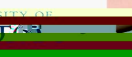
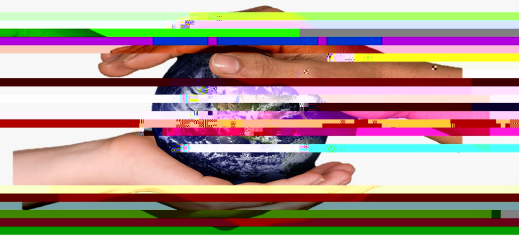


Markets, Migration & the Work of Care



FACT SHEET 4: Personal Care Assistants

Christine Eastman, Sara Charlesworth & Elizabeth Hill¹

This fact sheet draws on data from the 2016 Census. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of personal care assistants in Australia increased from 27,511 to 28,245. Personal care assistants are much more likely to be female and are typically older than the average worker. They are more likely to have been born overseas and to have arrived within the ten years prior to the 2016 C

Education

Personal care assistants are more likely than other Australian workers to hold a certificate or diploma, but are less likely to hold a bachelor degree, graduate certificate or diploma, or postgraduate degree (Figure 3).

Employment and Income Characteristics

Part-Time Work

Two thirds of personal care assistants work part-time (68.9%); almost double that of the total workforce (34.5%). More female personal care assistants (70.8%) are part-time than males (58.1%). Personal care assistants are most likely to be working between 25-34 hours a week.

Working Hours

Figure 4 shows hours worked by male and female personal care assistants relative to the total workforce. A slightly higher proportion of personal care assistants work very short part-time weekly hours (1-15 hours) compared to the total workforce (14% vs 12%). Female personal care assistants are more likely than male personal care assistants to work very short part-time hours (15% vs 11%). Personal care assistants

-k