Fact Sheet:
University History Staffing in Australia and New Zealand

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The second University History Staffing in Australia and New Zealand Report, based on 2022 data, was finalised in October 2023. The report seeks to quantify the recent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Morrison Government’s Job-Ready Graduates Package, in the context of the longer history of staffing levels and student loads in History.

- In 2022, there were 378.5 FTE historians employed in Australian and New Zealand universities in total. Australian universities employed 318.7 FTE historians.
  - 85.7 per cent of staff were employed in continuing roles, while 8 per cent worked under fixed contracts, and 6 per cent held postdoctoral/research fellowships.
- The total staffing decline between 2016 (the year of the previous survey) and 2022 amounted to 30.7 FTE positions, or 7.5 per cent.
  - There was a 49 per cent reduction in the number of FTE historians holding fellowships.
  - The number of historians employed on fixed-term contracts doubled in the same period.
  - Please note that the recent round of redundancies at the Australian Catholic University is not captured in the survey.
- 54.6 per cent of all continuing positions were at the professor or associate professor level.
- Non-Go8 universities employed the majority of senior lecturers (57.5 FTE, compared with 26.8 FTE at Go8 universities).
- Women held 52.9 per cent of all appointments, 71.3 per cent of fixed-term appointments, and 74.9 per cent of all fellowships in FTE terms.
  - Women outnumbered men in non-Go8 universities (109.4 appointments for women compared with 84.3 men and 1 non-binary appointment), but men remained the largest cohort in the Go8 sector (65.3 appointments compared with 58.7 for women).
  - Women's share of professorial positions measured at 42.8 per cent, and associate professor positions at 59.5 per cent.
- There were 14 Indigenous or Maori appointments in Australia and a further 6 in New Zealand in 2022.
  - This amounted to a share of 4.4 per cent and 10 per cent of total staffing levels in Australia and New Zealand respectively.
- The average proportion of teaching performed by casual staff at Go8 universities was 37.9 per cent, the figure for non-Go8 universities 29.4 per cent.
- There were 303 honorary staff attached to History groupings in Australia in 2022, with 56.8 per cent of them concentrated in Go8 universities.
  - Across Australia and New Zealand, there was a 23 per cent decline in honorary appointments from 2016 to 2022.
- The total student load across all categories fell by 22.9 per cent in Australia between 2016 and 2022. Despite staffing reductions, this amounted to an improved staff-student ratio of 17.5 (previously 20.81).
  - In both countries, undergraduate EFTSL fell by 16.4 per cent, honours by 14.8 per cent, and HDR load by 45.7 per cent.