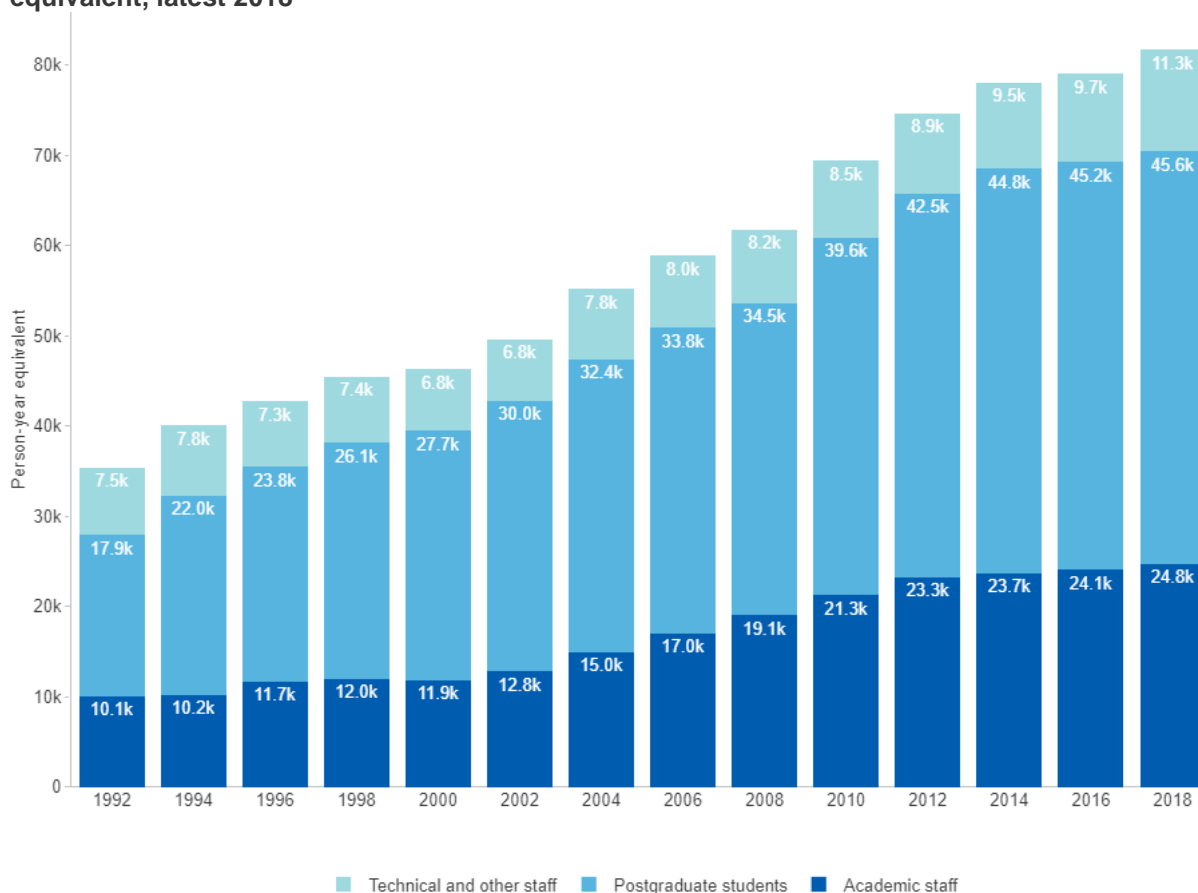


4.2.3 Higher education human resources devoted to R&D

Total human resources devoted to R&D by the higher education sector increased from about 35,400 person-year equivalent in 1992 to more than 81,700 person-year equivalent in 2018. About 56 per cent of these resources are *Postgraduate students*. A further 30 per cent are *Academic staff* and the remainder are *Technical and other staff*. These proportions have remained broadly steady over the last decade. Growth in total human resources devoted to R&D has been positive since 1992 and has averaged 1.8 per cent per year over the last decade.¹ This compares favourably with Australia's average population growth rate of 1.5 per cent over the same period and indicates that Australia's human resources devoted to R&D has been slightly outpacing population growth.²

Figure: Higher education resources devoted to R&D (HERD), by human resources, person-year equivalent, latest 2018



¹ ABS, *Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia*, Cat. No. 8111.0 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/technology-and-innovation/research-and-experimental-development-higher-education-organisations-australia/latest-release>)

² ABS (2020), *Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2019*, Cat. No. 3101.0 (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>)