**Diagnostic radiology**

2016 Factsheet

Diagnostic (Clinical) radiology relates to the diagnosis or treatment of a patient through the use of medical imaging. Diagnostic imaging uses plain X-ray radiology, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound and nuclear medicine imaging techniques to obtain images that are interpreted to aid in the diagnosis of disease. It takes a minimum of five years full-time training with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists to specialise in diagnostic radiology.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 1,801 radiologists employed in Australia, of whom 57.2% worked in the private sector. Over 98% of radiologists who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 75.4% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 51.3 years and average hours of 42.1 per week. Females represented 24.6% of clinicians and were on average 3.8 years younger and worked 7.9 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the diagnostic radiology clinician workforce were 40.2 hours per week.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, most clinicians (85.6%) 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.

In 2016, New South Wales was listed as the principal place of practice for 30.8% of clinicians and Victoria for 25.0% of clinicians.

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest ratio of clinicians with 8.8 per 100,000 population. By contrast, the Northern Territory had the lowest ratio with 2.0 per 100,000 population. The average clinician per 100,000 population for Australia was 7.3.

# New fellows

There were 88 new fellows in 2015. The overall number of diagnostic radiology new fellows decreased by 12.0% between 2013 (100) and 2015 (88). Overseas trained new fellows increased by 35.3% during this period from 17 to 23.

Males represented 71.6% of new fellows and females 28.4% in 2015.

# Vocational training

During the period from 2013 to 2016 the total number of trainees increased by 15.9% from 364 in 2013 to 422 in 2016. The proportion of female trainees has remained at approximately 35% over the period.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 193 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in diagnostic radiology. In 2016, 64% were aged 20-29 years of age. 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 Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.
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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