



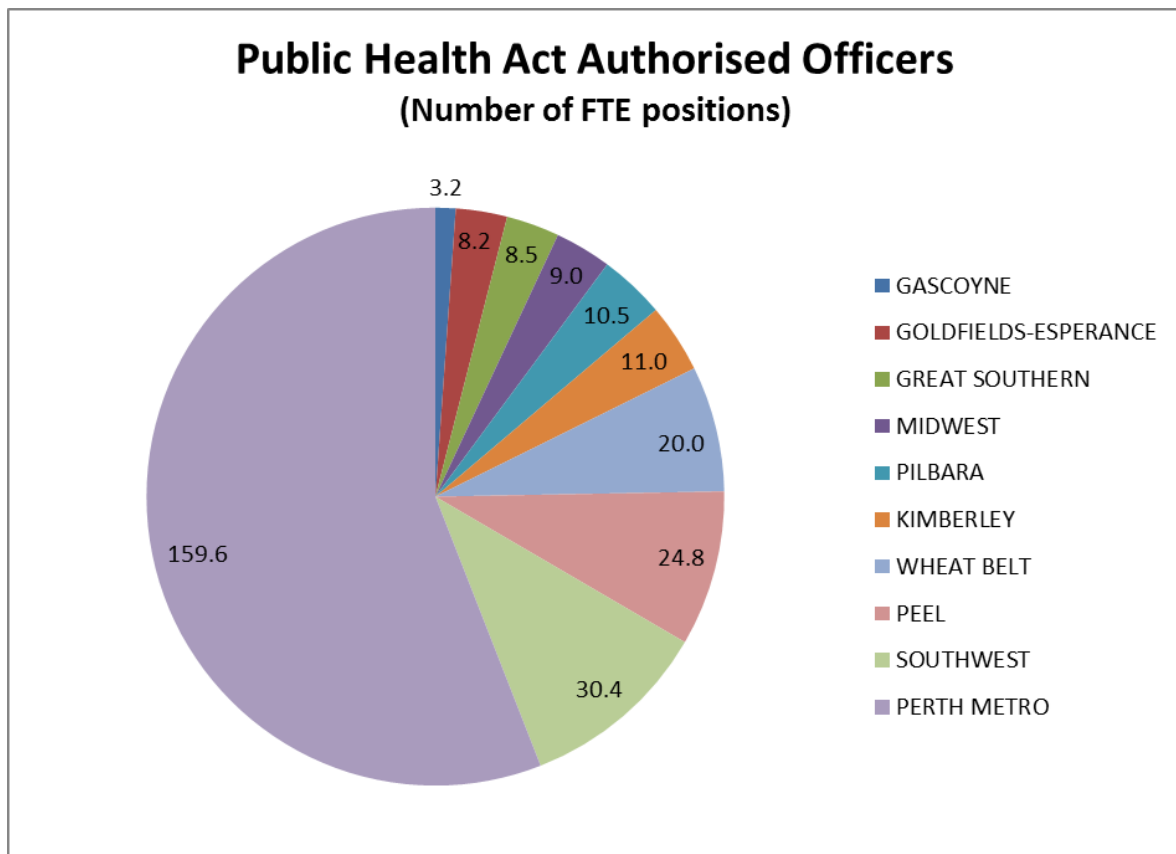
# 2017/2018 *Public Health Act 2016* Enforcement Agency Reporting

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 2017/2018 was undertaken and 134 of 137 Western Australia LGs provided their response to the survey.

## Authorised Officers

During the 2017/2018 reporting period, there were 285 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 three LGs reported not having any.

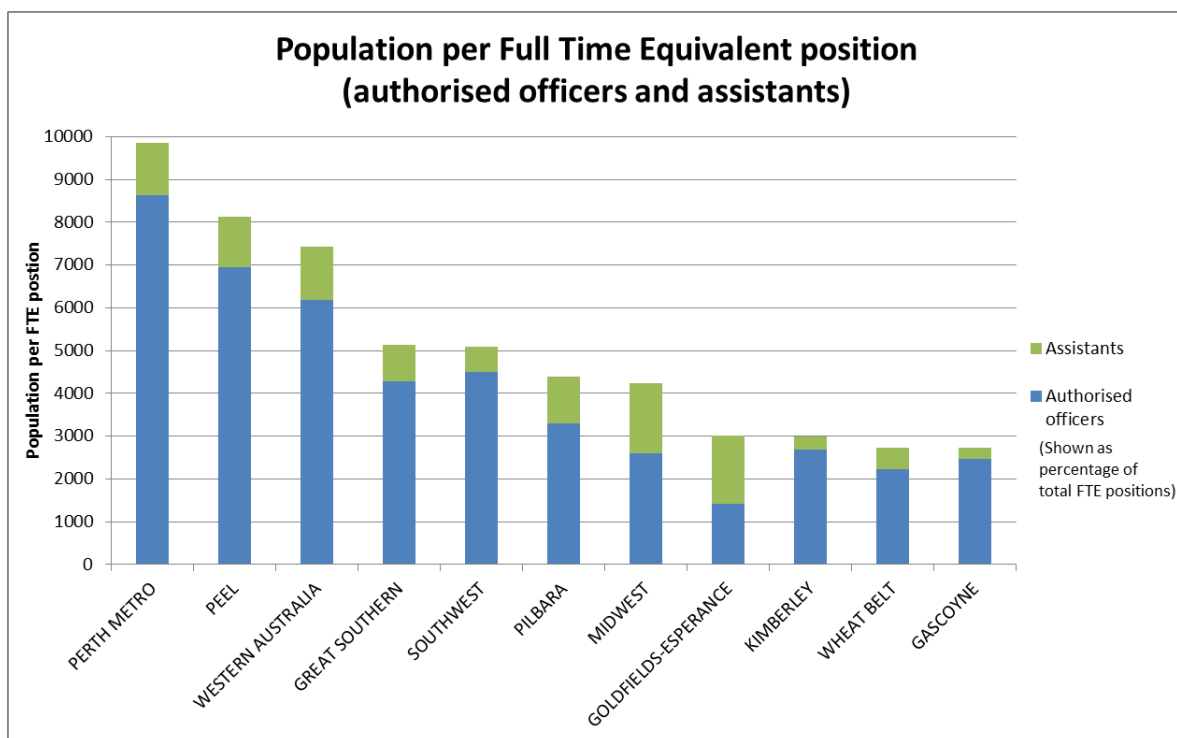
## Key observations on Authorised Officers FTE positions for the 2017/2018 reporting period

- There was a total decrease of four (-1.4%) FTE authorised officer positions when compared to the 2016/2017 reporting period.
- 24% of LGs reported a decrease in FTE positions.
- 25% of LGs reported an increase in FTE positions.
- 51% 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.

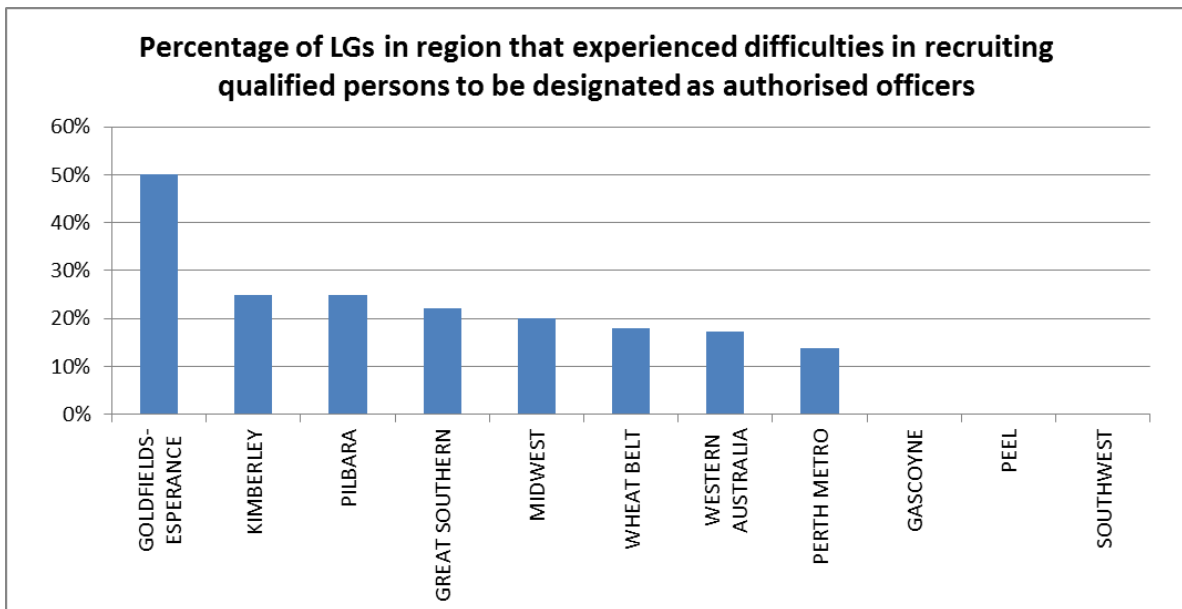
The total number of FTE positions that assisted authorised officers for the 2017/2018 period was 57 FTE positions. This was a decrease from 63 FTE positions reported in the 2016/2017 reporting period. The LG with the highest number of authorised officer assistant FTE positions reported having four FTE positions, while 51% (68) of LGs reported not having any.

When comparing the average population numbers (ABS, 2016 Census data) with the combined FTE positions (authorised officers and assistants), Western Australia has an average of 7400 persons per every FTE position. The average population per FTE position for the regions ranged from 2700 to 9800 persons per FTE position. The difference across the regions is shown below.



## Recruitment of appropriately qualified persons

During the 2017/2018 reporting period, 23 LGs experienced difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified persons to be designated as authorised officers under the Public Health Act. 19 of these LGs were located in regional WA and 4 were located within the Perth Metropolitan Area. This was an improvement compared to the previous reporting period where 30 LGs experienced difficulties. The difference across the regions is shown below.



From the survey responses, it was noted that 50% of LGs in the Goldfields-Esperance region experienced difficulties in recruiting appropriately qualified persons to be designated as authorised officers, which corresponds to the high percentage of the authorised officer assistant FTE positions for the region.

### **Additional findings**

During the 2017/2018 reporting period, 42 Authorised Officers returned their Certificate of Authority.

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