

CAREER FACT SHEET

Optometrists and Orthoptists

Snapshot

Optometrists and Orthoptists perform eye examinations and vision tests, prescribe lenses, other optical aids and therapy, and diagnose and manage eye movement disorders and associated sensory problems

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| How many are employed in this occupation? | 10,500 |
| What are the average weekly earnings for full time workers? | \$1,389 |
| How does unemployment compare with other occupations? | Below Average |
| What are the job prospects for this occupation? | Low |
| What will be the likely future employment growth for the next five years? | Very Strong Growth |

Main employing industries

Health Care and Social Assistance

Tasks

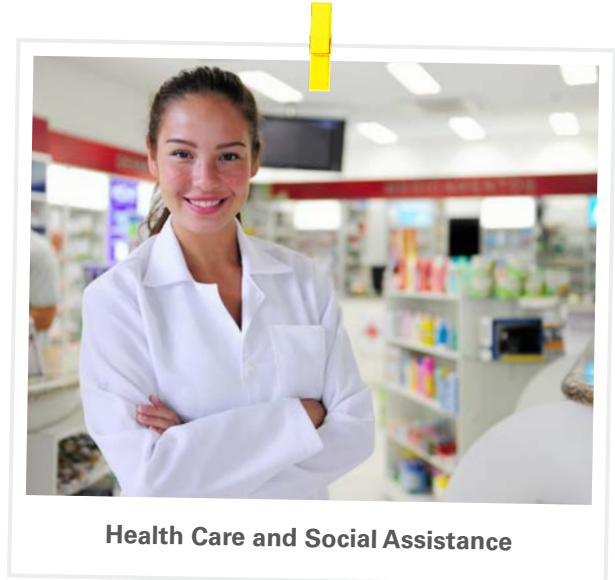
This occupation may include associated occupations with varying tasks.

- examining patients' eyes and setting tests to determine the nature and extent of vision problems and abnormalities
- assessing ocular health and visual function by measuring visual acuity and refractive error, and testing the function of visual pathways, visual fields, eye movements, freedom of vision and intraocular pressure, and performing other tests using special eye test equipment
- detecting, diagnosing and managing eye disease, referring patients to, and receiving referrals from other health providers, and prescribing medications for the treatment of eye disease
- diagnosing eye movement disorders and defects of binocular function
- prescribing lenses, contact lenses and low vision aids, and checking suitability and comfort
- prescribing exercises to coordinate movement and focusing of eyes
- managing programs for eye movement disorders, and instructing and counselling patients in the use of corrective techniques and eye exercises
- advising on visual health matters such as contact lens care, vision care for the elderly, optics, visual ergonomics, and occupational and industrial eye safety
- conducting preventative screening programs
- conducting rehabilitation programs for the visually impaired

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Health Care and Social Assistance

Are you interested in helping people improve their health? Do you enjoy caring for others? Perhaps you would like to assist people experiencing a disability, or are keen to get involved in the wellness industry. If you are intrigued by these possibilities, a job in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector may be for you. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry encompasses a diversity of occupations, ranging from fields such as dental hygiene, optometry, pharmacy, disability services, mental health and aged-care, to fitness training, sports science, lifestyle coaching and nutrition. The Health Training Package offers over 75 Vocational and Training (VET) qualifications, so if you're interested in health you'll probably find an occupation and qualification to suit you! Don't forget it's possible to begin your Health Care and Social Assistance career by training for VET qualifications to start with before possibly working your way up to a University Degree. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector has experienced strong growth in the last ten years, making it one of Australia's largest employers and the growth is forecast to continue, so jobs in this industry are expected to be plentiful.



Possible job pathways

- Anaesthetists
- Ambulance Officers and Paramedics
- Chiropractors and Osteopaths
- Complementary Health Therapists
- Dental Assistants
- Dental Practitioners
- Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists
- Dieticians
- Generalist Medical Practitioners
- Health Information Managers
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Internal Medicine Specialists
- Massage Therapists
- Medical Imaging Professionals
- Medical Laboratory Scientists
- Medical Technicians
- Midwives
- Nurses (Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses)
- Nursing Managers
- Optometrists and Orthoptists
- Other Medical Practitioners
- Podiatrists
- Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Practice Managers
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Nurse Educators and Researchers
- Registered Nurses
- Speech Professionals and Audiologists
- Photographic Developers and Printers
- Aged and Disabled Carers
- Counsellors
- Diversional Therapists
- Health and Welfare Services Managers
- Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers
- Occupational Therapists
- Social Workers
- Special Care Workers
- Welfare Support Workers
- Welfare, Recreation and Community Arts Workers

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