**Addiction medicine**

2016 Factsheet

Addiction medicine physicians provide comprehensive care to improve the health outcomes for patients with a wide range of addiction disorders, including drug and alcohol addiction, and pharmaceutical dependency. A minimum of three years full-time training is required through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 150 addiction medicine specialists employed in Australia, of whom 28.7% worked in the private sector. The majority (85.3% or 128) of addiction medicine specialists indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 75.0% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 59.8 years. Females represented 25.0% of clinicians and were on average 4.4 years younger than male clinicians with average hours of 24.2 per week.

The age group with the highest proportion (40%) of clinicians was 60-69 years in 2016.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, most clinicians (86.7%) were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system. Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au

The largest concentration of clinicians was in New South Wales with 39.8% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was located in this state.

The Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania had the highest ratio of clinicians in 2016 with 1.0 per 100,000 population. By contrast, Western Australia had the lowest ratio with 0.3 per 100,000 population. The average for Australia was 0.5 clinicians per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

In 2015 there were 8 new fellows (7 male and 1 female). This is an increase of 5 from 2013.

There were no overseas trained new fellows in addiction medicine between 2013 and 2015.

# Vocational training

The number of trainees in 2016 was (27) 12.5% higher than in 2013 (24).

The gender distribution of the vocational trainees has remained constant between 2013 and 2016 where approximately 45% are female over the period.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 9 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in addiction medicine. Over 65% were aged 40 years and over and over 30% were aged 20-29 years. A HNS is a medical practitioner employed in a salaried position mainly in a hospital. They do not hold a specialist qualification and are not training to obtain one. They include career medical officers, hospital medical officers, interns, principal house officers, resident medical officers and registrars.

# References

1. National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
2. Royal Australasian College of Physicians – Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine.
3. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
4. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
5. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
6. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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