



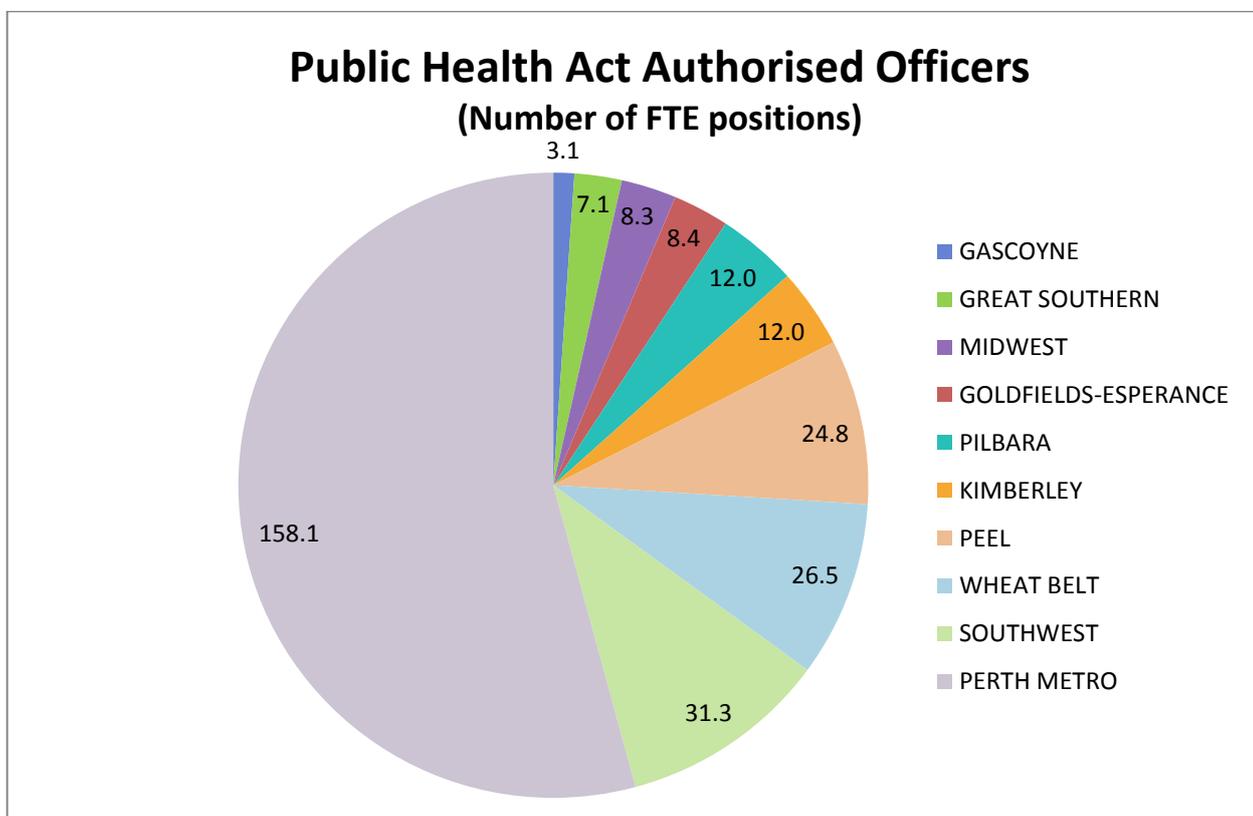
2018/2019 *Public Health Act 2016* Enforcement Agency Reporting

Section 22 of the *Public Health Act 2016* (the Public Health Act) requires local governments (LG) to report to the Chief Health Officer on the performance of functions under the Public Health Act.

The reporting survey for the period of 2018/2019 was undertaken and 137 of a total of 137 Western Australia LGs provided their response to the survey.

Authorised Officers

During the 2018/2019 reporting period, there were 291.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Public Health Act Authorised Officers. A summary is provided below.

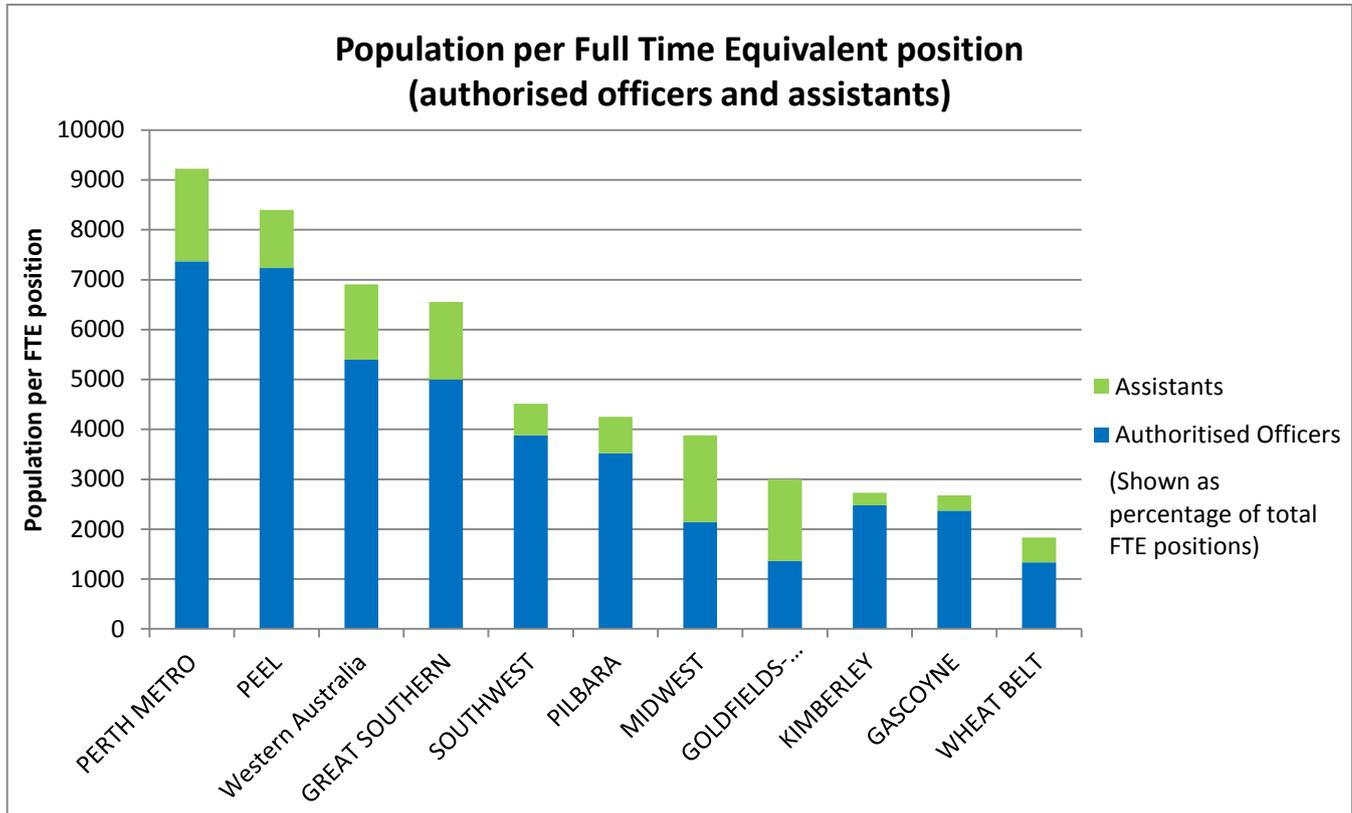


The LG with the highest number of authorised officers reported having 12 FTE positions, while eleven LGs reported not having any.

There was a total increase of six and a half (2.2%) FTE authorised officer positions in the 2018/2019 reporting period when compared to the 2017/2018 reporting period. 20% of LGs reported a decrease in FTE positions while 18% reported an increase. The remaining 62% of LGs reported no changes in their FTE positions. This observation indicated that the changes in FTE position numbers were most likely due to the movement of individual authorised officers between LGs.

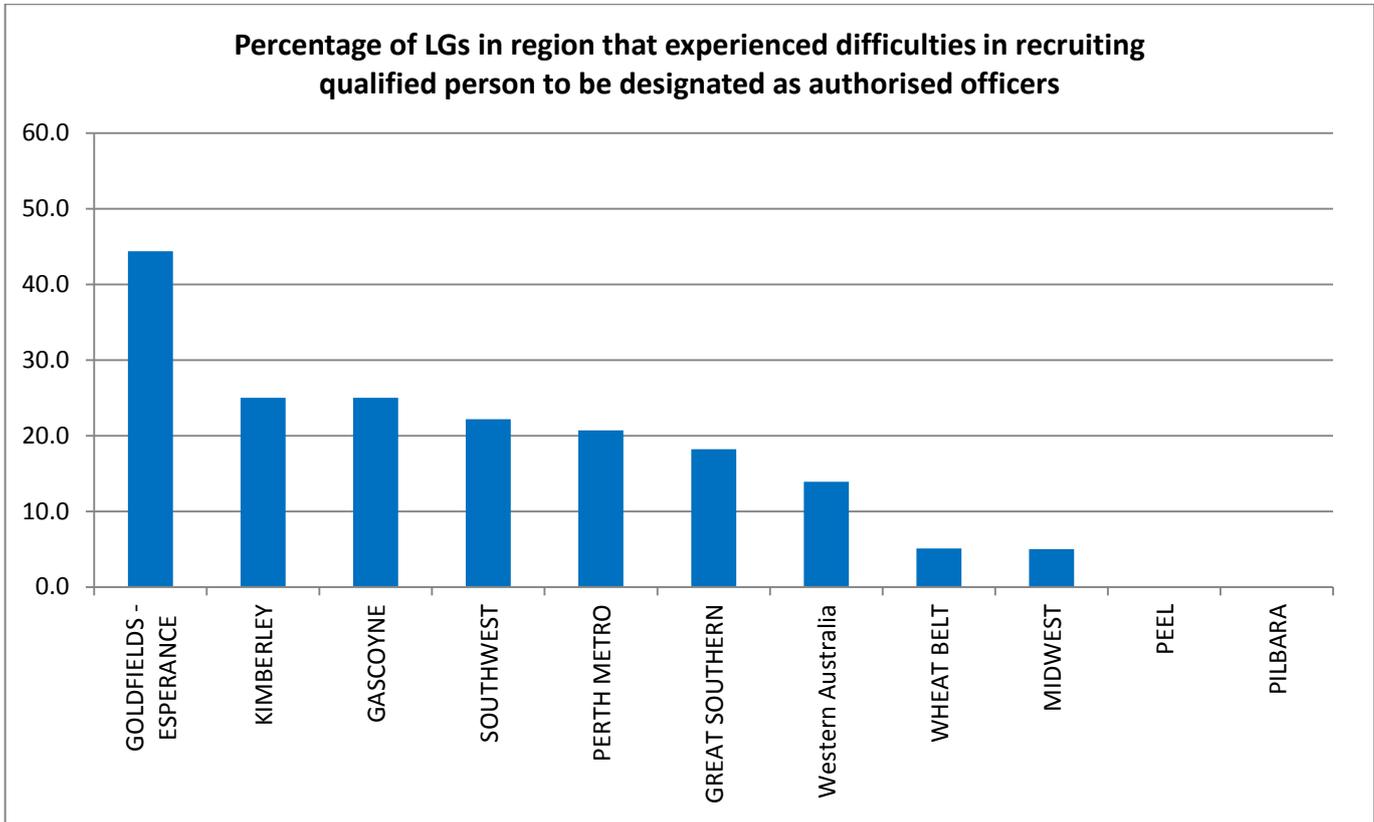
The total number of FTE positions that assisted authorised officers for the 2018/2019 period was 81.7 FTE positions. This was up from the 57 FTE positions reported in the 2017/2018 reporting period. The LG with the highest number of authorised officer assistant FTE positions reported having 15 FTE positions, while 50% (68) of LGs reported not having any.

When comparing the average population numbers (ABS, 2018 LGA data) with the combined FTE positions (authorised officers and assistants), Western Australia has an average of 6900 persons per every FTE position. The average population per FTE position for the regions ranged from 1830 to 9220 persons per FTE position. The difference across the regions is shown below.



Recruitment of appropriately qualified persons

During the 2018/2019 reporting period, 19 LGs (14%) experienced difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified persons to be designated as authorised officers under the Public Health Act. 13 of these LGs were located in regional WA and 6 were located within the Perth Metropolitan Area. This was an improvement compared to the previous reporting period where 23 LGs experienced difficulties. The difference across the regions is shown below.



From the survey responses, it was noted that 44% of LGs in the Goldfields-Esperance region experienced difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified persons to be designated as authorised officers, which accounts for the high percentage of the authorised officer assistant FTE positions reported for the region.

Additional findings

During the 2018/2019 reporting period, 29 Authorised Officers returned their Certificate of Authority.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with disability.**

© Department of Health 2019

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.