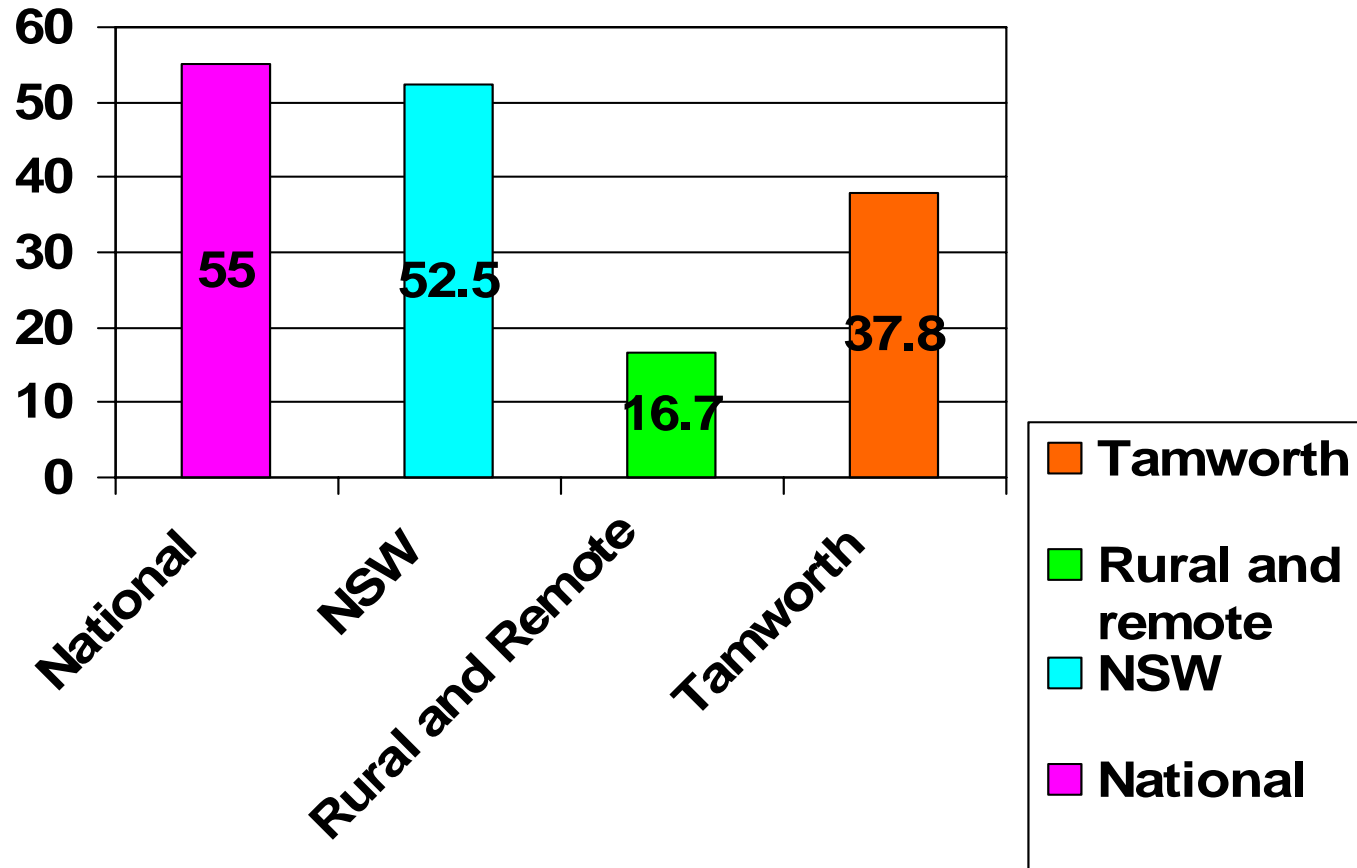


Allied Health by Design:

Solutions in Rural Private Practice

Lisa Staples 2006

Demographics of allied health – percentage of allied health in private practice



Demographics of allied health – Tamworth 2005

Female – 82%

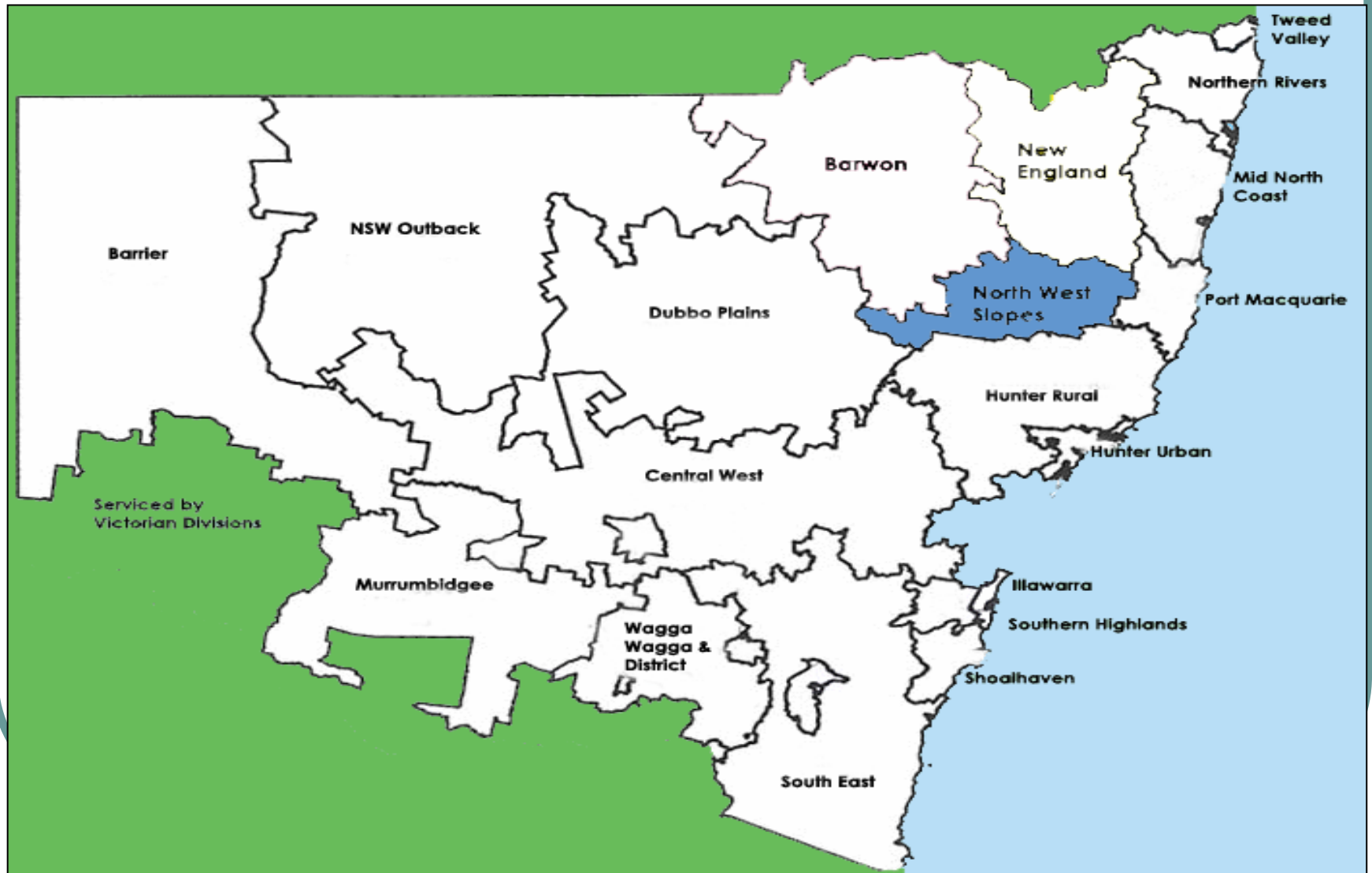
Average age – 39

Years qualified – 15.7 years

Rural background – Yes – 59%

Length of time in job – 9.75 years

Location of Tamworth and the North West Slopes



Tamworth....more than just country music

- Population – 42, 510 (2001)
- Situated 4 ½ hours north west of Sydney
- Major service centre for the North West and New England Region
- Rural Referral hospital – busiest non metropolitan emergency department in NSW

Allied Health issues in Tamworth

- HNEAHS Physiotherapy outpatient waiting time for chronic care – 3 to 6 months
- 1 FTE Speech Pathologist at DADHC – OT and Physiotherapy positions vacant
- 8 hours per week private Speech Pathology and Dietetics
- Four Social Work positions vacant within the acute services at HNEAHS

Allied Health by Design - objectives

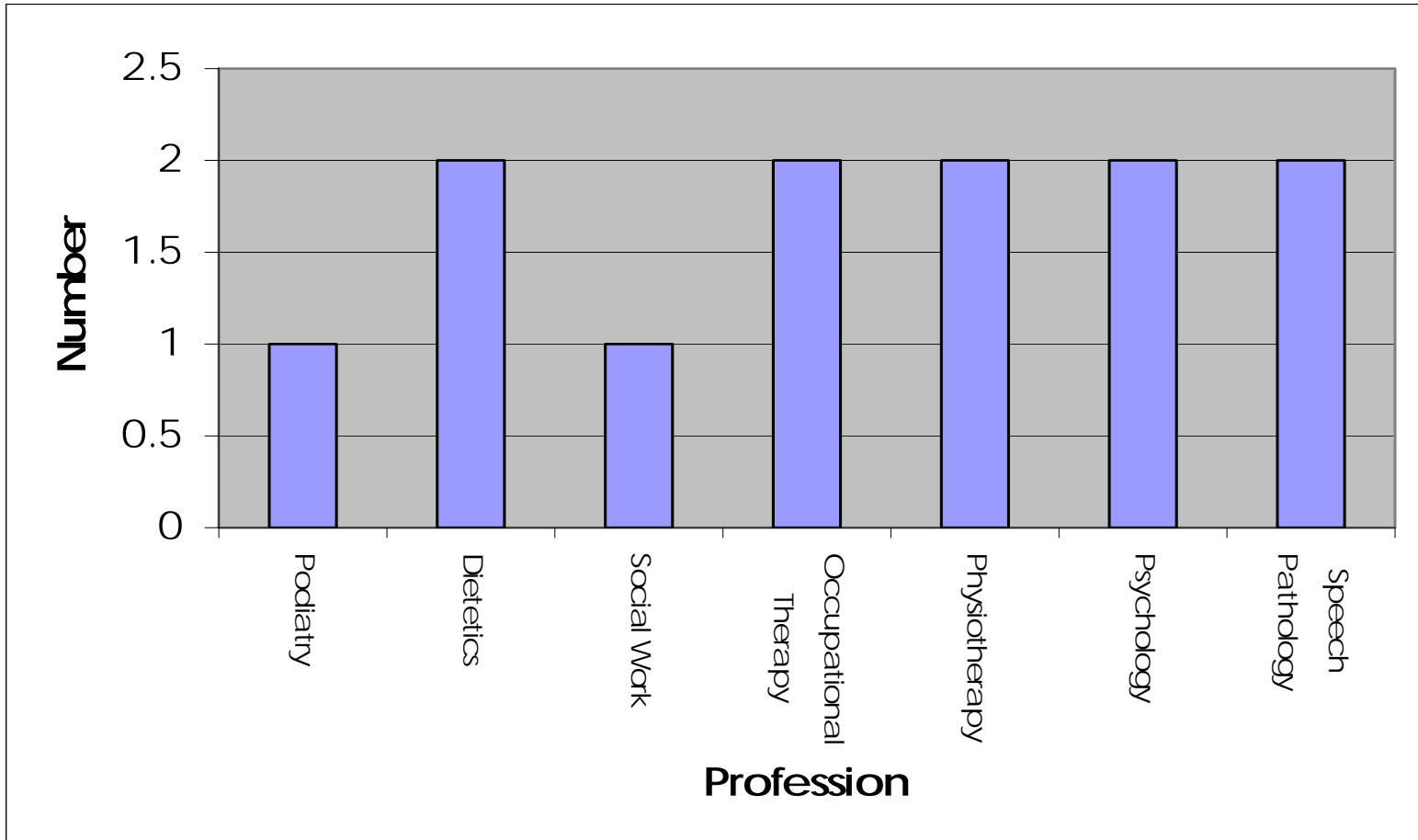
Develop a strategic framework to assist and support allied health practitioners establish and maintain private practice

(Allied Health = Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Psychology, Social Work, Speech Pathology)

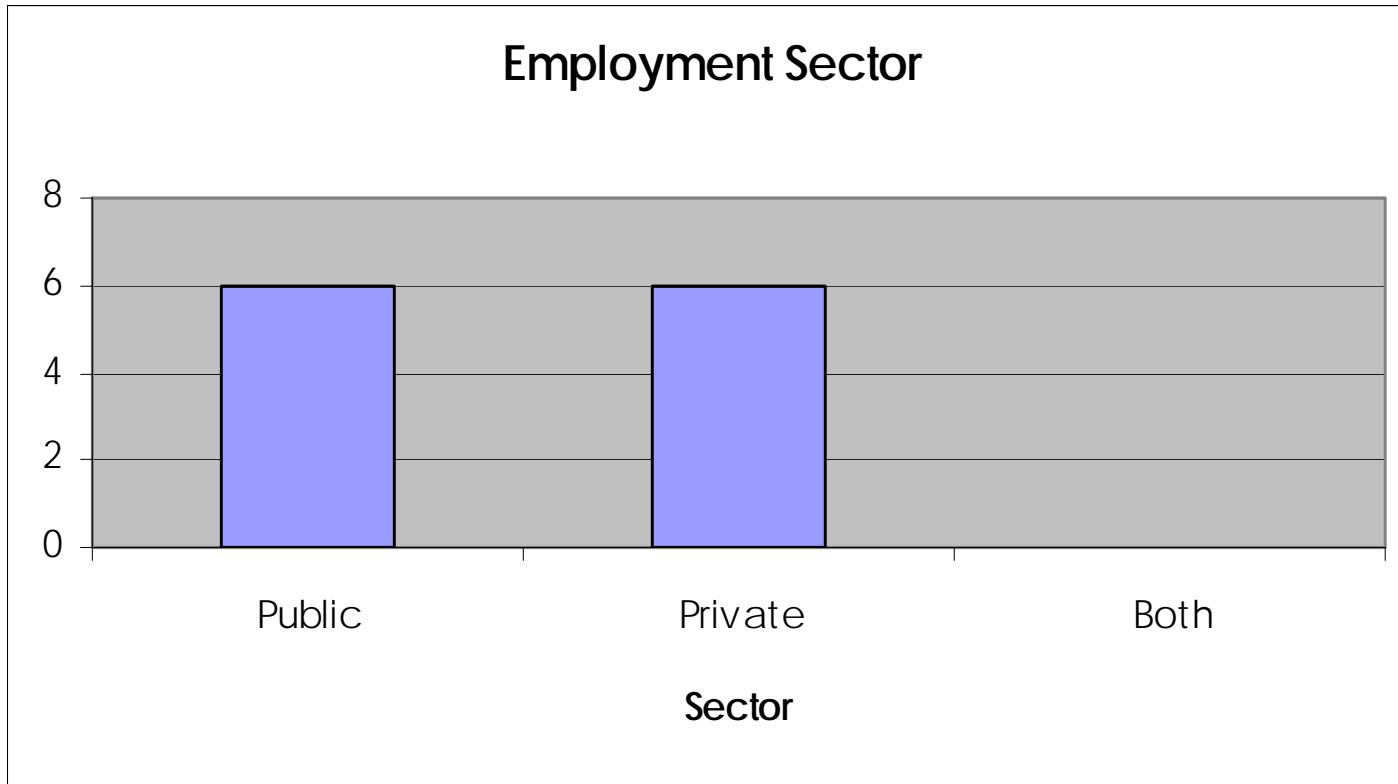
The aims:

- Identify the barriers and facilitators to allied health establishing and maintaining a private practice
- Support existing allied health practitioners / services
- Increase private allied health practitioners / services
- Improve access to private allied health professionals
- Integrate allied health the broader primary health care network

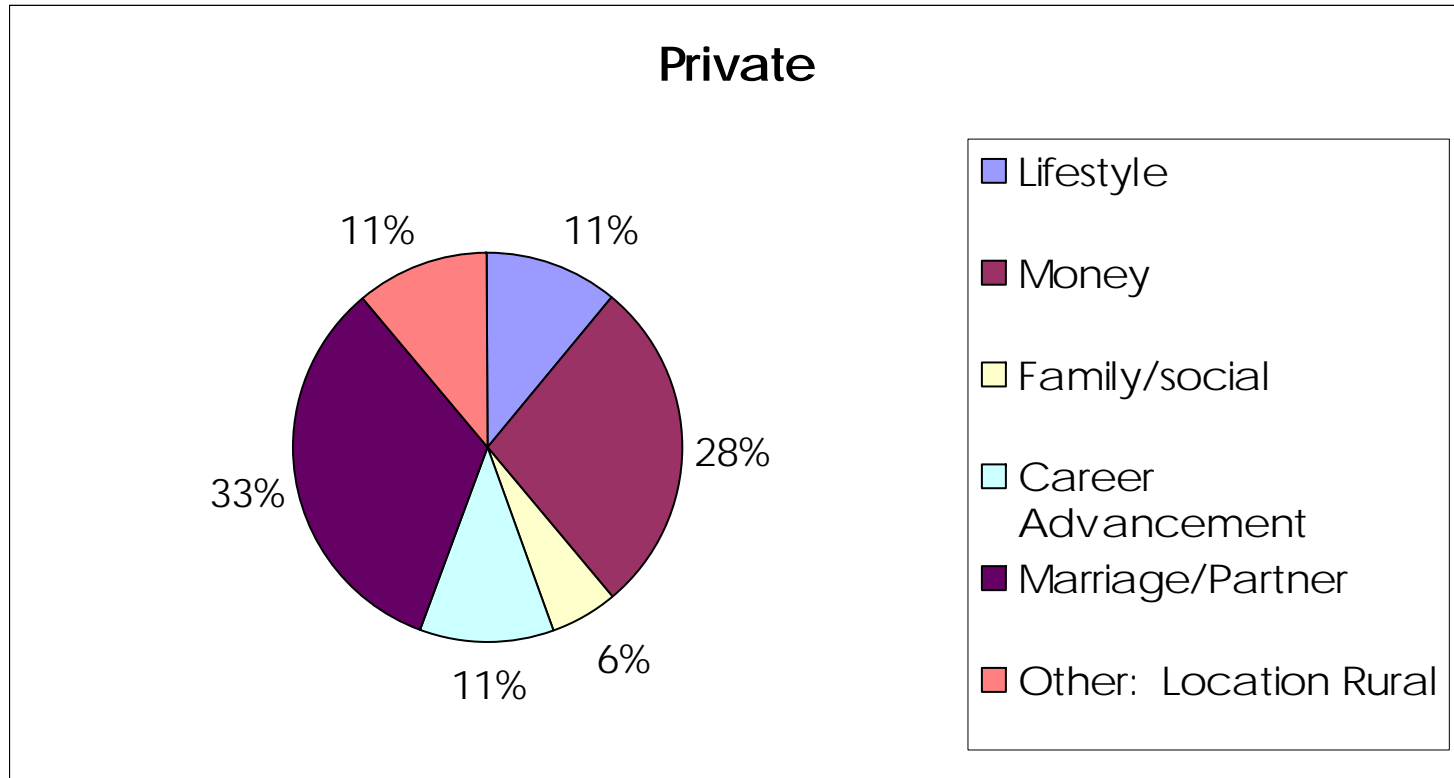
Allied Health interviews



Allied Health interviews



Allied Health interviews



Barriers.....

**Professional / personal
isolation**

Business skills

Professional / personal isolation

- Professional support networks
- Continuing Professional Development
- Promotion / publicity for allied health

Business skills

- Business skills – small business training
- Manual (paper / CD / DVD) on establishing / maintaining a private practice
- Business mentors
- Assistance with funding
- Practice support / administration / reception – perhaps shared / virtual office

Options:

- Co-location of allied health private practitioners in a multi-disciplinary primary health care environment
- employee, blended payment, private practice, or payment by chargeable unit

Peel Health Care

- A model of sustainable general practice with an innovative interdisciplinary approach to primary health care capable of addressing issues in general practice now and into the future
- An “entry” point into regional practice, where there is a strong focus on education, training and flexible work arrangements

Peel Health Care (cont)

- Operate as “walk in walk out”
- Interdisciplinary health care
- High standard and level of practice management and support
- Sharing of practice management information between existing practices
- Allied Health professionals
- Centre for education, training and research
- An “incubator” for developing the general practice workforce

The future....

- New collaborative and integrated primary health care models in alternative private multidisciplinary health care services are required
- Improving access to private allied health providers

Allied Health by Design:

Solutions in Rural Private Practice