**Anatomical pathology**

2016 Factsheet

Anatomical Pathology is the branch of pathology that deals with the tissue diagnosis of disease. For this, Anatomical Pathologists need a broad-based knowledge and understanding of the pathological and clinical aspects of many diseases. To specialise in anatomical pathology requires a minimum of five years of training through the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 833 anatomical pathologists employed in Australia, of whom 48.4% worked in the private sector. Over 96% (802) of anatomical pathologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 52.7% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 52.9 years and worked 41.5 hours per week on average. Females represented 47.3% of clinicians and were on average 5.2 years younger and worked 4.8 hours fewer on average than male clinicians. The total average hours for the anatomical pathology clinician workforce were 39.2 hours per week.

# Distribution of clinicians

The majority (89.7%) of clinicians were located in a major city or a location considered as MMM1 under the Modified Monash Model classification system in 2016. Further information on the Modified Monash Model is available at doctorconnect.gov.au.

The largest number of clinicians was in New South Wales with over 34% of clinicians indicating their principle place of practice was in this state.

There was an average of 3.4 clinicians per 100,000 population across Australia in 2016. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians with 4.3 per 100,000 population. The average clinician per 100,000 population for Australia was 3.6.

# New fellows

There were 42 new fellows in 2015, 68% were female. From 2013 to 2015 the number of new fellows decreased slightly from 45 to 42.

# Vocational training

The total number of trainees each year between 2013 and 2016 were similar (approximately 240 per year). The number of female trainees increased each year during this period from 59% in 2013 to 68% in 2016.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 23 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in anatomical pathology. In 2016, 56.5% of the HNS intending to train were aged 20-29. 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 College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) and Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).
3. Medical Education and Training Report 1st edition (Unpublished).
4. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
5. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide.
6. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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