**Anaesthesia**

2016 Factsheet

Anaesthetists work in a range of clinical environments and apply their knowledge and skills to caring for patients in a variety of clinical contexts, providing anaesthesia and sedation for surgery and other procedures, providing pain management and periprocedural care, working in resuscitation, trauma and retrieval teams and working with specialists in intensive care medicine. A minimum of five years training through the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists is required to specialise in this area.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 4,373 anaesthetists employed in Australia, of whom 43.9% worked in the private sector. Nearly 98% (4,273) of registered anaesthetists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

More than 70% of clinicians in 2016 were male who had an average age of 50.1 years and 41.1 average hours per week. Female clinicians had an average age of 45.5 years and 35.8 average hours per week. The total clinician average hours were 39.6 hours per week in 2016.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, most clinicians (84.1%) 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.

30.2% of clinicians reported their principal place of practice was in New South Wales and 24.2% indicated that their principle place of practice was in Victoria.

New South Wales had the highest number of clinicians in 2016. However, Tasmania had the largest ratio of clinicians with 20.4 for every 100,000 people. New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Victoria had less clinician’s than the national average of 17.6 clinicians per 100,000 population. The average clinician per 100,000 population for Australia was 17.6.

# New fellows

The number of new fellows from the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists decreased every year from 2013 as did the number of overseas trained new fellows. Where there were 160 new fellows in 2015, a decrease of 48 from 2014. Similarly there was a decrease of 48 from 2013 (256) to 2014 (208).

The number of overseas trained new fellows accounted for 12.5% of the total number of new fellows in 2015.

In 2015, 41.9% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

There were 1,237 vocational trainees in 2016, were 45.6% were females. Trainees in anaesthesia increased by 2.1% between 2013 and 2016.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 497 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in anaesthesia. The majority (68%) of them were aged 20-29 years old. 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.

# Workforce projections

In 2016, the demand and supply assumption is that anaesthetists were in balance. However, a surplus of 137 anaesthetists is projected for 2020 and a surplus of 91 in 2030.

Supply and demand forecasts were calculated based on figures from the Australia’s Future Health Workforce dataset.

# References

1. National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS): Medical Practitioners 2016.
2. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide
3. Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.
4. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
5. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
6. Australia’s Future Health Workforce – Anaesthesia 2017.
7. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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