**Emergency medicine**

2016 Factsheet

Emergency medicine physicians are acute generalists with specialist skills in resuscitation and diagnosis in the acute phase of illness. With a wide range of procedural and technical skills, emergency medicine physicians provide care for patients of all ages and with a wide range of clinical needs. It takes a minimum of five years of full-time training with the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine to specialise in emergency medicine.

# Workforce

In 2016, there were 1,761 emergency medicine physicians employed in Australia, of whom 9.5% worked in the private sector. The majority (92.4%) of emergency medicine physicians who completed the 2016 National Health Workforce Survey indicated they were clinicians.

# Demographics of clinicians

Males represented 68% of clinicians in 2016 and had an average age of 46.3 years and average week hours of 39.7. Females represented 32% of clinicians and were on average 2.9 years younger and worked on average 4 fewer hours per week than male clinicians. The total average hours for the emergency medicine clinician workforce were 38.5 hours per week.

# Distribution of clinicians

In 2016, most clinicians (81.5%) 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.

Three jurisdictions (New South Wales [5.5], South Australia [5.9] and Victoria [6.6]) had less clinician’s than the national average of 6.7 per 100,000 population. The Northern Territory had the highest at 12.2 per 100,000 population.

# New fellows

There were 220 new fellows in 2015. The number of new fellows from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine increased 91.3% from 2013 to 2015, from 115 to 220 respectively. Overseas trained new fellows who obtained their specialist qualification outside of Australia decreased by 30.4% during this period from 23 to 16.

In 2015, 35.9% of new fellows were female.

# Vocational training

In 2016, there were 2,151 vocational trainees, an increase of 4.1% from 2013. The number and proportion of female trainees increased each year between 2013 and 2016. During this period, the number of female trainees increased by 13.4%, whereas the number of male trainees decreased by 2.6%.

# Vocational intentions

In 2016, there were 511 Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) who indicated their intention to undertake vocational training in emergency medicine. 52.3% were aged between 20-29 years and 36.8% were aged 30-39 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

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4. ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographics Statistics. Released 22/09/16.
5. Australian Medical Association (AMA) Career Pathways Guide
6. Australia’s Future Health Workforce – Emergency Medicine 2017.
7. National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) – Prevocational Doctor Factsheet Methodology Paper.

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