





S·A·R·R·A·H
Services for Australian
Rural and Remote Allied Health

“Allied Health” – what’s in a name?

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- Why?
 - How?
 - Proposal for the classification of the Australian Health Workforce
 - What next?



Why?

- Confusion abounds
- Clarification essential for future rural health policy development
- Understanding and agreement between key stakeholders and jurisdictions to use the classification structure in strategic policy and program development



Methodology

- **Straightforward and pragmatic**
 - Stage 1 – Literature review
 - Stage 2 - Collation of definitions used by broad range of key stakeholders
 - Stage 3 – Consultation and discussion with stakeholders

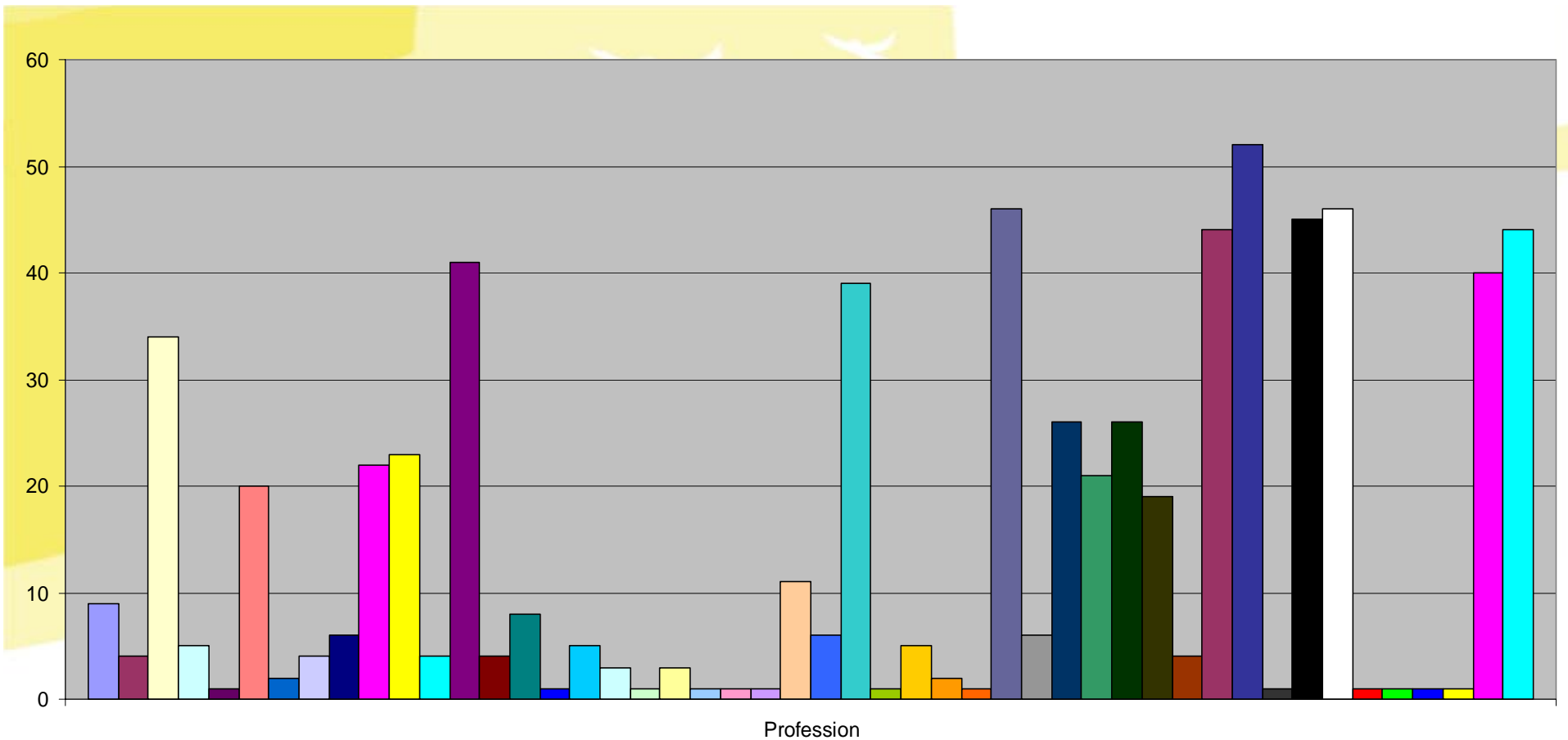


Literature Review

- What is a profession?
- What is 'allied health'?
 - Public sector concept

Key stakeholders

- Organisations at state and national level
- Reference groups & committees
- Commonwealth & State jurisdictions
- Health Insurers
- Department of Veteran's Affairs
- Australian Taxation Office
- Registration requirements
- Industrial Awards
- Australian Bureau of Statistics



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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aboriginal Health Workers | Acupuncture | Audiology | Biomedical Science | Cardiac Perfusion |
| Chiropractic | Counsellor | Dental Prosthetics | Dental Technicians | Dental & Oral Therapy |
| Dentistry | Diabetes Education | Dietetics and Nutrition | Environmental Health | Exercise Physiology |
| Genetic Counsellors | Health Information Management | Health Promotion Officer | Herbalist | Hospital Librarian |
| Information Technology | Leisure Therapy | Medical Illustration/Photography | Medical Laboratory Science | Medical Physics |
| Medical Radiation Science | Mental Health Worker | Music Therapy | Naturopath | Neurophysiology |
| Occupational Therapy | Optical Dispensers | Optometry | Orthoptics | Orthotics and Prosthetics |
| Osteopathy | Paramedic | Pharmacy | Physiotherapy | Play Therapy |
| Podiatry | Psychology | Rehabilitation Officer | Remedial Therapist | Remedial Massage |
| Research or Project Officer | Social Work | Speech Pathology | | |


Proposal for consideration

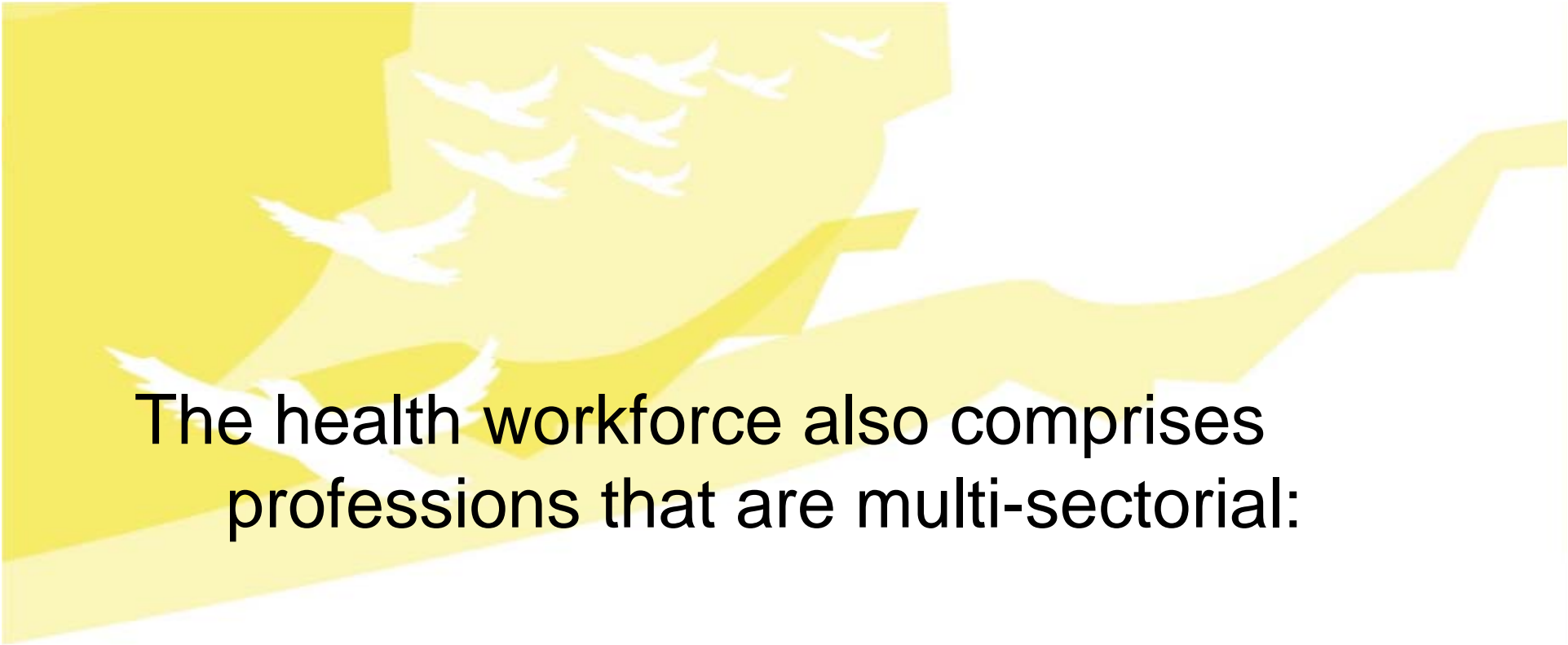
The Australian health workforce can be categorised as:

- ❖ Medical professions (primary qualification is a medical degree)
- ❖ Nursing professions (primary qualification is a nursing degree)

3. Allied health professions (or clinical health professions)

- *Tertiary qualified*
- *Apply their skills and knowledge to:*
 - *Restore and maintain optimal physical, sensory, psychological, cognitive and social function.*
 - *Prevent and diagnose*
 - *Minimize disability*
- *Allied (aligned):*
 - *To each other and other members of the health professional workforce,*
 - *To their clients, the client's family, carers and community*
- *Multidisciplinary team practice*
- *Working across the health system*

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- 4. Public Health Professions**
 - 5. Oral Health Professions**
 - 6. Health Workers & Assistants**
 - 7. Clinical Support Health Professions**
 - 8. Complementary/Alternative/Natural
Therapy Health Professions**



The health workforce also comprises professions that are multi-sectorial:

9. Administrative Professions

10. Other Professions



What now

- **SARRAH**
 - Advocate for acceptance of a system which can provide structure to workforce planning at jurisdictional level
 - Advocate for programs to support health professionals in other categories (e.g. public health)

Thank you



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