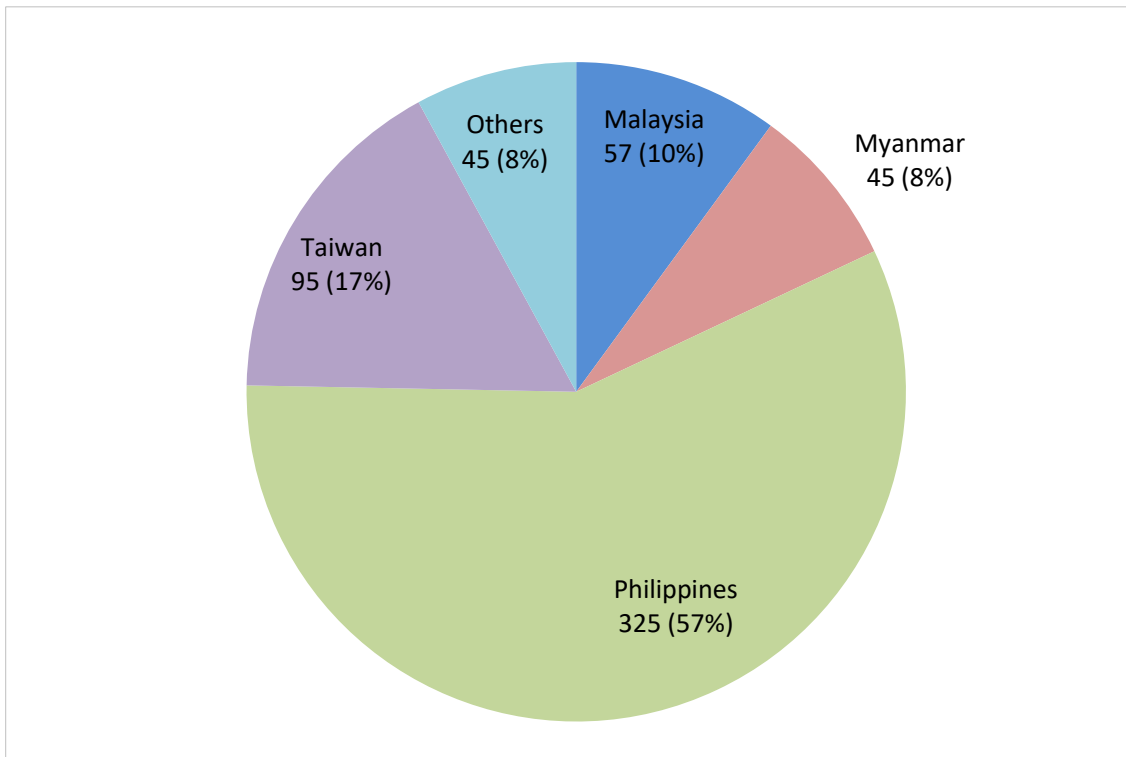
**Chart 4.** Number of registered Allied Health professionals by profession and age group as at 31 December 2020



**Chart 5.** Nationality of registered Allied Health professionals as at 31 December 2020

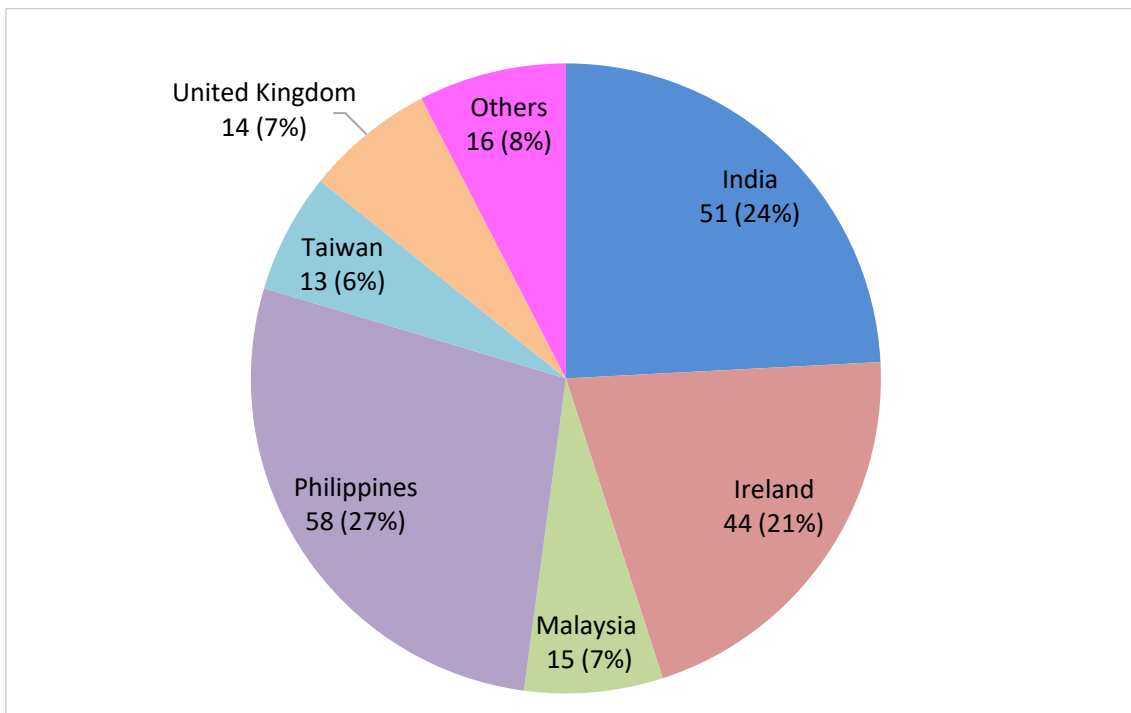


**Chart 6a.** Distribution of DRs who are non-citizens (PR excluded) by country/area of origin as at 31 December 2020



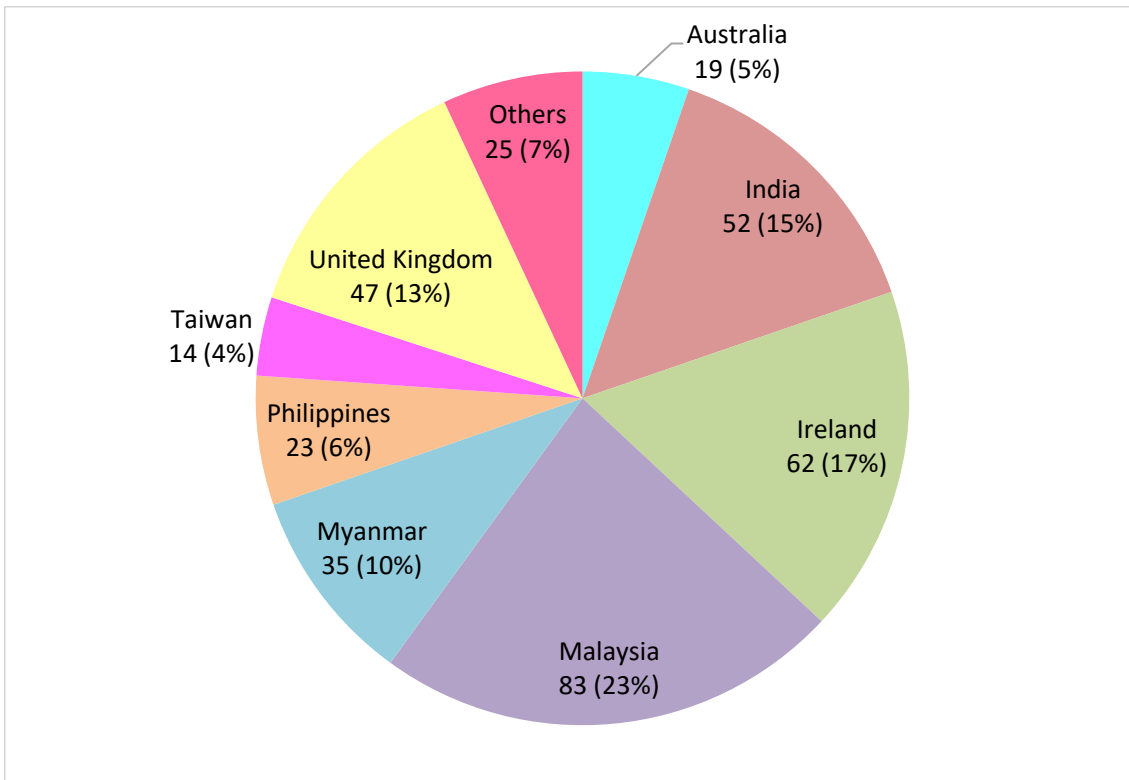
Others include Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom.

**Chart 6b.** Distribution of OTs who are non-citizens (PR excluded) by country/area of origin as at 31 December 2020



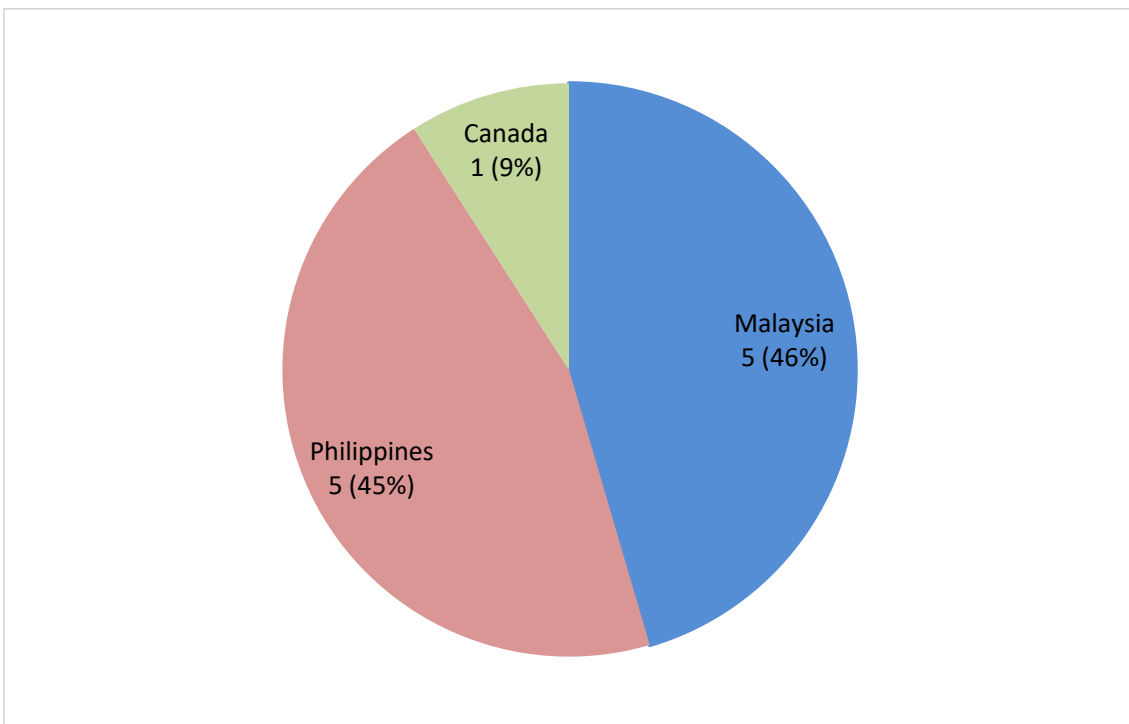
Others include Australia, Canada, Mauritius, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, and United States of America.

**Chart 6c.** Distribution of PTs who are non-citizens (PR excluded) by country/area of origin as at 31 December 2020

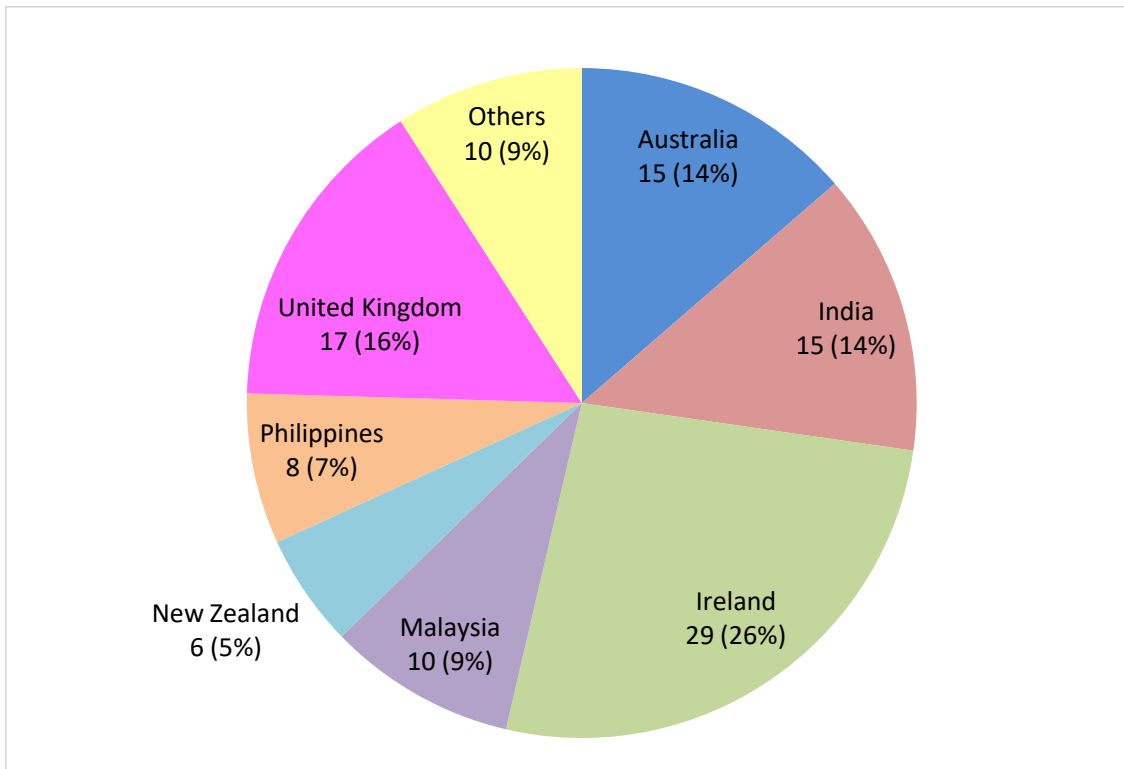


*Others include Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago and United States of America.*

**Chart 6d.** Distribution of RTs who are non-citizens (PR excluded) by country/area of origin as at 31 December 2020



**Chart 6e.** Distribution of SLTs who are non-citizens (PR excluded) by country/area of origin as at 31 December 2020



*Others include Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa and United States of America.*

# COUNTRY/AREA OF BASIC QUALIFICATION OF REGISTERED ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

## DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY

The majority of registered DRs qualified from Singapore. Other major countries/areas where our registered DRs qualified from include the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaysia.

**Table 5a.** Country/Area of basic qualification for registered DRs (2017 to 2020)

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of Diagnostic Radiographers			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Singapore <sup>1</sup>	856 (52.6%)	935 (53.7%)	991 (53.0%)	1074 (54.7%)
Philippines	413 (25.4%)	419 (24.1%)	456 (24.4%)	454 (23.1%)
Taiwan	134 (8.2%)	153 (8.8%)	169 (9.0%)	169 (8.6%)
Malaysia	79 (4.9%)	83 (4.8%)	90 (4.8%)	96 (4.9%)
Australia	47 (2.9%)	51 (2.9%)	62 (3.3%)	65 (3.3%)
Myanmar	55 (3.4%)	55 (3.2%)	56 (3.0%)	57 (2.9%)
India	19 (1.2%)	19 (1.1%)	19 (1.0%)	19 (1.0%)
United Kingdom	10 (0.6%)	12 (0.7%)	16 (0.9%)	16 (0.8%)
Others	13 (0.8%)	12 (0.7%)	12 (0.6%)	13 (0.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,626</b> (100%)	<b>1,739</b> (100%)	<b>1,871</b> (100%)	<b>1,963</b> (100%)

<sup>1</sup> NYP's last intake for Diploma in Diagnostic Radiographer was in 2015 and SIT commenced the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Diagnostic Radiography programme in 2016. The first batch of SIT students graduated in 2020.



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

The majority of registered OTs qualified from Singapore. Other major countries/areas where registered OTs qualified from include Australia, India and the Philippines.

**Table 6b.** Country/Area of basic qualification for registered OTs (2016 to 2020)

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of Occupational Therapists				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Singapore <sup>2</sup>	615 (57.6%)	664 (59.0%)	717 (59.7%)	740 (60.3%)	792 (60.8%)
Australia	120 (11.2%)	132 (11.7%)	142 (11.8%)	149 (12.1%)	168 (12.9%)
India	84 (7.9%)	83 (7.4%)	83 (6.9%)	77 (6.3%)	78 (6.0%)
Philippines	72 (6.8%)	72 (6.4%)	74 (6.2%)	71 (5.8%)	71 (5.4%)
United Kingdom	57 (5.3%)	57 (5.1%)	66 (5.5%)	66 (5.4%)	66 (5.1%)
Ireland	30 (2.8%)	35 (3.1%)	35 (2.9%)	31 (2.5%)	33 (2.5%)
Taiwan	24 (2.3%)	23 (2.0%)	22 (1.8%)	28 (2.3%)	33 (2.5%)
Malaysia	24 (2.3%)	22 (2.0%)	23 (1.9%)	23 (1.9%)	24 (1.8%)
Hong Kong SAR	11 (1.0%)	11 (1.0%)	12 (1.0%)	12 (1.0%)	12 (0.9%)
Others	30 (2.8%)	26 (2.3%)	27 (2.3%)	30 (2.4%)	27 (2.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,067</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,125</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,201</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,227</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>1,304</b> <b>(100%)</b>

<sup>2</sup> NYP's last intake for Diploma in Occupational Therapy was in 2015 and SIT commenced the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Occupational Therapy programme in 2016. The first batch of SIT students graduated in 2020.

## PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

The majority of registered PTs qualified from Singapore. Other major countries/areas from which registered PTs qualified include Australia, India and the United Kingdom.

**Table 6c.** Country/Area of basic qualification for registered PTs  
(Years 2016 to 2020)

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of Physiotherapists				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Singapore <sup>3</sup>	772 (45.6%)	844 (46.5%)	931 (47.3%)	970 (48.0%)	1,061 (49.8%)
Australia	255 (15.1%)	271 (15.0%)	300 (15.3%)	315 (15.7%)	341 (16.0%)
India	159 (9.4%)	162 (8.9%)	161 (8.2%)	154 (7.6%)	152 (7.1%)
United Kingdom	136 (8.0%)	144 (7.9%)	154 (7.8%)	146 (7.2%)	145 (6.8%)
Malaysia	103 (6.1%)	111 (6.1%)	129 (6.6%)	145 (7.2%)	144 (6.7%)
Myanmar	54 (3.2%)	62 (3.4%)	65 (3.3%)	61 (3.0%)	59 (2.8%)
Ireland	65 (3.8%)	68 (3.8%)	67 (3.4%)	59 (2.9%)	57 (2.7%)
Taiwan	43 (2.5%)	43 (2.4%)	44 (2.2%)	54 (2.7%)	55 (2.6%)
Philippines	38 (2.3%)	38 (2.1%)	43 (2.2%)	42 (2.1%)	41 (1.9%)
New Zealand	22 (1.3%)	23 (1.3%)	24 (1.2%)	23 (1.1%)	23 (1.1%)
United States of America	14 (0.8%)	15 (0.8%)	15 (0.8%)	14 (0.7%)	14 (0.7%)
Hong Kong SAR	12 (0.7%)	13 (0.7%)	14 (0.7%)	14 (0.7%)	14 (0.7%)
Others	20 (1.2%)	20 (1.1%)	20 (1.0%)	23 (1.1%)	23 (1.1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,549</b> (100%)	<b>1,693</b> (100%)	<b>1,814</b> (100%)	<b>2,020</b> (100%)	<b>2,129</b> (100%)

<sup>3</sup> NYP's last intake for Diploma in Physiotherapy was in 2015 and SIT commenced the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy programme in 2016. The first batch of SIT students graduated in 2020.

## RADIATION THERAPISTS

The majority of registered RTs qualified from Singapore. Other countries/areas from which our registered RTs qualified include Australia and the Philippines.

**Table 6d.** Country/Area of basic qualification for registered RTs  
(2017 to 2020)

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of Radiation Therapists			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Singapore <sup>4</sup>	139 (82.7%)	153 (84.1%)	164 (84.5%)	169 (83.2%)
Australia	11 (6.5%)	11 (6.0%)	12 (6.2%)	14 (6.9%)
Philippines	10 (6.0%)	10 (5.5%)	10 (5.2%)	10 (4.9%)
Malaysia	4 (2.4%)	4 (2.2%)	5 (2.6%)	5 (2.5%)
United Kingdom	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)	3 (1.5%)
India	1 (0.6%)	1 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)
Others	2 (1.2%)	2 (1.2%)	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>182</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>194</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>203</b> <b>(100%)</b>

<sup>4</sup> NYP's last intake for Diploma in Radiation Therapy was in 2015 and SIT commenced the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Radiation Therapy programme in 2016. The first batch of SIT students graduated in 2020.

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

The majority of SLTs qualified from Australia, followed by Singapore and United Kingdom.

**Table 6e.** Country/Area of basic qualification for registered SLTs  
(Years 2016 to 2020)

Country/Area of Basic Qualification	Number of Speech-Language Therapists				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Singapore <sup>5</sup>	82 (15.7%)	100 (16.8%)	98 (15.2%)	129 (18.8%)	129 (17.7%)
Australia	250 (47.7%)	293 (49.2%)	335 (52.2%)	354 (51.6%)	392 (53.9%)
United Kingdom	37 (7.1%)	37 (6.2%)	37 (5.8%)	62 (9.0%)	64 (8.8%)
India	55 (10.5%)	58 (9.7%)	59 (9.2%)	36 (5.3%)	36 (5.0%)
Ireland	31 (5.9%)	33 (5.5%)	37 (5.8%)	32 (4.7%)	31 (4.3%)
United States of America	19 (3.6%)	23 (3.9%)	24 (3.7%)	23 (3.4%)	24 (3.3%)
Malaysia	15 (2.9%)	14 (2.4%)	14 (2.2%)	14 (2.0%)	14 (1.9%)
New Zealand	7 (1.3%)	9 (1.5%)	11 (1.7%)	10 (1.5%)	11 (1.5%)
Philippines	11 (2.1%)	11 (1.9%)	11 (1.7%)	9 (1.3%)	8 (1.1%)
Others	17 (3.2%)	17 (2.9%)	16 (2.5%)	17 (2.4%)	18 (2.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>524</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>595</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>642</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>686</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>727</b> <b>(100%)</b>

<sup>5</sup> The Master of Science (Speech and Language Pathology) programme was established at the National University of Singapore in 2007 and continued to have biennial student intakes.

## PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWAL 2020

A total of 2,566 registered Allied Health professionals were required to renew their practising certificates (PCs) when their PCs lapsed on 31 December 2020. 96% of these Allied Health professionals submitted their applications to renew their PCs by the end of 2020. Most registrants who did not renew had either left the country or were pursuing further studies overseas.

**Table 6.** Applications for renewal of practising certificate

Allied Health professionals	DR	OT	PT	RT	SLT	Total
Total no. required to renew their PCs by 31 December 2020	1,453 (100%)	295 (100%)	488 (100%)	153 (100%)	177 (100%)	2,566 (100%)
No. of applications processed	1,401 (96.4%)	282 (95.6%)	458 (93.9%)	148 (96.7%)	165 (93.2%)	2,454 (95.6%)
No. of Allied Health professionals who did not renew their PCs by 31 December 2020	52 (3.6%)	13 (4.4%)	30 (6.1%)	5 (3.3%)	12 (6.8%)	112 (4.4%)

**Table 7.** Total number of Allied Health professionals who did not renew at the end of each PC renewal period

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Allied Health professionals who did not renew their PCs at the end of each PC renewal period	155	31	128	149	90

## ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (FOR DISPLAY)

The Allied Health Professions Act states that an Allied Health professional shall not use any title, addition or designation other than those qualifications which are entered against his/her name in the appropriate registers or otherwise approved by the AHPC. As such, Allied Health professionals may only display their higher qualifications after AHPC's approval. Additional qualifications allowed for display include the following:

1. Formal qualifications obtained from bona fide universities, and demonstrating acquisition of advanced skills sets and/or research in the relevant profession's clinical practice;
2. Degree conversion qualification obtained in relevant professions displayed alongside the registrable qualification;
3. Formal post-graduate qualifications pertaining to healthcare education, management, or research skills; and
4. Honorary degrees and titles in the context of the Allied Health profession's professional practice (assessed on case-by-case basis).

A total of 165 applications were received since the start of the application for display of additional qualifications. Of the 165 applications, 159 of them were approved as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8.** Applications for Additional Qualifications

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected
<b>DR</b>	-	-	2	-	12	1	3	-
<b>OT</b>	2	1	1	-	18	1	15	-
<b>PT</b>	18	-	13	-	32	-	14	1
<b>RT</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>SLT</b>	2	-	3	-	3	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	22	1	19	0	65	2	34	1

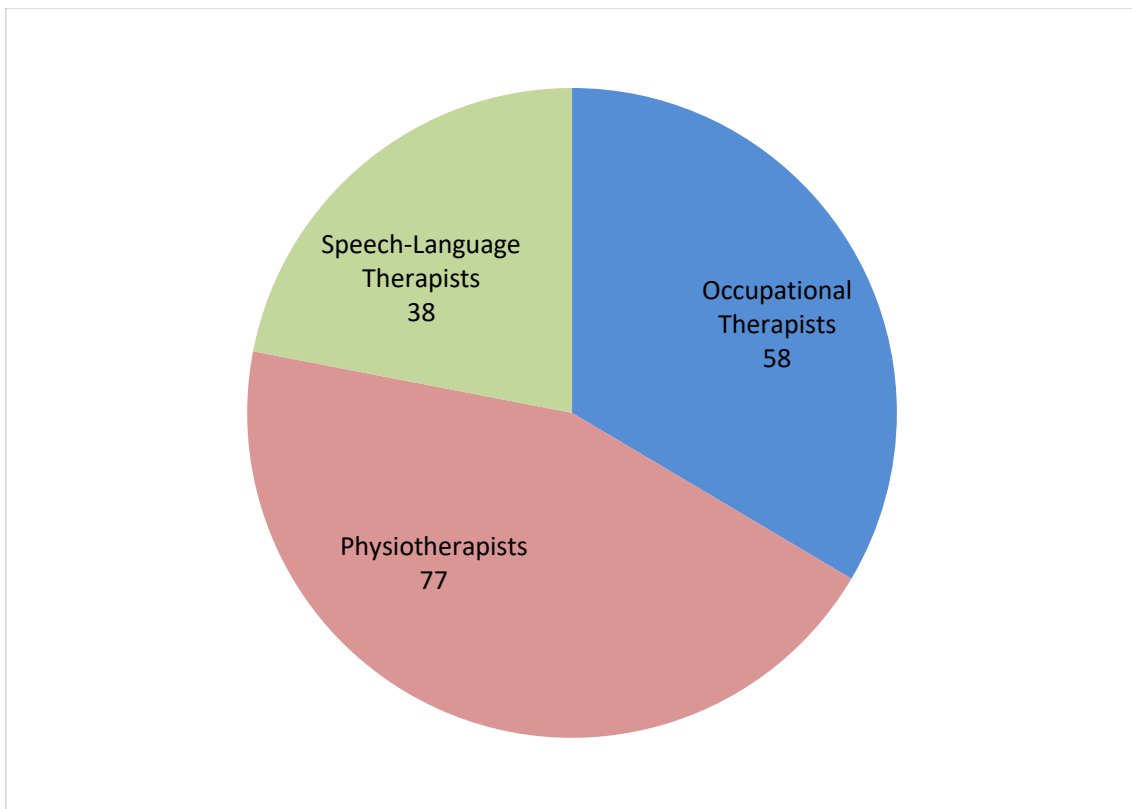
## SUPERVISOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Supervisor Training workshops were conducted to support supervisors in the respective allied health professions to better understand the AHPC's supervisory framework and to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to supervise conditionally registered Allied Health professionals. These workshops have been organised since the commencement of regulation of the respective allied health professions.

Since April 2014, 43 runs of the supervisor training workshops for the OTs, PTs and SLTs and 19 runs of workshops for the DRs and RTs have been conducted. A total of 2,126 Allied Health professionals have attended the AHPC's supervisor training workshops to-date. In 2020, a total of 173 registered Allied Health professionals attended the training workshops. There was no workshop conducted for the DRs and RTs in 2020.

The majority of attendees have given positive feedback that the supervisory workshops helped them better understand their roles and responsibilities as a supervisor, and that they were more confident when taking on the supervisory roles. The workshops also helped attendees better understand the AHPC's supervisory framework and how to complete supervisory reports.

**Chart 7.** Number of Allied Health professionals who attended Supervisor Training Workshops in 2020



## COMPLAINTS

The AHPC has received a total of 14 complaints against registered Allied Health professionals since the regulation of Allied Health professionals started.

In 2020, a complaint was received but the complainant withdrew the complaint later. The complaint which was received in 2019 was still under investigation as at 31 December 2020.

**Table 9.** Complaints received by AHPC from 2013 to 2020

Complaints Received	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Diagnostic Radiographers	-	-	-	0	0	1	0	1	2
Occupational Therapists	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Physiotherapists	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	5
Radiation Therapists	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speech-Language Therapists	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>



## DISCIPLINARY INQUIRIES

There were no Disciplinary Tribunal cases in 2020.

**Table 10.** Disciplinary Inquiries by AHPC from 2017 to 2020

Disciplinary Inquiries	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Diagnostic Radiographers	-	-	-	-	-
Occupational Therapists	-	-	-	-	-
Physiotherapists	2	1	-	-	3
Radiation Therapists	-	-	-	-	-
Speech-Language Therapists	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>



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